

#IFADiNnovationTalk no. 3



Lessons from designing and implementing innovation challenges: How to mitigate risks and what's next?

SPEAKER PROFILES

DOMINIK ZILLER

Vice President, IFAD



Dominik Ziller is Vice-President of IFAD. He gives strategic direction to the institution, and promotes corporate approaches and solutions. He has direct oversight of the budget, quality assurance and ethics offices.

Prior to joining IFAD, Ziller was Director General for International Development Cooperation for International Development Policy at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. His responsibilities included the European Union's development cooperation, United Nations, World Bank Group, regional development banks, OECD, development processes of the G7 and the G20, the World Trade Organization and topics of financing for development and effectiveness/transparency. During Germany's G20 Presidency, Ziller chaired the Development Working Group.

Previously, he held various senior positions at the BMZ, including head of the Directorate for Asia and head of the Budget Division. Between 2011 and 2013, he worked for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), where he was a member of the Executive Management Committee.

He holds a Law Degree from the Ludwig Maximilian Universität München and Practical Law Degree from the Federal German State of Bavaria.

IRENE ARIAS HOFMAN

CEO, IDB Lab



Irene Arias Hofman is CEO of the IDB Lab. She has over 2 decades of experience investing in emerging markets and leading teams in all continents.

IDB Lab is the innovation laboratory of the IDB Group, the leading source of development finance and know-how for improving lives in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

IDB Lab mobilizes resources to develop innovative projects and early stage ventures with a potential for impact and great scale, benefiting populations that are vulnerable due to economic, social, or environmental factors. Since 1993 IDB Lab has approved more than US\$ 2 billion in projects deployed across 26 LAC countries. As of October 29, 2018, IDB Lab is the new identity of the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF).

PHIL WEILERSTEIN

President and CEO, VentureWell



Since 1996, Phil Weilerstein has been the chief executive of VentureWell. From the beginning, Weilerstein's focus for VentureWell has been to help bring socially beneficial applications of STEM inventions to market. He's accomplished this goal by designing and overseeing programs that encourage curricular innovation and student entrepreneurs, and develop community through conferences and workshops for faculty and students.

He attended the University of Massachusetts where he was a co-founder of a biotechnology company developing naturally occurring pest control products. He is a Founder and Past Chair of the ASEE Entrepreneurship Division, and a recipient of the 2008 Price Foundation Innovative Entrepreneurship Educators Award, the 2014 Engineering Entrepreneurship Pioneers Award from ASEE, and the 2016 Deshpande Symposium Award for Outstanding Contributions to Advancing Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Higher Education.

HILA COHEN

Head, Business Development, WFP Innovation Accelerator



Hila Cohen is Head of Business Development and Chief of Staff at the WFP Innovation Accelerator. She is positive and energetic, with a passion for impactful innovation, with experience in leading multinational teams. Sharp communications and analytical skills, which are leveraged to adapt technical topics to fit the needs of diverse stakeholders and to facilitate innovation and tech initiatives.

Cohen has implemented global corporate projects in Africa, South America, Asia, North America, the Middle East and Europe. She enjoys connecting people for business opportunities and for informational purposes.

EDWARD GALLAGHER

Lead Officer, Change, Delivery and Innovation Unit (CDI), IFAD



Edward Gallagher is Lead Officer of CDI at IFAD. An Irish national, he took up his position as the Lead Officer in January 2019. Before his current role, Gallagher was the project manager of IFAD's Operational Excellence for Results (OpEx) initiative – an eighteen-month change and reform programme that aimed at positioning IFAD as an internationally recognized best-in-class performer and partner of choice across its spectrum of operations.

He has worked in various roles with IFAD over 13 years including internal audit, treasury, and more recently within the budget function. Prior to joining IFAD, he was the Deputy Finance Director in Barclays Insurance (Barclays Bank PLC). He also worked for five years with PricewaterhouseCoopers where he qualified as a chartered accountant. He is a fellow member of Chartered Accountants Ireland.

GLADYS H. MORALES

Senior Innovation Adviser, Change, Delivery and Innovation Unit (CDI), IFAD



Gladys H. Morales is Senior Innovation Adviser at the Change Delivery and Innovation Unit at IFAD. She has led the digital transformation of Government and UN agencies' projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe. She is also familiar with the startup eco-system having worked in a management position for a digital advertising startup while she was living in Indonesia and founding her own startup in Italy. She is Regional Ambassador, Italy, of the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC).

Before joining IFAD, Morales was an Advisor at the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) where she led the design of digital platforms and established partnerships and knowledge networks for the Global Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth (GPIG) Portal. She is a graduate from the Executive Programme on Digital Business Leadership at Columbia Business School, Columbia University in New York, has a Master in Development Economics and International Cooperation from University of Rome, Tor Vergata and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and International Economics from Georgetown University.

MARC LEPAGE

Principal IT Specialist, Technology Innovation, Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Marc Lepage is Principal IT Specialist (technology innovation) at the ADB. He has worked in the knowledge and technology innovation for development context since 1998. Lepage advises and supports ADB with its 2030 digital agenda, by designing and implementing ADB's digital sandboxes programme, an initiative aiming at using emerging digital technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain and robotics to future-proof ADB and support its transformation into an agile organisation.

Prior to this position, Marc worked for the United Nations as UNDP innovation advisor in Africa, based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He advised 46 countries under the UNDP Africa region to develop, sustain

and implement innovation initiative. Managing the UNDP Africa innovation fund, He provided policy guidance to countries interested to develop innovation initiatives.

Prior to joining ADB, Lepage was Uganda Country Manager for the International Institute for Communications and Development (IICD), advisor to national ICT strategy formulation in Somalia, regional director for Africa and Middle East of a Canadian international NGO working in ICT for Development. Previous to that, He spent seven years with UNDP in information and knowledge for development, including deputy regional coordinator for ICTDAR, the UNDP programme on ICT for Development in the Arab region, advisor for UNDP Afghanistan for all ICT related activities and information systems engineer for UNDP Asia Pacific Development Information Programme (AFDIP).

JOHANNA JOCHIM

Manager, United Nations Innovation Network (UNIN)



Johanna Jochim is Manager of the UN Innovation Network. UNIN is an informal, collaborative community of UN innovators interested in sharing their expertise and experience with others to promote and advance innovation within the UN System. The UNIN is open to innovators from all UN Agencies as well as external partners and to date, 3,000 colleagues from 65+ UN Entities in over 140 countries have joined the Network.

Prior to this, Jochim was Special Projects Manager at the World Food Programme and was an Associate at McKinsey and Company.