

#ASEFClassNet2021



Resource Persons Booklet

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ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations Facilitators Capacity Building on Education & SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

German



Dr Renata DUDA-MERLE
Language Teacher
Küstengymnasium Neustadt i.H.
Germany

Renata has a Ph.D. on Transgender Issues in Young Adult (YA) Literature. The focus of her work was to challenge schools as highly heteronormative environments and to discuss YA literature as a means for bringing gender-related discussions into the classrooms. For her academic work, she received the Gender Research Prize from the University of Kiel. Currently, she is a Secondary School Teacher for EFL (English as Foreign Language) and GFL (German as Foreign Language). Throughout the last ten years, she has taught in both Germany and other European countries such as Poland and Kosovo.

Portugal



Dr Maria da Piedade DA SILVA
EFL Teacher, Teacher trainer, Project Coordinator,
Agrupamento de Escolas de Sátão
Portugal

Maria Silva has been teaching English at Agrupamento de Escolas de Sátão in Portugal for over twenty years. She is also a Teacher Trainer (Edufor Training Centre), a researcher 2019/20 and 2020/21, affiliated to the CECC - Research Centre for Communication and Culture, Universidade Católica Portuguesa and a Certified Microsoft Innovative Educator and MIE Expert 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021.

In 2000, Maria Silva enrolled in an MA course presenting a thesis entitled "Contribution to a Dialogical Pedagogy of Orality" which presents a shifting learning environment based on project work that moves from teacher-centered pedagogy to students-centered pedagogy. In 2008, she enrolled in a PhD course on Linguistics and Language Teaching and in 2012 and completed the course with excellence by defending her thesis: "The eTwinning LOA project: An Intercultural Approach to the Pedagogical Integration of ICT in Language Teaching".

Maria won several awards for conducting international projects.



Mr Fernando ORINGO
Social Studies Teacher
Institute of Global Citizens- Thai Binh Duong Campus
Viet Nam

Fernando is a Philippine national and is currently working as a Social Studies Teacher and International Curriculum Extra-Curricular Coordinator at IGC School Thai Binh Duong Primary-Middle-High School, Viet Nam. Previously, he was a High School Social Studies and Research Teacher (2013–2017) and Grade School Academic Head of Lorma Basic Education Schools (2017–2019). He has a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a Major in Social Studies from Saint Louis University, Philippines, and pursued his Master's degree in Sociology at Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam. Fernando first joined the ASEF ClassNet in 2015 and coordinated the project "Feeding the Hungry Planet." He has coached students in international competitions throughout his teaching career and participated in conferences in Malaysia, Indonesia, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Viet Nam, and Thailand.

ASEF ClassNet School Collaborations Facilitators **Capacity Building on Education & SDG3 (Good Health & Well-being)**

India



Ms Geeta RAJAN
Head, International Affairs
St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, Meera Bagh
India

Geeta is the Head of International Affairs at St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School in Meera Bagh, New Delhi, India. An ardent believer of going beyond the four walls of a classroom, Geeta initiated the use of ICT (Information & Communication Technology) in her classrooms even when it was just an idea in many parts of the world. She encouraged her students to learn beyond classrooms and empowered them to engage in a plethora of collaborative projects with students from all parts of the world. Together with their peers, her students have written books, designed magazines, and websites. They have also won multiple national & international awards. With an experience that spans more than a decade, Geeta believes that cross-country education is crucial to prepare her students with the mindsets needed for a global world. She is an ASEF ClassNet alumnus.

India



Ms Seema ARORA
TGT English
St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, Meera Bagh
India

Seema is a Senior English Teacher in St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, Meera Bagh. She has been an alumnus of ASEF ClassNet since 2010 when her school hosted the 9th ASEF Classroom Network Conference in New Delhi. She has also participated in several ASEF projects and has coordinated many award-winning projects. Seema has successfully led student delegations to partner schools in Greece, Slovenia, and Malaysia. In 2020, Seema participated in the ASEF ClassNet School Collaboration "A New Education Scenario: Wellbeing of Teachers, Students & Parents" wherein she represented her school and her country in two activities, "Better Together-Parents and Teachers" and "Cross-Country Education".



Ms Daiva VAIŠNORIENĖ
Project Coordinator
Kaunas Waldorf School
Lithuania

Daiva is a Project Coordinator and IT Teacher at Kaunas Waldorf School. She has a Bachelor's degree in Information Technologies (Lithuania) and two Master's degrees in Education Technologies (Lithuania) and Distance Teaching Methods in Higher Education (Belgium). During her twenty years of working experience, she has worked in secondary schools in Kaunas, at Kaunas College and the theDistance Learning Studio of the Lithuanian University of Agriculture, as well as an international team leader of an IT company. Daiva is also the Co-founder of the NGO "The House of Activity and Creativity" which involves people in participatory amateur art activities for building and supporting local communities. Daiva is interested in user-friendly and sustainable Information Technology (IT) tools for day-to-day use, both in her daily life and in her classroom.



Ms Cristina DRESCAN
Teacher, Teacher Trainer & Project Manager
Liceul Tehnologic Lucian Blaga
Romania

Cristina's teaching career spans over 33 years, with 24 years in project management and 23 years in teaching. She is an English-German Teacher and eager to enhance ways how languages and skills are taught and practised in schools. In this regard, she continuously seeks to involve her students and fellow teachers in innovative education projects. Some of these projects were either initiated by cultural, social, educational institutions, for example the Goethe Institute or

the British Council, or civic movements and organisations. Cristina has expertise in diverse types of school projects, including bilateral and multilateral school initiatives. In the long run, she believes that projects like Comenius and now Erasmus+ have a significant impact. Some of her latest youth projects are Bina Mira and Peace Camp that provide a platform for young people to meet and benefit from life-changing creative workshops.



Ms April LEE
Head of Department, Character & Citizenship Education
Woodlands Secondary School
Singapore

April is a Nutrition and Food Science Teacher and Head of Department for Character and Citizenship Education at Woodlands Secondary School in Singapore. In her current portfolio, she leads the school's efforts & activities towards contributing to the well-being of students while designing a school wide approach to nurture active citizenry dispositions in her students. She also conducts training and pedagogical discussions with teachers engaged in character and citizenship education. With more than 15 years in the education sector, April is determined and passionate towards uplifting students and helping them progress on the social mobility ladder with education.



Mr Ivan ONG
School Staff Developer
Woodlands Secondary School
Singapore

Ivan is the School Staff Developer in Woodlands Secondary School. He champions staff professional development and staff well-being so as to bring about positive students' outcomes, school improvement, and professional growth of school staff.

Webinar Speakers

Capacity Building on Education & SDG 5 (Gender Equality)

Germany



Dr Renata DUDA-MERLE
Language Teacher
Küstengymnasium Neustadt i.H.
Germany

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Portugal



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EFL Teacher, Teacher trainer, Project Coordinator,
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Singapore



Ms Lavinia THANAPATHY
Founding Chair, Inspiring Girls Singapore
LinkedIn Top Voice, TEDx Speaker
Co-author “Unleash Your Voice, Powerful
Public Speaking for Every Woman”
Singapore

Lavinia is the Founding Chair of Inspiring Girls Singapore and a former Vice President at the Singapore Council of Women’s Organisations (SCWO). She is passionately committed to creating an equal future through the empowerment of women & girls. A lawyer by training and a branding expert by profession, Lavinia has served as Honorary Secretary at HCA Hospice Care and was a three-term President at PrimeTime Business & Professional Women’s Association. In addition to her board roles, Lavinia speaks on issues around gender diversity at organisations like the World Intellectual Property Organisation, DHL, and Google. She is also a sought-after media commentator on issues around women and leadership. www.laviniathanapathy.com.

Webinar Speakers

Capacity Building on Education & SDG3 (Good Health & Well-being)

Germany



Mr Ralf HÜBNER
Vice Principal
Küstengymnasium Neustadt
Germany

Ralf Hübner is Vice Principal of Küstengymnasium Neustadt in Germany and teaches English and German literature. He obtained his Master’s Degree in English and German Literature Studies at Kiel University. He was Chairman of the 4th AEC Teachers Conference in Grömitz/Germany and has been collaborating in projects and student exchange schemes with schools in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and India. Since 2008 he has been contributing to teacher training courses of Flensburg University as a part-time lecturer with regard to ICT in teacher training. For the MOE he has been working as an adviser and lecturer on school development projects on how to introduce and implement ICT concepts into schools.

India



Dr Samir PARIKH
Consultant Psychiatrist & Director of Department of Mental Health and Behavioural Sciences
Fortis National Mental Health Program
Fortis Healthcare
India

Dr Samir PARIKH is an eminent psychiatrist and has played a significant role in enhancing the image and reach of mental health across the country. He completed his MBBS and MD in Psychiatry from Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad and topped the university in both. Dr. Parikh is a well-known speaker and has been invited to share his views on various national and international platforms. He has been a TedX speaker, speaker and panelist at the LitFests at Delhi, Gurgaon, Chandigarh and Chennai. Dr. Parikh also conducts psychological skills training and mentoring programs for upcoming and elite athletes, to contribute to Indian sports at the grassroots.

India



Ms Anjali AGGARWAL
Principal
St. Mark's Senior Secondary Public School. Meera Bagh
India

Ms Anjali Aggarwal is the Founder Principal of St. Mark's Sr. Sec. Public School, Meera Bagh, New Delhi, India, which has about 4000 students in the age group of 4 - 18.

A theatre enthusiast and an avid reader, Ms Aggarwal has a special interest in poetry and art. With over 30 years of experience as an educator, Ms Aggarwal has been a part of many changes that have occurred in the field of education. She is a progressive educationist who believes in the right amalgamation of technology and textbooks in a classroom. This is why when the pandemic forced schools to close down, her staff was well equipped with the necessary skills to keep pace with the digital transformation.

Ms Aggarwal has turned St. Mark's School into one of the top institutions of New Delhi. She has been awarded and recognized by various organisations for her leadership. Some of the notable awards are P.T.A NATIONAL AWARD by the Parent Teacher Association of India, Excellence in School Leadership at the School Leadership Summit, Progressive Principal of the Year Award by Rethink India and National School Education Award for 'Excellent Contribution to the Education Sector'.

Singapore



Mr Cornelius WAN
Head of Department Information and Communications Technology
Woodlands Secondary School
Singapore

Cornelius is a Mathematics Teacher and Head of Department for Information and Communications Technology at Woodlands Secondary School in Singapore. He plans and leads the school in leveraging on the use of technology to empower students in their learning and well-being. He also plans and conducts professional development for teachers to support them in lesson design. He is a firm believer that technology is an enabler to narrow social economical gaps, through improvements made in resource equity and student's voice.

Researchers**ASEM-Wide Research Project on Education for Sustainable Development & Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Japan

**Prof Miki SUGIMURA****Comparative and International Education, Faculty of Human Sciences and Vice President for Global Academic Affairs
Sophia University**

Dr Miki SUGIMURA is Professor of Comparative and International Education, Faculty of Human Sciences and Vice President for Global Academic Affairs at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. She graduated from the University of Tokyo (M.Ed. and Ph.D.). She is a member of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the President of Japan Comparative Education Society, a member of the grant Committee of Japan Foundation for United Nations University (UNU), a member of the advisory council of Japan Student Services Organisation (JASSO) and a board member of United Nations Association of Japan. Her current research topics are education for sustainable development and citizenship education in the multi-cultural societies, international education network and transnational higher education in the era of migration.

United Kingdom

**Dr Wayne HOLMES****Lecturer, Learning Sciences and Innovation
University College London (UCL), United Kingdom****Consultant, Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Education
Unit, UNESCO**

Dr Wayne HOLMES is a learning sciences and innovation researcher who received his PhD from the University of Oxford. Currently, he teaches at the University College London and is a consultant for UNESCO. Having been involved in education throughout his life, over the last decade Wayne has focused on Artificial Intelligence and education: researching the use of AI to enhance and further understand learning, and its ethical and social implications for UNESCO's SDG 4. He has co-authored four books, including: "Artificial Intelligence in Education. Promise and Implications for Teaching and Learning." (2019) and UNESCO's "AI and Education: Guidance for Policymakers." (in press). Previously, he was Principal Researcher (Education) at Nesta (the UK's leading innovation foundation) and has taught at The Open University and the University of Bristol. He has given invited talks about AI and education to audiences in Brazil, China, Croatia, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Oman, Spain, and the US (and online to audiences in many other countries around the world).

ASEF Team

ASEF



Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN
Director, Education Department
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Leonie has been heading the Education Department of the Asia-Europe Foundation since February 2014. Together with her team members, she develops and drives ASEF's education project portfolio with a focus on student mobility, youth employment, university-business partnerships, and lifelong learning. Prior to this, she advised and supported as Chief of Staff 3 ASEF Executive Directors from France and China in the planning and implementation of the Foundation's long-range strategy, programmes and operations (from 2008 to 2015). She previously worked in the public affairs and the media sector, including the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, the Berliner Zeitung, Pretoria News and the Icelandic national broadcaster Ríkisutvarpið (RUV). Having studied in Reykjavik, Iceland and Berlin, Germany, she received her Master's degree in Communication Sciences with minors in Cultural and Political sciences from the Free University and Humboldt University of Berlin. She volunteers as Chairperson of the Parents in Education Club at a Primary School in Singapore.

ASEF



Ms Angie TOH
Senior Admin/Project Manager, Education Department
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Angie joined ASEF in 1998. As Senior Admin/Project Manager, she oversees the Department's financial and administrative processes and daily operations, as well as provides guidance and training to the team on these matters. Furthermore, Angie is the Project Coordinator of the ASEF Classroom Network (ASEF ClassNet), which provides opportunities for collaborative learning and intercultural exchanges among secondary, high and vocational school educators and students in Asia and Europe. With over 20 years of expertise in international project management and intercultural relations, she is also deputising the Department Director on financial, administrative and human resources related matters. Prior to ASEF, she worked in the Marketing Department of an MNC in Singapore which dealt with overseas infrastructure projects. Born and raised in Singapore, Angie is fluent in English and Chinese.

ASEF



Ms Jyoti RAHAMAN
Project Executive, Education Department
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Jyoti is a Bangladeshi national and joined ASEF's Education Department in 2018 and coordinates ASEF's Teaching and Learning Programme including the ASEF ClassNet. Prior to ASEF, she worked as a Humanitarian Data Analyst for Internews and BBC Media Action in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where she analysed massive amount of data from the refugee community, UN agencies, and several INGOs, and turned them into life-saving information for refugees. Previously, she worked for several organisations namely UNESCO Headquarter in Paris, France, the Norwegian Centre for ICT in Education in Oslo, Norway. She was a 2013/14 WISE Learner and Global Youth Ambassador for A World at School from 2014-2016. She has a Bachelor's degree on Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE) with a minor in Asian Studies from the Asian University for Women. She obtained her joint Master's degree on Education Policies for Global Development (Globed) 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.
