Bio Data of Moderator, Lead Presenter and Panel Speakers

April 12 (Tuesday), 2011
09:00 to 10:30
Plenary Three: New Realities of Travel

Session Moderator:

Richard Quest
Anchor and Correspondent, CNN

Richard Quest is host of Quest Means Business and one of the most instantly recognisable members of the CNN team; covering an extensive range of breaking news and business stories, as well as feature programming, he has become one of the network’s highest profile presenters. Quest is firmly established as an expert on business travel issues and currently works as a CNN anchor and correspondent. His other regular programme is ‘CNN Business Traveller.’

As a business travel specialist, Quest has become a voice of authority on subjects like the launch of the Airbus A380; as a news correspondent he travelled across the US to gauge public feeling in the build up to the 2004 presidential election. He anchored CNN’s coverage of the funeral of Pope John Paul II, live from Rome. Quest attends the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, every year, and in this, as with every case, he lends an incredible wealth of modern business knowledge to the coverage, coupled with his inimitable reporting style.

Quest has also built up an almost unparalleled reputation in the broadcasting business having been reporting on the international financial markets for the last 20 years, working in both television and radio.
Lead Presenter:

Amitabh Kant
Managing Director, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

Amitabh Kant is presently posted as Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation. The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) is being developed by the Government of India as a global manufacturing and investment destination supported by world class infrastructure and enabling policy framework. In essence, the DMIC project is aimed at the development of futuristic, smart industrial cities in India which will converge and integrate new generation technology across sectors. The project is being developed in partnership and collaboration with Government of Japan.

Amitabh Kant is a member of the Indian Administrative Service, IAS (Kerala Cadre: 1980 Batch). He is also the author of “Branding India – An Incredible Story” and has been the key driver of the “Incredible India” and “God’s Own Country” campaigns which positioned and branded India and Kerala State as leading tourism destinations. Kant also conceptualized and executed the “Atithi Devo Bhavah” – “Guest is God” campaign to train Taxi Drivers, Guides, immigration officials and make them stake holders in the tourism development process.

Amitabh Kant was also the National Project Director of the Rural Tourism Project of UNDP which made a paradigm shift in spreading tourism to Indian villages which had core-competency in handicrafts, handloom and culture. During his tenure India Tourism focused on infrastructure development, diversification of India’s tourism products and raising the quality of its products and services.

Amitabh Kant has worked as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Secretary, Tourism, Government of Kerala, Managing Director, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation, District Collector, Kozhikode and Managing Director, Matsyafed.
Min Fan  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ctrip.com

Ctrip CEO Fan Min has been with the company from the start. In the year 2000, he co-founded the company and served as its first Executive Vice President, becoming Chief Operations Officer in 2004. And in January of 2006, Fan Min became CEO. Under his leadership, Ctrip continues the rapid growth that has seen it become China’s leading comprehensive travel services company. Fan Min has received due recognition for his leadership and vision, being named “iResearch New Economy Award Person of the Year” in 2007 and Ernst & Young’s ”Entrepreneur of the Year” in 2008. In the year of 2009, he also was elected the fifth Vice President of China’s National Tourism Association, China’s most authoritative travel industry organization.

Ctrip was the only travel services company listed on *Forbes 2010 Most Valuable China Brands*, where it ranked 33rd. In 2009, Forbes Asia selected Ctrip as one of the Top 200 “Best Under A Billion,” while the Wall Street Journal ranked it fourth among ”China’s Top 10 Companies” and Fortune named it one of ”China’s Most Admired Companies.” Today, Ctrip’s exceptional services, innovation and management have won it 40 such honors.

Under Fan Min’s direction, Ctrip formed a strategic alliance with Taiwan ezTravel and Hong Kong Wing On Travel in 2009 and 2010, to create a veritable “Golden Triangle” of travel between Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Now, turning his sights towards international business and the global markets of tomorrow, Fan Min’s focus is to build on the success of the past by making Ctrip a world-class travel services company of the future.
Justin Francis
Chief Executive and Co-Founder, responsibletravel.com

Justin Francis co-founded www.responsibletravel.com, the world’s first and largest travel agent dedicated to green/responsible tourism in 2001. Prior to that he spent 10 years at J. Walter Thompson Advertising and was Head of Worldwide Marketing at The Body Shop.


Justin is on the Advisory Board of The International Centre for Responsible Tourism at Leeds Metropolitan University and of Hidden Britain. He was named one of The Times 50 most influential people in travel, and is one of the Courvoisier Future 500. In 2010 Thames and Hudson included him in their book of 60 global ‘Innovators Shaping our Creative Future’.
Deep Kalra  
Owner and Founder, MakeMyTrip India

Deep Kalra is the pioneer of Online Travel in India. His company, MakeMyTrip.com is the dominant player in the travel industry and also the largest ecommerce business in India. Deep established the company in April 2000 by drawing on his experience from successful stints at GE Capital, AMF Bowling Inc. and ABN AMRO Bank.

Deep is a member of the Executive Council of Nasscom and chairs the Nasscom Internet Working Group. He is also a Charter Member of TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) and serves on the Board of TiE New Delhi. Deep is a member of CII’s Tourism sub-committee and a regular speaker at internet and travel conferences. He currently serves as an independent Director for IndiaMart.com, a leading B2B website and One97world.com, India’s largest and most widely deployed telecom application platform developer.

Deep is a founding member of “I am Gurgaon”, an NGO focused on the improving the quality of life in Gurgaon.

Deep holds an MBA (PGDM) degree from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (1992) and a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from St. Stephen’s College, Delhi (1990).
Dr Clint Laurent  
Owner and Founder, Global Demographics

Clint Laurent is the Founder and Managing Director of Global Demographics Ltd, formerly Asian Demographics Ltd. Dr Laurent moved to Hong Kong in 1976, initially with Hong Kong University and then as a Director of Price Waterhouse, where he built up a market research and consultancy group.

Asian Demographics developed substantial historical databases of the demographic and socio-economic profile of the countries of Asia, including China down to County level, and using modelling techniques, provides long-range forecasts of the changing nature of populations, labour force and households, and their income and expenditure patterns.

In 2006, Asian Demographics became Global Demographics, and the databases and models were expanded to cover 72 countries, including South and North America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East, in total representing 93 per cent of the world’s population and 84 per cent of its GDP. Through its Healthcare Subsidiary the company provides forecasts for disease incidence and treatment affordability, and through its telecoms subsidiary, forecasts of demand for telecommunication services by households. Global Demographics’ reports and databases are now used by a wide range of companies throughout the world to assist with their market planning.

Dr Laurent has a PhD in Marketing and Statistics from Bath University in the UK.
Michael Maple
Executive Director, The Boeing Company

Mike has twenty five years of aviation industry experience - currently an executive in Boeing’s Sales and Marketing organization where he focuses on strategy and new business development for customer fleet management life cycle solutions.

Since joining Boeing in 1991, he has held leadership positions in Customer Business Analysis, which included Airline Economics, Financial Analysis, Revenue Analysis and Customer of the Future Groups. As the leader of the Airline Industry Analysis Group Mike provided strategic insight into emerging trends and the policy implications for both the Boeing Company and the Air Transport Industry.

As the Director of Marketing and Business Strategy for Technical Services he explored new markets, products and services. His experiences in shaping airplane product strategy stems from working together with airline customers to develop operational requirements for the 777,737 and the 787 family of airplanes.

Mike is a graduate of Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia and Embry Riddle University with Masters Degrees in Management and in Aerospace Operations.
Dr Mathew McDougall
Group Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chairman, SinoTech Group

Dr Mathew McDougall is recognised worldwide as a leading expert on online advertising and online marketing analytics. He brings 18 years of professional experience in the Internet, wireless, new media, and software sectors. He has done business internationally in 12 countries and is a seasoned executive in strategy, international sales and marketing, and general management.

After identifying a need in the Chinese market for an integrated digital advertising solution, he founded the SinoTech Group in Beijing in 2007. Having already developed relationships with many of China’s largest websites and online publishers, he was intent on promoting an end-to-end online advertising platform to internet publishers and advertisers so they can exploit new performance marketing techniques and develop effective brand management solutions.

Dr McDougall is a frequent spokesperson on internet search marketing, online advertising and guest speaker at internet industry forums.
Azran Osman-Rani
Chief Executive Officer, Air Asia X Sdn Bhd

In July 2007, Azran was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of AirAsia X, the world’s first truly low-cost long-haul airline. He led the start-up team that developed the business plan, raised capital, secured relevant licenses and approvals, acquired aircraft and launched AirAsia X’s first inaugural flight to the Gold Coast, Australia in November 2007.

Prior to his appointment, Azran was formerly the Senior Director of Business Development for Astro All Asia Networks plc, a leading Asian digital satellite television and radio broadcaster, where he led the start-up and operational launch of Astro’s international investments and joint ventures across Southeast Asia, India and Greater China – having oversight management responsibility for a portfolio of over US$300 million invested in these businesses. Azran was formerly an Associate Partner of McKinsey & Company, an international management consultancy, where he co-led its Southeast Asia Corporate Finance & Strategy practice.

He holds a Master’s degree in Management Science and a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering, both from Stanford University.

He is 39 years young, a competitive Ultimate Frisbee player, a keen surfer and snowboarder, and has completed several full marathons.

A prolific international speaker, he has been invited as one of the Young Leaders at the 2010 World Islamic Economic Forum and represented Malaysia as one of Asia Society’s 2009 Asia 21 Delegates. He is also a member of the Young Presidents Organisation (YPO).
Tawaina Turner-Dones
Director-Strategic Partnerships and Alliances, Citibank

Tawaina Turner-Dones is the Regional Director of Strategic Partnerships & Alliances for Citibank Cards across Asia-Pacific. Tawaina has oversight of all of Citibank’s co-branded and travel related card products. Over the years, she has developed a host of international travel related merchant relationships which enhance the travel experiences of Citibank customers across the globe.

Prior to joining Citi in 2005 she helped organizations like JPMorgan Chase and General Electric develop their partnership businesses by initiating dozens of customized business relationships designed to drive incremental sales and revenue. Tawaina has over 16 years in corporate partnership and client development experience across the US, LATAM, Europe & Asia-Pacific. She is an active member of several educational organizations and non-profit boards.

She holds a BA in Economics from Spelman College and an MBA from Goizueta Business School of Emory University. She now resides in Singapore with her family.
Xu Jiwei  
President, Mount Huangshan Tourism Development Co Ltd

Jiwei Xu began to serve as president of Huangshan Tourism Development Co., Ltd.; and from November 2009 to date, he is member of Huangshan Municipal CPC Standing Committee, Party secretary of Huangshan Scenic Area Administrative Committee, Chairman of Huangshan Tourism Group.

With rich operating management knowledge and experience, Mr. Xu holds advanced developing concept, under his leadership, Huangshan Tourism Group has been adhering to the general strategy of sustainability and diversity in tourism development, and persisting in reform, innovation, development to perfect its modern enterprise system, with the aim of protecting the cultural and natural habitat of Mt Huangshan Scenic Site, and provision of tourism development benefits - not only for local people, but for communities and multiple stakeholders, by all which lead to the group social benefit continuously ascending and business scope expanding.

Huangshan Tourism Group has won the praise and accreditation among all walks of life in the society as: China’s top 500 Enterprises in Service Industry, China’s Top One Hundred Enterprises on Taxation, China’s Top One Hundred Companies of Continuously Strong Increase, and China’s Top One Hundred Enterprises Over Administration of Relationship Among Best Investors, etc.