Private Equity in Emerging Markets at Wharton: Sustainable Private Enterprise

Stephen M. Sammut
Senior Fellow
Wharton Entrepreneurial Program

Abstract:
Small and medium enterprise (SME) sustainability is central to economic growth. SMEs live with the same business realities in the developed world further compounded by scarce capital. Private Equity (PE) in emerging markets is a relatively new asset class. PE funds invest the capital of their own investors--multilateral banks, pension funds, endowments, foundations, governments, and corporations--whose differing missions and performance benchmarks further complicate PE fund operations. Fund managers have unique problems requiring broad knowledge and experience. This session describes principles of PE, its role in sustainable SME growth, and how Wharton prepares students for careers in this important component of global development. The session will also provide an example of a PE fund structure designed to advance the creation of sustainable health care systems in emerging market countries.