



Tariffs, Trade and Geopolitical Challenges

Boardroom strategies in an uncertain world

2025 IoD Alumni Event in China

5 June | 6pm – 8:30pm

British Consulate-General's Office at
1 Supreme Court Road, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Programme

Host: **Tina Wang**, Representative in China and ASEAN, IoD

Agenda

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| 6pm | Reception |
| 6:30pm | Welcome remarks
Chris Woodward , Director General, Department for Business and Trade,
British Consulate-General HK |
| 6:35pm | Keynote speech I:
Jonathan Geldart , Director General, IoD |
| 6:45pm | Keynote speech II:
Chris Woodward , Director General, Department for Business and Trade,
British Consulate-General HK |
| 6:55pm | Keynote speech III:
Paul McComb , Executive Director, The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong |
| 7:05pm | Keynote speech IV:
Dr. Wang Dan , China Director, Eurasia Group |
| 7:20pm | Panel discussion:
Tariffs, Trade and Geopolitical Challenges
Boardroom strategies in an uncertain world

Chris Woodward
Paul McComb
Dr. Wang Dan
Nick Marro , Chief Asia Economist and Lead of Global Trade,
Economist Intelligence Unit
Moderator: Sheelagh Duffield , Senior Lecturer, IoD |
| 8:15pm | Closing remarks and networking
Tina Wang |
| 8:30pm | Event close |

Speaker biogs



Jonathan Geldart
Director General, Institute of Directors

Jonathan was appointed Director General of the Institute of Directors in October 2019. Prior to this Jonathan spent 30 years working in the professional services sector, most recently at Grant Thornton International Ltd responsible for the organisation's interest in China and previously as a global board member responsible for the brand.

Jonathan has a long-standing connection with the IoD, as Chair of IoD Yorkshire and North East region prior to his appointment as Director General. He is the author of three books on China and in addition to being a Fellow of the IoD he is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

He studied Geography and Archaeology at St. Andrews University specialising in underwater archaeology. Outside of work, his interests include hill walking and fell running. He was the navigator in a rally team for 20 years and following two years of training in extreme environments walked to the North Pole in 2006. He has completed other expeditions in Norway, the Canadian Arctic and the Everest region.



Chris Woodward
Director General, Department for Business and Trade, British Consulate-General HK

Chris Woodward moved to Hong Kong in January 2023 to take up the role of Director General, Trade and Investment at the Department for Business and Trade based at the British Consulate-General. He leads the team focusing on maximising trade and investment opportunities between the UK and Hong Kong. Chris has held a number of other overseas roles. Prior to Hong Kong, Chris served as His Majesty's Consul General in Casablanca and Country Director for the Department for International Trade in Morocco. Chris has also held trade roles in Brussels during UK-EU trade agreement negotiations, and in London, where Chris developed UK digital trade policy. Chris was born in Hong Kong. He attended the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where he studied History.



Paul McComb
Executive Director, British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

Paul is the Executive Director of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, bringing a wealth of experience and a strong track record in business and commercial leadership. With a career spanning over three decades, Paul has held several high-profile roles that underscore his expertise in trade, investment, and international business relations.

Before joining the British Chamber of Commerce, Paul served as the Director-General of Trade and Investment at the British Consulate-General in Hong Kong from 2017 to 2021. In this role, he was instrumental in fostering trade relations between the UK and Hong Kong, driving significant investment initiatives, and supporting UK businesses in navigating the complexities of international markets.

Paul's extensive experience also includes his tenure in the UK, where he played a pivotal role in helping businesses adjust to new trading dynamics post-Brexit and addressing the economic impacts of global events such as the war in Ukraine. His strategic insights and ability to manage complex commercial environments have been key to his success.

Since taking on the role of Executive Director at the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Paul has been actively involved in enhancing the Chamber's support for its members. He has spearheaded numerous events and initiatives aimed at promoting business growth and fostering a collaborative business community. His leadership is characterised by a proactive approach to understanding and addressing the needs of the Chamber's diverse membership base.

Speaker biogs



Dr. Wang Dan
China Director, Eurasia Group

Dan Wang is the China Director for Eurasia Group, offering strategic insights on China's economic trajectory, policymaking, and global influence. She previously served as the Chief Economist at Hang Seng Bank China in Shanghai and before that as an analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit in Beijing.

Dan is a frequent voice in global media and writes a column for FT China. She regularly delivers keynote speeches at government and industry forums and participates in high-level policy discussions worldwide.

Dan holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Washington, with expertise in property rights, environmental economics, and econometrics. She designed and led nationwide surveys on agriculture as a postdoctoral researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Nick Marro
Chief Asia Economist and Lead of Global Trade, Economist Intelligence Unit

Nick has spent over a decade in Asia analysing regional economics, political developments and international trade policy. Based in Hong Kong, he provides insights to corporate executives and government officials on finding growth opportunities and identifying political risks in Asia, as well as on topics tied to global trade flows, supply chain dynamics and trade protectionism.

As Principal Economist for Asia, Nick helps craft and guide EIU's economic and political forecasts for the entire Asian region. He has a particular focus looking at the intersection between geopolitics and trade, and regularly delivers briefings on how to navigate the shifting era of globalisation, particularly in the context of China's evolving relationship with the West. Nick has specific responsibilities for EIU's views on Taiwan and Australia, while also helping shape our views for China and Hong Kong. In that role, Nick also leads EIU's analysis of China-Taiwan relations, including how companies and governments can mitigate the risks attached to cross-Strait ties.

Nick previously conducted trade research in Beijing with the US-China Business Council, where he advised US companies on the Chinese market. He graduated from the University of Virginia with degrees in Foreign Affairs and Chinese, and holds graduate certification from the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies.



Sheelagh Duffield
Senior Lecturer, Institute of Directors

Sheelagh is a Corporate Governance Specialist advising clients on best practice governance and providing independent board evaluation services. Before setting up her own business Sheelagh held senior executive roles within the corporate departments of Scottish Power plc; Scottish Television plc and The Miller Group Limited at times when these businesses were delivering extensive strategic and organisational change. Sheelagh is a Non-Executive Director with The National Theatre of Scotland and a member of its Finance Committee. She is also a Non-Executive Director with Cricket Scotland where she Chairs the Risk Committee. She was a Trustee Director with Capability Scotland for five years.

Sheelagh is a qualified lawyer with over 20 years of board level experience and a successful track record of leading complex projects and transactions in FTSE 100 and 250 companies; private equity owned businesses and public sector organisations. As a result, Sheelagh has a wide range of experience encompassing corporate strategy; business planning; risk management and, as General Counsel and Company Secretary, she has particular expertise in governance practices. Sheelagh designs and facilitates training for her clients and is equally used to facilitating learning for delegates coming together from all sectors.

This is an offline only event. Seats will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis.

Event is held in English with no translation services.

Terms and Conditions

IoD is pleased to offer complimentary tickets to IoD alumni and other confirmed attendees. Please notice to indicate your IoD membership number and company position when registering. We will close the registration and confirm the registration by 26 May.

Please ensure that your registration is with your name on your ID cards which needs to be shown to enter the venue for security reason. We cannot guarantee entry to anyone not being confirmed the registration in advance.

Disclaimer

Please notice that Institute of Directors might take photographs from the event and post these on its public web-page (or social media platforms) in order to create awareness of these events. By attending this event you consent to Institute of Directors taking and using such photographs as described above.

