

AFI ROUNDTABLE | 18 October 2022

Cultivating ESG Capability

IN PERSON at the NGA, Canberra or ONLINE



9:00–9:05 am | **WELCOME & Acknowledgement of Country**

Richard Heath, Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute

9:05–9:30 am | **KEYNOTE:** Jack Holden, GM Sustainability – Asia Pacific, Fonterra

ESG – What's the upside for Australia Agriculture?

9:30–10:00 am | **SESSION 1: Why ESG matters**

Setting the scene: a comprehensive overview of and discussion about the ESG reporting environment. The significance of an ESG report; Risk management, regulation and reward – opportunities vs. transition to BAU; Impacts for Australian ag, now and into the next decade.

Richard Heath, Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute

Dr Robyn Leeson, Vice-Chair, Global Sustainability Standards Board

Melinee Leather, Owner/Manager, Leather Cattle Co

David Stanko, Head of Commercial Sustainability, Nutrien

Georgie Aley, National Sector Lead – CPG & Agribusiness, KPMG

10:00–10:30 am | **PANEL Q&A – MODERATOR:** Andrew Spencer, AFI Chair

10:30–11:00 am | **MORNING TEA**

11:00 am – 11:35 pm | **SESSION 2: Jargon-busting**

ESG reporting uses terms that sound familiar but can easily be conflated or misunderstood. To understand your business responsibilities, it's vital to understand the lingo.

Richard Gardner, Dairy farmer, 'Annandale' / Seedhouse Tasmania

Natalie Hick, Managing Director, Natural Capital Co Pty Ltd

Michelle Gortan, CEO, Macdoch Foundation

Janna de Groot, Advisor, Climateworks

11:35 am – midday | **SESSION 2a: How BMP fits in**

Industry-led Best Management Practice (BMP) programs support farmers' efforts to maximise productivity and profitability while reducing environmental impacts – how do they tick the ESG boxes?

Adam Kay, CEO, Cotton Australia

Dan Galligan, CEO, Canegrowers

Jane Siebum, CEO, Freshcare

Midday – 12:30 pm | **PANEL Q&A – MODERATOR:** Kristina Hermanson, AFI Director

12:30–1:30 pm | **LUNCH**

1:30–2:30 pm | **SESSION 3: The ESG toolbox**

The right tools and technology will be critical to ensuring ESG requirements do not create an unnecessary reporting burden on farm businesses and can fit into existing practices.

Katie McRobert, General Manager, Australian Farm Institute

Sarah Nolet, General Partner, Tenacious, Aus Agritech Board

Andrea Koch, CEO and Founder, DigiSoil

Dr Rob Waterworth, CEO, FlintPro

Corrie Goodwin, Responsible Dairy Manager, Fonterra

Dr Michael Robertson, Director – Agriculture and Food, CSIRO

2:30–3:00 pm | **PANEL Q&A – MODERATOR: Katie McRobert**, AFI GM

3:00–3:30 pm | **AFTERNOON TEA**

3:30–4:00 pm | **SESSION 4: Leading or lagging?**

The rapidly evolving ESG environment has been mostly business- and investor-driven to date. How might policy interventions positively or negatively impact on farm businesses and the Australian agricultural industry?

Carmel Onions, General Manager of Agribusiness, CBA

Nicole Yazbek-Martin, ASF Taxonomy Lead, Australian Sustainable Finance Institute

Ross Kingwell, Chief Economist AEGIC, AFI RAC

Pete Arkle, CEO, NSW Farmers

Dr Jared Greenville, Executive Director, ABARES

4:00–4:15 pm | **PANEL Q&A – MODERATOR: Alexandra Gartmann**, AFI Director

4:15–5:00 pm | **SESSION 5: The big picture**

Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

ESG & agriculture: the policy view

How FertCare fits in

Q&A – Richard Heath & Murray Watt

Stephen Annells, Executive Manager, Fertilizer Australia

4:50–5:10 pm | **WRAP-UP & CLOSE: Richard Heath**, Executive Director, AFI ED

5:10–6:00 pm | **PRE-DINNER DRINKS, sponsored by FertCare**

6:00–10:00 pm | **DINNER SESSION: Bringing it home**

A panel of farmers will review key points from the day and share their take-home messages: What does all this mean on-farm? What changes should I consider for my business? What else do I need to know?

MODERATOR: Caroline Rhodes, AFI Director

John Stevenson, Southern Regional Manager, Warakirri Cropping

Liz Riley, Owner, Viticulturist, Vitibit Pty Ltd.

Claire Booth, AFI Research Fellow, C.O. Booth Law and Advisory

Emma Leonard, AFI Research Fellow, AgriKnowHow

10:00 pm | **CLOSE**



Georgie Aley

Georgie Aley has held a range of Executive Management roles across the Australian food and agribusiness sector for over 15 years. She is a trusted advisor to Government, corporates, ASX listed and industry/NFP associations, assisting Boards and the C-Suite to drive strategic and sustainable growth. Georgie holds several leadership roles at KPMG including KPMG Australia's National Sector Lead for Consumer Packaged Goods and Agribusiness – responsible for the sector client support and market leadership across KPMG; Australia's Biodiversity and Natural Capital Co-Lead driving KPMG's market leadership and mandate supporting clients to value and quantify their interactions and interdependences with nature; and she is also the National Lead of the Operational Transformation Team who support clients and industries at large to transform functions, supply and value chains and industries in response to the evolving operating and consumer environment. Georgie is a Non-Director of Pulse Australia and Agribusiness Australia.



Pete Arkle

Pete Arkle is the CEO of NSW Farmers, one of the largest and most diverse farm organisations in Australia. NSW Farmers represents primary producers ranging from oyster farmers on the NSW coast to goat producers in the far west of our State.

Pete manages the NSW Farmers' business and leads a professional team, working closely with farmer members to advocate for policies that advance sustainable food and fibre production and enable strong regional communities across NSW.

He previously worked in leadership roles in Sustainable Agriculture and Public Affairs for global agriculture company Syngenta, working across Australia, Asia and Switzerland.

Pete is passionate about seeing Australian farming reach its full potential – sustainably delivering world-class food and fibre, enhancing natural capital and supporting strong and vibrant regional communities.



Claire Booth

Claire Booth is a Senior Associate solicitor with Duffy Elliott Lawyers specialising in wills, succession planning, and the transfer of wealth across the generations involved in farming and business. Claire and her husband are also first-generation farmers, having started their farm business in 2012 at age 28 after saving the deposit in their 20's. Booth Ag produces irrigated and dryland horticulture, grains, pulses and livestock on the flood plains of the Macquarie River near Geurie and Dubbo. Recently Claire completed a Nuffield Scholarship focusing on land values, debt and financial literacy in agriculture.



Janna de Groot

Janna de Groot is an Advisor to ClimateWorks Centre and formerly led the ClimateWorks convened Natural Capital Investment Initiative (NCII), which developed a Natural Capital Measurement Catalogue (NCMC) endorsed by a wide range of stakeholders across the food, agriculture, land management and finance sectors. Prior to joining ClimateWorks, Janna gained over 14 years' experience in top-tier management consulting and senior management positions in technology and consumer goods companies. Janna holds a Masters Degree in Global Governance and Diplomacy from the University of Oxford, in addition to Bachelor degrees in Economics and Commerce from the University of Queensland.

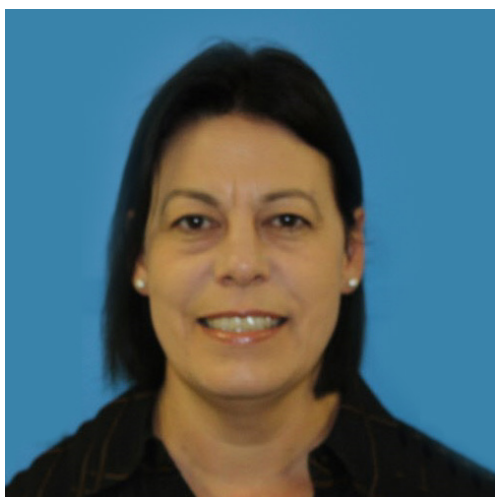


Dan Galligan

Dan Galligan has been the CEO of CANEGROWERS since June 2015. CANEGROWERS is the peak industry body representing over 70% of all Australian cane growers. The organisation provides advocacy on key issues of trade and market access, environmental sustainability, social license to operate and cost of production as well as delivering membership, communication services and programs to support leadership, capacity building and grower engagement.

Previously, Dan was six years as the head of the state farm lobby group, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and spent 10 years driving policy and grower services working with Cotton Australia an industry body representing the interests of the Australian cotton industry. During this time, he worked in advocacy roles, as well as holding grower services and management positions.

Originally from a mixed farming enterprise, Dan has spent a career across a broad range of roles in the agricultural sector. He has a formal background in applied science, rural systems management and environmental auditing.



Corrie Goodwin

Corrie Goodwin is the Responsible Dairy Manager in Fonterra Australia and has 20+ years of experience building and leading organisations that successfully face into, and thrive, in volatile market environments. With proven ability to translate insights, risks and opportunities into actionable strategic programs that pivot business operations into a sustainable future. Her ability to drive positive change is underpinned by vertical expertise in supply chain/operational optimisation, import/export, risk management and career-long experience in the dairy sector.

Corrie is a Director of the Australian Dairy Industry and Executive of the Australian Dairy Products Federation. She is also Deputy Chair of the Victorian Game Management Authority.



Michelle Gortan

Michelle Gortan is the CEO of the Macdoch Foundation, the Australian philanthropic foundation of the MacLeod family, which funds in the areas of agriculture and climate in Australia and the United States. She was previously a partner and the Head of Philanthropy at Mutual Trust, Australia's premier multi-family office, and prior to that, an advisor to a number of high-profile philanthropists and family foundations at the Myer Family Company in Sydney. Originally trained as a lawyer, Michelle has over 20 years' experience in leadership positions in philanthropy, community and corporate partnerships, government relations, business development and marketing in the non-profit, public and professional services sectors in Australia, the UK and Latin America. She is a Certified Advisor with 21/64, an NYC-based international consultancy specialising in facilitation and strategy development for multigenerational family philanthropy, and she is currently board director of the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network.



Jared Greenville

Jared Greenville is the ABARES Executive Director. He joined the bureau in 2018, leading the Agricultural Forecasting and Trade Branch. Prior to joining ABARES, Jared held senior roles at the OECD where he managed work related to agri-food trade policy, global value chains in agriculture and food security and risk (focusing on Southeast Asia) along with monitoring and evaluating agricultural policy developments in a number of OECD member and non-member countries. Jared has previously worked for the Productivity Commission on diverse issues ranging from Australia's involvement in bilateral and regional trade agreements, domestic drought support policy to issues related to infrastructure policy and the challenges posed by an ageing population. Jared has a PhD in agricultural and natural resource economics from the University of Sydney.



Richard Heath

Richard is Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute, an independent agricultural policy research organisation. Richard is a Nuffield Scholar and was a farmer at Gunnedah for 20 years until 2012. Previous to his current role Richard was Associate Professor of Agronomy and Farm Management at the University of Sydney. He is currently also a director of the Grains Research and Development Corporation and member of the CSIRO Agriculture and Food advisory committee.



Natalie Hick

Natalie Hick founded Natural Capital Co Pty Ltd for the purposes of assisting clients with ESG reporting and carbon foot printing, natural capital and carbon project development and to provide Ag and non-ag companies with reliable and accurate reporting and projects across all these areas. An entrepreneur and Nuffield scholar, she studied local and international best practice in soil carbon and carbon markets and has an established network of agriculture practitioners and industry leaders.

She has 25 years' experience as a cattle producer and has been deeply involved in developing carbon and eco system credit projects. ESG is an obvious fit with natural capital and this component adds benefits so clients could be assured of harmonisation of all their sustainability reporting within one company. Natalie's team consists of ESG specialists and carbon/natcap project specialists who share in a joint vision to improve the world we all live in and to ensure farmers and graziers are not left behind in new and emerging ESG reporting and natural capital markets.



Jack Holden

Jack Holden is the GM of Sustainability, Asia Pacific for the Fonterra Group. He has been a sustainability practitioner for over 25 years. He has worked in government, consulting and industry roles.

Since joining Fonterra in 2011, he has worked with farmers on a full range of farm sustainability issues, most notably on innovations to provide solutions for sustainability issues in livestock farming.

He is also Deputy Chair of the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework, President of the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) and a member of the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council. He is also a Director of Greenfleet Australia.

Jack was previously an extension officer, Landcare Network coordinator and then a climate policy analyst for the Victorian Government. He was part of KPMG's Climate Change and Sustainability advisory practice prior to joining Fonterra.



Adam Kay

Adam Kay was appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer of Cotton Australia in January 2007. Cotton Australia is the peak grower body in Australia representing the interests of 1500 cotton producers in NSW and Queensland. He started his career as District Agronomist for the NSW Agriculture Department in Warren 37 years ago and has spent his entire career working within the Australian cotton industry.

Before Cotton Australia, Adam was General Manager of Cotton Seed Distributors, Wee Waa for 11 years, during which time he played a major role in introducing and commercialising biotechnology into the Australian cotton industry. Adam also served two terms as a Director of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, a cotton industry body that funds research and development projects across many industry sectors.

Adam is well known to the Australian cotton industry with roles on a range of industry organisations and committees and has broad industry knowledge and specialist skills in grower relations, advocacy and business management. He was awarded the 2005 Australian Cotton Industry Service to Industry Award, is a Churchill Fellow, Graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program, and a Graduate of the AICD Directors and Mastering the Boardroom Courses.



Ross Kingwell

Ross Kingwell is an agricultural economist with over 35 years' experience in research and provision of policy advice. Ross is Chairman of AFT's Research Advisory Committee. He is a Professor in the School of Agriculture and Environment, University of Western Australia, and Economics and Market Intelligence Team manager in the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.



Andrea Koch

Andrea Koch is the CEO and Founder of DigiSoil, an Australian digital agriculture start-up that creates detailed and accurate 3D maps of soil at paddock scale for farmers and agronomists. This game changing technology came from the Soil Tech Project, a LandCare Smart Farming Partnership project led by Andrea for three years, focused on translation of University of Sydney soil science into digital soil mapping tools using agile development and user centred design.

Andrea is a self-described soil nerd, and spent six years leading a soil policy think tank program at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney from 2010. She contributed to the design of the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative and participated in the emerging international soil policy community. She convened Australia's first public conference on big data and agriculture in 2015 and has been closely involved with Australia's nascent agtech sector.

Andrea is an industry thought leader who recently completed four years as a board director with the National Farmers' Federation. She chairs the NFF Farm Data Working Group which developed the NFF Farm Data Code. Andrea's professional experience includes 15 years in marketing and product development with IBM, Optus and News Limited. She holds a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) and a Master of Sustainable Development. Andrea is based in Sydney.



Melinee Leather

Melinee Leather is a beef producer from Central Queensland who is passionate about sustainable grass-fed beef production and the future of farming families in Australia.

Along with her husband Robert, their family beef cattle enterprise breeds and finishes cattle for the Organic, EU and Grasslands markets.

Melinee received an Australian Biosecurity Award in 2019 and was named Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year. This award recognised her significant contribution to maintaining Australia's biosecurity integrity and highlighted her strong advocacy for agriculture.

Melinee continues to be a strong advocate for the beef industry through her roles as board member of the Australian Beef Sustainability Steering Group and member of the Soil Regeneration and Carbon committee for Australian Organics.

Previously she chaired the Animal Health Welfare & Biosecurity committee for Cattle Council Australia and the Farming Systems committee for National Farmers' Federation. Melinee has served as a board member of Livestock Biosecurity Network and Agforce Cattle.



Dr Robyn Leeson

Dr Robyn Leeson is a leading specialist in sustainability strategy and reporting. She works closely with a diverse range of organisations as the Principal of STR Consulting to provide advisory services in the areas of sustainability and corporate responsibility. Robyn also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) of the Global Reporting Initiative, which developed the first and most widely used globally accepted standards for sustainability reporting. With over 30 years of experience in the environmental and broader sustainability fields, Robyn has worked with a range of ASX listed companies, government agencies and industry associations, including Meat & Livestock Australia and Dairy Australia. Robyn holds a PhD in environmental impact assessment and a Masters degree in environmental science.



Emma Leonard

Emma Leonard has over 25 years' experience communicating technical information to farmers in Australia and the UK. She is proprietor of AgriKnowHow, a business she runs from a farm in South Australia. Since 2006 she has edited Precision Ag News, the magazine of the Society of Precision Agriculture Australia. Emma is a Nuffield scholar and in 2017, she commenced a PhD from the University of New England looking at 'How to overcome the barriers to the adoption of digital agriculture'.



Sarah Nolet

Sarah Nolet is an internationally recognised food systems innovation expert and co-founder of Tenacious Ventures, a high-support, high conviction, sector-specific venture firm at the intersection of digitally native agriculture and climate solutions. Sarah has been instrumental in building the early stage agtech ecosystem – from advising dozens of startups, designing accelerator programs and consulting to established agribusinesses, to helping industry, universities and government develop and implement forward-looking initiatives in food system innovation. Sarah is also the host of the *AgTech...So What?* podcast, telling stories of innovators building the food system of the future.

Sarah has been ministerially appointed to the board of Industry, Innovation and Science Australia (IISA), and she holds a Masters in System Design and Management from MIT, and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Human Factors Engineering from Tufts University.



Carmel Onions

Carmel Onions is the General Manager Agribusiness at the Commonwealth Bank. CBA has a long and proud history supporting Australian agriculture and Carmel's team supports the business with strategic initiatives, such as the CBA Agri Green Loan and Sustainability Linked Loans for Agriculture. Carmel is an advocate for the intersection of natural capital enhancements and on-farm productivity outcomes, and building resilience into farming systems. Carmel has been with CBA for 20 years and holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics from the University of Sydney.



IMAGE: Chris Elfes

Liz Riley

Liz Riley is an independent viticulturist consultant based in the Hunter Valley, NSW. She has over 25 years' of experience in the Wine Industry and worked for Southcorp Wines (now TWE) in viticulture focusing on grape quality and agchem before becoming an independent consultant in 2000. She is an expert generalist who has significant expertise in pest and disease management, agrochemicals and biosecurity. Liz is based in the Hunter but has a client base that extends to other NSW/ACT Regions such as Orange, Hilltops, Tumbarumba, and Canberra. This diverse range of regions sees Liz working with warm and cool climate grape varieties and a number of emerging alternative varieties.

Liz is a Roseworthy graduate, Australian Nuffield Scholar and was the ASVO's Viticulturist of the Year in 2017. She is currently a specialist qualifications director for the Australian Wine Research Institute, the past Chair of R&D/VP for the NSW Wine Industry Association and sits on the National Wine Biosecurity Committee. She recently received an Award for Excellence from the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association for helping to coordinate the industry's response to the emerging smoke taint challenges of Vintage 2020, and was the 2020 recipient of the NSW DPI Graham Gregory Award for an individual's outstanding service to the NSW Wine Industry. Liz likes to drink Riesling and explores alternative varieties.



Michael Robertson

Dr Michael Robertson is the Director of CSIRO Agriculture & Food. He is based in Perth, Western Australia. His research background is in agricultural science, with an undergraduate degree from Lincoln University, New Zealand, and a PhD from the University of Queensland, specialising in crop agronomy and simulation modelling. He had a 2-year post-doctoral stint in the US in the early 1990s.

Michael has worked for CSIRO in Townsville, Brisbane and Perth where his work has aimed to develop and use information-intensive methods and products (e.g., predictive models, precision agriculture, digital innovation) to inform better management regimes for farming systems. Michael has served in various leadership roles in CSIRO and was Deputy Director in CSIRO Agriculture & Food prior to his current role. He has led teams that impact on farm practice, agribusiness activities, and commercial ventures. Michael also has led multi-disciplinary teams to tackle complex agricultural issues, and has worked from the tropics to the temperate zone and with all major broadacre industries.

He lives in Fremantle, Western Australia with his wife Jenny, and in his spare time enjoys gardening, reading, swimming in the Indian Ocean and mountain bike riding. He is also a member of AFI's Research Advisory Committee.



Jane Siebum

Jane Siebum is a high-achieving, energetic leader who takes organisations on an incredible journey of transformation through expertise in business planning and execution, revenue development and cultural change. Recognised for inspiring all to excel in any environment, Jane's ability to build teams with people from diverse cultures, abilities, age groups and social backgrounds has enabled her to lead key strategic change across many industries. A leader who encourages people to achieve not only business objectives but also their personal goals, Jane is driven professionally by her desire to see business to become more sustainable through effective use of talent, financial resources, systems and processes. She aims to improve not only the bottom line but also the day-to-day experience for customers, staff and volunteers. She is driven personally with the view of seeing a 'fair go for all', with a strong belief that education and support are key to providing people with a purposeful future.

Jane is an SES volunteer, holds Board roles at Peckys and WIPAN and was previously the CEO of Scouts NSW.



Dave Stanko

Dave Stanko recently joined Nutrien Ag Solutions' Australian Leadership Team as the Head of Commercial Sustainability. In this role, he leads Nutrien's efforts to innovate, build and adopt technologies that measure, monitor, and improve the environmental impact of agriculture across Nutrien's expansive footprint. He previously served as President of Agrible, a software start-up with a suite of tools that enabled farmers and supply chain stakeholders to understand and manage the environmental impact of their agricultural operations. After Nutrien acquired Agrible in 2018, Dave led the development of Nutrien Ag Solutions' North American sustainability strategy, which reached over 600,000 acres last year. Dave holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Illinois.



John Stevenson

John Stevenson is the Southern Regional Manager for the Warakirri Cropping business and resides in the small locality of Nowie, 25km North West of Swan Hill.

With over 25 years in the company John's passion for agriculture motivates him to coach team members in the art of maximising sustainable productivity using great science.

A 2016 GRDC Nuffield Scholar with a Bachelor of Applied science (Ag) background drives John to seek innovative and creative ways to keep Australian dryland agriculture an exciting place to be.

John is inspired daily by his wonderful wife, Brooke and children Edward and Sara. In his spare time John enjoys the fast pace of Enduro motorcycle riding, golfing and developing his 25 acres of the Mallee.



Rob Waterworth

Rob is the CEO and co-founder of Mullion Group and FLINTpro – the world's first land data integration software system that helps organisations effectively report and manage land-sector greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Rob has extensive expertise in research, designing and implementing technical systems to achieve sustainable land management. He has played a leadership role in policy development, program management and international climate negotiations. He has a deep understanding of the requirements of and relationships between policy, technical systems and the role of research and programs to deliver solutions that meet policy needs and help organisations to achieve sustainability goals.



Senator The Hon. Murray Watt

Murray Watt is the Albanese Government's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Minister for Emergency Management. He has been a Labor Senator for Queensland since 2016.

Brisbane born and bred, Murray has strong family ties to regional Queensland, with both sides of his family having a long history in farming and teaching.

For over 20 years, Murray's working life has been spent as an advocate for others, as a lawyer, a public servant and as Chief of Staff to former Premier Anna Bligh. Murray also served one term as a Queensland State MP and Assistant Minister in health and economic portfolios.

Since his election in 2016, Murray played a key role in Senate Estimates and a range of Senate Committees including the Rural and Regional Affairs Committee.

As a Senator and Shadow Minister, he led a number of Senate inquiries into issues including regional development, energy and resources, emergency management and health care.



Nicole Yazbek-Martin

Nicole is leading the development of the Australian Sustainable Finance Taxonomy at the Australian Sustainable Finance Institute (ASFI). The ASFI Taxonomy Project is an industry-led initiative, working closely with government and regulators, to develop common definitions for sustainable economic activities and investments. Nicole has a background in climate and sustainability across government, banking, private equity and law. In the public service, she led the Australian Government's engagement with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), representing Australia on the TNFD Stewardship Council. Prior to this she led the reviews and research function at the Australian Climate Change Authority. Nicole holds a Master of Laws in international trade and post-graduate qualifications in finance and economics.

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