

PROGRAMME.

AMBA & BGA

FESTIVAL OF EXCELLENCE

2021

25-26 JANUARY 2021

MBA STUDENTS AND GRADUATES



ASSOCIATION
OF
AMBA^S
BE IN BRILLIANT COMPANY



BUSINESS GRADUATES
ASSOCIATION
LEADERS NEVER STOP LEARNING



**INTRODUCING THE AMBA & BGA
FESTIVAL OF EXCELLENCE 2021
25-26 JANUARY 2021**

► Paul Thurston, Conference Producer, AMBA & BGA

The AMBA & BGA Festival of Excellence is a unique and inspirational event that will feature best practice and innovation in light of mounting global challenges, with a series of virtual interactive masterclasses, drawing on expertise from a world-class group of thinkers, practitioners and speakers.

The Festival will showcase innovation, demonstrating the achievements of MBAs across the world, inspiring others to achieve excellence in the face of global volatility, acting as a celebration of achievement, and highlighting new work and fresh ideas for the year ahead.

In addition, speakers representing the corporate world, will share their own insight and discuss how they're making an impact – and how you can do the same.

The theme of the event will be around moving forward in a post-Covid 'new normal' with an onus on forward thinking, innovation and celebration.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, AMBA & BGA will hold its Festival of Excellence, including the AMBA & BGA Excellence Awards 2021, in an innovative, virtual format.

Each session during the Festival will take the format of a one-hour masterclass featuring a conversation with a group of opinion formers, representing influencers, business leaders and thinkers; and each panel will conclude with an interactive Q&A.

We are planning a stellar cast of speakers and will be announcing them over the coming weeks, but for now, please save the date and we'll look forward to seeing you there.

Please note the following programme is in draft format and timings and content are both subject to change.

WELCOME FROM THE CONFERENCE PRODUCER



MONDAY
—
25
JANUARY
2021

PROGRAMME. SCHEDULE

Session 1

11:00 – 12:30 GMT

Securing success post MBA

Chair

Tairo Masukume
Membership Manager, AMBA

Panellists

Ehab Abdel Hafez

Head of Talent Acquisition - Africa, Middle East and Turkey,
Johnson and Johnson

Ritika Israni

Vice President, Israni Telecom Private Limited, Winner of AMBA's MBA
Student of the Year Award 2019

Stephanie Mullins

Associate Director, BlueSky Education

Udo Richson

Manager of Strategic Projects, Eli and Lilly Company and Winner of the MBA
Student of the Year Award 2020

Session 2

14:30 – 16:00 GMT

Entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, innovation, and creativity – the skills needed to be successful in the modern world for start-ups and established businesses

Chair

Jason Allan Scott

#1 Joint Venture Expert, Deal Maker, Podcaster, Entrepreneurial Advisor,
International Best-Selling Author & Keynote Speaker

Panellists

Sharon Cunningham

Co-Founder, Shorla Pharma, and Winner of the MBA Entrepreneurial Venture
(Private Sector) Award 2020

Marianne Gaulhet

Innovation Transformational Leader, GE Healthcare

Gordon Merrylees

Head of Entrepreneurship, NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank

Hamilton Mann

Group Director, Digital Marketing and Digital Transformation, Thales

MONDAY

TUESDAY
—
26
JANUARY
2021

PROGRAMME.
SCHEDULE

Session 3

11:00 – 12:00 GMT

Responsible management for today and tomorrow

Chair

Aarti Bhasin

HR and Employer Relations Manager, AMBA & BGA

Panellists

Rita Monteiro

Head of Sustainability, Amazon Japan

Sian Sutherland

Co-Founder, A Plastic Planet

Harry Tucker

Co-Founder P L A N E Industries and financial consultant, McKenzie & Co

Session 4

15:00 – 16:00 GMT

Leadership challenges and opportunities

Chair

Andrew Main Wilson

CEO, AMBA & BGA

Panellists

Elisabetta Galli

Global Executive Vice President, Global Head of Knowledge, Development and Team Management, Banco Santander

Rob McCargow

Director of Artificial Intelligence, Technology & Investments, PwC

David Ssegawa

Former Global Director of People at Oxfam International Africa, Global Chief for People & Culture at Living Goods

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SESSION 1: Securing success post-MBA

MBA students may face growing competition to secure the roles they want in a market categorised by unprecedented uncertainty, but the international war for talent among employers remains. To push businesses and economies through challenging times, business need great recruits.

AMBA's 2020 study of employer recruitment behaviours from a global sample of more than 1,000 employers, points to the value of an MBA from a reputable Business School, among those looking for senior managers.

But responding employers did say that a 'lack of soft skills' and a 'lack of creativity' among MBAs applying for roles are the two biggest issues facing the current recruitment market.

These are areas that Business Schools and their cohorts will want to address collectively to ensure graduates are prepared for the roles they want – and that they are enabled and empowered to demonstrate their skills in creativity, innovation and emotional intelligence – from day one.

How can MBA students and graduates demonstrate exceptional career potential and act as ambassadors who can make a difference both in the world of work, but also in society?

How can MBA graduates establish themselves and make an impact in the world following their graduation?

The session will put these questions to a group of inspirational leaders and managers who will offer personal insight and practical advice to aspiring leaders.

SPEAKERS

Tariro Masukume
Membership Manager,
AMBA

Ehab Abdel Hafez
Head of Talent Acquisition
- Africa, Middle East and
Turkey,
Johnson and Johnson

Ritika Israni
Vice President, Israni
Telecom Private Limited,
Winner of AMBA's MBA
Student of the Year Award
2019

Stephanie Mullins
Associate Director, BlueSky
Education

Udo Richson
Manager of Strategic
Projects, Eli and Lilly
Company and Winner of
the MBA Student of the
Year Award 2020

SESSION 2: Entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, innovation, and creativity – the skills needed to be successful in the modern world for start-ups and established businesses

Innovation, creativity, disruption, entrepreneurship – and the almost clichéd idea of 'out of the box thinking' – have become the core facets of both start-up organisations and super-corporates.

But how can MBA students and graduates hone their skills of innovation and creativity to thrive in complex environments categorised by volatility and uncertainty on one hand, and regulation, compliance and bureaucracy on the other?

How are business boundaries being pushed in terms of creativity in practice?

What examples of innovation, radical thinking and game-changing new practices can business leaders use in their pursuit of 'the new'? Is there value in failure and how can we mitigate that risk?

How can we cultivate a spirit of enterprise and ambition within ourselves, colleagues and peers in all types of organisation?

Our panel of leaders, at the forefront of global innovation and entrepreneurship, will share their take on these challenges and offer solutions.

SPEAKERS

Jason Allan Scott
#1 Joint Venture Expert,
Deal Maker, Podcaster,
Entrepreneurial Advisor,
International Best-Selling
Author & Keynote Speaker

Sharon Cunningham
Co-Founder, Shorla
Pharma, and Winner of
the MBA Entrepreneurial
Venture (Private Sector)
Award 2020

Marianne Gaulhet
Innovation
Transformational Leader,
GE Healthcare

Gordon Merrylees
Head of Entrepreneurship,
NatWest, Royal Bank of
Scotland and Ulster Bank

Hamilton Mann
Group Director, Digital
Marketing and Digital
Transformation, Thales

SESSION 3: Responsible management for today and tomorrow

Few go into business without the objective of making money. It's accepted that businesses need to focus on profits and growth to survive. However, achieving commercial success doesn't have to be at the expense of people and planet. A new way to do business is emerging – purposeful, ethical and sustainable. It's disrupting our thinking around traditional profit-based models with a focus on business as a 'force for good'. But is this new business model viable?

A 'force for good' business model is proving more successful than a profit-driven approach, with the most forward-thinking organisations actively putting people and the environment first to achieve a fairer society and a more sustainable economy.

There is growing consensus that companies have a responsibility not only to shareholders, but also to wider society – customers, employees, suppliers, communities, and the environment.

And leaders of today's companies are in a privileged position, as technology and their global reach give them more power to create social value than arguably ever before. But they are also in a challenging position, because the world's social problems are more serious than ever before. A leader wishing to serve a purpose beyond profit may feel powerless to solve all of these problems.

But purpose should not be exhausting but freeing – as we will find out in this session.

SPEAKERS

Aarti Bhasin
HR and Employer Relations Manager, AMBA & BGA

Rita Monteiro
Head of Sustainability, Amazon Japan

Sian Sutherland
Co-Founder, A Plastic Planet

Harry Tucker
Co-Founder P L A N E Industries and financial consultant, McKenzie & Co

SESSION 4: Leadership challenges and opportunities

For years, academics have used the acronym VUCA, standing for volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous, as a way of approaching the environment in which we operate. With COVID-19, we have moved from theory to practice.

Work and working conditions have been turned upside down by the lockdown period in most countries. Companies often had no choice – they closed their offices, buildings and plants and the majority of employees were all of a sudden either furloughed or forced to work from home.

Many news articles speculate about what the post-Covid-19 world will look like. The health crisis, the lockdown, and the fact that some people faced the death of loved ones and their own mortality are all factors that have forced us to re-examine our priorities. Today, the voices of change are getting louder: they want their causes to be heard.

Global crises bring great leaders to the surface. They also change the very definition of leadership itself. So, moving forward, what challenges and opportunities will leaders have to face in the 'new normal' of business?

SPEAKERS

Andrew Main Wilson
CEO, AMBA & BGA

Elisabetta Galli
Global Executive Vice President, Global Head of Knowledge, Development and Team Management, Banco Santander

Rob McCargow
Director of Artificial Intelligence, Technology & Investments, PwC

David Ssegawa
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