

QEERI-ROSNEFT Joint Workshop

Circular Economy: A Sustainable Innovation Platform for Oil, Gas, and Chemical Industry

Speakers Biography

Dr. Marc Vermeersch

Dr. Marc Vermeersch is the Executive Director of the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI). He is leading scientific and technology research, development and innovation at QEERI, to tackle Qatar's Energy and Water Security Grand Challenges, and Environmental issues, while also addressing the impact of climate change on the State of Qatar and the region. During the last four years, he has transitioned the institute mandate from pure academic into a market-driven, applied research business unit, contracting key, strategic partnerships with highly ranked partner institutions and initiating financial sustainability through revenue generation from contracted services.



With more than 25 years of experience in research and innovation, Dr. VERMEERSCH has joined Qatar Foundation (QF) with first-hand knowledge in research, development, and innovation (RDI), as well as technology transfer and manufacturing.

Prior to his appointment at QF, he worked at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST - 2014) as a Professor of Practice and as the Managing Director of the Solar Center. Before joining KAUST, Dr. Marc VERMEERSCH has been working for more than eight years for the French oil and gas company TOTAL (2006), where he initiated the R&D in solar energy and triggered the Group's business in sustainable energy sources. He started his industrial career with the French Group SAINT-GOBAIN (1995) where he occupied several positions (11 years) in technology transfer and product development, as well as support to business deployment and quality management.

Dr. Verónica Bermúdez Benito

Dr. Verónica Bermúdez is a Senior Research Director at QEERI (Qatar Environment Research Institute, QEERI) where she is the Director of the Energy Center. She is leading scientific and technological research, development and innovation at QEERI in the field of Energy, while addressing the impact of climate change and developing sustainable development solutions in a Net-Zero Carbon emissions scenario.

During the last three years, she has transitioned the Energy Center mandate from pure academic into a market-driven, applied research unit, contracting key and strategic partnerships and has positioned the center as the reference advisory institution in the country in the energy and sustainability transition. One of the key elements of this transition includes keeping a strong link with educational environments to train the future generations.

With more than 20 years of experience in research, development and innovation, Dr. Bermudez has joined Qatar Foundation (QF) with first-hand knowledge in industrial and applied research, development and deployment (RD&D), as well as technology transfer and manufacturing.

Prior to joining the organization in 2018, she was Acting General Manager of the Technology Division of the Atsugi Research Center at Solar Frontier KK in Japan. She has also held a position of Expert Engineer at EDF R&D, Senior Scientist at NEXCIS (start-up) and Head of the Optoelectronic Characterization Laboratory at IRDEP (EDF) in France, between others. She is in the Advisory Board of a number of entities and provides consultancy and high level strategic technology commercialization advice to global companies and small companies alike.

Dr. Bermudez has a strong scientific background in patents and IP management, and is passionate about realizing their commercial value. Her experience spans markets across the world including the US, Japan and others and she has worked for a number of companies – from large corporates to small start-ups - to help in the technology transfer, manage their IP portfolios, broaden their scope of influence and contribute building successful and profitable businesses.



Erik Dzhordzhashvili

Erik Dzhordzhashvili is a General Director at Rosneft International Center for Research and Development QSTP – LLC, previously being for 3 years Deputy General Director – Representative of Rosneft Oil Company in the MENA region. Additionally, he was responsible for joint international projects in the Education sphere that were successfully implemented in 2019-2021. He has graduated from several higher educational institutions in Russia, including Russian State University of Oil and Gas named after I.M. Gubkin as Oil & Gas manager, followed by supplementary education in Oil & Gas projects management. He holds his expertise in initiation and promotion of international collaborative projects in the Energy and Oil & gas sectors, as for more than 10 years he was a part of Rosneft team for international projects. He has a strong collaborative and negotiating skills, as he experienced organisation of a lot of Rosneft joint projects with companies and governmental structures in the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, including interaction with high-level management in national and international Oil & Gas companies and Government.



Salim Mousallam

Salim Mousallam is Executive Director of Decarbonization Strategy & Partnerships for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) at GE Gas Power. He leads efforts to provide advanced solutions and drive innovative initiatives to support customers and partners achieve their decarbonization goals.

Salim started his career at GE in 2005 through the Edison Engineering Development Program. He moved into progressively senior roles, most recently serving as the Regional Sales General Manager for GE Gas Power in the Gulf & Pakistan.

Salim earned a Bachelor of Engineering from Saint Francis University, a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State University, an MS in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a dual degree Masters in Law (Executive LL.M) from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and IE Law School.



Dr. Sarim Dastgir

Dr. Dastgir is a Senior Scientist at Qatar Energy and Environment Research Institute (QEERI) and

Associate Professor at the College of Science and Engineering, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU). He is an expert on a wide range of topics in applied and industrial catalysis with more than 15 years' experience in technology development for the chemical industry. Dr. Dastgir earned his graduation from the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, University of Oxford. He is also an entrepreneur of two start-up companies for diverse applications in the chemical/petrochemical, construction and agricultural industry. He raised more than \$10 million in grants, industrial projects, and start-up funds with a successful implementation of two new processes for chemical manufacturing industry. Prior to his employment at Qatar Foundation, he was appointed as Research Professor in Applied Chemistry and Catalysis at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman.



Dr Dastgir is also a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), American Chemical Society (ACS), Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC), the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and a Scientific Review Panel member for various government/non-governmental organisations.

Prof. Dr. Valeriy G. Kulichikhin

Prof. Dr. Valeriy Kulichikhin is the Head of Rheology Laboratory at Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, Russian Academy of Science.

Prof. Dr. Kulichikhin has passed through the Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology in 1965. He was affiliated with the Institute of Chemical Fibres from 1965 until 1986. Prof. Kulichikhin was elected as the head of Polymer Rheology laboratory of the Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, Russian Academy of Sciences in early 1986. Simultaneously, he engages a position of Professor in Lomonosov Moscow State University.



Prof. Kulichikhin is author of more than 400 papers in Russian and international journals and participant of numerous international conferences. He is also member of the editorial boards of various journals including High Molecular Weight Compounds, Colloid Journal, and Polymer Processing. Prof. Kulichikhin is the laureate of several Russian Academy of Science prizes, and USSR State prize. He is also the head of several grants of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Russian Science Foundation.

Prof. Dr. Anton L. Maximov

Prof. Dr. Anton L. Maximov is the General Director of Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, Russian Academy of Science.

Prof. Maximov completed Candidate of Chemical Sciences in 1996, and Doctor of Chemical Sciences in 2005. He is the laureate of the Government prize in the field of the Science and Engineering in 2012. He is also the corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.



Dr. Anton L. Maximov is Professor and Chair of Petrochemistry at Moscow State University. He is the Editor of “Petroleum Chemistry” and “Russian Journal of Applied Chemistry”. Prof. Maximov is co-author of more than 200 scientific publications, 3 monographs, and 22 patents.

Prof. Dr. Konstantin B. Rudyak

Prof. Dr. Konstantin Rudyak is the General Director of Rosneft United Research and Development Center, Rosneft, Moscow. Prof. Rudyak graduated from the Gubkin State University of Oil and Gas in 1977 with specializing in Basic organic and petrochemical synthesis, and received his PhD in 1989. In 1997, he graduated from the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation. He became Professor of the Department of Oil Processing Technology in 2005 at the Gubkin State University of Oil and Gas. Prof. Rudyak is the Laureate of the prize of the Government of the Russian Federation in the field of science and technology.



Prof. Rudyak led the commissioning and launching works at catalytic cracking units at the Moscow and Grozny oil refineries. He actively worked in optimization of production at the Angarsk petrochemical complex, Achinsk, Volgograd, Khabarovsk and other refineries. Prof. Rudyak was the Deputy Director of the Department of TNK, TNK-BP from 1998 until 2008. In 2008, he became Head of the Technological Development Division of the Oil Refining Development Department of Rosneft Oil Company. In 20216, he became the General Director of LLC “Rosneft United Research and Development Center”.

Prof. Dr. Rudyak was involved in various projects including Development of a process flow diagram for the Primorsky Refinery (Nakhodka), Organization of selection of technical solutions for individual industries at the Primorsky Refinery, Development of plans for the construction of a joint refinery in China, etc.

Dr. Boris V. Gabel

Dr. Boris Gabel graduated from Moscow Power Engineering Institute in 1968. He is a very experienced specialist in bioreactor systems. Dr. Gabel was Director of Biotechnological centre "PhytoTech" from 1990 until 1998. He moved to K. A. Timiryazev Institute of Plant Physiology, Russian Academy of Sciences, as senior researcher and worked there until 2004. In 2004, he joined Pharmaceutical Company CJSC "Partner" as Head of Department and worked there till 2016. He is currently working as engineer at K. A. Timiryazev Institute of plant physiology RAS.



Dr. Gabel is an author of more than 14 research publications and more than 30 patents.

Dr. Vadim O. Samoilov

Dr. Vadim O. Samoilov is a Research Scientist at Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, Russian Academy of Science.

Dr. Samoilov graduated from the Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas in 2013 and completed his PhD in 2017. Since 2017, he is working as research scientist at Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis, Russian Academy of Science.

Dr. Samoilov is co-author of 16 scientific publications, 1 monograph, and 4 patents.



Dr. Maria A. Sinetova

Dr. Maria Sinetova is the Head of the Laboratory of Ecophysiology of Microalgae, Institute of Plant Physiology, Russian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Sinetova completed her Master of Science in Botany from Moscow State University in 2004, and PhD from Timiryazev Institute of Plant Physiology, Russian Academy of Sciences, in 2010.

Dr. Sinetova's research focus is on Biotechnology of microalgae and cyanobacteria; studying the mechanisms of stress adaptation, biochemistry and ultrastructure of microalgae and cyanobacteria.



Dr. Dmitry V. Marochkin

Dr. Dmitry V. Marochkin is the Deputy Head of Oxo-Products Laboratory at LLC “Rosneft United Research and Development Center”. Dr. Marochkin graduated in Engineering from D. Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia in 2009 and obtained PhD from Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia, in 2012.

Dr. Marochkin is an author of 29 research publications and 13 patents. His research interests in organic chemistry and polymer chemistry, technology of basic organic and petrochemical synthesis, technology of oxo-products.



Dr. Yevgeny V. Korolyev

Dr. Yevgeny V. Korolyev graduated in Chemistry from Gubkin State Russian University of Oil and Gas in 2003 and obtained his PhD in 2009. He worked as research fellow of Hydrocarbon Reforming Laboratory at Karpov Research Physical Chemical Institute from 2003 to 2010. Then he joined Technogas-GIAP Consulting Ltd. as senior research fellow and worked there until 2013. In 2013, Dr. Korolyev moved to LLC “Rosneft United Research and Development Centre (RN-RDC) and is working in laboratory of polyalphaolefins as senior research fellow.

Dr. Korolyev’s research interests are in Polyolefins, Polymerization catalysis, Viscosity modifiers, Aromatics, Zeolite catalysis, XTL Technologies, Synthetic Drilling Fluids, Fuels and Oils.



Dr. Tareq Al-Ansari

Dr. Tareq Al-Ansari acquired a BEng. in Mechanical Engineering from the University College of London, an MPhil. in Engineering for Sustainable Development from the University of Cambridge, and completed his PhD at Imperial College London in Sustainable Development and Environmental Engineering. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor at the College of Science and Engineering at HBKU within the Division of Sustainable Development and the Division of Engineering Management and Decision Sciences, where he is the division head.



Dr. Abdulkarem Amhamed

Dr. Abdulkarem Amhamed is a senior scientist, CO₂ Cluster program director, chartered chemical engineer, and trained as a chemical engineer with 22 years' experience in the oil and gas industry including Industry 4.0, and Sustainable Processes Design. Dr. Amhamed earned his doctorate and MSc degrees in Chemical Engineering from Bradford University, UK, and the University of Salford UK, respectively. He is the CO₂ Cluster Program Director at the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI). He is also the technical lead for the Doha case study of the formulating sustainable urban Food-Water-Energy Nexus project; FWE strategy by optimizing the synergetic effects among food, water, and energy sectors funded by the Belmont Forum and QNRF. He held many senior research and management positions in industry including Strategic Research Project Lead between Qatar Petroleum and UOP Honeywell USA (10 Million USD) and previously as General Managing Director of ESSO Company, Libya, among other senior roles. His research and industrial experience have attracted more than \$10 million in external funding. Currently, he is developing a new technology for Direct CO₂ capture from the atmosphere (DAC-AC).



Dr. Shahid Rasul

Dr. Shahid Rasul is the founder and Principal Investigator of Textile Circular Economy (TEXONOMY, <https://texonomy.org/>). Dr. Rasul's research aims to eliminate all types of wastefulness (Energy, Chemicals, Water, Air, Solid, land, human capital) in the textile sector through the application of innovations in policy, science and technology. Dr. Rasul is currently engaged with Race To Zero campaign which collaborates with textile stakeholders to develop a process to bring all types of textile waste into a circular economy model. Moreover, Dr. Rasul is the Director of Advance Practice at Mechanical and Construction Engineering at Northumbria University and is responsible for determining the MCE's advance practice strategic objectives and policies. Dr. Rasul teaches on sustainable energy systems and currently supervising 3 PhD and 6 masters students.



Dr. Rasul has published more than 30 publications in highly reputed journals related to sustainable energy systems and has been invited as a keynote speaker at several international scientific forums.

Dr. John Arthur

Dr. John Arthur is an expert in the design of applied risk and resilience reasoning systems for complex organisations. He is the strategic director of Texonomy and director of J Arthur Consult - established in October 2014 and specialising in addressing the organisational psychology of resilience and risk reasoning, its impact on competitive strategic decision making, operational development and communities. Examples include Issues Management, Crisis Prevention, Operational Resilience Supply Chain risk and Community Resilience. Between 2002 and 2014 John worked in five different international roles in Unilever most recently as the Global Resilience Director and, before that, as the global lead for Crisis Prevention and Response.



Giuseppe Pezzini

Giuseppe Pezzini is the CEO of Pielleitalia, working in the high-tech textile and manufacturing uniforms and merchandising. He received Master's degree in Economics and Business in 1989 from Bergamo University.

Giuseppe is well acquainted with the whole textile supply chain and he is an expert in technical textiles and sustainable clothing. In 2016, he became the Managing Director of a company working and operating in the fashion industry, after having acquired the majority of its capital.



In 2021, Mr. Pezzini took a step forward in the expansion of the group by founding pielleswiss, a company under Swiss law based in the Innovation Park of Neuchâtel. Its mission is to broaden the field of action in the search for new solutions to transform post-consumer products of the textile industry into nutrients for other industries and in the identification of new innovative technologies for sustainable development.

Mr. Pezzini held various important offices in the past including:

CEO Superna (Company then merged with pielletalia in 2020) since 2016.

Board Member of Dedalo Esco s.p.a. (Energy Service Company) from 2008 to 2010.

In Charge of the Italian market of technical protective fabrics for Chamatex (F) from 2002 to 2010.

For Chargeurs group (F), In Charge of the Italian market of waterproof and breathable fabrics from 1998 to 2002, and In charge of the Italian market of technical protective fabrics for NCV, Porcher group (F) from 1996 to 2001.

Mujeebullah Khan

Mr. Mujeebullah is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of iTextiles® and with a passion to create value in textiles globally through performance and sustainability, he has been leading it since 2006. Prior to this, he has over 20 years of management and leadership experience and has worked in leading multinationals like DuPont® and Invista™.

He is a board member of National Textiles University and NED Textiles department. He is also a keen contributor to society through various causes like Patient Behbood Society, Deaf Reach and the likes.

Owing to his firm belief in innovation and entrepreneurship, has been superbly managing and expanding his horizons in not only the trading business but also several other businesses as well, such as Alpha Green, ITT Global and AG Trading.



Muhammad Fauz ul Azeem

Muhammad Fauz ul Azeem is deputy general manager for corporate sustainability & chemical management at Interloop limited. Mr. Azeem has an extensive experience in research & development in textile, paper & polymers sector. Previously he worked as senior scientific officer at PCSIR and was responsible for execution of research & development projects for various industries. Mr. Azeem also led analytical services in the fields of textile, paper & polymers and has profound experience on ISO 17025 accreditation, corporate sustainability & strategic management and chemical management system.

