

Panel 7. Finding the Opportunities: Matching Education and Skills to Market Demands
(1 April 2015, 10:00 –11:30)

BIOGRAPHIES



Mr. Antonio Prado (*moderator*)
Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Brazilian economist Antonio Prado assumed the position of Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on 1 November 2009, having been appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. During most of his professional career, Prado has specialized in the analysis of technological changes in industry and their impact on economic development, the labour market and Brazil's industrial relations.

Doctor in economy, over the past few years, Prado has focused on anti-inflationary and development policies, first as economic advisor to the president of the government seat in the Brazilian Senate (2003-2004), and later as Head Officer for Government Affairs of the Presidency of the Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development, BNDES (2005-2009).

Prado has been board member of the Brazilian Agency for Export Promotion (APEX), the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Development (ABDI) and the Celso Furtado Center, among other institutions, including civil society organizations. Between 1990-2000, Prado was member of the technical board of directors and responsible for the research division at DIEESE, a research center on labour issues in Brazil. There, he prepared statistical surveys on the cost of living and employment and studies on income distribution, racial and gender issues, strategic planning, industrial changes and macroeconomy.

In the nineties, Prado coordinated research projects at the National Council for the Development of Science and Technology and carried out innovative studies on gender and race in the labour market of Brazil's metropolitan areas.

Prado has been professor at the Catholic University in São Paulo, and more recently, at the Rio Branco Institute of Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds a Master's Degree in industrial economics and a PhD in economic development policies from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP).

Prado has published books and articles in Brazil's specialized media.



Ms. Elizabeth A. Vazquez
CEO and Co-Founder, WeConnect International

As the CEO of WEConnect International, Ms. Vazquez is responsible for mission delivery and impact. She is a serial social entrepreneur and world leader in global supplier diversity and inclusion.

Ms. Vazquez sits on several Boards of Directors, including the Global Banking Alliance for Women and the Cornerstone Capital Group, and she is an Advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative. She has been a speaker and provided training in all regions of the world on a range of issues--globalization, value chains, international trade, diversity and inclusion, women's entrepreneurship, sustainability, and corporate and government

sourcing policies and practices.

Ms. Vazquez is also CEO and Co-Founder of TradeBuilders. As the former Executive Director of Quantum Leaps, a global non-profit dedicated to the growth of women-owned businesses, Ms. Vazquez received the 2009 WBENC Applause Award for exceptional accomplishments that expand opportunities for women's business enterprises.



Mr. Ron Bruder

Founder, Education for Employment

Honored by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People for his nonprofit work with EFE, Mr. Bruder began as a serial entrepreneur with businesses in real estate, travel, pharmaceuticals and energy.

In 1977, he founded The Brookhill Group, which owns and manages properties throughout the US with a focus on creating investment partnerships to develop or redevelop shopping centers, office buildings and multi-family homes.

Mr. Bruder was an attendee at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. At the World Economic Forum in Tianjin in 2012, he was named a Schwab Foundation Global Social Entrepreneur for his work in founding EFE.

He has served as a delegate of the Council on Foreign Relations to the Jeddah Economic Forum, and a contributor to the US-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar. He is frequently invited to share EFE's best practices at major international conferences and fora, and has addressed audiences at the Clinton Global Initiative, World Economic Forum and the United Nations, among others.

Mr. Bruder earned his bachelor's degree from Adelphi University, a MBA from New York University, and a Post Master in Accounting & Taxation from Iona College.



Mr. Zach Sims

Co-founder and CEO, Codecademy

Zach is the cofounder and CEO of Codecademy, the leading online education company closing the skills gap by teaching programming. In the three years since it's founding, Codecademy has reached millions of users in every country in the world and has worked with organizations like The White House and Google. The World Economic Forum named Codecademy a 2014 Technology Pioneer. Investors include Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers, Index Ventures, Union Square Ventures, Richard Branson, Yuri Milner, and more. Prior to Codecademy, Zach worked with GroupMe and drop.io while in school. Later, he dropped out of Columbia University to fully dedicate his time to addressing the growing problems in the modern education system. For his work at Codecademy, Zach was named one of TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential People of 2013." Forbes Magazine and Inc. Magazine each named Zach in their respective "30 Under 30" lists. Zach is also a Venture Partner at Bowery Capital.
