



World Access to Higher Education Day (WAHED) 2020 Asia Conference

Access and Success for Marginalised Groups in Asian Higher Education

**Tuesday, 17 November 2020
11.00AM-2.00PM Singapore time**



Speakers, Facilitators and Organisers

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

By alphabetical order of surname

**Ms Cynthia C
CHANG**

Head (Office of Service-Learning & Community Engagement), Singapore University of Social Sciences

Singapore



Cynthia Chang is Head (Office of Service-Learning & Community Engagement) at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. She brings close to two decades of commitment to youth development through community-building in Singapore and wider Southeast Asia, as volunteer, practitioner and educator, bridging the needs, assets and resources of the social and education sectors. She received her Master of Tri-Sector Collaboration from Singapore Management University and is passionate about partnering societal leaders and leaders-in-the-making for collective good.

**Dr Edizon Angeles
FERMIN**

Vice President for Academic Affairs, National Teachers College; Co-Chair of Technical Panel for Teacher Education, Commission on Higher Education

The Philippines



A researcher and national trainer in learner-centered outcomes-based education, Dr Edizon Angeles Fermin has trained teachers and education leaders from the preschool to tertiary levels, and even technical and vocational schools. He continues to work with the British Council and the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED) International Affairs Staff in developing policy and practice pathways in transnational education and adult education, especially in terms of quality assurance. In 2019 he completed his training in equitable access to education as a scholar of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. In responding to the complex educational implications of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, he currently provides expert advice to the CHED Technical Working Group in Flexible Learning.

**Mr Anthony
GARTNER**

Manager,
AccessAbility,
La Trobe University

President of the
Australian Tertiary
Education Network
on Disability



Anthony Gartner is a social worker with over 20 years of experience and a commitment to enhancing the educational opportunities for people living with disability. As manager of the AccessAbility Hub at La Trobe University in Melbourne Australia, and President of the Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability, he is working to ensure that people living with disability are afforded the best of tertiary education experience and equipped for an emerging future.

Australia

**Professor Emeritus
Dr Chanita
RUKSPOLLMUANG**

Vice President and
Dean of Graduate
School in Education
at Siam University



Dr. Chanita Rukspollmuang is Vice President and Dean of Graduate School in Education at Siam University, Bangkok, Thailand. She is also responsible for general education and sustainability matters at her university. Before joining this institution, she was Dean of Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University and a Professor in Development Education. Dr. Chanita is member in several National Committees of the Ministry of Education and the University Academic Committee.

Thailand

SPEAKERS

By alphabetical order of surname

**Dr Graeme
ATHERTON**

Director,
National Education
Opportunities
Network (NEON)

United Kingdom



Dr Atherton founded and leads the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON): the national professional organisation for equality and diversity in higher education in UK. He has produced nearly 200 publications, holds visiting professorships at 3 different universities including Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur and leads on the World Access to Higher Education Day initiative.

**Dr Tiffany
CONE**

Associate Dean of
Core Program
Professor in Cultural
Anthropology

Asian University
for Women

Bangladesh



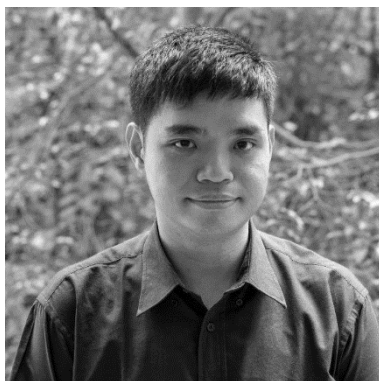
Dr Tiffany Cone is Associate Dean of the Core Program and Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology at the Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chittagong, Bangladesh. She holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the Australian National University and a BA (Hons) in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Otago. Her primary research field is psychological anthropology and she specifically focuses on questions of communication, personal identity, selfhood and subjectivity. She is currently working on a long-term research project about self-cultivation amongst displaced populations. This project aims to understand the experiences of refugee and migrant women in navigating educational pathways in two contrasting locales. She has a long-standing broader interest in the role of HE for marginalised groups.

Mr James CHAN

Student of
Psychology,
Singapore University
of Social Sciences

Inclusion Advisor,
Asia-Europe
Foundation (ASEF)

Singapore



James Chan is the Inclusion Advisor for the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). He is working with the organisation to review and strengthen inclusive hiring and workplace policies, structures and accessibility features.

He is also a student of the BSc in Psychology course at Singapore Universities of Social Sciences.

He regularly volunteers with the Disabled Peoples' Association as an Inclusive Ambassador and has also been a member of the Working Group of the Parallel Report on the United Nations Conventions on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities for Singapore.

**Dr. J. Prospero de
Vera III**

Chairman,
Commission
on Higher
Education
(CHED)

The Philippines



Dr. J. Prospero de Vera III has been appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte as chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on 24 January 2018 until 21 July 2022, where he previously served as Commissioner and Officer-in-Charge. As CHED Chairperson, Dr. De Vera is also the Chairperson of the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University of the Philippines, the highest policy-making body of the University and served as vice president for public affairs of the UP System from 2011. He is an alumnus of UP, having earned his Bachelor of Arts, major in History with a minor

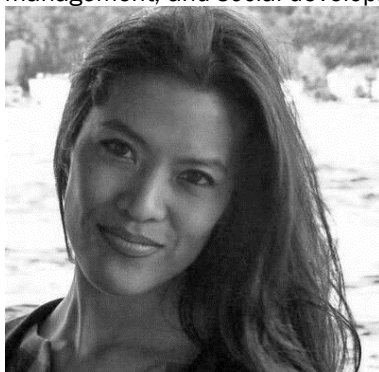
in Political Science, and his Doctorate degree in Public Administration. He has a Master of Arts degree, major in Social Sciences with a minor in Political Science, from De La Salle University. His specializations include demography/population, environmental policy, higher education governance, legislative studies, monitoring and evaluation, non-governmental organizations, policy analysis, political management, and social development.

Ms Lilianne FAN

Co-Founder,
Geutanyoe
Foundation

Chair, Rohingya
Working Group Asia
Pacific Refugee
Rights Network

Malaysia



Lilianne Fan is Co-Founder and International Director of Geutanyoë Foundation, a regional humanitarian organisation based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Aceh, Indonesia; and Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's Rohingya Working Group (APRRN). She is a cultural anthropologist and humanitarian professional with more than 20 years of experience working with refugees, internally displaced persons, and communities affected by conflict and disaster, including in Aceh, Myanmar, Haiti and with Syrian refugees in Jordan, and currently

specialises on the situation of the stateless Rohingya in Rakhine State and in ASEAN. She provides regular expertise to a range of institutions and governments including the UN, the World Bank, ASEAN, the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Indonesia.

Mr Musa FAZAL

Group Director,
Planning Group,
SkillsFuture

Singapore



planning for the organisation and SkillsFuture movement up to 2025.

Musa Fazal is a career public servant who has spent 17 years in the Singapore public service in various roles and organisations. These include the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Manpower. In 2018, he joined SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), a statutory body under the Ministry of Education, tasked with ensuring working adults have access to high quality training to stay relevant in the future economy. At SSG, he oversees the Planning Group, which is responsible for strategic and resource

Mr Yosea KURNIANTO

Deputy Director,
SDG Academy
Indonesia,
a Partnership of
UNDP, Tanoto
Foundation, and the
Indonesian Ministry
of National Planning
and Development



Indonesia

Industrial Relations from the Manchester Business School, England, with a full scholarship from the Government of the UK, under the Chevening Awards programme in 2018. He also earned the Certified Human Resources Professional and the Certified Professional Coach. As an education and human capital development enthusiast, he pursued his career previously as a human capital practitioner and consultant in various industries.

Yosea Kurnianto is the Deputy Director for the SDG Academy Indonesia, an innovative capacity building programme for state and non-state actors in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); a partnership of UNDP, Tanoto Foundation and the Indonesian Ministry of National Planning and Development (Bappenas).

He received his Bachelor's degree in Education from Sampoerna University, Indonesia, in 2013 with a full scholarship from the Putera Sampoerna Foundation and his Master's degree in HR Management and

Mr MORIKAWA Toru

Executive Director
Asia-Europe
Foundation (ASEF)



Regional Economic Cooperation and has experience in cultivating and enhancing partnerships for projects with different organisations including the private sector. Mr MORIKAWA received his Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Tokyo. He is fluent in Japanese, French, and English. He is married with two children.

Mr MORIKAWA Toru (Japan) joined the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) as its 8th Executive Director in August 2020. ASEF's leadership alternates between Asia and Europe every four years.

Mr MORIKAWA is a seasoned career diplomat bringing decades of experience and expertise to ASEF. His previous postings include serving as Minister, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Iran; and Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in France where he was in charge of various cultural exchange initiatives. He has also worked in the areas of Media and

**HE Ms Kara
OWEN**

British High
Commissioner to
Singapore

ASEF Governor for
United Kingdom

United Kingdom



Ms Owen has been the British High Commissioner to Singapore since 26 June 2019. Before becoming High Commissioner, Ms Owen was most recently Director for the Americas at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She has previously served as Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassies in Paris and Hanoi.

Ms Owen graduated from the University of Sheffield with a BA in History. She has a MSc from LSE in Diplomacy and International Strategy and a MSc from Cranfield University in International Human Resource

Management. Alongside her diplomatic work, she has focused on diversity issues and organisational development.

Ms Owen was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the 2020 HM The Queen's Birthday Honours and was appointed as Commander of the Victorian Order (CVO) in 2014.

The High Commissioner is the UK government's representative in a Commonwealth nation. They are responsible for the direction and work of the High Commission and its Deputy High Commissions and/or Consulates, including political work, trade and investment, press and cultural relations and consular services.

**Professor Sarah
O'SHEA**

Director, National
Centre for Student
Equity in Higher
Education, Curtin
University

Australia



Professor Sarah O'Shea is the Director, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) which is hosted by Curtin University. She has spent over twenty-five years working to effect change within the higher education sector through research that focuses on the access and participation of students from identified equity groups. Her institutional and nationally funded research studies advance understanding of how under-represented student cohorts enact success within university, navigate transition into this environment, manage competing identities

and negotiate aspirations for self and others. This work is highly regarded for applying diverse conceptual and theoretical lenses to tertiary participation, which incorporate theories of social class, identity work, gender studies and poverty. Sarah has published extensively in the field and has been awarded over \$AUD3 million in grant funding since 2009, she is also an Australian Learning and Teaching Fellow (ALTF), a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (PFHEA), and a Churchill Fellow (CF).

**Associate Professor
Tim PITMAN**

Senior Research
and Equity Fellow,
National Centre for
Student Equity in
Higher Education

Curtin University

Australia



Associate Professor Tim Pitman is a researcher of higher education policy at Curtin University. His specific interest is in how universities can widen access, participation and success for groups of students historically underrepresented in higher education. This includes persons from low socioeconomic status backgrounds; Indigenous persons; people with disability; people from non-English speaking backgrounds; and people from regional and remote parts of Australia.

**Professor Emeritus
Tan Sri Dzul kifli bin
Abdul RAZAK**

Rector,
International Islamic
University Malaysia

Malaysia



Dzul kifli Abdul Razak is currently the Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia. He was the Vice Chancellor of USM from 2000-2011. He is the immediate past president of IAU, a UNESCO-affiliated organisation, based in Paris. He was the Convenor of the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development based in USM beginning 2005. He was the first Asian recipient of the prestigious 2017 Gilbert Medal. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (FASc), the World Academy of Art and Science (FWAAS) and the

World Academy of Islamic Management (FWAIM).

Dzul kifli Abdul Razak is an Advisory Board Member, Institute of Sustainable Development and Learning, Leuphana University from June 2019. He was an invited speaker at the 2015 Nobel Dialogue in Sweden and 2020 Nobel Prize Dialogue in South Korea scheduled in October 2021. Recently he was appointed as a member of the Qatar Foundation Higher Education Strategy Advisory Panel.

Dr Suman SHARMA

Principal
Lady Sri Ram
College for Women,
University of Delhi

India



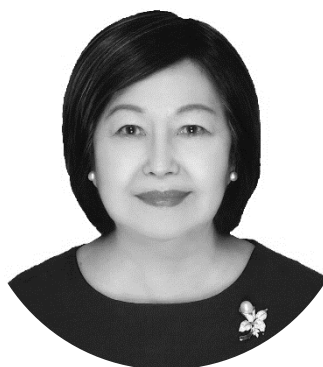
Dr Suman Sharma is the Principal of Lady Sri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi (India). She has taught in different colleges of University of Delhi for more than three decades. She has been the elected member of the Academic Council of Delhi University. She has published a number of books and articles, research papers in national and international journals and presented in national and international seminars. She was nominated for the Indo-Sri Lankan Cultural Exchange Programme by the Indian Council Social Science Research (ICSSR). She has done

major research on Climate Change and on "College-School Collaborations" sponsored by the Indian Council Social Science Research (ICSSR). Dr Sharma has been awarded a number of awards. Her research areas include Regional Cooperation in South Asia, Environmental and Gender issues.

**Dr Chantavit
SUJATANOND**

Director, Southeast
Asian Ministers of
Education
Organisation,
Regional Centre for
Higher Education
and Development
(SEAMEO RIHED)

Thailand



Dr Chantavit Sujatanond is the Centre Director of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) and was earlier the Deputy Director (Administration and Communication) of the SEAMEO Secretariat during 2004-2007. She was the Deputy Secretary-General for the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Ministry of Education (MOE) Thailand during 2007-2009 added up to almost two decades of service at OHEC. Earlier posts before were Director of International

Cooperation at the National Education Council and Inspector General at the MOE. Dr Chantavit earned her PhD degree in Education Administration, the Education Specialist (EdS) degree in Curriculum Development & Instruction and a Master's degree in Linguistics from Michigan State University, USA. She also received the Elaine K. Komo Award of the East-West Center, Hawaii, for the outstanding accomplishments in strengthening internationalisation in 1992.

In her administrative capacities at OHEC, she represented Thailand in various intergovernmental bilateral and multilateral cooperation platforms regionally and internationally.

**Ms Linh Giang
TRAN**

Graduate Student,
School of Public
Policy, Central
European University
(CEU)

Viet Nam



Linh Giang Tran is a graduate student at the School of Public Policy, Central European University in Vienna, Austria. Her main interests are Higher Education, Development, Women's Rights and Disabilities. She has been working as a graduate student consultant with the Polish Red Cross and UNDP Turkey.

Prior to studying at the Central European University, she worked for over five years as Project Officer at Vietnamese NGOs in the field of Education (vocational training school and experimental learning) and Development. She

is the Co-founder of an educational project to read books for children at Children's Hospitals and was chosen to be a member of Wedu Global, a platform that invests in leadership development for women changemakers across the globe.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

**Mr Parkhat
YUSSUPJANOV**

President,
"Jiger" - Youth
Organization of
Persons with
Disabilities

Kazakhstan



Parkhat Yussupjanov has fifteen years of experience in the nonprofit sector. He earned an Executive Master's Degree in Development Policies & Practices from the Graduate Institute of Geneva, as well as an MPA from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. His areas of particular expertise and interest include national- and local-level disability policy, ethnic minority inclusion and equality and international development.

Since 2011, he has been serving as President of Jiger, a youth organization of persons with

disabilities that he co-founded in Kazakhstan. Under his leadership, Jiger established the first disability support centers for students in the country and successfully lobbied for policy changes at the national level to ensure educational environments support people with disabilities. He implemented more than 25 projects on capacity development of youth with disabilities. He has extensive experience consulting for state and local governments, primarily specializing in disability access to education, access to infrastructure and information, employment and electoral rights of persons with disabilities.

ORGANISERS

By alphabetical order of surname

**Ms Freya
CHOW-PAUL**

Project Coordinator,
Education
Department,
Asia-Europe
Foundation (ASEF)



Freya Chow-Paul, a British national with Singaporean heritage, joined the Education Department in 2019, having previously been an intern in 2018. She supports projects under ASEFEdu's Young Leaders Programme, including the ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS), ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU) and Model ASEM.

She graduated from the University of Sussex, England, with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Development. During her undergraduate, she undertook two study abroad exchanges, a summer school in

Taipei at the National Taiwan University, and in Malmö, Sweden, for her third year at Malmö University under the Erasmus programme. Through her studies, she focused on peace and conflict studies, as well as education in development. At the University of Sussex, she was a Student Representative for the International

Relations Department and a Student Ambassador, representing the university to prospective students.

Passionate about theatre, she also has seven years extra-curricular experience in technical theatre where she worked primarily in stage management.

**Ms Leonie
NAGARAJAN**

Director,
Education
Department,
Asia-Europe
Foundation (ASEF)



Leonie Nagarajan has been working in the field of international relations for over 15 years, with a focus on Education Diplomacy since 2014. With an education programme portfolio that covers 51 countries across Asia and Europe, her work addresses education policies, higher education cooperation, activities in the field of lifelong learning as well as experiential learning and skills development for young people. As Chief of Staff, she also advised and supported Asian and European ASEF Executive Directors in the planning and implementation of ASEF's long-range strategy, programmes and operations. Prior to joining ASEF, she worked in Public Affairs and Communication for cultural institutions. Having studied in Germany, with a stint at Haskoli Reykjavik, Iceland, she received her Master's degree in Communication Sciences with minors in cultural and political sciences from the Free University and Humboldt University in Berlin.

Headquarter in Paris, France and at the Norwegian Centre for ICT in Education in Oslo, Norway.

**Ms Jyoti
RAHAMAN**

Project Coordinator,
Education
Department,
Asia-Europe
Foundation (ASEF)



Jyoti Rahaman, a Bangladeshi national, joined ASEF's Education Department in 2018 and co-coordinates projects under ASEF's Teaching and Learning Programme, including the [ASEF Classroom Network \(ASEFClassNet\)](#).

Prior to joining ASEF, Jyoti worked as a Humanitarian Data Analyst for the Humanitarian Information Service (HIS) project for Internews and BBC Media Action in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where she analysed massive amount of data from UN agencies and INGOs on refugees. She also worked with the Education Policy Unit Team at the UNESCO

Headquarter in Paris, France and at the Norwegian Centre for ICT in Education in Oslo, Norway.

She has a Bachelor's degree with a major in Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE) and a minor in Asian Studies from the Asian University for Women, Bangladesh. She obtained her Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) on Education Policies for Global Development from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, University of Oslo and University of Malta. Her dissertation explored the challenges of innovating learning environment in schools to prepare learners for the 4th industrial era.

**Ms Reka
TOZSA**

Project Manager,
Education
Department,
Asia-Europe
Foundation (ASEF)



Réka Tozsa, a Hungarian national, joined ASEF's Education Department in 2017. She leads the ASEF Education Policy Programme, and her work focuses on Inclusion, Digitalisation, and Sustainable Development Goals. She is currently leading the creation of a Policy Outlook Report on "Outlook 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe" for the 8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC8). ARC8 invites Asian and European students and Education leaders to leverage on the current COVID-19 disruption and make inclusion and

diversity central values of their paradigm shift.

She started her professional career as a government official, working on civil service training systems and on the reform of higher education policy of the

Hungarian Government. She was appointed to Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy State Secretary for Higher Education and to staff member of the Hungarian EU Presidency. Prior to joining ASEF, she was the Head of International Office at the National University of Public Service (NUPS) in Hungary, responsible for international student and staff mobility, strategic partnerships, and the international branding of the university.

**Mr Martin
VIDANES**

Communication
Expert,
Asia-Europe
Foundation (ASEF)



Martin Vidanes is a Filipino multimedia designer. He joined ASEF in January 2019 and brings with him his experience in design and marketing from a variety of industries and fields. He is well versed in both print and digital work but specialises in graphic and motion design as well as video editing. Prior to joining ASEF, Martin was employed by two multinational companies over a span of five years. He has also worked in the editing room of several award-winning independent Filipino films either as an assistant editor or a colourist. As a consultant, he has worked on several projects with organisations such as the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Nickelodeon, The Asia Foundation, The Office of (Ret.) Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, and Accord, inc. Martin is a graduate of the University of the Philippines – Diliman with a BA in Art Studies (Interdisciplinary).