

Global Prosperity Conference

Wednesday 24th November 2021

AT THE GMIS WEEK

14:00 Opening remarks

14:10 Scaling impact investment: prosperity at a price?

There is a growing realisation among investors and businesses alike, that profits and sustainability are not mutually exclusive. A business that has its growth strategy tied to the interests of the wider community, its customers and the planet, will be better placed to survive times of crises including climate change disasters, pandemics and social related issues.

But purely shifting business focus to the needs of the stakeholder is unlikely to bring about the level of change required to meet the investment gap needed to fulfill the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Greater alignment between the private and public sectors is crucial if the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda is to become more than just a corporate 'tick-box' exercise.

Impact investing has sought to increase alignment between the public and private sectors by offering opportunities for investors to 'materially advance progress towards meaningful social and environmental goals'. However, as this form of investing gains popularity, questions over scalability, intention and integrity, have been raised.

Currently only a small percentage of funds deliver consistent impact and return at scale and doing so requires decisive strategy, leadership skills and robust risk management practices.

Risk management often requires investment into large tech or blue-chip companies where investment is unlikely to generate any social impact. Furthermore, as impact investing gains popularity and impact investing on behalf of clients becomes the norm, can the investment community really operate in favour of the 'greater good'?

Realising the true potential of impact investing will require fundamental changes to the investment industry and its perception of value that can only be brought about by technology, regulatory reform and greater alignment between the investment community, private sector and government entities.

This session will explore strategies for increasing alignment between the public and private sector to help realign ESG initiatives towards the SDG's and realise a more sustainable future.

15:00 The decade of action: a countdown to prosperity

Disruption has been the buzzword of the last decade and transformation is apparent in almost every sector. However, despite this pace of accelerated innovation, the world remains on a clear trajectory of increasing inequality which has only been made all the more apparent with the onset of the pandemic.

Although many countries have aligned their development strategies with the SDGs and businesses are investing in sustainable technologies and solutions, a lack of collaboration between the public and private sectors is halting progress and preventing the application of innovative solutions to real-world problems.

The COVID 19 pandemic started as a health crisis but it has unearthed fundamental flaws in the fabric of our socioeconomic structures making the need to solve the world's biggest global challenges even more important .



These challenges cannot be solved in isolation and will require collaboration between the world of academia, business and government, to ensure funding, innovation and expertise work in harmony to develop sustainable solutions for the challenges putting the future of humanity at risk.

This session will explore strategies for mobilising public-private partnerships with the capacity to solve the world's biggest challenges, ranging from poverty to inequality. It will shine a light on disruptive and advanced tech solutions, and will address the role of policymakers in developing the regulatory and governance mechanisms to mobilise a sustainable future for all.

15:50 Networking break

16:20 Solving the mentor-mentee equation: is there a science to it?

Start-ups present the greatest opportunity for post pandemic recovery and meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The UN estimates that the cost of achieving the SDGs will be approximately US\$ 3.3 - 4.5 trillion per year.

But behind every successful start-up, is a mentor or team of mentors and contributors, who have helped drive growth, define vision, navigate challenges, establish markets and source funding.

But how do you establish a valuable mentorship? The characteristics that define a good mentor or mentorship program are widely debated and outcomes can differ depending on whether the mentor-mentee relationship was founded as part of an established corporate accelerator program or whether the mentor was acquired by the start-up themselves.

Furthermore, when mentoring a social impact start-up, how do you balance financial performance objectives with social impact objectives?

This session will seek to define the core attributes of a successful mentor-mentee relationship in the context of social impact start-ups, drawing on key examples from the panel and their experiences.

17:10 Turning obligation into opportunity: accelerating innovation for success

While the SDGs present numerous challenges for large corporates and governments with legacy processes and technologies, start-ups are well positioned to take advantage of the opportunities inherent in the challenges presented by the SDGs.

Finding solutions to challenges such as the rise in chronic health conditions and the need for decarbonisation not only advances the SDGs but creates huge growth opportunities by serving a previously unmet need and unlocking demand drivers that are the precursor to long term growth and investment opportunities.

But developing solutions to humanity's most fundamental challenges and creating market-defining innovation requires collaboration and the mobilisation of various stakeholders across a host of value chains to unlock solutions and drive systems change.

This session will discuss the role of accelerators in aligning and mobilising various stakeholders and value chains, in order to transform seed stage start-ups into profitable, scalable businesses with commercialised solutions to global challenges.

18:00 Closing remarks

18:05 Close of MBR Conference