Global Roundtable Series: Guest List

Wednesday, the 18th of November

The Global Board Member Series (in collaboration with Alvarez & Marsal) is limited to a selected number of leaders and board members as the intent is an intimate Chatham House-style conversation coupled with a virtual roundtable discussion. Participants will share insights and engage in discussion on several relevant issues confronting board members today.

Co-hosts:



Margaret (Peggy) Smyth

Margaret M. (Peggy) Smyth is an accomplished global board director recognized for her exceptional leadership, business transformation expertise, strategic insight, and financial acumen across global public and private enterprises. Ms. Smyth has served/is Board Member and Chair of the Audit Present). As a long-term Director and Chair of the Audit and Risk Oversight Committees at Etsy, she champions governance and oversight for a global online marketplace that empowers creative entrepreneurs and strengthens communities. At Remitly, she fosters innovation and access to financial solutions worldwide, leveraging her diverse fintech, financial services, and tech leadership to guide the borderless digital financial services provider. Up until January 2026, she was a Member of the Strategic Review Committee and Member of the Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee at Frontier. After first joining the Frontier board in 2021 as the company was emerging from bankruptcy, she provided decisive leadership and implemented financial disclosures and controls to enhance transparency for investors. In January 2026, Verizon Communications' $20B deal to acquire Frontier received final regulatory approval at a 37% premium. Recently, Ms. Smyth was appointed Senior Advisor, Transaction Advisory Group & Corporate Transactions Group for Alvarez & Marsal. She also serves on the boards of Catholic Guardian Services and MOA Funds, where she helps oversee nearly $30B in assets across 28 funds. Several of these funds have earned top industry recognition for outstanding risk-adjusted returns, further reflecting her commitment to excellence and value creation. She also serves on the Board and Audit Committee of Flexential, a leading U.S. provider of colocation, cloud, and data center infrastructure services, owned by GI Partners and Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Partners. In 2021, Ms. Smyth was appointed Partner at QIC Global Infrastructure headquartered in Brisbane, Australia. From 2021 onward, she served in various board roles at QIC's U.S. portfolio companies, including CenTrio Energy, a leading provider of district and sustainable energy solutions in the U.S., and Renewa, a renewable land finance platform supporting clean energy land investments across the U.S. During her tenure as Board Chair at Renewa, the company has grown from inception to a scaled powered land platform with over $1.25B of capital commitments and an A- credit rating, demonstrating her strategic vision and operational expertise.

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Vanessa Mesics



Vanessa Mesics is the Head of Director Experience for Nasdaq's Corporate Platforms Business. In this role she is responsible for the oversight of the Nasdaq Center for Board Excellence, including its expansion, programmatic development and collaborative relationships with external governance leaders and organizations, with the goal of fostering an environment of continuous improvement and boardroom excellence. Vanessa works closely with Nasdaq's Governance business to continually improve the experience board members have with our board portal solution. Beyond this, Vanessa has also been responsible for establishing a variety of resources and relationships to support Nasdaq listings and client companies' board recruitment and composition planning needs. Vanessa began her professional career at Nasdaq in 2007 as part of the listings business. As Nasdaq expanded beyond its core businesses of Listings, Market Data and Technology, Vanessa followed that path of growth. Branching out from her core responsibilities, she held a variety of roles throughout the organization in Investor Relations, Media Intelligence and Corporate Governance. During this time, she gained invaluable experience in areas including, but not limited to, product development and management, third-party and vendor management, sales, marketing and client experience. This has contributed to building a successful track record of data analytics, identifying commercial opportunities, driving strategy and revenue growth for Nasdaq's SaaS solution and professional service offerings. Previously, Vanessa received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and Economics with minors in History and Classical Dance from Columbia University in New York City. In 2017 Vanessa received the "Rising Star" award from the Women's Bond Club.

Annie Peabody



Ms. Peabody brings more than 20 years of experience solutioning and delivering complex enterprise transformations for large, global companies. Her areas of concentration include margin expansion, cost reduction, divestitures/carve-outs, operating model transformation and shared/global business services. Prior to joining A&M, Ms. Peabody spent 15 years with Accenture, where she managed two businesses: the Northeast finance transformation practice and the global Communications, Media, executives on their most complicated, large-scale enterprise transformations. Specifically, she helped her clients through complex divestitures, including designing and standing up new back office functions in alignment with Day 2 needs/cost structures. She led the successful execution of multiple margin expansion programs, bringing together both top line growth and cost reduction to support clients facing activist investor pressure. Beyond this, she brings deep expertise in designing and implementing enterprise and G&A operating models. Additionally, Ms. Peabody spent several years working in industry, leading an internal consulting capability for a $30 billion global high technology company as part of their shared service organization. She was responsible for helping grow the shared services footprint from 400 finance team members to 3000+ individuals spanning sales, marketing, HR, services, IT, procurement and finance. She also led performance improvement for the shared service organization, including initiatives like quote-to-cash optimization, several organization redesigns and implementation of a Lean Six Sigma program.

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Rebecca Stockley



Rebecca Stockley is a Managing Director with Alvarez & Marsal Corporate Performance Improvement in New York, and is a leader for the firm's Talent, Organization and People practice. She specializes in managing complex transformations, culture and behavioral change programs, organizational models and design, complex organization transformation and change and human resource strategy and functional performance assessments. With more than 20 years of experience, Ms. Stockley is a transformational leader who helps organizations shape strategy, enabling success by re-shaping ways of working and delivering on complex programs of change. She leverages a background in business transformation, culture change and human capital optimization, to align leadership teams around a common vision and set of priorities and then to develop the operating model, governance frameworks and talent execution muscle to deliver results. Ms. Stockley has worked with clients across a range of industries, including banking, insurance, mutual funds, life sciences, healthcare, technology, professional services, government, hospitality, retail, energy, utilities and manufacturing. Prior to joining A&M, Ms. Stockley led the Transformation Program for Transamerica's Individual Solutions business and spent nine years with KPMG Advisory's People and Change and Transformation practices in New York, where she served as Managing Director. Ms. Stockley earned a bachelor's degree in commerce (concentration in banking and finance) and a bachelor's degree in business (concentration in organization design and international marketing) from the University of Queensland. She is a Chartered Accountant, awarded by the Australia and New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Guests:

Ira Agarwal



Ira Agarwal, a distinguished alumna of The Wharton School, stands among the world's top 1% of women leaders driving AI innovation, digital transformation, board governance, and high-impact social entrepreneurship. She is the Founder & Board Chair of EmergeAI Technologies Pvt Ltd, Founder & CEO of AIM Elevate Ventures and Founder of the Meet Ira Mentorship Platform while serving as an Independent Director at ITCONS e-Solutions Ltd and Strategic Advisor to AAPNA Infotech, TeamTech EHS & Mallawa Ventures. A Wharton AMP 85 alumna, Ira studied Human-Centered AI at Stanford HAI and Stanford d.school and completed Stanford GSB Seed Spark. She is a LEAP Batch Topper at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, Batch Topper in IICA's Certified ESG Impact Leader program and Graduate of Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center. Her credentials include IICA Certified Independent Director, Governance and Board certifications from Wharton, EY & ISB, a Computer Science Engineering degree and an Honorary Doctorate. An innovative ecosystem builder, Ira has created EA-AURA.ai, GovernxONE, AI Risk Radar, Careerfit, AIM Elevate Digital Spark Framework, an AI-enabled entrepreneurship platform, UN SDG Translation Lab and defect prediction models. She has established 10+ innovation centers, delivered 500+ intellectual properties, frameworks, utilities and contributed to 50+ research publications. Ira is a Business Participant of the UN Global Compact, a Women's Empowerment Principles Signatory with UN Women and an Affiliate of Wharton AI and Analytics. She is a Board Stewardship Fellow, Knowledge Partner, AI Research and Innovation Fellow, Mentor of Change with NITI Aayog & ISB Mentor. She represented CWE at the India AI Impact Summit 2026. Her leadership has been recognized by Wharton, Wharton Alumnae Founders and Funders Association and the House of Commons, UK. Her honors include the Outstanding Leaders Award 2025, ET Leadership Excellence Award, Iconic Director Award, Bharat Conclave 2.0 Shakti Edition Award, Ratan Tata National Icon Award and Technology Excellence Awards from TCS, Techspan,

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Headstrong and Genpact. P.D.A. College of Engineering has instituted the “Er. Ira Agarwal Gold Medal" for Academic Excellence. An Amazon bestselling author, Ira has published research papers in Scopus-indexed, SCImago Q1-ranked journals. Featured by Nasdaq, TIME, Forbes, Wharton and EY and showcased at the Frankfurt and New Delhi World Book Fairs, Ira brings together innovation, governance and human-centered impact. Her passion includes writing, nature conservation, sports & travelling.

Sheila Bangalore



Sheila Bangalore is a seasoned senior operator who blends her financial and legal acumen to support multinational technology (B2B/C), mining, specialty materials, and healthcare businesses. Presently, Sheila acts as CEO of Artemis Endeavors, a boutique advisory firm guiding companies through high-impact challenges ranging from capital strategy to M&A and risk management. Sheila also serves as an Independent Director for Entain plc (LSE: ENT), a FTSE 100 company, where she serves on its People & Governance and Sustainability & Compliance Committees; Alliance Entertainment (Nasdaq: AENT), where she serves on its inaugural Technology Governance and Audit Committees; Principal Mineral company where she serves as Chair of the Governance Committee. In addition, Sheila serves as an active member of the Nasdaq Center for Board Excellence Insights Council, a collective of global board members and executive leaders at the forefront of corporate governance, and on the leadership teams of Wharton Alumni for Boards and NACD Nashville.

Sanjay Banka



Sanjay Banka, a strong advocate of water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) for all, at all times, in all places, is the Executive Chairman of Banka BioLoo Limited and Banka Earth Foundation; and a strong propagator of SDG 6, the water and sanitation Goal. With academic background in sciences, humanities, human rights, law, and business management; he has a strong understanding of the society, economy and the polity, along with technology and sustainable development, with a focus on water and sanitation. Professionally, he has worked in family businesses, start-ups, MNCs and co-founded Banka BioLoo Limited, with spouse Namita Banka. The bioloo, the flagship solution, is an affordable onsite sanitation system, wherein the fecal matter is converted to water and biogas in a multi-chambered bio-digester tank, with the help of bacterial culture. And there are other sanitation and wastewater treatment solutions. Well-versed with social development and humanitarian problems, primarily issues related to water and sanitation, he puts his best foot forward in providing eco-friendly and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene access and solutions to households, school children, workers, and other user groups; with a focus on the underserved, marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society. Sanjay is a prolific writer and speaker, and has authored many a piece on sustainable WaSH, social enterprises leading to society-building, as also spoken extensively, including at the UN. He has built strong network with WaSH organizations, professionals-practitioners, and social entrepreneurs. He, also, mentors budding entrepreneurs, and supports students in their WaSH-related research, including PhD candidates. He, strongly, believes in partnerships as a basis for sustainable development, “governments, civil society, academia and businesses need to work in harmony for the greater good of the society.”

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Siraj Chaudhry



Siraj A. Chaudhry serves on the board of Sanofi India Limited and holds an MBA from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and is B. Com (Hons) from Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi. He has an experience of over 37 years of which 22 years in leadership roles building, turning around, acquiring, divesting businesses in Agriculture and Food space. He has Exceptional people leadership traits with ability to recognize and groom talent. Strong internal and external stakeholder management with ability to navigate operating landscape in India and abroad. He is an industry expert, thought leader, innovator and a leading voice in the agriculture and food industry. He has worked extensively with industry, the social sector, and the Government on transformational and numerous nation-building projects. Siraj was the Chairman of Cargill India (2008-2018), the Indian arm of Cargill Inc., where he led the build and expansion of Cargill's Food Business in India. Under his leadership, Cargill's Food Business became 5,000 Cr. entity in edible oils, flour, corn products, and food ingredients. He was instrumental in transforming a traditional B2B business into an FMCG company of repute. He is credited with pioneering edible oil fortification as a practice, recognized by Fortune Magazine as a Change the World activity. Siraj serves as an Independent Director on the Boards of Jubilant Ingrevia Ltd., Carrier Air Conditioning and Refrigeration India, Bikaji Foods International and Triveni Engineering and Industries Ltd. He has, in the past, been an Independent Director on the Board of many well known Companies. In his advisory capacity, he has been a member of CDC Group's (now British International Investment) Food & Agriculture Advisory Council and a member of non-statutory Advisory Council of ABInBev, India. Siraj has been actively involved with various trade bodies and Industry associations. He has served as the Chair of the National Committee on Food Processing at FICCI and also Co-Chair of the National Committee for Agriculture at FICCI. In the past, he has served as the President of the Food Industry Skill Council under the NSDC and also as Chairman of National Alliance for Edible Oil Fortification, a joint initiative by CII and GAIN to address malnutrition through food fortification. He has chaired the Agriculture and Food Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce and the Agriculture and Food Committee of USIBC in India.He has been actively involved in the social sector and has been a founding member of United Way, Delhi and India Foodbank. Recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including Pride of Uttar Pradesh by Lucknow Management Association and Pioneer for Edible Oil Fortification by FSSAI, Siraj is a sought-after voice in national and international media on Agriculture and Food issues.

Ananth Krishnan



Mr. K Ananth Krishnan FNAE, retired as the Chief Technology Officer of Tata Consultancy Services after a career of over three and a half decades in the same organisation. In this role, he was responsible for Research, Innovation and Co-Innovation. His areas of expertise include the management of Technology and inter-disciplinary applications of Computer Science and EngineeringAnanth has served on the Governing Council of INAE and other Academic institutions, Industry Advisory boards and Government committees. He was a regular invitee to the Board of TCS and is serving as independent director of TVS Supply Chain Solutions.

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Mandeep Maitra



Mandeep Maitra is an award-winning Global HR Leader and Leadership & Transformation Coach. Her work experience of three decades spans Paris, London, Singapore & Mumbai. Mandeep has been credited with being the HR architect of HDFC Bank, India's number 1 Bank. During her tenure, Mandeep took the Bank from less than 1500 people to over 80000 in the Bank and its affiliate companies. In the BFSI space, she is hugely regarded for her understanding of banking and has many firsts to her credit. She started the trend of hiring from Tier 2 /3 cities, introduced HRIS way ahead of other banks, created strategies to help build talent pipelines from within at a time when pay & benefits were not competitive. Worked hard to drive results and change for better productivity and meritocracy. Experienced in managing people and culture issues in two mergers, one of which is considered the largest in the Financial Industry, she thrives in managing scale, complexity and change. She also set the CSR function in the Bank, focusing on education, skilling, livelihood creation and women empowerment.

Chetan Kumar Mathur



Chetan serves on the boards of Pushp Brand (India) Limited, Shiprocket, and Walker Chandiok & Co LLP. He works with both mature and young companies as an Independent Board Member and Advisor. Chetan loves helping organisations strengthen governance, controllership and risk management. He has substantial operating experience in finance leadership roles in Asia's consumer goods industry (PepsiCo). He has also developed expertise in M&A and integrating new businesses. He is interested in Independent Board positions, including membership on the Audit and Risk Management Committees. His specialities include Risk Management, Enterprise Risk Management, Integration of newly acquired entities, mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures; internal control, and people management. In his 30+ years of post-qualification experience, he has gained extensive exposure to multiple facets of finance across organisations and global geographies. His deep involvement in the end-to-end M&A process, including due diligence, purchase accounting, recruitment, and change management, has given him a comprehensive understanding of the process. Chetan has led a Finance transformation critical to business growth. Furthermore, he has successfully developed and implemented cost-control measures that have improved profitability and reduced costs.

Alok Misra



Alok Misra recently co-founded Guvrn (www.guvrn.com) along with three others as India's first curated board network to connect independent directors with progressive companies looking to improve their governance. Until June 2024 Alok Misra served as Operating Partner and Chief Operating Officer of India at General Atlantic, where he provided financial expertise to the firm and its portfolio companies with a focus on GA's investments in India and ASEAN. General Atlantic is leading global growth equity investment firm providing capital and strategic support for growth companies. Prior to joining General Atlantic, Alok had extensive experience as a public company CFO. He was most recently Group Chief Financial Officer with WNS Group, a leading global outsourcing company, where he helped lead the company through significant expansion and transformation. Prior to that, he was the Group Chief Financial Officer of MphasiS BFL Group (now a part of HP) and served a number of accounting and finance roles at other firms, including ITC Limited and PwC. Alok also serves as a non-executive / independent director on the boards of various private and public companies including Chairing committees such as the Audit & Risk Management Committees. Alok is a Fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and holds an honours degree in commerce from Calcutta University.

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Dr. Sanjay Sethi



Dr. Sanjay Sethi is a Non-Executive Director for Chalet Hotels was conferred an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by Manav Rachna Educational Institutions (2024) for his outstanding contributions to Pusa, is a Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA) from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute, a Certified Independent Director and holds a Certificate in Corporate Governance, both from the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA). Dr. Sethi brings over 37 years of distinguished leadership across India's hospitality industry. He served as Managing Director & CEO of Chalet Hotels Limited from 2018, leading the company's successful public listing in February 2019. Under his stewardship, Chalet was transformed into one of India's most respected integrated hospitality platforms – delivering industry-leading financial performance and operational efficiency, while setting benchmarks in guest satisfaction, employee engagement, and workplace culture. His tenure was equally defined by a strong commitment to ESG leadership, embedding sustainability and responsible business practices at the core of the organisation's growth agenda. By the time of his retirement in January 2026, he had grown the company to a market capitalisation of over $2 billion. Prior to Chalet, he founded Keys Hotels & Resorts in 2006 in partnership with Berggruen Holdings, New York – conceptualising the brand from the ground up and scaling it into a recognised multi-city national hospitality brand. He earlier spent fourteen years with the Taj Group of Hotels across property and regional leadership roles. Throughout his career, Dr. Sethi has been an active participant in policy advocacy through his tenures with the Hotel Association of India, the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India, FICCI, and CII – championing industry status for hotels and broader reforms for the hospitality sector. As Non-Executive Director, Dr. Sethi brings to the Chalet board a rare combination of entrepreneurial vision, operational depth, governance expertise, and a proven record of building and leading high-performing hospitality enterprises.

Anupama Vaidya



Equipped with a Bachelor's in Computer Science from University of Pune and Master's in Business Administration (MBA) with specialization in Human Resource Development from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune. Anupama has evolved as a seasoned business management professional with more than 30 years of rich and diverse experience across industries including Conglomerates, Manufacturing/Engineering, Construction, Information Technology & Services and various organizational functions. Awarded the "Super Women Achiever – 2021", "100 TOP Coaching Minds – 2020", "TOP HR Minds – 2018" by World HRD Congress. Her work experience includes working with Saint-Gobain India Ltd. (Grindwell Norton & HPM Sector, Group Interventions), Lodha Group, Colgate Palmolive, Hinduja Group, Geometric Software, Mafatlal Industries and as a Free-lance Business Strategist Partner and Founder Entrepreneur. Impactful contributions in the area of Business strategies, roadmaps and handholding to translate these into business models, processes and organization design to drive the people strategies and interventions are her core strength. Extensive contributions in General Management, HR Management, Corporate Marketing & Communications; Project & Event Management; Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives and she has been a part of the top management teams to drive the business objectives. Ms. Anupama brings in a contemporary approach to the understanding of human dynamics and behavioural sciences with her extensive study and her work in the space of leveraging neurosciences for organization and people development (individual, team, leadership). As a certified neuroscience practitioner (MiND certified), she seamlessly integrates neurosciences for business impact, a future forward approach to human-centred organization building interventions. Anupama Vaidya is an independent director for John Cockerill India Limited, Wanbury Limited, and Platinumone Business Services Limited. She is also a Proprietor for Los Aurigas.

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