Sustainability @MIT

March 11, 2021 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
11:00am Welcome and Introduction
Corey Cheng
Program Director, MIT Corporate Relations

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Dr. Corey Cheng joined the Office of Corporate Relations (OCR) as an Senior Industrial Liaison Officer in December 2011. He has broad interests in science and technology, and uses his technical research experience to better serve ILP members in Asia and the United States.

Cheng spent six years in industrial research at Dolby Laboratories, San Francisco, where he contributed to sound compression (Dolby Digital, AAC, MP3), wireless networking, fingerprinting, and spatial “3-D audio” technologies. Later, he was Associate Professor and Director of the undergraduate and graduate programs in music engineering technology at the University of Miami, Florida, where he also held a dual appointment in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Cheng holds various U.S. and international patents, has published technical papers, and has presented at various conferences. His technical work includes collaborations and consulting work with the U.S. Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, Fujitsu-Ten USA, Starkey Laboratories, America Online, and the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT). Cheng was an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer for the Circuits and Systems Society from 2009-2010, and was a Westinghouse (Intel) Science Talent Search national finalist many years ago.

Cheng holds degrees in Electrical Engineering (Ph.D., M.S.E. University of Michigan), Electro-Acoustic Music (M.A. Dartmouth College), and physics (B.A. Harvard University).

Personally, Dr. Cheng is an American Born Chinese (ABC), serves as his family’s genealogist, and traces his roots back to Toi San, Guang Dong Province and Xing Hua, Jiang Su Province, China. He also has a background in music, and his electro-acoustic compositions have been presented at various U.S. and international venues.

Irina Sigalovsky
Program Director, MIT Corporate Relations

Irina Sigalovsky works in the Office of Corporate Relations at MIT where she builds mutually beneficial partnerships between corporations and MIT. Dr. Sigalovsky comes to MIT with 10 years of international experience in innovation strategy, technology forecasting and external innovation. Prior to MIT, Irina worked at GEN3 Partners, Inc. as a senior principal collaborating with Fortune 1000 companies to focus their innovation investments, execute strategic innovation agendas, and develop business globally. Throughout her career, Irina has taught at Tufts University, MIT Sloan, X-Prize Lab@MIT, MIT HST, Boston and Harvard Universities.

Eduardo Garrido
Program Director, MIT Corporate Relations

Eduardo Garrido is a Program Director at the Office of Corporate Relations at MIT.
Panel 1: A Vision of Sustainability for the Future

What elements of policy and regulation are crucial to the success of a sustainable future?
Which is better equipped to implement these policies: government or industry? What is the business of sustainability - when does it make sense to implement these policies, when does it not, and how can you / should you make money from sustainability programs?

Yossi Sheffi
Elisha Gray II Professor, Engineering Systems
Director, Center for Transportation and Logistics (MIT CTL)
Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Professor, Institute of Data Science and Society

Yossi Sheffi is an expert in systems optimization, risk analysis and supply chain management. He is author of a text book and four award-winning management books. His latest book is “The New Abnormal,” came out on October 1, 2020

Under his leadership, MIT CTL has launched many educational, research, and industry/government outreach programs, including the MIT SCALE network involving six academic centers round the world. In 2015, CTL has launched the on-line Micromaster’s program, enrolling 350,000 students in 196 countries.

Outside the institute, Dr. Sheffi has consulted with numerous organizations. He has also founded or co-founded five successful companies, all acquired by large enterprises.

Dr. Sheffi has been recognized in numerous ways in academic and industry forums and won dozens of awards.

He obtained his B.Sc. from the Technion in Israel in 1975, and Ph.D. from MIT in 1978.

For more information visit: http://sheffi.mit.edu/

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Jason Jay
Senior Lecturer, Sustainability
Director, Sustainability Initiative at Sloan School of Management

Jason Jay is a Senior Lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management and Director of the Sustainability Initiative at MIT Sloan. His research focuses on how people navigate the tensions between personal, business, and social goals in sustainability efforts. His first book is Breaking Through Gridlock: The Power of Conversation in a Polarized World and he has published articles in the Academy of Management Journal and California Management Review. He teaches courses on strategy, innovation, and leadership for sustainable business at MIT, and engages students and alumni in hands-on projects with leading companies and organizations. Prior to MIT, Jason was a management consultant for Dialogos International, where he consulted on leadership development and organizational change for major international corporations and NGO’s including BP and the World Bank. Jason holds a Ph.D. in Organization Studies from the MIT Sloan School of Management, and an AB and M.Ed from Harvard University. He lives in Newton, Massachusetts.

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Panel 2: The Technology of Sustainability

Which technological innovations are the most important for the materials, energy, and environmental sectors? Which technologies are frontrunners for the sustainability of the future, and which technologies have not fared so well? Which technologies still need to be further incubated in basic research laboratories, which are ready for commercialization? Who should commercialize these technologies – large corporates, small startups, or public-private partnerships – and why?

Karthish Manthiram
Theodore Miller Career Development Chair and Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering

Karthish Manthiram is the Theodore T. Miller Career Development Chair and Assistant Professor in Chemical Engineering at MIT. The Manthiram Lab at MIT is focused on the molecular engineering of electrocatalysts for the synthesis of organic molecules, including pharmaceuticals, fuels, and commodity chemicals, using renewable feedstocks. Karthish received his bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University and his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from UC Berkeley, where his dissertation research was focused on the development of nanoscale materials for storing solar energy in chemical bonds. Most recently, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the California Institute of Technology, where he worked on developing new ionically-conductive polymers using olefin metathesis. Karthish’s research has been recognized with several awards, including the NSF CAREER Award, DOE Early Career Award, 3M Nontenured Faculty Award, American Chemical Society PRF New Investigator Award, Dan Cubicciotti Award of the Electrochemical Society, and Forbes 30 Under 30 in Science. Karthish’s teaching has been recognized with the C. Michael Mohr Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, the MIT ChemE Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, and the MIT Teaching with Digital Technology Award. He serves on the Early Career Advisory Board for ACS Catalysis and on the Advisory Board for both Trends in Chemistry and the MIT Science Policy Review.

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Desirée Plata
Winslow Career Development Professor, Civil Engineering
Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Desirée holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Chemistry and Chemical Oceanography from MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. She has a B.S. in Chemistry from Union College and proudly attended Gould Academy for high school.

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Brent Keller
Co-Founder & CTO
Via Separations

Stephen Potter
Global Director of Strategy
Vale

Nina Birger
Vice President of Partnerships
Greentown Labs