

Indira Samarasekera

Senior Advisor at Bennett Jones LLP

Vancouver , BC, CA

A metallurgical engineer by training, Dr. Samarasekera spent a decade as President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Alberta

Biography

Dr. Indira V. Samarasekera served as the 12th President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Alberta, from 2005-2015, one of Canada's most respected research-intensive universities. A metallurgical engineer with a doctorate from the University of British Columbia, she has specialized in materials process engineering and consulted for over a hundred steel companies around the world. Dr. Samarasekera is currently a corporate director and Senior Advisor for Bennett Jones LLP. Dr. Samarasekera serves on the Boards of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Magna International and TransCanada. She is a federal member on the Independent Advisory Panel for Senate Appointments, the Rideau Hall Foundation, the Asia Pacific Foundation and the Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics. Dr. Samarasekera has also devoted her career to advancing innovation in higher education and the private sector, providing national and international leadership through invited lectures and participation on national and international boards and councils. Dr. Samarasekera has received honorary degrees from the University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, University of Montreal, University of Waterloo, Western University in Canada, and Queen's University in Belfast. She was awarded the Order of Canada in 2002 for outstanding contributions to steel process engineering. In 2014 she was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in the US as a foreign associate, the professions highest honour.

Industry Expertise

Mechanical/Industrial Engineering, Research, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Education, University Administration, Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, Research, Board Director

Affiliations

Senior Advisor for Bennett Jones, Board member for Scotiabank and Magna International, Federal member on the Independent Advisory Panel for Senate Appointments, Chair of the Worldwide Universities Network , CEO of the Year Advisory Committee, Distinguished Fellow in Residence Liu Institute, Served as both board member and chair of the National Institute for Nanotechnology

Event Appearances

The Public Eye: Lessons in Leadership from a Female President
Women of Influence Evening Series

Education

University of British Columbia
PhD Metallurgical Engineering

University of California
M.S. Mechanical Engineering

University of Sri Lanka
B.Sc Mechanical Engineering

Accomplishments

Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Engineering
2014

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
2012

Canada's Public Policy Forum Peter Lougheed Award
Leadership in public policy 2012

Officer of the Order of Canada
2002

E.W.R Steacie Fellowship, NSERC
Award recognizing promising young Canadian researchers 1991

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