



Gricha Safarian

Managing Director of Puratos
Grand-Place Indochina
Cacao Trace Founder
Sustainable Strategy Advisor,
Puratos

For more than 30 years, Gricha Safarian has been a driving force in the B2B chocolate industry. He co-founded the OCG Cacao Group and launched Grand-Place Chocolate. Currently, he serves as the Founder and Managing Director of Puratos Grand-Place Indochina.

Gricha recently launched The Cocoa Project in Ho Chi Minh City, a groundbreaking B2C Cocoa Bar with the slogan “Chocolate for the People.”

Since 2008, Gricha has led efforts to create Cacao-Trace, a sustainable cocoa program in Vietnam, a model now used in 11 cocoa countries.

Under Gricha's leadership, Puratos Grand-Place Vietnam achieved Carbon Neutrality in 2021, reflecting his unwavering commitment to sustainability. Additionally, their innovative 60DAYS disruptive chocolate also attained Carbon Neutral status, further showcasing Gricha's dedication to environmental responsibility.

Gricha is a sought-after guest speaker at esteemed universities such as Stanford and RMIT, where he delivers captivating talks on sustainability and the impact revolution.

He is also a member of IMAGINE Leaders, a global community of visionary leaders, including disruptive innovators, corporate executives, investors, and civil society leaders, working together under the leadership of Paul Polman to drive systemic change.

LEAD PRESENTER



Selene Scotton

Group Cocoa
Sustainability Manager
Puratos

Selene Scotton is the Group Cocoa Sustainability Manager at Puratos, responsible for the sustainability strategy and programs, she works across Asia, Africa and Latin America together with the regional teams on the ground.

Based in Vietnam Selene has been working with Puratos since 2018, she brings diverse knowledge having previously overseen the regional Cacao-Trace programs in APAC encompassing sourcing and sustainability. Her dedication to sustainable food systems was ignited during her time with the US Peace Corps where she worked closely with smallholder farmers in the Republic of Benin.

Selene's commitment to continuous learning and innovation drives her to push the boundaries of what is achievable through initiatives like Cacao-Trace.

She holds an MBA from ESADE Business School in Spain and a BA in International Relations and French from San Francisco State University.

MODERATOR



Wei Chien Yoong

Director
ESG Controller
Cargill

Wei Chien is the Director, ESG Controller at Cargill. In this role, Wei Chien works alongside a global team in establishing strategy and global ways of working in ensuring ESG reporting compliance, proper risk management and controls are in place. Wei Chien brings more than 20 years of global experiences in multi-faceted roles across different MNCs.

Her extensive audit experiences laid the foundation on good governance and controls, while her financial background coupled with Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) experiences grounded her on the economic reality of environmental sustainability and social equality. As daughter to a farming family in Malaysia, food sustainability is core to Wei Chien's family heritage, she instinctively relates to the intricate balance of the co-existence of human and nature.

Mindful of the need for diversity and gender equality in the Agri-food sector, Wei Chien serves as treasurer with the Women in Agribusiness Asia (WOMAG) and as member to the audit committee of Aidha.

Wei Chien has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from University of Western Sydney Australia and an Executive MBA from Singapore Management University.



Manfred Borer

Co-founder,
Chief Executive Officer
Koltiva

Industry leader Manfred Borer Co-founded PT Koltiva Indonesia in 2013 and successfully established Koltiva AG in Switzerland together with the founders. Under his direction, he spearheads the company's growth in supporting some of the largest multinational companies in 61 countries by digitizing and verifying global supply chains to be more traceable, reliable, and sustainable, from Seed to Table. He brings forward the human-centered technology with its professional services 'Boots on the Ground' and empowerment method that helps more than 1,170,000 smallholder producers and business users to improve their livelihoods in rural areas.

Prior to founding Koltiva, Manfred has over 20 years of experience in entrepreneurship and 16 years in rural development and working alongside multinational companies' agriculture supply chains.



Fay Fay Choo

Asia Director
Cocoa Sustainable
Sourcing
Mars

Fay Fay Choo is the Asia Director for Cocoa Sustainable Sourcing for Mars, Incorporated.

She has 27 years of supply chain and strategic sourcing experience in the food industry and in the past twelve years has been directly responsible for sustainable cocoa development in Asia, where Mars has an extensive program covering plant science research, technology transfer and certification with tens of thousands of farmers in Indonesia and Philippines.



Chandra Panjiwibowo

Senior Director
Asia Pacific
Rainforest Alliance

Chandra Panjiwibowo is a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience spanning over two decades, encompassing various critical sectors such as environmental affairs, agriculture supply chain, forestry, natural resources management, food security, and climate change. Over the course of his career, he has engaged with a range of international and national organizations, including UNDP, UNWFP, GIZ, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), and Pelangi Foundation, actively contributing to a multitude of programs aimed at combatting climate change and addressing pressing environmental challenges.

He assumed the position of Indonesia Country Representative at UTZ, a global program for sustainable farming, prior to its merger with the Rainforest Alliance in January 2018, subsequently earning the role of Country Director, where he played a pivotal role in expanding the organization's reach and impact in Indonesia. At present, he serves as Asia Pacific Senior Director within the organization and continues to spearhead initiatives aimed at promoting agriculture sustainability and resilience across the region.



Bert Grobben

Founder & CEO
Budding Innovation

Dr. Bert Grobben, a seasoned leader in corporate global Open Innovation and Strategic Foresight, has over 20 years of experience leading multimillion-dollar programs for major corporations and entrepreneurial ventures.

At Budding Innovation, he develops long-term innovation plans integrating deep tech into consumer-centric portfolios, focusing on sustainable & transformative innovations and resilient supply. His expertise spans various global regions, enabling him to navigate diverse cultures and markets.

With a background in consumer and market research, and an academic foundation as a Biomedical PhD, Dr. Grobben translates consumer needs and market demands into effective technology development and profitable business model innovation.

He teaches, mentors, and assists SMEs and startups in health-related domains, optimizing product-market fit and go-to-market strategies.

Recently, Dr. Grobben has expanded his focus to Liveable City ecosystem development and circularity, contributing his knowledge to enhance urban environments. As a venture builder, CxO, advisor, or consultant, he ensures innovative projects realize their full sustainable and profitable potential across stakeholders involved.

LEAD PANELLIST



H. E. Alex Assanvo

Executive Secretary of the Initiative
Cacao Côte d'Ivoire Ghana (ICCIIG)

H. E. Alex Assanvo is the first Executive Secretary of the Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI). This unique partnership was set up as the result of the presidents of the world's top cocoa producers, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, coming together to address market challenges one by one, faced by the countries, so that the cocoa price eventually reflects the social value of the product and ensures a decent income for farmers.

Before his appointment, Assanvo was Global Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability at Mars. He began his international development career with the German development agency (GIZ) as a Rural Development Expert between 2002 and 2006 in Dakar, Senegal.

He moved on to Fairtrade Labelling International (FLO), in Germany in 2006 as Head for Africa and the Strategic Lead for Cocoa and Cotton. He later joined the Sustainability and Procurement team at Kraft Foods, now Mondelez International, from October 2011 to 2013 as the Cocoa Development Manager in charge of the Cocoa Life Programme.

SPEAKER - MACROECONOMICS



Michel Arrion

Executive Director
International Cocoa
Organization

Mr. Michel ARRION, is the Executive Director of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, since January 2019. A lawyer by training, he has been an EU civil servant for thirty years, serving as Ambassador of the European Union in various African countries such as Nigeria, Rwanda, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

SPEAKER - COCOA FUNDAMENTALS



Eric Bergman

Head of Cocoa & Coffee
Trading Desk
Chief Financial Officer
JSG Commodities

Eric Bergman started his career at JSG Commodities in 2012 after working on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange and at Morgan Stanley for a brief period of time. Eric is now the head of the cocoa and coffee department at JSG Commodities and is responsible for all fundamental research as well as the execution of all futures and options in the cocoa market.

At the cocoa department, Eric serves a wide array of clients within the industry to support all their needs pertaining to the analysis of the cocoa market as well as their needs pertaining to hedging and speculating. Eric currently resides in the United States in Connecticut with his wife Amy, his daughter Rose, and his son Charles.

MODERATOR



Paul Arendsen

Head of Cocoa Sourcing
APAC
Barry Callebaut

After completing high school, Paul Arendsen served in the air force as an officer for 2.5 years. Transitioning from the military, he ventured into the coffee and cocoa industry with Westermann & Co, a pivotal experience in his journey as a commodity trader. Over the span of 20 years, he worked with renowned Dutch companies like Daarnhouwer, Alessie, and Andira, leading him to frequent travels to Asia and a growing interest in working and living in the region. In 2007, he seized the opportunity to work in cocoa at Delfi in Zaandam, starting in sales and progressing to the role of commercial director. Following an acquisition by BC in 2013, he assumed the position of Bean Sourcing Director in Zurich, overseeing the group's bean sourcing operations for export. After accumulating 8 years of expertise, he sought to share his knowledge and experience, leading me to Asia, particularly Singapore, fulfilling a long-standing aspiration.



Rahul Bapat

Global Head
Cocoa Ingredient
Processing
ofi

Rahul Bapat is the global head-cocoa ingredient-Processing at Olam Food ingredients and is a member of ofi's Cocoa Executive committee.

He has spent over 25 years as a cocoa professional spanning origin sourcing, bean/products trading sales, risk management and processing and had had rich experiences with leading cocoa companies in West Africa, UK, Europe and Asia.

He holds a Master in International business from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and a Bachelor's in Electronic Engineering.



Hidde Kuiken

Head of
Cocoa Trade
ETG

Hidde Kuiken is the Head of Cocoa Trade at ETG.

They are a trader and supply chain provider of cocoa beans for the grind and chocolate industry with a focus on sustainable and/or certified beans. He is responsible for our sales portfolio and overall position management. Before he joined ETG in 2020, he first worked at Dutch trading company Continaf as a cocoa trader in various roles in procurement, sales and position management. After 5 years he decided to broaden his scope and started at the Commodity Trade Finance department of ABN Amro Bank where he worked for almost 7 years covering some of the largest metals and oils traders. Then he decided to return to the world of cocoa trade in 2019 when he joined Cocoanect which was shortly thereafter integrated into ETG and since then he has been heading the trade department.



Alberto Nacer

Vice-president
Softs Merchandiser
StoneX Commodity
Solutions

Alberto Nacer is Vice President Soft Merchandiser at StoneX Group's subsidiary, StoneX Commodity Solutions, based at their Miami, Florida office, managing StoneX's Cocoa Trading business since its start in 2017.

His primary focus is the sourcing of cocoa beans in Latin America and of cocoa butter in Latin America and Southeast Asia, and its commercialization into the USA and Asia, having previous experience selling into the European and Japanese markets as well. A native Ecuadorian, Alberto has 25 years' experience working in the cocoa industry and has served from 2020 through 2024 as Director at the Cocoa Merchants Association of America; volunteered through the years as Director of Anecacao, Ecuador's Cocoa Exporters Association, and participated as a representative of Ecuador's cocoa private sector at the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO).



Michelle Cui

Senior Trader
Ecom Singapore

Michelle Cui Qian, started in cocoa since 2006 with Ecom AgroIndustrial Corporation, which is a leading commodity merchant with 170 + years of market experience.

Currently working as a Senior Trader in Ecom Singapore office, have developed a holistic perspective on the entire cocoa supply chain across the globe, from cocoa growers and traders to chocolate manufacturers and FMCG companies. (Through my extensive cocoa beans trading experience as well as sourcing and supply cocoa products to major chocolate brands, I will be able to further the interests of our members in the region and provide a credible voice to represent the industry. And I would like to further the goal of the association to serve as a centre for trading, education, sharing of cocoa ideas and knowledge, and promote sustainable growth of the cocoa and chocolate industry in Asia.)

SPEAKER



Fellicia Kristianti

Customer Success Manager APAC
Innova Market Insights

Fellicia Kristianti holds a bachelor's degree in food technology at Swiss Germany University (Jakarta, Indonesia) and a master's degree in food technology in specialization of Food Innovation and Management at Wageningen University (The Netherlands).

After finishing her Masters, she became an insights and innovation analyst at Innova Market Insights. As she moves to another role as a Customer Success Manager in APAC region, she guides clients in retrieving relevant insights from Innova's Database and its affiliated platforms.

Through frequent communication with leaders in the industry, she makes sure to understand the information needs and support them with the cutting-edge intelligence solutions to help professionals with strategies to grow their businesses.

MODERATOR



Gary Scattergood

Regional Head and Editor-in-Chief
-Asia-Pacific
William Reed

Gary Scattergood leads William Reed's Asia-Pacific team, based in Singapore.

The company publishes a number of marketing-leading digital titles including FoodNavigator-Asia, NutraIngredients-Asia, AgTechNavigator and CosmeticsDesign-Asia, and organises a number of high-level food, hospitality, nutrition and cosmetics conferences, awards and summits.

Gary started his career as a journalist in UK, where he edited several newspapers and consumer titles, before taking senior leadership roles in business-to-business media and events companies across the food, beverage, cosmetics, nutrition, travel, retail and media industries.

He opened William Reed's first Asia Pacific office in Singapore in 2016 and has spearheaded the expansion of its editorial, events and commercial operations across the region.

Gary has hosted, presented and moderated at conferences and awards shows around the world, and has appeared as an expert guest on multiple TV, radio and online broadcasts.



Renee Tay

Regional Marketing Head,
Cocoa, APAC,
olam food ingredients

An experienced marketer with proven success in strategic marketing, brand building, market segmentation and innovation growth strategy. With more than a decade of experience in the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industry, Renee has a deep understanding of category and consumer dynamics, leveraging on her FMCG background to identify emerging trends with a consumer centric lens. She has gained a unique perspective on the ever-changing consumer preferences, cyclical nature of product trends and the power of innovation to disrupt markets while creating excitement for tomorrow's customers.

Prior to joining ofi in 2020, she has worked on iconic food and beverage consumer brands like MILO, MAGGI, Magnolia & NutriSoy, driving successful marketing campaigns and innovations and staying ahead of the evolving marketing landscape. A strong advocate of customer centricity, Renee believes in building strong customer relationships through a deep understanding of their needs, and leverage on insights to execute strategies to turn satisfied customers to loyal brand advocates.



Julien Le Ky Huong

Regional Director Asia
Pacific Region
PROVA

Julien Le Ky Huong is a seasoned professional with over a decade of experience in management, strategy, sales, and marketing across international markets. Currently the Regional Director for the Asia Pacific (APAC) region at PROVA, Julien operates from Bangkok, Thailand, overseeing a dynamic region that includes 14 countries, 60+ employees, and 2 production centers (Thailand and India).

Julien's strategic leadership has driven significant growth and profitability in the region, with a strong focus on the food and flavors sectors.

Julien's role involves close coordination with headquarters and other regional directors to align development strategies with market trends and CSR goals, ensuring sustainable and ethical business practices.



Tobias Garritt

Founder & CEO
Junglegold Bali

Tobias Garritt is Founder & CEO of Junglegold Bali, a pioneering company reimagining cocoa and chocolate.

Since 2010 Junglegold has been working directly with local communities to produce sustainable, plant-based chocolate and is the leading bean-to-bar producer in Indonesia.

An early adopter of technologies such as blockchain and AI, he believes in innovation as a pathway for sustainability and productivity.

Tobias advocates for marketing as a catalyst to elevate the narrative of sustainable cocoa, engaging consumers in the brand's ethos of quality and transparency. With an acute understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the cocoa sector, Tobias' approach to marketing is not just about selling a product, but about telling a story that connects consumers with the origins of their food.

Tobias will share insights that stem from over a decade of hands-on experience, a deep connection to the land, and a forward-thinking mindset, driving meaningful dialogue on the future of the cocoa industry.



Racheal Toh

Regional Marketing Director
in the AMEA region for the
Barry Callebaut Group

Racheal is currently the Regional Marketing Director in the AMEA region for the Barry Callebaut Group.

She is responsible for leading the marketing strategy & implementation to fuel the company's growth agenda.

Racheal was an engineer by training but has since developed further in her career within the field of Marketing.

Since 2005, she has embarked on the journey as a Marketing professional and has accumulated close to two decades of multi-category experiences across F&B, skincare and nutrition.

Prior to Barry Callebaut, she had worked on prominent consumer brands such as Cadbury, Lux and PediaSure with proven track records on building brand equities & driving market share gain.

A strong believer in experiential marketing and data-driven commerce, Racheal enjoys creating tailored experiences for the target audience within the consumer/customer journey.

Outside her professional life, Racheal has a keen interest in Yoga and loves to explore cooking various cuisines for her family and friends.



William Gaultier

CEO, Equanimity
Ex-Lazada, Sephora

William Gaultier, with 30 years of experience, is a seasoned wicked risk expert. He has founded four companies in San Francisco, Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Singapore.

He has managed over 150 wicked attacks, both operational and reputational, including cyber attacks, social flare-ups, product recalls, and personal threats.

His extensive background spans various regions and industries, working with notable clients like Northern Trust, Alibaba/Lazada, Sephora, and The Hoffman Agency.

Gaultier's expertise in handling operational and reputational crises makes him a valuable asset for boards, c-suite executives seeking strategic counsel and wicked risk management solutions.



Fuzz Kitto

CoDirector
Be Slavery Free
Coordinator
The Chocolate Scorecard

Fuzz Kitto is CoDirector of Be Slavery Free a coalition working with business, government, Civil Society and consumers.

Be Slavery Free coordinates The Chocolate Scorecard which assesses 63 chocolate companies, traders, retailers and Processors on sustainability (social and environmental) so consumers can make choices about what chocolate they may choose to buy.

Fuzz has been working with the chocolate sector for over 14 years and visited chocolate programs, farmers and support organizations in West Africa, Central Africa, Indonesia, South America and Latin America.



Tod Gimbel

President, SpaceShip
Ex-Herbalife, Kraft Foods

Tod boasts 30 years of corporate experience, specializing in public affairs, sustainability, and crisis management.

His ESG expertise led Herbalife Nutrition to become a top-rated performer in its peer group.

Tod's proactive approach to crisis management involves building strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government authorities, influencers, and NGOs.

Having worked in companies like Citigroup, Levi Strauss, and Kraft Foods, Tod currently collaborates with Enliven Advisory, Equanimity Group and Spaceship Academy to educate organizations on ESG risks and opportunities.



Anthony Riha

Partner, OpenEngagement Ex-ISS

Anthony Riha is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in corporate advisory, shareholder engagement, and sustainability solutions, primarily operating in the Asia-Pacific region. He is currently serving as the Principal at Open Engagement, a company that focuses on stakeholder engagement and corporate governance advisory services.

Riha's career spans over 16 years in the Asia-Pacific market, where he has worked with more than 100 listed companies and their C-suite executives to address corporate challenges. Before his current role, Riha held the position of Vice President of Sales, Asia at ISS Corporate Solutions, where he was responsible for growing the business and maintaining client relationships across the region. His prior experience includes roles at RR Donnelly Investment Management Services and the Irish Funds Industry Association, where he engaged with various regulatory bodies such as the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Hong Kong Securities & Futures Commission. He began his professional career in news writing for ABC and NBC News affiliates in the United States



Aarti Kapoor

Executive Director Embode

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Radhika Chavan

Co-Founder, Tulya
Ex-Lehman

Radhika, a Chemical Engineering graduate, has more than 19 years of corporate and entrepreneurial experience. She has previously worked with Lehman Brothers, Barclays and Synechron cultivating a cross-cultural work portfolio spanning Asia, Europe, and the US. As a Client Partner for 6 different accounts, she successfully managed an ARR of USD 4.5 Million.

Her expertise spans across multiple domains and industries, including Sustainability, Digital/ICT, Finance, Mortgages and Payment systems.

She is currently the co-founder of Tulyā, specializing in Sustainability Management Accounting, to integrate ESG factors into business strategy and operations. By understanding the value chain and material map for companies, she helps businesses identify the risks and opportunities that would impact their operations and account for externalities within financial statements & ESG reports.