

College of Business & Economics
CBE STEPS FORUM

Seminars and Talks on Executive Education and Post-Graduate Studies

THE COMPETITIVENESS OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIES

The [College of Business & Economics \(CBE\) of the UAE University](#) has developed a seminar series during which topics of relevance for the UAE and those interested in the UAE will be addressed.

Africa is a continent with 54 countries and immense riches. Some analysts have put the resource reserves of Africa at more than US\$80 trillion. While there is a perception amongst some that Africa is riddled with risk and challenges, many corporates, SMEs, and entrepreneurs have identified investment opportunities on the continent. The United Arab Emirates is one of the prominent investors in Africa, with companies such as DP World growing its footprint on both the east and west coast of Africa.

The talk by Dr. Sasidaran Gopalan will focus on the nature of competitiveness and how Africa shapes up in this regard, bearing in mind that it is not one country. In addition, to understand how others have tapped into the many opportunities in Africa, the Managing Director Fintech & Infrastructure of Tolaram, Mr. Navin Nahata, will set out the drivers of their decision to set up business in Nigeria and thereafter to expand into Egypt, Kenya, Eswatini and South Africa. To contrast the corporate side of business, the Managing Director of Poultry East Africa Limited (PEAL), Ms. Shumei Lam, will explain her decisions in establishing a poultry business in Rwanda. Attendees can expect to gain insights into the following:

- ◇ The drivers of competitiveness in emerging markets
- ◇ How Africa fares in the competitive world of business
- ◇ Understanding the development paths of Tolaram and PEAL in Africa
- ◇ Crystalizing lessons learnt for the road ahead

Time	November 25, 2021 (Thursday)
09:00am – 09:05am	Welcome and setting the scene Prof. Teemu Kautonen, CBE Acting Vice Dean
09:05am – 09:25am	The Competitiveness of Africa Dr. Sasidaran Gopalan
09:25am – 09:45am	Tolaram's Journey into Africa Mr. Navin Nahata, MD Fintech & Infrastructure, Tolaram
09:45am – 10:05am	PEAL in Rwanda Ms. Shumei Lam, MD, Poultry East Africa Limited (PEAL)
10:05am – 10:20am	Q&A Prof. Teemu Kautonen, CBE Acting Vice Dean Mr. Johan Burger, CBE Business Development Manager
10:20am	Conclusion

Administrative Details:

- ◇ Registration is on a first-come first-served basis.
- ◇ The organizers reserve the right to make amendments and/or changes to the program, venue, speakers and/or topics if warranted by circumstances beyond control.
- ◇ For further enquiries, please contact Mr. Johan Burger at johan.burger@uaeu.ac.ae
- ◇ Information on Executive Education at the CBE: <https://cbe.uaeu.ac.ae/en/programs/executiveeducation/>



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



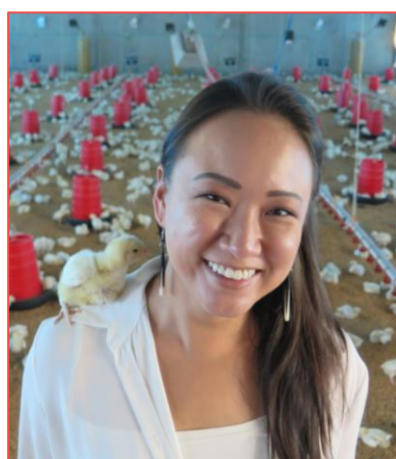
Dr. Sasidaran Gopalan: The Competitiveness of Africa
Assistant Professor, Innovation in Government & Society-(UAEU CBE)

Sasidaran Gopalan is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Innovation in Government and Society at the College of Business and Economics (CBE). Dr. Gopalan obtained his PhD in Public Policy from George Mason University (GMU) in the United States of America (USA). Since his PhD, he has held various academic and research appointments across several renowned universities in Asia, including Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan), National University of Singapore (Singapore) and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong). Dr. Gopalan's research assumes a strong interdisciplinary orientation and falls under the intersections of applied macroeconomics, international economics, and development policy, with a broad focus on emerging markets.



Mr. Navin Nahata: Tolaram's Journey into Africa
Managing Director Fintech & Infrastructure, Tolaram

Navin Nahata is the Managing Director for Fintech & Infrastructure at Tolaram. In addition to leading both verticals, he holds the regulatory role of President Commissioner for Bank Amar (owned by Tolaram) in Indonesia. He has been at the helm of the infrastructure business since 2016. He drove mega projects such as the construction of Lekki Port – named "African Infrastructure Deal of the Year" in 2019 by Project Financial International and the development of Lagos Free Zone, Nigeria's first privately-owned special economic zone. Navin transitioned into his current role from being the CFO formerly. He has been part of the senior management team for 17 years, responsible for setting the strategic direction of the business.



Ms. Shumei Lam: PEAL in Rwanda
Managing Director of Poultry East Africa Limited (PEAL)

Shumei Lam is the founder and Managing Director of Poultry East Africa Ltd (PEAL), Rwanda's largest commercial poultry farm.

In her first visit to Rwanda in 2011, she realised that chicken meat was the most expensive meat in the market due to lack of supply, and because of this, people could only afford to consume chicken once a year. PEAL was established to provide a sustainable solution to this problem - a social impact investment with the objective of providing affordable and accessible meat proteins to a growing population.

Armed with zero farming experience, Shumei set off in 2012 to build the first modern farm in Rwanda. PEAL, which started as a 100% greenfield project, has now been operating for 7 years and is the largest player, commanding over 70% share of the poultry market. The operations span the supply chain including hatcheries, broiler, layer, parent stock, and contract farms, as well as HACCP and Halal certified processing and distribution.

In addition to PEAL, Shumei manages her family's investments, co-owns a martial arts gym and started a video production company with her sister.



Professor Teemu Kautonen
Acting Vice Dean – UAEU CBE

Professor Teemu Kautonen joined the UAEU in September 2021 from Aalto University, Finland. In addition to universities in Finland, he has held academic appointments in Germany and the UK. His research addresses entrepreneurship at the individual and regional levels. He has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles, including many in Financial Times top-50 listed journals. He is also an editorial board member in the leading scholarly journals in entrepreneurship (Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice and Journal of Business Venturing). Professor Teemu is currently the Acting Vice Dean of the College of Business and Economics at the UAEU.



Johan Burger: Moderator
Business Development Manager – UAEU CBE

Johan is the Business Development Manager for Executive Education at the College of Business and Economics (CBE) of the UAE University. He is a former Senior Lecturer in International Business at the Nanyang Business School in Singapore, and the Director of the NTU-SBF Centre for African Studies. He previously served as the Director of International Programmes at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) in South Africa, where he also taught Strategic Management, General Management and Financial Analysis to MBA students and business executives. He also served as the CEO of USB Executive Development Ltd.

SCAN ME



November 25, 2021



9:00 am – 10:20 am



Zoom Registration Link: Click [Here](#)