



## Podcast Biographies:

### Blended Finance and Climate Adaptation Considerations for Financial Supervisors

*All biographies have been provided by the speakers.*



**Dr. Naresh Singh**  
Program Leader, Toronto Centre

Dr. Naresh Singh is Professor and Vice Dean of the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy where he is also Director of the Centre of Complexity Economics, Applied Spirituality and Public Policy. He has served as special adviser on sustainability at the Toronto Centre, where he provided advice on climate and other environmental issues as they relate to financial regulatory and supervisory risk management and supported capacity development to manage such risks. He now serves regularly as a

TC program leader on climate risks to financial system.

Naresh has had more than 30 years' experience in international development and has held several senior positions including as Senior Scientist and then Executive Director of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute; Program Director at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Principal Adviser on Poverty and Sustainable Livelihoods at UNDP, New York and Director-General/ acting VP at the CIDA, Federal Government of Canada.

Professor Singh has been recognized globally for his work on sustainable livelihoods which offers win-win options for poverty reduction and environmental conservation. He has a transdisciplinary Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences, has been a visiting professor at several Universities in the US and Canada, and is widely published.



**Shelina Visram**  
Program Director

Shelina Visram joined Toronto Centre as a Program Director in 2017. She is responsible for the overall design, delivery and quality of the supervisory capacity building programs directed in fulfilling Toronto Centre's core objectives of contributing to financial stability, inclusion and effective governance. She is also responsible for liaising with supervisory agencies and organizations and selecting the right people from Toronto Centre's pool of experienced program leaders (expert external consultants) with the knowledge appropriate for the programs.



Prior to joining Toronto Centre, Ms. Visram worked for nine years at the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) where her primary responsibilities were leading risk assessment and supervisory activities of life insurance companies. She has an in-depth understanding of and has worked with the OSFI risk-based supervision methodology and its application. During her career at OSFI, Ms. Visram worked with international regulatory authorities to supervise an internationally active insurance group, including organizing Supervisory Colleges, and she led the team responsible for implementing changes to OSFI's supervisory framework.

Before then, Ms. Visram worked for several life insurers in a range of actuarial roles including valuation, product development and sales force training. She is an Associate of both the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and the Society of Actuaries.