BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS

RAY BALL
Sidney Davidson Distinguished Service Professor of Accounting, University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Ray Ball studies corporate disclosure, earnings and stock prices, international accounting and finance, market efficiency and investment strategies. He is coauthor of "An Empirical Evaluation of Accounting Income Numbers," an article published in the Journal of Accounting Research in 1968 that won the American Accounting Association's inaugural award for seminal contributions in account literature. This article revolutionized the understanding of the impact of corporate disclosure on share prices, and of earnings releases in particular. It laid the foundation for much of the modern accounting literature. Ball also is the author of "Anomalies in Relationships between Securities' Yields and Yield surrogates," published in the Journal of Financial Economics in 1978, the first academic reference to systematic anomalies in the theory of efficient markets.

Ball is a member of the Board of Trustees of Harbor Funds and Chair of its Audit Committee. He also serves on the Advisory Group for the Financial Reporting Faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). He has served on the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council (FASAC) of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), and on the Shadow Financial Regulation Committee.

Ball served as the Wesray Professor in Business Administration at the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester prior to rejoining Chicago Booth in 2000. He has served as a professor at the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management, and has taught at the London Business School, the Australian Graduate School of Management, and the University of Queensland.

He received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of New South Wales in Australia, and an MBA in 1968 and a PhD in economics in 1972 from Chicago Booth. Ball was awarded honorary degrees by the Helsinki School of Economics, the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, the University of Queensland, the University of London, and the University of New South Wales. He was elected to the Accounting Hall of Fame in 2009. The American Accounting Association honored him as its 2012 Presidential Scholar (together with Philip Brown) and in 2014 with its FARS Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2015, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales made him its eighth Honorary Member.
PAUL KOSTER
Managing Director, Dutch Investors´ Association VEB

Since August 2014 Paul Koster is Managing Director at the Dutch Investors’ Association VEB. As of July 2015, he also serves as Chairman of the European Investors’ Association (European Investors).

Mr. Koster was appointed Senior Advisor to the Governor of the Dubai International Financial Centre on 1 October 2012. He was Chief Executive of the Dubai Financial Services Authority from December 2008 until September 2012.

Since May 2009 Mr. Koster has been serving on the Advisory Board of the Emirates Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), the UAE’s federal securities regulator. From July 2009 through June 2012 he was a member of the Consultative Advisory Group of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA). Currently, he is a representative on the global Advisory Group to the Investor and Other Stakeholders Working Group (IOSWG) of the International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators (IFIAR).

In his earlier career Mr. Koster was Commissioner and Member of the Executive Board of the Autoriteit Financiële Markten (AFM), the national integrated conduct of business financial services regulator for the Netherlands. He served as Executive Vice President (Chief of Corporate Internal Audit) at Royal Philips Electronics, as Managing Partner Corporate Finance at Coopers & Lybrand and as Chief Compliance Officer and Acting Commissioner of Quotations at the Amsterdam Stock Exchange.

CHRISTIAN SAVTSCHENKO
Partner, PwC Finland

Christian is currently working as an audit partner at PwC Finland. He has a Master's degree in Economics from the Helsinki School of Economics (now Aalto University School of Business) in 1992. He has a career of over 27 years as a professional public accountant, starting in a small local audit firm, which then merged into Price Waterhouse and later into PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Christian became an authorized public accountant (KHT) in 1998 and a partner at PwC in 2007. During his career he has worked with clients of many different sizes and industries varying from small family businesses to large multinational companies.

At PwC Finland Christian is responsible for audit methodology and tools. He also leads the firm's initiatives for audit transformation and digitalization including automation, robotics and data analytics.

Christian has also been active in the Finnish auditor community. He served as the chairman of the Auditing Committee of the Finnish Institute of Public Accountants from 2008 to 2018 and in that role co-authored publications and guidance on auditor reporting and good audit practice as well as lectured on the subjects at various training events and seminars.