

Andrés Vilhjálmsson



Andrés Vilhjálmsson er fæddur í Stavangri árið 1983. Hann hefur setið í stjórn ÍV frá árinu 2020. Stærsta hluta starfsævinnar hefur hann unnið í kjötiðnaðinum og starfar í dag sem markaðsstjóri Kjarnafæðis Norðlenska. Árið 2018 vann hann í sameiningu við kaupanda á Indlandi og MAST við að koma á leyfi fyrir innflutningi á íslensku lambakjöti til Indlands. Fyrirsjáanleg eru mörg tækifæri í útflutningi á íslenskum landbúnaðarvörum til Indlands. Sama ár heimsótti Andrés Indland með íslenskri sendinefnd þar sem hann hélt erindi um íslenskt lambakjöt á viðskiptaþingi sem haldið var í Nýju Delhi.

Reynsla Andrésar getur nýst frekar í stjórn ÍV og hann telur spennandi tíma framundan í samstarfi ríkjanna eftir gildistöku viðskipta- og efnahagssamstarfssamnings Indlands og EFTA (TEPA)

Andrés Vilhjálmsson was born in Stavanger in 1983. He has served on the board of ÍV since 2020. For most of his professional career, he has worked in the meat industry, and currently serves as the Marketing Director of Kjarnafæði Norðlenska. In 2018, Andrés worked alongside a buyer in India and the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) to secure import approval for Icelandic lamb to the Indian market. There are significant opportunities ahead for exporting Icelandic agricultural products to India. That same year, Andrés visited India as part of an Icelandic delegation, where he delivered a presentation on Icelandic lamb at a business forum held in New Delhi.

Andrés believes that his experience can continue to benefit the board of ÍV, and sees exciting times ahead as India and the EFTA states implement the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

Anna Hedvig Þorsteinsdóttir



Anna Hedvig Þorsteinsdóttir er yfirmaður magnvörudeildar Lýsis hf., þar sem hún hefur starfað frá árinu 2007. Meginstarfsemi Lýsis felst í vinnslu og sölu á lýsi til framleiðenda neytendavara um allan heim. Útflutningur þorskalýsis til Indlands hefur verið umtalsverður og stöðugur síðustu tvo áratugina. Anna hefur setið í stjórn ÍÍV frá árinu 2016.

Áður en Anna hóf störf hjá Lýsi starfaði hún í tíu ár sem ritari stjórnar og forstjóra hjá SH/Icelandic Group, auk þess að gegna hlutverki almanna- og fjárfestatengils.

Anna er kennari að mennt en lauk síðar BS-prófi í viðskiptafræði frá Háskólanum í Reykjavík og MS-prófi í mannauðsstjórnun frá Háskóla Íslands.

Anna Hedvig Þorsteinsdóttir is Head of the Bulk Products Division at Lýsi hf., where she has worked since 2007. The company's main operations involve processing and selling fish oil to consumer goods manufacturers worldwide. Exports of cod liver oil to India have been significant and steady over the past two decades. Anna has served on the board of ÍÍV since 2016.

Before joining Lýsi, Anna worked for ten years as Executive Assistant to the Board and CEO of SH/Icelandic Group, in addition to serving as Head of Public and Investor Relations.

Anna is trained as a teacher and later completed a BSc in Business Administration from Reykjavik University and an MSc in Human Resource Management from the University of Iceland.

Bala Kamallakaran



Bala Kamallakaran is the current Chairman of the Iceland India Trade Council. He is the Managing Director of Iceland Venture Studio and Founders Ventures, two early-stage venture funds focused on early-stage companies in Iceland and the Nordics. He founded Startup Iceland seventeen years ago and has played a central role in building the country's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Bala brings direct experience bridging Icelandic and Indian business networks, with active interests in Indian economic and market developments. He has been awarded the Order of the Falcon by the President of Iceland for his contributions to Icelandic society.

Chandrika Gunnarsson



Chandrika Gunnarsson is a visionary entrepreneur and cultural bridge-builder who uniquely embodies the spirit of both Iceland and India. Her business acumen was instilled early, learning about trade through her family's bustling coffee and spice plantations. Having established her life, family, and a thriving business footprint in Iceland for over thirty years, she possesses a profound, first-hand understanding of what connects these two distinct, yet complementary, commercial landscapes.

An entrepreneurial leader with an innate drive for success, Chandrika began her journey in the 1980s by founding a multinational furniture enterprise. She successfully managed complex global supply chains, importing premium goods from India and exporting them across the world. In Reykjavík, she expanded her footprint as the pioneer behind the iconic, award-winning restaurants Austur-Indíafélagið and Hraðlestin, utilizing hospitality to bring communities together and educate Icelanders on India's rich heritage. With the business also comes valuable practical expertise, which includes decades of navigating international trade and the complex Iceland-India import/export landscape.

As a daughter of a Freedom Fighter, who stood in support of Gandhi, and coming from a long line of politicians and social workers championing social and women's rights for generations, Chandrika's commitment to India runs deep through her veins. Deeply committed to bilateral community building, Chandrika also served as President of the Iceland-India Friendship Society, where she supported the integration of Indian immigrants into Icelandic society while providing vital practical counsel to Icelanders traveling to India. She coordinated and hosted former Indian President Abdul Kalam on his visit to Iceland and Norway. Finally, she provides unwavering and constant support for philanthropic causes back in India that are dear to her heart. She has naturally become an unofficial diplomat by design, strengthening economic, cultural, and civic ties between her two home nations.

Chandrika's unique edge lies in her ability to turn cultural synergy into thriving B2B opportunities. She understands exactly what modern investors and corporate entities look for when expanding internationally: strong operational integrity, high standards of professional service, and reliable commercial frameworks.

By understanding the vital roles that institutional trust, premium service, and long-term relationship building play in Indian corporate culture, Chandrika will help Icelandic companies unlock massive, untapped commercial potential. She is a dedicated advocate who will work tirelessly to stimulate cross-border trade, elevate the standards of bilateral commerce, and confidently welcome a new era of strategic corporate partners to the land of fire and ice.