

IED Task Force: Speaker Bios



Sumani Dash is the Director and Country Head for the USA and Canada for the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). A non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, CII charts change by working closely with governments on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry. The CII office for North America seeks to promote the growth of Indo-U.S. and Indo-Canada bilateral trade and commercial partnerships.

Minister Ricardo Daskal Hirschbruch became the Minister of Trade and Investment at the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C. in August 2014. Ricardo leads the Trade Promotion and Investment Bureau and deals with financial and economic portfolios. Prior to joining the Embassy, Ricardo worked in law firms in São Paulo and London, as well as for Brazil's Ministry of External Relations (MRE). Ricardo also led the Trade Promotion and Investment Bureau of the Consulate General of Brazil in Germany for a brief time.



Dr. Ajay Kumar began his assignment as the Counsellor for the Commerce Department of the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C. in January 2013, where he is involved in a broad range of issues that help foster trade between U.S. and Indian businesses. Dr. Kumar joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2002 and served in the Indian Embassies of Egypt and Sudan from 2004-2010. On returning to Delhi, he served as Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs, where he dealt with Disarmament and International Security Affairs and represented India at various international conferences.

Antonio Josino Meirelles is the Executive Director of the Brazil Industries Coalition (BIC), a non-profit organization that represents the Brazilian private sector in the U.S. Previously, Antonio worked in public affairs for multinational companies in Brazil, such as AngloAmerican and the Camargo Correa Group. He has also served as an international trade advisor to the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI) in Brazil.





Dr. Christoph Schemionek is the Director for Regional Economic Policy and World Bank Liaison at the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT) in Washington, D.C., where he started in 2008. He provides technical assistance to German small and medium-sized enterprises that are planning to expand to the United States and Latin America. Before joining RGIT, Christoph worked as a consultant at the Inter-American Development Bank on urban rehabilitation projects in Latin America and for Social Compact, an NGO dedicated to uncover hidden economic potentials in low-income neighborhoods in the U.S.

Martin Wiekert has been a Representative of Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI) in Washington, D.C. since June of 2012. As a market researcher for the “trade” division of the organization, he compiles reports on the U.S. economy with an emphasis on energy, the construction industry and general economic developments. Between the years of 2002 and 2012, Martin worked for GTAI (previously bfai) in Cologne and Bonn as an industry analyst. Previous professional experience includes work at an international engineering and consulting firm as well as various positions in the banking sector.



NACo Staff Contacts for IED: Dr. Emilia Istrate, Research Director, 202.942.4243 or eistrate@naco.org
Jonathan Harris, Research Associate, 202.942.4247 or jharris@naco.org