



## Intergovernmental Organisations Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region 2021

### Profiles of Moderators



Mr. Koji Fukuda  
Chief Technical Advisor,  
Japan International Cooperation  
Agency (JICA)

Mr. Koji Fukuda has engaged in numerous project implementation and programme management for climate change and environmental sustainability domains for more than 15 years, with his extensive working experiences encompass different regions in Southeast Asia, Pacific and Africa.

Mr. Fukuda currently assumes Chief Technical Advisor role to spearhead JICA's climate change technical cooperation to support NDC implementation in Viet Nam (SPI-NDC). His technical cooperation experiences also include an oversight for regional climate change capacity building for Southeast Asia region, as well as supporting design and implementation of NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action) as pre-2020 mitigation ambition of developing countries.

Prior to joining JICA, Mr. Fukuda has worked for multilateral development organization (UNDP), a global think tank, and a government agency in developing countries. Mr. Fukuda has been engaged in the UNFCCC negotiation process since 2009, and in the past served as the national delegation to cover finance and Durban Platform agenda towards the formulation of the Paris Agreement. Mr. Fukuda holds master's degree in Development Economics.



Prof. Shahbaz Khan  
Director of the UNESCO Office,  
Beijing

Professor Shahbaz Khan is the Director of the UNESCO Office in Beijing and UNESCO Representative to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea.

Prof Khan joined UNESCO in 2008 at its Headquarters as Chief of the Water and Sustainable Development Section. He has worked in Australia, France, Indonesia and Pakistan in various research, consultancy and policy positions around hydrology and sustainable development. His work has been widely recognized e.g. 2019 China Friendship Award and Great Wall Friendship Award China 2017. Prof Khan holds a Hon Doctorate Environment and Development from the National University of Malaysia and Hon DSc from the University of Birmingham.



Mr. Kelvin Sergeant  
Sustainable Enterprise  
Development, ILO

Mr. Kelvin Sergeant is the Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation Specialist for South Asia, based in the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team (DWT) in New Delhi. Mr. Kelvin Sergeant has also worked in the Caribbean as Sustainable Enterprise Development Specialist and Job Creation and was employed as Economic Affairs officer in the Economic Development and Integration Unit at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). He has over twenty (20) years working experience in both the public and private sector combined; and was a lecturer at the University of the West Indies and UWI Open Campus and served as Academic Director at ROYTEC – UWI school of Business and Applied Studies Limited. He also lectured in courses for the University of New Brunswick, Canada.

## Profiles of Speakers in Breakout Session 1- Climate change and green development



Ambassador Solo Mara  
Secretary General,  
Pacific Islands Development  
Forum (PIDF)

Ambassador Solo Mara is the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) since October 2019. Ambassador Mara began his career in May 1989 as a graduate trainee at the Ministry of Home Affairs and later on in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Over the years, Ambassador Mara rose through the diplomatic ranks to serve as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2009-2011), High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (2011-2015) and Ambassador to the United States America (2015-2019).

In recognition of his 20 years contribution in the Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Fiji, Ambassador Mara received from the President of Fiji, His Excellency Major General (Ret) Jioji Konrote, the Fiji 50 Independence Commemorative medal at the State House on October 2020.

Ambassador Mara holds a master's degree in International Relations from the International University of Japan (1997) and a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of the South Pacific (1988). He also received various diplomatic training at the Korean Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (2000) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (2006).

Ambassador Mara is married to Kerry Megan Mara and blessed with two daughters and two sons.

Dr. Md. Masumur Rahman, nominee of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh assumed duties as the Director General of SACEP on 9th August 2021 for a non-renewable period of three years.



Dr. Md Masumur Rahman  
Director General,  
South Asia Co-operative  
Environment Programme  
(SACEP)

Prior to his assumption of duties as the Head of Mission of SACEP, he was the Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. Dr. Rahman joined the Bangladesh Civil Service in the year 1998. During the time of working in the field administration he played a vital role to implement the government decision successfully. Specially as DCDM, he had the honour of receiving the "The Prime Minister's National Award on Tree Plantation for the year 2017".

In his academic carrier he did his Ph.D. in Agroforestry and Environment from Bangobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), Bangladesh. His research title was "Impacts of Climate Change on Wheat Production in Northwest Region of Bangladesh".

He did double master's programme, one in 'Agroforestry and Environment' from the same University and another in 'Government and Politics' from the Asian University of Bangladesh. Dr. Rahman did his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka. He played an important and significant role to coordinate the emergency response to manage the evacuees for their rehabilitation to come back in normal life during working in the field administration in Rampal, Bagerhat which was seriously affected by cyclone CIDR.



Mr. Iosefa Maiava  
Head of the ESCAP  
Subregional Office for the  
Pacific

Mr. Maiava joined the United Nations in 2008 as the Head of the ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific, from his post as Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Nauru. Prior to his work with the Government of Nauru, he served as Deputy-Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat from 1999 to 2007.

Mr. Maiava attained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Degree from the University of Papua New Guinea and a Master of Arts in International Relations from the Australian National University. His areas of specialty include sustainable development, regional cooperation and integration, political economy and leadership.



Ms. 'Ofa Kaisamy  
Manager of Pacific Climate  
Change Centre Secretariat of  
the Pacific Regional Environment  
Programme (SPREP)

Ms. 'Ofa Kaisamy leads the operational delivery and strategic direction of the Pacific Climate Change Centre. Her vision is for the Centre to function as a 'Centre of Excellence', "for the Pacific people, for climate change information, for research and innovation, for capacity development programs in adaptation, mitigation, climate services and project development".

As Manager of the Pacific Climate Change Centre, 'Ofa's top priority is for the Pacific people to benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change. She also hopes to promote and foster applied research, drive innovation, and improve the flow of practical information between met services, climate practitioners, policy makers, researchers and those implementing policies, programmes, and projects.

Ms. 'Ofa Kaisamy successfully completed a Master of Laws in Environmental Law from the Australian National University, a Bachelor of Law from the University of the South Pacific, and a Diploma in Ocean Laws and Policy from the Aegean Institute of the Law of the Sea and Maritime Law in Greece. Additionally, she has had an extensive professional experience working for the Government of Tonga, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the AusAid funded project under the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI) before joining the SPREP in 2017.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Profiles of Speakers in Breakout Session 2- Digital transformation for COVID-19 Recovery



Mr. Masanori Kondo  
Secretary General,  
Asia-Pacific Telecommunity  
(APT)

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the APT, brings to his post over 25 years of eminent experience and expertise both in national and international stage.

Before joining APT, Mr. Kondo had long tenure with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan. His international experiences include working as a diplomat at the Japanese Embassy in Jordan (1996-1999), and as a policy maker for bilateral and multilateral issues for G7, OECD, APEC, ITU etc. (2002-04, 2008-2014). He also implemented many projects under PPP in ICT field and collaborated with many international organizations and private sectors.

Mr. Kondo holds B.A. in Economics from Keio University in Japan and MSc. in Economics from the London School of Economics (LSE) in the United Kingdom. He was also a visiting scholar at Harvard University (Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2003-04) in the United States.



Prof. Dr. Bambang Pramujtati  
Vice Rector for Research,  
Sepuluh Nopember Institute of  
Technology (ITS),  
Commission on Science and  
Technology for Sustainable  
Development in the South  
(COMSATS) Centre of  
Excellence

Prof. Dr. Bambang Pramujtati is a Vice Rector for Research, Innovation, Partnership and Alumni of Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS), Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) Center of Excellence.

Prof. Dr. Bambang Pramujtati began his education in the Undergraduate program of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Institute Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember before going on to pursue a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, England and having completed his doctorate in Mechanical Engineering at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton-Canada.

In 2015, Bambang received an award from the Ministry of Education as the outstanding head of department while serving as head of the department from 2011 until 2018, Bambang is also served as Reviewer of National Research and Establishment of New Program by DIKTI. Currently, this professor of Mechanical Engineering is assigned as Vice-Rector IV for Research, Innovation, Cooperation, and Alumni for the 2019-2024 period.



Ms. Atsuko Okuda  
Regional Director,  
International  
Telecommunication  
Union/Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (ITU/BDT)  
Asia and Pacific Office

Ms. Atsuko Okuda was appointed as the Regional Director in April 2020. Prior to the new assignment, she was the Chief of the ICT and Development Section of the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Bangkok, Thailand from 2015 to 2020.

Before joining ESCAP, Ms. Okuda served the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut as the Chief of the Governance and State building Section and as the Team Leader responsible for ESCWA Knowledge Management. Prior to it, she contributed to the Umoja project, the UN Secretariat ERP initiative, as Testing Manager at the Department of Management, UNHQ for 2 years.

Ms. Okuda obtained a B.A. from Kyoto University (Japan), M.A. from Helsinki University (Finland), and has currently been enrolled as a research fellow on e-governance at the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) in the Netherlands.



Ms. Kate Sutton  
Head of the Regional  
Innovation Centre  
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

Ms. Kate Sutton is an accomplished senior leader with extensive international experience leading innovation and entrepreneurship in the African, European and Pacific regions. Prior to the UNDP, Kate spent the last three years as Head of Corporate Social Innovation at the UK's Innovation Foundation, Nesta where she was responsible for shaping and leading programmes with the private sector for social change and building cross sector partnerships.

In all her work Kate likes to combine a deep understanding and practical experience of innovation with commercial acumen and an entrepreneurial spirit to solve world scale problems. Kate is a current BMW Foundation Global Leader and has a successful governance career. Kate holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Cranfield University (UK) and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Politics from the University of Auckland (New Zealand).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Profiles of Speakers in Breakout Session 3-SMEs and Entrepreneurship for COVID-19 recovery



Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn  
Executive Director,  
Mekong Institute

As Mekong Institute's Executive Director beginning on September 1, 2020, Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn steers the strategic planning and implementation of the intergovernmental organization's human resource development, capacity strengthening, and research efforts to spur the acceleration of sustainable socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Recognized as a respected development leader and regional integration advocate, Mr. Suriyan holds over 15 years of experience in delivering innovative approaches and sustainable practices across his specialized areas of agriculture and rural development, public-private partnership, and trade facilitation in the GMS and Southeast Asia.

As Deputy Cluster Coordinator, Mr. Suriyan spearheaded project steering and management, as well as partnership development in the food and agriculture sectors across the GMS. He, as the Regional Project Director of the Better Rice Initiative Asia from 2014 to 2017, also ushered several rice-related initiatives, which continue to be adapted and implemented by major rice-producing countries across Southeast Asia today.

In addition, Mr. Suriyan carries an extensive international development network, having assumed key positions at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat in Indonesia, and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. Mr. Suriyan is a Thai national and graduate of Faculty of Fisheries at Kasetsart University, Thailand. He completed his master's degree program on Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems (MAKS) at the Wageningen Agricultural University, the Netherlands.

Dr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi (Ph.D.) is a Deputy Secretary General, Economic Cooperation Organization Agriculture, Industry, Trade and Investment (July 2019-To Date).



Dr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi  
Deputy Secretary General,  
Economic Cooperation  
Organisation (ECO)

He has served for several multilateral and bilateral donors, e.g. USAID and GIZ. He has served as the Director General of Transit and Trade Facilitation at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (June 2011-June 2019). He served as the Director General for following up with Transit Agreements and renovations of MOIC. He oversaw the Transit Department's focus on developing and supporting countries USA, Germany, Switzerland, UAE, France, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Malaysia, and China and Central Asian Countries to facilitate transit and trade. He has a vast experience in transit issues, and combined with his extensive private sector experience, the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA) and Transit & Trade Facilitation witnessed significant achievements. He played an important and significant role in the organization of different trade fairs. He has published his study on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Economic Development of Afghanistan.

He was Born in Ghazni province of Afghanistan. He holds a doctoral degree in Business Administration and has a number of scientific research and publications to his name. He is happily married and has one son.



Mr. Chanchal Chand Sarkar  
Director,  
Economic Trade Finance  
South Asian Association for  
Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Mr. Chanchal Chand Sarkar joined as the Director representing India at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu on 9 August 2018. Mr. Sarkar joined Indian Civil Services in the year 1999.

Prior to joining Civil Services, Mr. Sarkar had worked as a Consultant at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi and dealt multilateral and regional issues including WTO, EU related issues. After joining the Government of India (GoI) his first posting was in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), GoI in 2001. Mr. Sarkar has worked at various capacities including as Deputy Secretary and Director in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and looked after various Finance, Trade and Investment related issues since 2009.

Prior to his current posting at SAARC Secretariat, he served as Director since 2015 in the International Investment Treaties and Framework (IITF) Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, GoI and was responsible for negotiating all International Investment Agreements on behalf of India. During this period, he was also responsible for handling investment related disputes arising out of the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs).

He holds M. Sc. in Public Management and Governance from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London besides M.A. and M. Phil. in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. He is married and has a daughter.



Ms. Penchan Manawanichkul  
Head of Enterprise &  
Stakeholder  
Engagement Division,  
ASEAN Secretariat

Ms. Penchan currently serves the ASEAN Secretariat as Head of Enterprise & Stakeholders Engagement Division, Market Integration Directorate of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Department. Prior to that, she was Director of Foreign Affairs at the Federation of Thai Industries. She has vast experience working with the public and private sectors as well as financial institutions.

Ms. Penchan was instrumental in the design and formulation of the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (SAP SMED) 2016-2025 and has completed key ASEAN SME flagship projects namely, ASEAN Business Incubation Network, ASEAN SME Development Toolkit, ASEAN SME Credit Rating Methodology, among others.

While she was the Management Consultant at IBM Thailand and Deloitte Consulting SEA, she had delivered the banking transformation and business process reengineering for several banks in Thailand and Malaysia. Ms. Penchan has an MBA degree in Finance from Chulalongkorn University and B.A. in Economics from Thammasat University in Thailand.





Ms. Esther Bates  
Project Manager for the Pacific  
Green Entrepreneur Network,  
Global Green Growth Institute  
(GGGI)

Ms. Esther Bates is the Project Manager for the Pacific Green Entrepreneur Network. Ms. Bates has technical expertise in supporting entrepreneurs through access to finance and coaching support, in particular in the Pacific, South and Southeast Asia and Africa. Beyond this, her experience spans innovation, results measurement, social performance, project and commercial management in NGOs, private and international organizations.

Prior to joining GGGI, Ms. Bates worked with World Vision Australia as the Technical Lead on Financial Inclusion in their Economic Empowerment team for over three years, supporting projects in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Ghana and Laos. Her portfolio included implementing innovative approaches to enable Small and Growing Businesses (SGBs) to scale in order to achieve inclusive economic development through improved access to credit, ongoing business coaching and other forms of technical assistance.

Prior to this, Ms. Bates spent four years based in Fiji, working with the joint United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Capital Development Fund Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) and Australian microfinance NGO Good Return as their Fiji in-country representative.

Ms. Bates holds a master's degree in Public Administration (International Development), in addition to her Commerce degree and Graduate Certificate of Management. Born in the UK, she has also lived in Malaysia, Singapore, Australia.