

Innovation, IP and SMEs:

Challenges and Opportunities for SMEs in Driving Nigeria's Economic Recovery

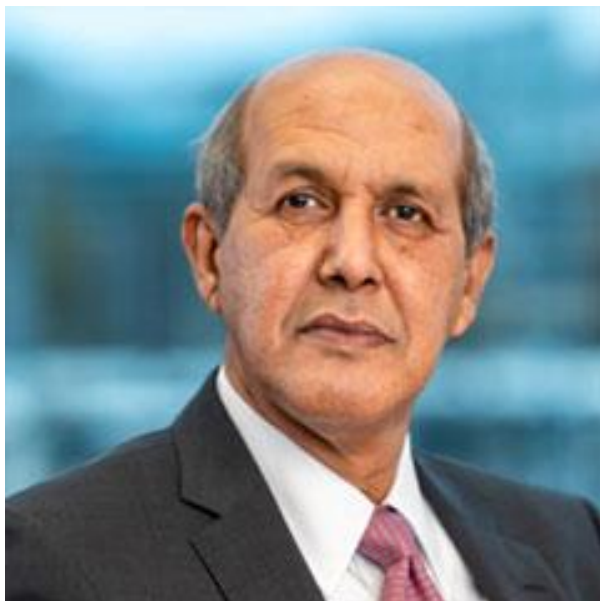
April 26, 2021





Panel discussion commences 11.00am





Mr. Hasan Kleib
Deputy Director
General
WIPO

Mr. Hasan Kleib is a Deputy Director General at WIPO, where he oversees the Regional and National Development Sector. He is responsible for the Organization's programs relating to the WIPO Development Agenda; the use of IP to support the growth and development, in an impactful manner, of developing countries and their relevant regions and sub-regions, and support, in particular, to least developed countries (LDCs).

Prior to assuming his role at WIPO, he served as the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.

He obtained his first degree in Political Affairs and International Relations from the University of Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia, and a Master's degree, in Foreign and Affairs and Trade, from Monash University, Melbourne Australia.





**Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN,
Vice-President, Federal
Republic of Nigeria**

Professor Oluyemi Oluleke Osinbajo, SAN, GCON is the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Born on March 8 1957 at Creek Hospital, Lagos, Yemi is a professor of law and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

Yemi's early years in primary school were spent at Corona School Lagos. Between 1969- 1975, he attended Igbobi College, Yaba where he was the winner of the State Merit Award (1971); the School Prize for English Oratory (1972); Adeoba Prize for English Oratory (1972-1975); Elias Prize for Best Performance in History (WASC, 1973); School Prize for Literature (HSC, 1975); and African Statesman Intercollegiate Best Speaker's Prize (1974).

Thereafter, he studied for his undergraduate degree at the University of Lagos between 1975-1978 when he obtained a Second Class Upper Degree in Law. Here, he also won the Graham-Douglas Prize for Commercial Law.

In 1979, he completed the mandatory one-year professional training at the Nigerian Law School whereon he was admitted to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor of Nigeria's Supreme Court. In 1980, he attended the London School of Economics & Political Science, where he obtained a Master of Laws degree. An accomplished scholar, teacher, lawyer and administrator, Yemi is one of the nation's leading experts on the Law of Evidence, National and Regional Corporate Commercial Laws and Public Law.





**Otunba Richard Adeniyi
Adebayo, CON**
**Hon. Minister of Industry,
Trade and Investment,
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Otunba Richard Adeniyi Adebayo, CON, is Nigeria's 40th Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment and has overseen the government's goal of economic diversification to non-oil revenue earnings. As the number one investment driver of Nigeria, Adebayo is leading the promotion of government's policies of Ease of Doing Business, job creation, poverty eradication and industrialization. The Hon. Minister has been implementing certain policies and programmes including: standardization of bilateral trade agreements, stimulating growth of domestic Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSMEs and renewed roadmap to increase Nigeria's Foreign Direct Investment, FDIs.

He is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, the International Bar Association, the Nigerian Institute of Management, a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration of Nigeria and a Director of the Sickle Cell Foundation Nigeria. He is also a member of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Nigeria. He became the First Executive Governor of his home State, Ekiti on 29 May 1999 and was also the Pioneer Secretary of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF.

A core chieftain of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), the Minister held office of the Interim National Vice Chairman South West and Deputy National Chairman (South) of the party.





Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard
United States Ambassador to Nigeria

Ambassador Leonard is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister- Counselor. From 2016-2019, Ambassador Leonard was the Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, serving concurrently as U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). She was the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Mali from 2011-2014.

She served as the State Department's Senior Faculty Advisor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, following a year as the Department's Diplomat in Residence for New England, based at Tufts University. Ambassador Leonard was the Director for West African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State from 2009-2011.

Ambassador Leonard, a native of Massachusetts, graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Boston University, with a major in economics and a minor in French. In 1988, she earned a master's degree in international relations, with an emphasis on African studies, from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She speaks French, Spanish, Afrikaans, and Dutch.





Ms. Ndidi Nwuneli, MFR
Managing Partner,
Sahel Consulting Agriculture &
Nutrition Ltd.

Ndidi Nwuneli is the Managing Partner of Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Ltd., which works across West Africa shaping agricultural policy, creating catalytic ventures, and implementing ecosystem solutions. She is also the co-founder of AACE Foods. Ndidi is also the founder of LEAP Africa which inspires, empowers, and equips a new cadre of principled, disciplined, and dynamic young leaders in Africa. She is the chair of Nourishing Africa, a digital knowledge, financing and data hub which is enabling agribusiness entrepreneurs in 34 African countries to scale.

Ndidi holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and an undergraduate degree with honours from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Ndidi serves on various boards such as the Rockefeller Foundation and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). She was recognized as a Young Global Leader and Schwab Social Innovator by the World Economic Forum and received a National Honor from the Nigerian Government

Ndidi is the author of "Social Innovation in Africa: A Practical Guide for Scaling Impact," and "Food Entrepreneurs in Africa: Scaling Resilient Agriculture Businesses" both published by Routledge. She is a TED Global speaker and her work has been featured on CNN, BBC, and a range of international and local media outlets.





Ms. Victoria Akai
Director General,
Abuja Chamber of Commerce and
Industry.

Ms. Victoria Akai joined the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry as a Director of the Business Entrepreneurship Skills and Technology [BEST] Centre in 2017; a learning Centre established by the Chamber for capacity development of the business community. Between 2002 and 2011 she worked with the European Union PRIME & SRIK Projects as a Procurement Manager and Administrator overseeing 23 States and the FCT. Between 2010 and 2017, she established a management company that successfully implemented various projects and programs for national and international organizations including the EU, UN, Johns Hopkins University, National Primary Health Care Development Agency amongst various others.

Victoria has served as a lead Consultant to Nigeria's Senate Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Diseases. She is a Management Expert, with Degrees and Professional Trainings which include an MBA in Management, MDF Certification in European Development Administration and Finance Procedures, B.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Agric Economics and Rural Sociology, United Nations Institute of Training and Research Certificates in Debt & Financial Management and Negotiation of Financial Transaction, MIT Certificates in Leadership and Entrepreneurship. Victoria is currently undergoing a Doctorate in Business Administration [DBA]. She has 2 decades of hands-on experience in Program Management and Administration.





Dr. Dikko Umaru Radda
Director General
Small and Medium Enterprises
Development Agency of Nigeria

Dr. Dikko Umaru Radda is the Director General/Chief Executive Officer of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). Dr Radda, an astute politician, entrepreneur, teacher and banker with wide administrative experience was born on 10th September 1969 in Hayingada-Dutsinma Local Government, Katsina State North-West Nigeria.

A graduate of Agricultural Economic and Extension from the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, he holds two masters degrees from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in Agric Extension and Rural Sociology and in International Affairs and Diplomacy respectively. He completed his Ph.D in Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology from the same University in 2015.

He holds the traditional title of Gwagwaren Katsina in the historic Katsina Emirate Council. Dr Radda has presented several academic papers in both local and international conferences and workshops.

Dr Radda, was until his present appointment the Chief of Staff to the Katsina State Governor. He is a recipient of several awards and certificates from both local and international organizations. A widely traveled man and he is married with children.

