SESSION I: Data collection and benchmarks for quality infrastructure investment

To facilitate a common understanding of quality standards for infrastructure, the elements of quality infrastructure, to the extent possible, need to be measured through appropriate indicators. This could require not only financial data, but also elements of sustainability (such as environmental, social and governance) to allow benchmarking and comparison of quality dimensions. In this context, existing initiatives as well as the Infrastructure Data Initiative are aiming to support investors in identifying quality infrastructure investment opportunities, seeking also to enhance the mobilisation of private financing for quality infrastructure by reducing information asymmetries. Improved data availability will also support governments and MDBs in their ambitions of providing quality infrastructure as well as to set the right quality priorities and objectives.

Efforts are needed to identify existing methodologies to develop appropriate ESG-related performance indicators for infrastructure, while also identifying gaps in data and information that could further support the creation of benchmarks and performance measurement criteria for quality infrastructure investment. In this regard, the Infrastructure Data Initiative is addressing the issue of establishing infrastructure as an asset class through data collection and improving the availability of infrastructure investment data and aims to create a centralised and publicly available repository on historical long-term data on infrastructure at an asset level.

Moderator: Raffaele Della Croce, Lead Manager, Long-term Investment Project, OECD

Lead discussants:

- David Bentley, Partner, ATLAS Infrastructure
- Frédéric Blanc-Brude, Director, EDHEC Asia Pacific & EDHEC infrastructure Institute
- Jeanne Stampe, Head – Asia Sustainable Finance, WWF
- Stewart James, Managing Director, HSBC Group Asia-Pacific
SESSION II: Blockchain and innovation in sustainable infrastructure

Work on developing infrastructure as an asset class through the G20, G7 and APEC has already stressed the importance of technology and innovation. In this context, this session will explore the opportunities and challenges to delivering on these high-level objectives, with a special focus on how technology and innovation can enhance the availability, diffusion, and quality of data on infrastructure.

Given a number of new innovations like machine learning, the possibilities of big data in infrastructure projects, artificial intelligence, and blockchain, there are new opportunities to consider how the digital revolution will impact infrastructure systems. Greater standardisation, improved project development, and improved investment environment are just some of the expected results from the application of new technologies. Improved access to finance and emerging business models are other possibilities to consider. Solutions in particular that aim to reduce risks in infrastructure could be transformative: institutional investors consistently report that certain risks in infrastructure (especially political risks and currency risks) can pose as barriers to investment. Even a small reduction in risks through enhanced transparency, process management, automation, and efficiency could have measurable impact.

Regarding the potential for blockchain, the conversation will focus on several key elements which aim to leverage the key attributes of distributed ledger technology: building standardisation in infrastructure and enhancing the role of technology, including digital distributed ledgers; improving infrastructure performance through digitalisation, performance measurement through better data and information, and building sustainability, connecting also to building trust with civil society; and finally facilitating the financing of infrastructure.

Moderator: Joel Paula, Economist/Policy Analyst, Long-term Investment Project, OECD

Lead discussants:
- Men Leong Chew, Chief Marketing Officer, Singapore Technologies Engineering
- Sharad Somani, Partner and Head of Infrastructure Advisory, KPMG Advisory LLP
- Tibor Schwartz, Senior Advisor – Asset Management, Queensland Investment Corporation
- Chirdeep Chhabra, CEO, Ocean Protocol

19.00 onwards  Cocktail and networking dinner