

Leena Pishe Thomas: International Business, Climate Change Mitigation (Energy, Environment, Transport), Finance, Technology and Project Management Specialist

Leena has over two decades of experience in the field of International Business, Technology and Project Management in the Climate Change Mitigation, Energy, Environment, Transport, Biotech and ICT sectors working with various US, European and Asia-Pac organizations.

Leena established Global Business Inroads ([GBI](http://www.globalbusinessinroads.com)) in September 2009 to assist and serve Government, NGOs, Financial Institutions, and Private Sector organizations with their technology, sustainable energy, environment project development, market access and international business needs. Leena’s unique approach to developmental sector consulting, business strategy, technology and innovation management across borders, combined with business model and financing strategies have focused on tech deployment and ecosystem development. GBI has worked with 100+ technologies – managing their commercialization into India and helping Indian start-ups access US and EU markets. In June 2017, GBI launched the [www.globaltechinterface.com](http://www.globaltechinterface.com) online platform – a global market place for technology showcase and collaboration. This innovation platform supports start-ups and technology companies connect with technology scouters globally.

Leena, as Director and Lead Project Manager, at GBI has been involved in helping international clean energy, environment and transport technology and innovation (CSP, PV, floating solar) access the Indian market. Across the renewable energy and Cleantech spectrum (water, waste, mobility, air), Leena has helped various technology companies and institutions coordinate and manage projects, events, workshops from conceptualizing their India country plans to implementing the same over multiple years.

Leena has worked as Country Program Manager, India and City Director, Delhi, for the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) of the William J. Clinton Foundation from Jan 2007 to July 2009. Leena was instrumental in starting and establishing the Programs of CCI in India, including managing office and staff in multiple locations in India. Ms. Thomas has actively developed and implemented projects in Building Energy Efficiency, Roof-Top Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Outdoor Lighting Energy Efficiency, Municipal Waste Management, Carbon Financing, Hybrid-Electric Vehicles. In the role of Program Manager for the aforementioned areas, Ms. Thomas has continuously engaged with the national and various State governments in India, private sector stakeholders, technology providers, financial institutions and carbon companies to initially identify gaps, find potential solutions, conduct discussions with stakeholders and finally implement projects. The significant results achieved include the a national hybrid-electric bus program being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development, India, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi implementing an energy-efficiency program for 62 buildings, Delhi government and a large utility implementing a roof-top solar program, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi implementing the first integrated waste management project among others.

Prior to this, Leena had her International Business and Project Management Consultancy (1999 – 2006) and did a variety of long and short term assignments for USAID, Alliance to Save Energy, USA, Louis Berger Group, USA, Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, USA and business consulting for private sector wine companies and an educational institution from France. Leena’s 5-year assignment with the USAID/Alliance to Save Energy involved setting up their presence in India, office set up, building and managing the team, development and implementation of energy efficiency projects for the municipal sector in India and Sri Lanka. Leena began her international business career with the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India (1997 – 1999) promoting industrial and commercial relations between India and France.

Leena has completed her B.A. (Honors) in History and Economics from the prestigious Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi and followed that up with business management from ICFAI, Hyderabad. Ms. Thomas has successfully completed the technical Certified Energy Manager’s Course from Atlanta, USA, funded by the US Government and attended the Eurochambres Academy in Brussels to do a course on doing business with Europe, funded by European Commission.

Leena was selected by the US State Department in April 2011 for the US Government’s International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) as a leader in the Clean Energy and Climate Change category and between 2010 – 2014 appointed by the EU Commission’s EBTC project to strategise and develop a program focused to transferring EU clean technologies into the Indian market. Leena was presented the Award for Woman Achiever of the Year 2015 by ISBR, Bangalore.