Zoritsa Urosevic joined UNWTO in 2006 as Executive Secretary of the Business Council. Since 2010, she has led work on positioning tourism in the development cooperation and trade agendas, while strengthening UNWTO’s institutional framework, leading the inclusion of UNWTO in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list, as recipient organization for Official Development Assistance (ODA). The UN Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want” acknowledged for the first time the importance of tourism, and the explicit inclusion of tourism in the Universal 2030 Agenda.

From 2015, Ms Urosevic was the UNWTO Special Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and Director of the Institutional Relations and Partnerships Department – providing policy advice for external relations, strategic partnerships and innovative financing to the Secretariat, including integration of the 2030 Agenda and the UN Reform in UNWTO’s strategic work and delivery. She is also a member of the United Nations Chief Executive Board’s High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and Management (HLCM).

Since the COVID-19 crisis, she has been supporting the Secretariat leadership with strategic policy advice and economic diplomacy for recovery and resilience of both through tourism. By leveraging the power of the United Nations System and International Finance Institutions - placing tourism at the center of the future of global cooperation - she has reinvigorated multilateral approaches that are inclusive, networked and effective in order to unlock tourism’s potential for development as well as inclusive and green growth.

Shingo currently serves in the JICA Economic Development Department and oversees JICA’s projects on tourism development in the Asia, Middle East and Latin America. He also supervises the formulation of JICA’s cooperation strategy to promote sustainable tourism.

In addition, he oversees the Japan Center, Project NINJA and KAIZEN initiatives in Asia, South and Central America as well as Africa. These projects promote entrepreneurship, innovation and creation of new business in emerging countries and share the Japanese approach to Quality / Productivity Improvement practices known as KAIZEN.
Panel Discussions: Power of Tourism as a driver for Sustainable Development

Moderator:

Dr. Kazem Vafadari is Director of International Center for Asia Pacific Tourism (iCAPT); academic director of the Kunisaki city research center for world agriculture heritage, Oita, Japan and Professor of Tourism and Hospitality (THP), Graduate school of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) Beppu, Japan.

He worked with United Nations University and Kanazawa University in Japan before joining APU in 2011. He is an expert on Tourism and natural resource management and tourism applications of agriculture heritage landscapes. His research background also includes community building and rural revitalization and destination branding.

Speakers:

With many years of experience in Sustainable Tourism Development and Community Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (particularly in Colombia, Argentina and Dominican Republic), Mr. Aoki served as the Leader of JICA Project "Enhancing the Mechanism for Sustainable Community Based Tourism Development in the North Region" in Dominican Republic (2016-2022). He is also a member of GSTC since 2020.

Chris hails from the Kingdom of Tonga and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), a position he has occupied since 2016. Having previously worked for a number of regional organizations including The Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Cooperation Foundation (PCF), Pacific Trade & Invest (PT&I) and World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) – Pacific, Chris has extensive experience in tourism and strengthening trade and investment opportunities in the Pacific.

As a proud Pacific Islander, Chris is a passionate advocate of sustainable tourism development in the region.
Nadine Pinto is the Global Sustainability Manager for TreadRight and The Travel Corporation (TTC), a family of 41 travel brands operating worldwide. Nadine’s primary focus is implementing TTC’s sustainability strategy, How We Tread Right, including its efforts to address climate change through the groups’ Climate Action Plan. In 2020 Nadine was recognized by Corporate Knights as a Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leader in Canada.

Delphine heads The Long Run which she joined in 2014 in a technical assistance role. The Long Run supports and connects a global coalition of nature-based tourism enterprises that strive to continuously expand their net positive impact on nature, people and culture by leveraging their business. The Long Run provides a platform for knowledge exchange and advocacy as well as a leading standard tourism based Privately Protected Areas (PPAs); the Global Ecosphere Retreats® standard.

Delphine studied Development Economics in France, and then carried out her postgraduate studies in marine conservation in the UK and Kenya. Based in Kenya, she has worked for more than 20 years at the interface of Protected Areas and communities as a freelance consultant across Africa and beyond.

Her work focused on marine and terrestrial conservation, community engagement and socio-economic impact monitoring for local, national and international organisations.

Lina Fernanda Pinto is the International Cooperation Program and Delegate of the Directorate of Quality and Sustainable Development of the Vice-Ministry of Tourism of Colombia. Five years of experience in the field of international cooperation and international relations. Experience in the public and private sector in project management and reporting activities to partner countries and strategic alliances. Skill in research and information analysis. Teamwork with organizational skills. Ability to prioritize and work under pressure. https://www.linkedin.com/in/linapinto/?locale=en_US