

## THE PANELLISTS:

**RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM** is an indigenous Guatemalan of the K'iche' ethnic group. Ms Menchú has dedicated her life publicizing on the rights of Guatemala's indigenous peoples during and after the Guatemalan Civil War (1960–1996), and promoting indigenous rights in the country. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 and the Prince of Asturias Award in 1998. She is a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and has also become a figure in indigenous political parties and ran for President of Guatemala in 2007 and 2011.

Among a wide range of activities her Rigoberta Menchú Tum Foundation also takes care of a cloud forest area in Guatemala where indigenous people live.



**EDUARDO ROJAS-BRIALES** is Assistant Director-General and Head of the Forestry Department in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He is the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Eduardo Rojas-Briales has been on a number of international boards and panels, amongst others, the EFI Scientific Advisory Board. He is a member of the Forest Science and Technology Research Group of the Polytechnic University of Valencia and of the IUFRO Forest Legislation Working Group.

In February 2013, Mr Rojas-Briales was nominated UN Commissioner-General for EXPO 2015 by Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.



**DR. BHASKAR VIRA** is Director of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute. He is Reader in the Political Economy of Environment and Development at the Department of Geography, and Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge.

His research focuses in particular on the political economy of natural resources, ecosystem services and development. He is Chair of the Global Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which is led and coordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). The Panel recently published the “Global Assessment Report: Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition”.



**ANDRÄ RUPPRECHTER**, born in Tyrol, Austria, is known as eminent expert for agricultural affairs and has been working in the agricultural sector at national as well as at European levels for many years in leading positions. In December 2013 he took office as Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in Austria. In this function he pursues as vision “a world that is worth living in, with clean air, pure water, diversified nature and safe, high-quality, affordable foodstuffs”.



## THE MODERATOR

**JAMES ASTILL** is the Political Editor and Bagehot Columnist of The Economist. He was formerly the newspaper's Energy and Environment Editor, in which role he paid particular attention to forests. In 2010 he wrote a special report on the world's forests, researched in Indonesia, Uganda, India, Mexico and Brazil, that won the Grantham Prize for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment. He continues to speak and chair events on forest issues. He has also worked as The Economist's South Asia Bureau Chief, International Security Editor, Afghanistan & Pakistan Correspondent, and Africa Correspondent. He has written other special reports on the Arctic, India and Pakistan, and the prize-winning book 'The Great Tamasha : Cricket, Corruption and the Turbulent Rise of Modern India.' He was educated at the universities of Oxford and Tokyo and lives in London.



For questions please refer to:  
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