



Participants List

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
1	Mr Trent MACRI	Australia	Assistant Director, Americas & Europe Section	Australian Department of Industry, Science and Resources
2	Mr Jack TAYLOR	Australia	Assistant Director, European Union Branch	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3	Mr Saadman FAISAL	Bangladesh	Programme Coordinator	BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University
4	Mr Azazul Ansary ZIMY	Bangladesh	Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
5	Dr Sharon LECOCQ	Belgium	Attaché Federal, Interfederal and International Coordination, Research Teaching Fellow	Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) University of Leuven (KU Leuven)
6	Mr Maxim VANDEKERCKHOVE	Belgium	Attaché	Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)
7	Mr Tien Loong NG	Brunei Darussalam	Assistant Director (Politics II), Department of Europe and Americas	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Brunei Darussalam

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
8	Ms Sarinah ZIZIUMIZA	Brunei Darussalam	Head of the Centre for Technology Enhancement Learning (CTEL)	Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE)
9	Mr Pancho DACHKINOV	Bulgaria	Assistant Professor	Institute of Robotics - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
10	Mr Pakrigna LONG	Cambodia	Lecturer/Head of Big Data and Data Engineering Unit	Institute of Technology of Cambodia
11	Ms Chanmonypech TUY	Cambodia	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia
12	Mr Vongmonasekar (Sekar) VUTHY	Cambodia	Director, Department of Policy, Economic Diplomacy, and Strategic Planning	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia
13	Ms Meizhu HONG	China	Commercial Officer	Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark in Beijing
14	Mr Zhenyang XUE	China	Research Grants Assistant, the Research and Knowledge Exchange Office	University of Nottingham Ningbo China
15	Mr Marcel MLINARIĆ	Croatia	Diplomat/Second Secretary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Croatia
16	Ms Rena FILIPPOU	Cyprus	Assistant Scientist	Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute
17	Ms Barbora JEHLICKOVA	Czech Republic	Desk Officer for Indo-Pacific	National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NUKIB)
18	Ms Jindřiška SEIDLOVÁ	Czech Republic	Ministerial Officer	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic
19	Ms Tereza SZYBISTY	Czech Republic	Policy Officer	Marie Curie Alumni Association

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
20	Dr Carmen KIVISTIK	Estonia	Representative, Brussels Office	Estonian Research Council
21	Ms Liis VÄLJA	Estonia	International Project Manager, University of Tartu Observatory	University of Tartu
22	Ms Coraline GILLARD	France	Deputy Attaché for Science and Technology	Embassy of France to Japan
23	Ms Marthe JULIEN LAFERRIERE	France	Head of Campus France	French Embassy in Laos
24	Ms Tatiana LEGENDRE-HYLDIG	France	Scientific Officer	French Embassy in China
25	Mr Axel RAPHALEN	France	Scientific and University Officer	French Embassy in Denmark
26	Mr Benoît TALLEU	France	Foreign Policy Adviser for Asia and the Pacific	Ministry of Higher Education and Research, France
27	Ms Rebekka BOHL	Germany	Research Development/Funding Advisor	University of Applied Science Bochum
28	Ms Sarah DIEHL	Germany	Desk Officer for South-East Asia, China and the Pacific, Directorate General for Society and Culture	German Federal Foreign Office
29	Mr Eduard RUGE	Germany	Science and Technology Counsellor	German Embassy Singapore
30	Dr Johanna SEIBERT	Germany	Deputy Head of Strategic Planning	Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
31	Dr Katharina VOLLHEYDE	Germany	Research Project Manager	University of Copenhagen
32	Ms Bettina FODOR	Hungary	Desk Officer for International Relations	Hungarian Research Network Headquarters (HUN-REN HQ)
33	Ms Goldina NAGY	Hungary	Junior Project Manager	Corvinus University of Budapest

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
34	Mr Avinash GUPTA	India	Project Coordinator - Research Management	Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences
35	Mr Abhishek KATIYAR	India	Officer	CICA Secretariat
36	Mr Deep NARAYAN	India	Senior Science and Innovation Officer	British High Commission, India
37	Ms Saiansha PANANGIPALLI	India	Programmes and Communications Lead, UK Science and Technology Network	British High Commission, New Delhi
38	Mr Manjul PANWAR	India	Doctoral Candidate and Senior Research Fellow	Jawaharlal Nehru University
39	Dr Radhika TRIKHA	India	Chief Executive Officer	Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, Punjab India
40	Mr Aayush VERMA	India	Section Officer, UNESCO Unit	Ministry of Education, India
41	Ms Maftuha AULIYA	Indonesia	International Affairs Analyst	Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
42	Ms Cindy FEBIOLA	Indonesia	Science and Technology Development Analyst	Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
43	Ms Sindy FITRI	Indonesia	Assistant Deputy Director for Digital Diplomacy, Office of Vice Foreign Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
44	Mr Killian BROWNE	Ireland	Diplomat	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
45	Dr Garry KETT	Ireland	Researcher	Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research - CIIMAR
46	Dr Francesco CANNIZZARO	Italy	Scientific Coordinator	Free University Berlin
47	Dr Carlo Federico DALL'OMO	Italy	Research Manager	Università Iuav di Venezia

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
48	Ms Seiana PRIANTE	Italy	Policy Officer	European Commission - DG CNECT
49	Ms Minori HARUTA	Japan	Junior Project Manager	Consulate of Switzerland, Swissnex in Japan
50	Dr Ena ONISHI	Japan	Research Administrator	Kyoto University
51	Mr Alibek MADIBEKOV	Kazakhstan	Deputy Director	National Center for Higher Education Development
52	Ms Alina NI	Kazakhstan	Manager, Department of Internationalization	Nazarbayev University
53	Ms Euy Sun (Stella) HWANG	Korea	Diplomat - Emerging Technology & Global Affairs Lead	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Korea
54	Ms Sunyub KIM	Korea	Associate Research Fellow	Science and Technology Policy Institute, Korea
55	Ms Lounglavanh VONGXAY	Lao PDR	Political and Policy Officer	British Embassy, Vientiane
56	Ms Gintarė JANUŠEVSKAITĖ	Lithuania	Adviser of Science Division	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Republic of Lithuania
57	Mrs Ana MOLINA	Luxembourg	Project Manager	Fundación Santa María la Real del Patrimonio Histórico
58	Mr Imran BIN AZHAHARI KAMAL	Malaysia	Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
59	Ms Siti Nurlisa BINTI HAZIM	Malaysia	Executive, Financing & Ecosystem Development Cluster	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia
60	Mr Mohd Faiz MAT SAAD	Malaysia	Research Officer	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
61	Dr Chern Choong (Sean) THUM	Malaysia	Special Functions Officer to the Deputy Minister	Ministry of Communications, Malaysia
62	Dr Wei Hsum YAP	Malaysia	Head of Research, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences	Taylor's University

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
63	Ms Dariimaa (Donna) CHINBAT	Mongolia	Foreign Relations Manager/Partnership Manager	National Information Technology Park of Mongolia
64	Ms Uchral GANBAATAR	Mongolia	Senior Manager, Strategic Partnership	National Information Technology Park of Mongolia
65	Mr Soe Yu NAING	Myanmar	Researcher, Project Manager	Utrecht University
66	Ms Hninn Wutt Mhone PHOO	Myanmar	Assistant Director, Research Section	Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Myanmar
67	Ms Honey THU	Myanmar	Head of Branch-2, ASEAN Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar
68	Ms Clementine FLACK	Netherlands	Programme Manager, International Entrepreneurship	Royal Academy of Engineering
69	Ms Josine Jin (José) SNOEP	Netherlands	Advisor for Innovation, Science & Technology	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Singapore
70	Mr Finlay (Fin) FIELD	New Zealand	Science and Technology Adviser	British High Commission, Wellington
71	Ms Antonia VERSTAPPEN	New Zealand	Research Fellow	University of Auckland
72	Ms Filippa BRAARUD	Norway	Embassy Secretary, Emerging Tech and Digital Public Goods	Royal Norwegian Embassy New Delhi
73	Ms Tu An NGO	Norway	Senior Adviser	Norwegian Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Governance
74	Ms Helene Kvam SIGMOND	Norway	First Secretary	Norway's NATO-delegation
75	Mr Vishal ISHWAR	Pakistan	Advisor to the Prime Minister	Prime Minister's Office, Pakistan
76	Mr Irfan JAMSHED	Pakistan	Lecturer/Manager Research Management	Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST), Mirpur AJK, Pakistan
77	Mr Saddam SHAH	Pakistan	Assistant Director (Science Diplomacy)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
78	Ms Anne ALMAZAN	Philippines	Project Technical Specialist V	Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippines
79	Mr Paolo ARAUNE	Philippines	Research Deputy Director	Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan
80	Mr Allen Jeremiah DE LEON	Philippines	Research Officer	Foreign Service Institute, Philippines
81	Mr Jason OCCIDENTAL	Philippines	Director - Innovation and Technology Support Office	Ateneo de Davao University
82	Mr Paolo SAMOZA	Philippines	Senior Science Research Specialist	Philippine Space Agency
83	Mr Tran Vinh (Peter) DO	Poland	Senior Administrator	Ministry of Digital Affairs, the Republic of Poland
84	Ms Olga SMĘTEK	Poland	PhD candidate; Head of the Research Management Office, Faculty of Law and Administration	University of Warsaw
85	Ms Beatriz CORADO	Portugal	Science Manager	DINÂMIA'CET- Iscte - Centre for the Study of Socioeconomic Change and the Territory
86	Mr André TEIXEIRA	Portugal	Diplomatic Attaché	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal
87	Ms Raluca COSCODARU	Romania	Innovation Projects Specialist	Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
88	Ms Zealyn Shi Lin HENG	Singapore	Senior Head	Ministry of Education, Singapore
89	Ms Laura Zhen Huei LEE	Singapore	Country Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
90	Mr Peter CUNINKA	Slovakia	Director of Centre of European Projects, Cooperation with Practice, Innovation and Technology Transfer	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
91	Ms Elena OLMOS CARBONELL	Spain	Project Manager	University of Alicante
92	Mr Enric RUBIELLA NAVARRO	Spain	Project and Research Manager	Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia (AQuAS)
93	Ms Clara SOLÉ	Spain	Head of Internationalization & Science Diplomacy	Institute of Marine Sciences, Spanish National Research Council (ICM-CSIC)
94	Mr David VELASCO	Spain	Research and Development Manager	Instituto de Salud Carlos III
95	Mr Francesco BEE	Switzerland	Scientific Collaborator Global Engagement Office	Bern University of Applied Sciences
96	Ms Claudia ELMIGER	Switzerland	Diplomatic Attaché	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
97	Ms Chayanee LAOTRAKUL	Thailand	International Affairs Staff	Mae Fah Luang University
98	Ms Chittiporn NUANLA-ONG	Thailand	Research Administrator	Mahidol University
99	Ms Kuncharee THANADDOENKHAO	Thailand	Attaché	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
100	Ms Juthathip WAEWSAMPUN	Thailand	Assistant International Relations Officer	Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR)
101	Dr Ben SWINTON-BLAND	United Kingdom	Senior Policy Adviser, Science and Technology Network	British High Commission Canberra
102	Ms Linh NGUYEN	Viet Nam	Junior Trade and Investment Advisor	Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam
104	Mr Nam PHAM	Viet Nam	PhD Student Scientific Research Management Specialist	Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
				University of Management and Technology, Ho Chi Minh City
105	Ms Ngoc TRAN	Viet Nam	International Programmes Officer (Training and Development) Technology Coordinator	University of Medicine and Pharmacy - Vietnam National University, Hanoi (UMP-VNU) The Asia Research Center - Vietnam National University, Hanoi (ARC-VNU)
106	Ms Hoa TRUONG	Viet Nam	Official	International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Science and Technology, Viet Nam

Mr Trent MACRI

Australia

Assistant Director, Americas &
Europe SectionAustralian Department of
Industry, Science and
Resources

Trent is a public policy professional in the Australian Government with specialist experience in foreign, science and technology policy across a number of roles. He currently works in the Americas & Europe Section of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources where has responsibility for the department's bilateral equities in sectors such as artificial intelligence and quantum. Trent has had a passion for elevating youth perspectives and voices since he was an undergraduate student, and he held leadership roles in several organisations educating young people on the UN system and diplomacy. He holds a Master of International Relations from the University of Melbourne and Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) from the University of Western Australia.

Mr Jack TAYLOR

Australia

Assistant Director, European
Union BranchAustralian Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

Jack is currently an Assistant Director, European Union Branch in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). He has served as a foreign policy officer at DFAT across a range of roles since 2017. This has included postings to India (New Delhi) and Solomon Islands (Honiara), and work on strategic infrastructure policy at the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific. Before joining government, Jack was a management consultant at Strategy&. He has an honours degree in law and arts from the Australian National University.

Mr Saadman FAISAL

Bangladesh

Programme Coordinator

BRAC Institute of Governance
and Development (BIGD), BRAC
University

Saadman is a Programme Coordinator at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), where he leads research and policy initiatives on climate adaptation, governance, and data-driven decision-making. He has worked closely with governments, donors, and civil society partners to design and implement evidence-based interventions. Previously, he contributed to the Asian Development Bank's evaluation of SDG progress and to BRAC Bangladesh's assessment of skills training programmes. Saadman holds an MPA from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and an MSc in Economics, and brings over five years of experience at the intersection of quantitative research, policy execution, and stakeholder engagement.

Mr Azazul Ansary ZIMY

Bangladesh

Assistant Secretary Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, Government of
the People's Republic of
Bangladesh



Azazul Ansary is a career diplomat at Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving as Assistant Secretary in the International Organizations Wing. He advances Bangladesh's engagement with global bodies, coordinates multilateral cooperation, and prepares briefs and reports for high-level meetings. He represented Bangladesh at the 51st Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Istanbul, gaining experience in consensus-building. Previously, in the Africa Wing, he worked to strengthen ties with African nations, including at the 2nd Foreign Office Consultation with Kenya in Nairobi. Before joining the Ministry, he was a Transaction Monitoring Specialist at Standard Chartered Bank, focusing on financial crime compliance. He has undertaken international training in China and Thailand on diplomacy and leadership, plus several in-country programmes for young diplomats. Zimy holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in International Relations from the Bangladesh University of Professionals.

Dr Sharon LECOCQ

Belgium

Attaché Federal, Interfederal
and International Coordination
Research and Teaching Fellow

Belgian Science Policy Office
(BELSPO) and University of
Leuven (KU Leuven)



Sharon Lecocq is attaché Federal, Interfederal and International Coordination at the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and Research and Teaching Fellow at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven). She is member of the Taskforce for Science and Cultural Diplomacy at BELSPO. At KU Leuven, she conducts research, publishes and teaches in courses on Transnational and Global Perspectives on Europe and International Politics in the 21st century. Sharon previously worked as post-doc at the Leuven International and European Studies Institute and Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, where she completed a PhD on paradiplomacy and hybrid political orders in the Middle East as part of an interdisciplinary project. She continues to work on developing a decentred approach to EU external action and international relations. Sharon was also analyst for the International Peace Information Service (IPIS) and trainee at the Belgian Embassy in Cairo, Egypt.

Mr Maxim VANDEKERCKHOVE

Belgium

Attaché

Belgian Science Policy Office
(BELSPO)



Maxim started his career as Professional Development Officer for the Master students Interdisciplinary EU Studies at the College of Europe in Natolin, Poland. After that, he shortly worked at the Flemish Government on international biodiversity matters before joining the Belgian Ministry of Social Security, where he was a policy officer at the Strategy and Governance team, working on social rights and inclusion. Since 2024 he followed his passion for SciTech governance and joined the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (Belspo) as Attaché Organization Management and Risk Officer. Next to that, Maxim has been appointed as coordinator of the expert group on Technology, Science and Innovation Diplomacy at the Brussels Diplomatic Academy (BDA), which is part of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Maxim is an ASEFEdu Alumnus.

Mr Tien Loong NG

Brunei Darussalam

Assistant Director (Politics II),
Department of Europe and
AmericasMinistry of Foreign Affairs,
Brunei Darussalam

Tien Loong is a career diplomat with over ten years of experience in Brunei's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specializing in political affairs, bilateral relations, trade promotion, and regional cooperation. He began his service in the Department of East Asia in 2014, overseeing Brunei's bilateral relations with China. From 2015 to 2016, he worked in the Department of International Trade, coordinating Brunei's trade initiatives through international exhibitions, people-to-people exchanges, and engagement with ASEAN-related trade centres and various bilateral partners. He then served in the ASEAN Department from 2017 to 2018, managing the ASEAN-China and ASEAN Plus Three portfolios and regional initiatives such as the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre, the South China Sea, and the ASEAN political-security pillar. Between 2018 and 2023, he was posted in Cambodia as the Second Secretary at Brunei's Embassy in Phnom Penh, strengthening Brunei-Cambodia bilateral ties. He is currently in the Department of Europe and Americas, managing Brunei's relations with several countries across the European region.

Ms Sarinah ZIZIUMIZA

Brunei Darussalam

Head of the Centre for
Technology Enhancement
Learning (CTEL)Institute of Brunei Technical
Education (IBTE)

Sarinah is the Head of the Centre for Technology Enhancement Learning (CTEL) at the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) and Co-Founder of Rumine Corporation, specializing in immersive technologies such as AR, VR, XR, and gamification. With over 10 years of experience in technical and vocational education, she leads initiatives advancing digital transformation, AI literacy, and technology-enhanced learning across IBTE. She is also the founder of DigiNations, a youth-driven community promoting digital literacy and inclusion, recognized with multiple awards including the Asia Pacific ICT Award, ASEAN ICT Award, APEC Digital Prosperity Award, and Brunei ICT Award. A YSEALI and THINC Fellow, Sarinah continues to champion innovation, inclusion, and future-ready learning ecosystems across the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Pancho DACHKINOV

Bulgaria

Assistant Professor

Institute of Robotics - Bulgarian
Academy of Sciences

Pancho is an engineer and Assistant Professor at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, passionate about the role of science and technology in policy innovation and international cooperation. He holds a PhD from Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan and has contributed to Horizon 2020 funded innovation projects across the EU and Japan. As a former Blue Book trainee and Project Officer at the European Innovation Council in Brussels, he gained hands on experience at the intersection of science and policy, supporting strategic initiatives and innovation ecosystems. Pancho has served as the president of a foreign student association during his doctoral studies and is an active member of the Marie Curie Alumni Association. Currently pursuing a second Master's in European Integration and Diplomacy, with his multidisciplinary experience, he aims to bridge research, policy and diplomacy, leveraging evidence-based science to address global challenges, build trust and advance international collaboration.

Mr Pakrigna LONG

Cambodia

Lecturer/Head of Big Data and
Data Engineering UnitInstitute of Technology of
Cambodia

Pakrigna is a researcher in science and technology, with an expected Ph.D. from the British Malaysian Institute (defense in October 2025). His focus is on deep learning for solar power generation prediction. Throughout his career, he has gained diverse experience as a lecturer, researcher, technology trainer, and officer in various technology fields. As an active researcher, he has contributed to several publications in both technical and social aspects of data science and artificial intelligence. He has participated in training programs and presented his work at events such as the Digital Workforce Development Program supported by USAID, the ASEAN Energy Conference, The Digital and Green Economy in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Ms Chanmonypech TUY

Cambodia

Official

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation,
Cambodia

Chanmonypech serves as an official within the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cambodia. She earned her bachelor's degree in specialised international relations from the Royal University of Phnom Penh, followed by a dual master's degree in public international law from both the Université Paris 8 and the Royal University of Law and Economics. In her present position, she engages extensively with matters pertaining to ASEF. In addition to her fervour for communication and innovation, she also holds a part-time position as a deputy chief editor for a news media platform.

**Mr Vongmonasekar (Sekar)
VUTHY**

Cambodia

Director, Department of Policy,
Economic Diplomacy, and
Strategic PlanningMinistry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation,
Cambodia

Vongmonasekar (Sekar) is Director of Policy, Economic Diplomacy and Strategic Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC). He holds B.Arts and B.Econ (triple majors) in International Relations, Political Science, and Economics & Public Policy from the University of Queensland (Australia), and an LLM in International Law and Security from the University of Glasgow (United Kingdom). At MFAIC, his previous portfolios contain Regional Architecture of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific, Cyber Diplomacy, and a member of the cabinet of H.E. PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. Sekar is an ASEFEdu Alumnus.

Ms Meizhu HONG

China

Commercial Officer

Embassy of the Kingdom of
Denmark in Beijing

Meizhu's expertise lies in facilitating high-level diplomatic and commercial engagements, demonstrated through her current role as a Commercial Officer at the Embassy of Denmark in China, where she coordinates government meetings and strengthens stakeholder relationships across sectors such as green development, intellectual property rights, and innovation. Previously, she served as a Campaign Manager for UNICEF, overseeing campaign implementation and partnership development. Her experience also includes coordinating communications within international organizations, enhancing visibility through events and social media. With strong cross-cultural communication skills and a proven ability to mediate complex situations, she excels at navigating diverse and dynamic environments.

Mr Zhenyang XUE

China

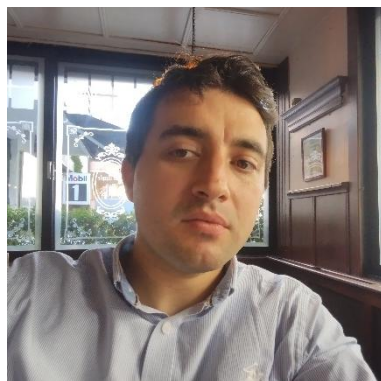
Research Grants Assistant.,
Research and Knowledge
Exchange OfficeUniversity of Nottingham Ningbo
China

Zhenyang is a Research Grants Assistant at the Research and Knowledge Exchange Office, University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC). Holding a BSc in Environmental Sciences and an MA in Applied Linguistics, he brings a multidisciplinary perspective to research administration and project management. He guides academics in managing projects, ensuring compliance with funding regulations, and optimising the use of internal systems. He has coordinated international science and technology collaboration platforms, negotiating and finalising agreements with institutions worldwide. These experiences have deepened his understanding of diverse policies and technological priorities, strengthening his commitment to advancing global science and technology cooperation.

Mr Marcel MLINARIĆ

Croatia

Diplomat/Second Secretary

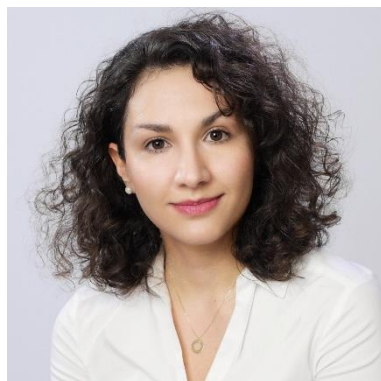
Ministry of Foreign and
European Affairs, the Republic
of Croatia

Marcel graduated in Law in 2016. At the start of his professional career, he worked as a trainee lawyer at an attorney's office in Zagreb. Since 2018, he has been working at the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, specifically in the Sector for COREPER I, Department for the TTE Council. Among other responsibilities, he prepares materials for bilateral meetings on new technologies and related EU policies. His work in this field inspired him to pursue a PhD and re-enroll in law school. In 2019, he passed the bar exam. The topic of his dissertation focuses on the application of AI systems in work organisation and recruitment, an area that poses significant challenges for both EU and national anti-discrimination legal frameworks. Marcel is fluent in English, French, Italian, and Croatian, his mother tongue, and has basic knowledge of German.

Ms Rena FILIPPOU

Cyprus

Assistant Scientist

Cyprus Marine and Maritime
Institute

Rena is an Assistant Scientist at the Centre for Ocean Governance and International Cooperation of Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute. She holds a BA in Politics, an MA in International Relations, and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP®) from the Project Management Institute. With over eight years of experience in managing European and national funded projects, she has specialised in the fields of environmental sustainability, innovation and ocean governance, and. Rena's expertise includes policy evaluation, qualitative and quantitative research, questionnaire design, data analysis, co-design workshops, and stakeholder consultations. She has worked extensively on projects funded under HORIZON, collaborating closely with academic and research institutions, as well as public and private organisations in Cyprus and across Europe. At CMMI, Rena contributes to projects and initiatives in ocean governance and science diplomacy, and she supports the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Blue Charter Centre of Excellence.

Ms Barbora JEHLICKOVA

Czech Republic

Desk Officer for Indo-Pacific

National Cyber and Information
Security Agency (NUKIB)

Barbora works at National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NUKIB) as a desk officer for Indo-Pacific. She is responsible for strengthening relationships with partners in the region and building new partnerships. As a student she worked at the Ministry of the Interior and completed an internship at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. She participated in an educational programme called Reclaim: Empowering the European Female Future. She is interested in international relations, international security, human rights, and women's rights.

Ms Jindřiška SEIDLOVÁ

Czech Republic

Ministerial Officer

Ministry of Industry and Trade,
Czech Republic

With an academic background in International Relations, German and European Studies with (focus on EU-Asian relations), Jindřiška currently serves as a Ministerial Officer at the Ministry of Industry and Trade where she is responsible for bilateral trade relations with India, Mongolia, Australia and New Zealand as well as European agenda in the area of trade. Owing to both her academic and professional journey, her rationale is shaped by a deep interest in multidisciplinary, interconnectedness and continuous broadening of horizons. Some of her previous roles focused on EU-funded programmes or cultural diplomacy.

Ms Tereza SZYBISTY

Czech Republic

Policy Officer

Marie Curie Alumni Association



Tereza is an Open Science advocate with experience in research policy, responsible research assessment, and scholarly communication. She collaborates with OpenAIRE and the Marie Curie Alumni Association, and is also actively involved at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. Her work spans project management, product and platform development, training design, and stakeholder engagement. She focuses on promoting transparency, integrity, and evidence-based approaches in research systems. Tereza has also led initiatives addressing ethical publishing and supports early-career researchers through training and community building.

Dr Carmen KIVISTIK

Estonia

Representative, Brussels Office

Estonian Research Council



Carmen represents the Estonian Research Council Brussels Office, where she works to bring Estonian research and innovation to the forefront of European policy and collaboration. Based in Brussels, she acts as a bridge between Estonia's vibrant R&I community and key EU stakeholders. Previously, she advised on the Horizon Europe programme, helping shape and navigate opportunities within Europe's flagship funding initiative. Carmen holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences, which grounds her work in both academic excellence and practical insight. Passionate about connecting ideas, people, and policies, she is dedicated to strengthening Estonia's voice in Europe's research landscape.

Ms Liis VÄLJA

Estonia

International Project Manager,
University of Tartu Observatory

University of Tartu



Liis is an International Project Manager at the University of Tartu's Observatory, specialising in facilitating cross-border scientific cooperation. She is the lead coordinator for a Horizon Europe project dedicated to building research excellence in the studies of galaxies and cosmology in the University of Tartu. Starting in November 2025, she will also lead a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network, orchestrating a consortium of 13 European partners to train the next generation of space technology innovators in electrical sail subject. She has previous experience as project manager leading a small team of 12 in a startup company focusing on drone inspections and drone development.

Ms Coraline GILLARD

France

Deputy Attaché for Science and
Technology

Embassy of France to Japan



Coraline is a French-Belgian national, originally from Grenoble in southeast France. After completing her undergraduate degree in the Europe-Asia programme of Sciences Po Paris, she spent a year at the University of Tokyo before pursuing master's studies at the LSE European Institute and Fudan University. At Fudan, she developed a strong interest in science and technology policy and wrote her thesis on the standardisation of blockchain technology in the European Union. She then began her career in Paris, within the services of the Prime Minister, where she worked on digital innovation for two years, before moving to Tokyo in 2023 as Deputy Attaché for Science and Technology at the Embassy of France to Japan - a role she held until October 2025.

Ms Marthe JULIEN LAFERRIERE

France

Head of Campus France

French Embassy in Laos



Marthe is Head of Campus France Laos at the French Embassy, where she fosters academic and scientific partnerships between France and Laos, manages scholarships, and promotes international mobility for innovation and mutual understanding. Previously, she worked at the French Embassy in the UK as a project officer in Campus France and the Scientific Department, contributing to bilateral initiatives, partnerships, and communication strategies. She holds a Master's in Geopolitics, Resources and Territory from King's College London and focuses on how technological and scientific trends shape international relations, especially in Southeast Asia. She represents the Embassy at academic and diplomatic forums and researches China's influence on Laos' technological development.

Ms Tatiana LEGENDRE-HYLDIG

France

Scientific Officer

French Embassy in China



Tatiana is a Science and Technology Officer at the French Embassy in China, where she develops bilateral cooperation projects and provides strategic analysis of China's research and innovation landscape. Building on her previous experience as a Policy Analyst at the OECD and as an Associate Scientist at Novo Nordisk and the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute, she combines hands-on research with international policy expertise. Trained as a biotechnology engineer at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), she has leveraged her scientific background to advance cooperation at the intersection of science, diplomacy, and innovation. Passionate about science and technology diplomacy, she aims to foster cross-border scientific partnerships that translate research into collaborative solutions for global challenges.

Mr Axel RAPHALEN

France

Scientific and University Officer

French Embassy in Denmark



Axel serves as Scientific and University Cooperation Officer at the French Embassy in Denmark, where he contributes to bilateral and European academic collaboration, including EU-funded programmes like Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe. A graduate of Sciences Po Rennes and the École Normale Supérieure de Rennes, where he obtained a Master's in Public Policy, he previously undertook policy analysis within the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and contributed to OECD peer reviews on development cooperation.

Mr Benoît TALLEU

France

Foreign Policy Adviser for Asia
and the PacificMinistry of Higher Education
and Research, France

Benoît is a French national currently serving as a foreign policy advisor for Asia and the Pacific at France's Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Dedicated to diplomacy and international cooperation in education and research, he previously served as Deputy Attaché for Academic and Scientific Cooperation and Attaché for Climate Affairs at the French Embassy in Thailand and the French delegation to UNESCAP. He also led international scientific partnerships at the CEA and CNRS under Horizon 2020 projects and held roles in France-Asia cooperation at the Ministry of the Armed Forces and as an analyst at the French Embassy in Japan. He graduated in French and EU laws, he then specialised in international law, then in international relations and Asian studies, in France (University of Lyon III) and in the Republic of Korea (Sungkyunkwan University).

Ms Rebekka BOHL

Germany

Research
Development/Funding AdvisorUniversity of Applied Science
Bochum

Rebekka is a Research Funding Advisor at Bochum University of Applied Sciences, specialising in grant consulting and support for early-career researchers. She guides doctoral candidates on networking, scholarships, and all stages of their studies, while working closely with professors on project management and grant applications, particularly for EU programmes like Horizon Europe and national bodies such as the DFG and BMFT. She holds a Master's in Social Sciences focusing on Transnationalisation, Governance, and Globalisation, and a Bachelor's in Social Sciences. Her academic interests include international relations, political communication, and the impact of right-wing populism on democracy. She gained policy experience through internships at the German Bundestag, the German Police University, and KoWi in Brussels, where she developed expertise in EU science policy and international research cooperation.

Ms Sarah DIEHL

Germany

Desk Officer for South-East
Asia, China and the Pacific,
Directorate General for Society
and Culture

German Federal Foreign Office



Sarah is working at the point of intersection of politics, culture and law in an international environment has always been one of my core interests. This motivated her to pursue a career that encompasses all these different fields: after graduating in Public Law (LL.B.), she spent various years working at a cultural institution, the Munich City Library, while simultaneously pursuing a double-degree Master's in International Relations/Governance (MA). Living and working in Peru, Spain, Paraguay and Hungary allowed her to gain valuable experiences in different working contexts and also to deepen her language skills. To synthesise her interest for foreign languages, politics and culture, she joined the diplomatic corps in 2022. At our HQ in Berlin, she is responsible for coordinating Germany's cultural and societal cooperation with Southeast Asia, the Pacific and China.

Mr Eduard RUGE

Germany

Science and Technology
Counsellor

German Embassy Singapore



Eduard is a career diplomat at the German Federal Foreign Office and currently on posting at the German Embassy in Singapore, where he is responsible for German-Singaporean relations in the fields of science, technology and education. He has a strong background in international relations with a Bachelor degree in political science from the University of Heidelberg and a Master's degree in international relations from the Technical University of Dresden. Due to his previous postings, he is experienced in strategic foresight, policy analysis and communications.

Dr Johanna SEIBERT

Germany

Deputy Head of Strategic
PlanningAlexander von Humboldt
Foundation

Johanna is Deputy Head of Strategic Planning at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, a mobility and research funding organisation with a global outlook. As a science strategist and impact-driven innovator with broad experience in science management, she is interested in internationalisation in higher education, anything EU-related, science diplomacy (e.g., EU and US-American contexts), intersectoral transfer, and research quality in particular. At the Humboldt Foundation, she is involved in evidence-based and impact-oriented portfolio development and initiates transfer pilot projects, e.g., in the field of science for policy. Johanna also provides expert support for the organisation's EU science policy activities and is the managing director of the International Advisory Board (IAB). She is an American studies scholar by training and, after research stays in the US, Jamaica, and the UK, she received her doctorate from the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies in Mainz in 2021.

Dr Katharina VOLLHEYDE

Germany

Research Project Manager

University of Copenhagen



Katharina has over eight years of experience in the European research environment, first as a scientist and now as a research manager. She conducted her doctoral studies in the field of plant biochemistry at the University of Göttingen in Germany. Afterwards, she joined the University of Copenhagen in Denmark as a Marie-Sklodowska-Curie fellow and postdoc researcher before she transitioned into research management. Katharina is experienced in the coordination of cross-border research projects and enjoys working in international and interdisciplinary teams.

Ms Bettina FODOR

Hungary

Desk Officer for International
RelationsHungarian Research Network
Headquarters (HUN-REN HQ)

Bettina is an International Relations Desk Officer at the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN) Headquarters. She supports international scientific cooperation, regional partnerships, and science diplomacy initiatives, with a focus on EU research policy and strategic programmes such as FP10. She holds an MA in International Relations from Eötvös Loránd University, with academic experience at Freie Universität Berlin and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. Her professional background includes roles in financial administration and research support, and she is particularly interested in the intersection of science, policy, and international collaboration.

Ms Goldina NAGY

Hungary

Junior Project Manager

Corvinus University of Budapest



Goldina is a junior project manager with international academic and professional experience in managing EU-funded higher education and research initiatives. At Corvinus University of Budapest, she contributes to the administration and implementation of international projects, ensuring compliance with funding regulations and facilitating cross-cultural stakeholder collaboration. Previously she gained experience at a Chinese company, where she coordinated multilingual communication and oversaw administrative processes in a global context. She holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages in Taiwan and a Bachelor's degree in Oriental Languages and Cultures from Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary. Her expertise lies in cross-cultural communication, project coordination, and international cooperation, with a particular interest in fostering EU-Asia relations through science diplomacy and sustainable knowledge exchange.

Mr Avinash GUPTA

India

Project Coordinator - Research
ManagementBonn-Rhein-Sieg University of
Applied Sciences

Avinash Gupta is a Project Coordinator who manages complex research projects and international collaborations. He oversees project planning, financial monitoring, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring alignment between scientific goals and institutional strategies with universities, funding agencies, and external partners. Previously, he worked in health sciences, managing clinical studies across Asia, the Americas, and Europe. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Anthropology and a PhD in Life Sciences. During his studies, he developed an interest in entrepreneurship through involvement with local and EU-funded organisations. Avinash also collaborates with applied universities in Germany to promote best practices in research data management among early-career scientists. His combined experience in science and business enables him to foster inclusive academic communities and advance innovation through digital collaboration tools.

Mr Abhishek KATIYAR

India

Officer

CICA Secretariat



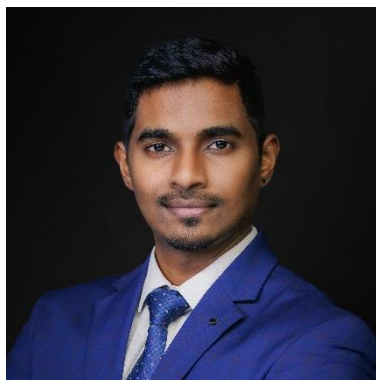
Abhishek is an Indian diplomat currently serving as Second Secretary at the Embassy of India in Kazakhstan and seconded as an Officer to the CICA Secretariat. With over four years of experience, he specializes in international relations, multilateral diplomacy, and strategic communication. He has represented India at key forums such as BRICS and CICA, contributing to negotiations, joint statements, and high-level diplomatic engagements. At CICA, he leads work in trade, energy security, and IT cooperation. Previously posted in Moscow, he managed protocol affairs and completed a diploma at the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian MFA. A B.Tech graduate from IIT Ropar, Abhishek combines technical acumen with diplomatic expertise to advance India's foreign policy objectives. He is fluent in English, proficient in Russian, and a native Hindi speaker.

Mr Deep NARAYAN

India

Senior Science and Innovation
Officer

British High Commission, India



Deep is a Senior Science and Innovation Officer at the British High Commission in India, working at the intersection of science, technology, innovation, and international relations. With over a decade of experience across both Indian and UK governments, he has led transformative science diplomacy initiatives, including Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY across 15 Indian states and the UK-India Health-Tech Accelerator. His work has built a pipeline of 600+ innovations, connected 72 emerging technologies, and facilitated over £22 million in investment, creating 70+ jobs. Deep leads the UK-India bilateral relationship on digital health and represents FCDO at the AI4D Funder Collaborative and other AI in Health initiatives. He holds PG certificate in Economics from Oxford University, AI from Imperial, MBA degree from Symbiosis University, and Pharmacy degree from UPTU. He is passionate about expanding global peer networks to co-create a more inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable scientific ecosystem.

Ms Saiansha PANANGIPALLI

India

Programmes and
Communications Lead, UK
Science and Technology
NetworkBritish High Commission, New
Delhi

Saiansha is a science diplomacy and communications specialist with experience working with private, public and multilateral institutions in Asia, Europe, North America and Africa in advancing S&T collaboration for mutual prosperity and progress. Currently at the British High Commission in India, she oversees programmes and engagement efforts for the bilateral UK-India science, technology and health partnership. She has previously worked with the Millennium Technology Prize, WHO and the Embassy of India in the US in science and health communications. Saiansha is a firm believer in the power of science in building mutual understanding and unlocking favourable diplomatic outcomes.

Mr Manjul PANWAR

India

Doctoral Candidate and Senior
Research Fellow

Jawaharlal Nehru University



Manjul is a Senior Research Fellow (UGC) and PhD Researcher at the School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), specialising in urban environment, remote sensing, phytodiversity, and ecosystem services. His doctoral research develops a framework for assessing urban greenspaces in Delhi using ecological field methods, geospatial modelling, and social surveys to promote resilient urban planning. He has published in international peer-reviewed journals and earned recognition globally, including serving as Head of Delegation for the G77 at the COP29 Simulation (Egypt + UNDP, 2024) and winning the UrbanVisions Youth Forum (Azerbaijan, 2024). He has received awards and grants from the Society for Experimental Biology (UK), American Meteorological Society (USA), and Anusandhan National Research Foundation (India). Manjul has presented at major conferences such as ICUC12 (Netherlands) and the British Ecological Society, delivered invited talks at UNESCO India and JNU ENVIS, trained with ISRO, and serves as a reviewer for Sustainable Cities and Society.

Dr Radhika TRIKHA

India

Chief Executive Officer

Indian Institute of Technology
Ropar, Punjab India

Radhika is the Chief Executive Officer of IIT Ropar Technology and Innovation Foundation - Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub (AWaDH), established under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), DST, Government of India. She also leads the ANNAM.AI Foundation, India's first AI Centre of Excellence for Agriculture. With over a decade of experience in innovation management, technology commercialisation, and science diplomacy, Dr. Trikha has been instrumental in building national programs that connect academia, startups, corporates, and policymakers. Her leadership has enabled the creation of 80+ technologies, 150+ startups, and 5000+ skilled professionals in DeepTech sectors including AI, IoT, and sustainable agriculture. She continues to champion collaborative innovation models that bridge research and real-world impact.

Mr Aayush VERMA

India

Section Officer, UNESCO Unit

Ministry of Education, India



Aayush Verma is a Section Officer in the UNESCO Unit at the Ministry of Education, Government of India, where he supports policy formulation and implementation for India's engagement in global education, particularly through UNESCO initiatives such as the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP). He has extensive experience in international cooperation, helping design and implement research programmes like SPARC, which enabled over 650 joint projects with 28 countries. He contributed to key frameworks, including the India-Australia Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (2023) and the Indo-German Higher Education Partnership (2019), and played a central role in the education track of India's G20 Presidency (2023). Aayush holds a BTech in Civil Engineering from NIT Kurukshetra and advanced qualifications in political science, urban studies, and planning. His research interests include education policy, global cooperation, and learning ecosystems. He has also volunteered with the UN on digital mapping projects in Tanzania.

Ms Maftuha AULIYA

Indonesia

International Affairs Analyst

Indonesia National Research
and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

Maftuha is an International Cooperation Analyst at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia. She has extensive experience in facilitating international research partnerships, reviewing and drafting bilateral and multilateral agreements, and supporting high-level scientific collaborations. Previously, she served in the same capacity at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). With a strong interest in science diplomacy and policy dialogue, she has represented Indonesia in international forums including the Global Science Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy UNESCO in 2025 and the "Belt and Road" Science and Technology Forum Beijing in 2021. Holding degrees in English Literature from Universitas Airlangga and English Studies from Universitas Gadjah Mada, she gained early international exposure as an International Affairs Officer intern at Universitas Airlangga's global office and as a tutor for the Volunteer in Asia (VIA) programme at Universitas Gadjah Mada.

Ms Cindy FEBIOLA

Indonesia

Science and Technology
Development AnalystIndonesia National Research
and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

Cindy is a Science and Technology Development Analyst at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia, focusing on research funding and collaborative innovation. With professional experience in managing multi-institutional research programs such as the Research Collaboration Center (PKR), she has developed expertise in research and innovation policy, institutional development, and stakeholder engagement. Her current focus is on strengthening research-to-market pathways through the establishment of Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) and Centres of Excellence (CoE). Cindy has collaborated with universities, research institutions, and industry partners, fostering cross-sectoral partnerships to enhance the national innovation ecosystem. She brings strong skills in coordination, policy research, and knowledge-sharing to support international cooperation.

Ms Sindy FITRI

Indonesia

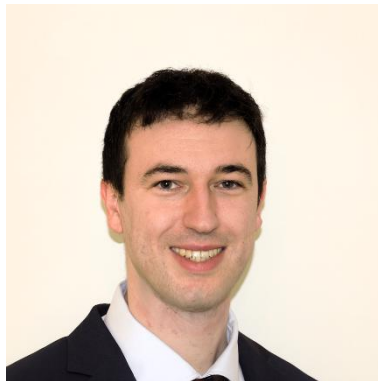
Assistant Deputy Director for
Digital Diplomacy, Office of Vice
Foreign MinisterMinistry of Foreign Affairs,
Indonesia

Sindy is an Indonesian diplomat with over a decade of experience and a legal background, serving in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2014 on matters of international relations, law, security, conflict resolution, and development. Her work in Science and Technology Diplomacy began in 2015, focusing on internet governance, supporting the Indonesia Internet Governance Forum, and engaging with UN IGF and WSIS networks. She earned an LLM in Innovation, Technology, and the Law from the University of Edinburgh in 2017 and represented the university at the Atlantic Council's 9/12 Cyber Policy Competition. From 2020 to 2023, she served at Indonesia's Mission to the United Nations in New York, covering cybersecurity, leading Indonesia's Arria-Formula meeting on cyberattacks against critical infrastructure, and contributing to the UN's OEWG on Cyber. A former Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellow (2022–2023), she now serves at the Vice Foreign Minister's Office as Principal, providing strategic analysis for high-level decision-making.

Mr Killian BROWNE

Ireland

Diplomat

Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade, Ireland

Killian is a diplomat with Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, currently serving as First Secretary/Deputy Director in its EU and Trade Policy Division, where he leads strategic communication initiatives, and policy on key EU countries. His seven-year diplomatic career spans Brussels, London, New York, and Dublin, including as Chief of Staff to Ireland's Ambassador to the EU's Political and Security Committee, where he managed diplomatic and security strategy. Before entering diplomacy, Killian worked as a stem cell technologist, producing cells for clinical trials, and contributed to peer-reviewed research in chemical sciences. He holds First Class Honours in Regenerative Medicine (MSc) and Biopharmaceutical Chemistry (BSc) from the University of Galway, where he received numerous academic awards. He recently completed a Professional Diploma in Communications. Killian is particularly interested in the intersection of biotechnology and AI policy with diplomacy.

Dr Garry KETT

Ireland

Researcher

Interdisciplinary Centre for
Marine and Environmental
Research - CIIMAR

Garry holds a PhD in Aquatic Animal Health from University College Cork, Ireland, and is a Researcher at CIIMAR, Portugal, focusing on strengthening the Science-Policy-Society nexus to address marine pollution, biodiversity monitoring, climate change, and ocean diplomacy. He works on the EU Horizon project INSPIRE, monitoring ecosystem health and developing solutions to prevent and remove plastics from European rivers and coasts. Active in Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) capacity building, he leads the networking and engagement subgroup of EuroMarine OYSTER. As a representative of the global Coalition of Emerging Ocean Leaders, he promotes inclusive governance through intergenerational collaboration. His journey in science diplomacy began in 2020 as Ireland's Ocean Youth Ambassador to the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, gaining valuable experience in advocacy, cooperation, and stakeholder engagement.

Dr Francesco CANNIZZARO

Italy

Scientific Coordinator

Free University Berlin



Francesco is a Scientist and Project Coordinator at Freie Universität Berlin. His work focuses on scientific coordination of international partnerships, grant development, startup funding and outreach. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society in Berlin, working on active-learning workflows and machine-learned interatomic potentials for the automatic exploration of catalytic reactions. He earned his PhD from Eindhoven University of Technology, with research on CO₂ hydrogenation to methanol on defect-oxide catalysts, and completed a biomedical engineering traineeship at Ghent University. Francesco has coordinated a number of scientific and outreach activities including Pint of Science, the Long Night of Science, and an alumni careers panel.

Dr Carlo Federico DALL'OMO

Italy

Research Manager

Università Iuav di Venezia



Carlo Federico is a Research Manager at IUAV University of Venice with a PhD in Architecture, City, and Design, and executive education from SDA Bocconi and Harvard Kennedy School. He specializes in climate adaptation planning and sustainable urban development, focusing on territorial governance aligned with SDG 11. Since 2018, he has managed over €5 million in international projects under Horizon Europe, Interreg, LIFE, and Erasmus, coordinating the PIONEER European Alliance and MIRACLE initiatives. He serves as Co-Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair on Heritage & Urban Regeneration, Technical Scientific Advisor for the UNFCCC Mediterranean Adaptation Strategy, and Climate Ambassador for the European Climate Pact. Carlo is also a MOST Expert for China's Ministry of Science and Technology, adjunct professor at IUAV and Venice International University, and lecturer at Thomas Jefferson and Tongji Universities. He has over 25 publications and represents IUAV at UN Climate Conferences (COP).

Ms Seiana PRIANTE

Italy

Policy Officer

European Commission – DG
CNECT

Seiana is currently working as Policy Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT), where she contributes to the implementation of the EU's Data and Artificial Intelligence strategy. Her work focuses on managing Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 projects that advance digital platforms across the energy, agricultural, and mobility sectors. Prior to this, she worked at the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency and at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, supporting international initiatives on science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development. Seiana holds a Master's in Economics (Public Policy) from the University of Amsterdam, a Master's in International and European Governance from Leiden University, and a Bachelor's in Economics and Management from the University of Geneva.

Ms Minori HARUTA

Japan

Junior Project Manager

Consulate of Switzerland,
Swissnex in Japan

Minori is a young professional with project management experiences, committed to enhancing Switzerland-Japan relations through education, research, and innovation. She currently works as Junior Project Manager for the Consulate of Switzerland, Swissnex in Japan. There, she supports and organises science diplomacy initiatives connecting Switzerland and Japan in academic relations and startups & innovation, enhancing her stakeholder management and project management skills. Her work aims to promote Swiss excellence in science and innovation in Japan to realise bilateral collaborations. With great passion for education, youth empowerment, and learning, Minori has also engaged in and worked with educational organisations mainly in Japan but also in Canada, where she completed an 8-month exchange at the University of Toronto in 2023-2024. Minori holds a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Tokyo, and a Bachelor's degree in Human Sciences from the University of Osaka.

Dr Ena ONISHI

Japan

Research Administrator

Kyoto University



Ena is a Research Administrator at Kyoto University, Japan. She holds a Doctor of Science from Kyoto University, where she conducted research on great apes in Japan, Germany, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her international background and field experience have shaped her strong interest in global research collaboration and science diplomacy. In her current role, she supports international research engagement by advising on funding applications, coordinating academic events, and promoting inclusive research environments for both Japanese and foreign researchers. Ena's work focuses on bridging cultural and linguistic gaps in academia and exploring how universities can play a more active role in science and technology diplomacy. She aims to contribute to Japan's growing science diplomacy efforts through innovative and globally minded initiatives.

Mr Alibek MADIBEKOV

Kazakhstan

Deputy Director

National Center for Higher
Education Development

Alibek is Deputy Director at the National Center for Higher Education Development under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He has extensive expertise in higher education policy, academic recognition, and international cooperation. Alibek has represented Kazakhstan at international forums, including the Bologna Process Working Groups, where he shared national experience in implementing short-cycle programs and micro-credentials. He is a member of the Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) team, approved by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). His professional interests include quality assurance, inclusive education, and the internationalisation of higher education. Alibek holds a degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Ms Alina NI

Kazakhstan

Manager, Department of
Internationalization

Nazarbayev University



Alina works in the field of teaching and international education, with a strong focus on fostering global collaboration and mobility in higher education. Since joining the Department of Internationalization at Nazarbayev University in 2024, she has coordinated international programs, student and cultural mobility, developed partnerships that strengthen global academic initiatives. Mrs. Ni also designs workshops and orientation sessions to promote intercultural understanding, manages high-profile visits and conferences with international partners to enhance institutional visibility, and contributes to strategic agreements with global institutions.

Ms Euy Sun (Stella) HWANG

Korea

Diplomat - Emerging Technology
& Global Affairs LeadMinistry of Foreign Affairs,
Korea

Euysun (Stella) is a career diplomat with over seven years of experience in multilateral and security affairs, having led high-impact projects including Korea-US defence cooperation and strategic regional initiatives. She is currently serving as the Emerging Technology and Global Affairs Lead at South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focusing on science, biotechnology, and AI governance. A graduate of Stanford University's Master's in International Policy programme, she developed expertise in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and global governance, contributing to research on AI infrastructure in the Global South. Her background bridges diplomacy, innovation policy, and national security in an era of accelerating technological change.

Ms Sunyub KIM

Korea

Associate Research Fellow

Science and Technology Policy
Institute, Korea

Sunyub is an Associate Research Fellow at the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STePI), Korea, within the Directorate of Global Strategy. She specialises in China's AI governance strategy and foreign aid initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative. She holds a Master's in International Relations from Peking University and a PhD in Finance from the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (UCASS). Her current work focuses on science and technology diplomacy through two major research projects: one developing a knowledge-sharing intelligence network among think tanks in like-minded countries such as the UK, Canada, Australia, and Japan, and another establishing a sustainable trilateral S&T collaboration base among China, Japan, and Korea. At the 1st STePI Intelligence Dialogue, she presented "The Geopolitical Minefield: China's AI Governance Strategy Circumventing US Curbs." She also manages an expert group of 12 members from seven think tanks across the three countries.

Ms Lounglavanh VONGXAY

Lao PDR

Political and Policy Officer

British Embassy, Vientiane, Lao
PDR

Lounglavanh serves the British Embassy in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in political and policy areas. She is responsible for political and policy analysis, internal reporting, and supporting the Embassy's political engagement with Lao PDR government agencies and regional partners. Previously, she worked in projects and political areas at the Embassy, contributing to bilateral projects and coordinating the visit of the UK Foreign Secretary during the 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Laos. Her prior experience includes working with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce as National consultant under the World Bank project and the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lao PDR, where she supported policy reform, private sector engagement, and international cooperation initiatives. She holds a Master's in International Trade and Development from the University of Adelaide in Australia and a Bachelor's in International Relations from the National University of Laos. Her expertise includes political analysis, stakeholder engagement, and inclusive leadership, with a strong commitment to youth empowerment and sustainable development in Lao PDR.

Ms Gintarė JANUŠEVSKAITĖ

Lithuania

Adviser of Science Division

Ministry of Education, Science
and Sport, the Republic of
Lithuania

Gintarė is a policy professional driven by a passion for connecting science, policy, and society. She serves as an adviser at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania. Currently, she helps shape national research policy and promotes "science for policy" initiatives. With experience across the Government Strategic Analysis Centre, Vilnius University, she has worked on projects promoting evidence-based policymaking and stronger links between academia and decision-makers. Committed to fostering a sustainable and impactful research ecosystem, she believes in the power of knowledge and collaboration to address societal challenges and enhance Lithuania's global competitiveness.

Mrs Ana MOLINA

Luxembourg

Project Manager

Fundación Santa María la Real
del Patrimonio Histórico

Ana is an architect from the National University of the Litoral (Argentina) and holds a Master's degree in Cultural Management. With professional experience in Cultural Management. With professional experience in Argentina, Spain, and Denmark, she has built an international trajectory at the intersection of cultural heritage, innovation, and sustainability. She has specialised in applying data-driven approaches to support decision-making in cultural heritage conservation and sustainable tourism. In her current role as Project Manager at the Heritage Department of Fundación Santa María la Real (Spain), she is involved in European and national projects funded through programmes such as Interreg Euro-MED and Horizon Europe, applying monitoring systems and innovative technologies to safeguard historic buildings and promote the sustainable development of European cities.

**Mr Imran BIN AZHAHARI
KAMAL**

Malaysia

Assistant Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Malaysia

Imran Lutfi is a junior civil service officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, with experience in financial management and administration. With a background in public sector finance, he has been actively involved in developing and implementing digital initiatives such as the iKONS system to enhance efficiency and transparency in fund management for the Ministry. Imran has participated in inter-ministerial working groups and national forums on public sector reform, such as the Reformasi Kerenah Birokrasi (RKB) initiative, focusing on process optimisation and regulatory improvement. He also contributes to strategic planning exercises related to the Ministry's annual budget management and fiscal reporting.

Ms Siti Nurlisa BINTI HAZIM

Malaysia

Executive, Financing &
Ecosystem Development ClusterMinistry of Science, Technology
and Innovation (MOSTI),
Malaysia

Lisa is a STEM graduate currently assisting the Malaysia Vaccine Project Office (MVPO) under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), where she contributes to advancing the National Vaccine Development Roadmap (NVDR). Through this role, she has witnessed the importance of Science Diplomacy in fostering international collaboration and has developed a keen interest in the emerging field. She aspires to integrate this discipline with Environmental Sciences, a field she intends to pursue at the Master's level, to further contribute to the global call for action on sustainability, climate change, and environmental resilience.

Mr Mohd Faiz MAT SAAD

Malaysia

Research Officer

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
(UKM)

Faiz is a Research Officer with extensive expertise in plant pathology, biotechnology, and molecular biology. He holds a Master's Degree in Biotechnology from Universiti Putra Malaysia and is committed to applying molecular techniques to address critical agricultural and biological challenges. In his current role, he is responsible for coordinating and overseeing various research projects, guiding them from the initial planning stages through to full execution. His duties involve the effective management of research grants, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations, and supervising research teams to deliver high-quality results. Additionally, he plays a pivotal role in shaping the institutional research strategy by providing regular reports, ensuring project alignment with broader objectives, and collaborating with key stakeholders to maximise the impact of research initiatives.

Dr Chern Choong (Sean) THUM

Malaysia

Special Functions Officer to the
Deputy MinisterMinistry of Communications,
Malaysia

Dr Sean is a medical doctor with training in mental and public health whose career bridges healthcare, policy, and technology. He currently serves as Special Functions Officer to the Deputy Minister of Communications, where his work focuses on the intersection of health policy, digital connectivity, and societal wellbeing. Beyond government service, Sean is an elected senior leader in the Malaysian Medical Association, where he actively champions doctors' welfare and advocates for structural healthcare reform. He also sits on the Board of Visitors of Hospital Shah Alam, contributing to community-based oversight of public healthcare facilities. Sean is a columnist for two Malaysian Mandarin-language newspapers and regularly publishes essays on health, technology, and governance. He also co-founded Vokal Sejiwa, a non-governmental organisation that amplifies the voices of young people in shaping Malaysia's future.

Dr Wei Hsum YAP

Malaysia

Head of Research, Faculty of
Health and Medical Sciences

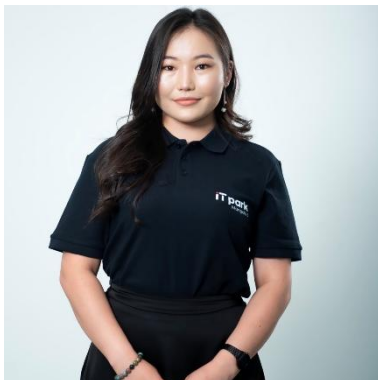
Taylor's University



Dr. Wei Hsum is an Associate Professor and Head of Research at the Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences, Taylor's University, Malaysia, where she leads strategic initiatives in health sciences research and academic innovation. A molecular pharmacologist by training, her expertise spans cellular senescence, atherosclerosis, and biosciences education. She has published over 60 indexed papers with a Scopus H-index of 17 and serves as Academic Editor for PLOS One and Associate Editor for Frontiers in Genetics. Dr. Yap was Programme Director for Biotechnology, spearheading curriculum reforms, capacity-building, and international collaborations, including as academic lead in the Erasmus+ CBHE Reusable Learning Objects project. A recognized science policy advocate and award-winning researcher, she has delivered keynote addresses across Asia, received the Asian Pacific Society of Atherosclerosis Young Investigator Award.

Ms Dariimaa (Donna) CHINBAT

Mongolia

Foreign Relations Manager/
Partnership ManagerNational Information
Technology Park of Mongolia

Dariimaa is the Foreign Relations Manager at the National Information Technology Park of Mongolia, where she drives international collaboration and builds high-level partnerships within the tech ecosystem. Her work includes coordinating innovative technology projects and serving as a sponsor manager to strengthen Mongolia's digital landscape. Passionate about peacebuilding and youth empowerment, she holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the School of International Relations and Public Administration at the National University of Mongolia. Recently, she led international engagement for Tech Week Mongolia and the ICT Forum 2025, the country's largest technology events. She has been awarded a prestigious government scholarship to pursue a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations, which she will begin soon.

Ms Uchral GANBAATAR

Mongolia

Senior Manager, Strategic
PartnershipNational Information
Technology Park of Mongolia

Uchral holds a degree in International Journalism from the National University of Mongolia and attended the University of Virginia in 2019 through a U.S. Government-funded exchange focused on tackling unemployment and poverty. With ten years of experience in international development, entrepreneurship, and Mongolia's tech ecosystem, she has been a key player since 2016, working with co-working spaces and high-growth startups. She is Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Investment at the National IT Park, leading an incubator programme and securing partnerships with investors, incubators, and accelerators. Uchral also organises Google Developer Groups in Ulaanbaatar, empowering local developers through events and workshops. Previously a Youth Advisor at the UN and Director of Friends of Mongolia, she now serves on its Board. Passionate about "Storytelling for Technology," she delivers talks, facilitates workshops, and writes The Linked, a newsletter on tech and innovation.

Mr Soe Yu NAING

Myanmar

Researcher, Project Manager

Utrecht University



Soe Yu is a public health professional with over ten years of experience in health research, project management, and international collaboration. He holds an MSc in Infectious Diseases and One Health from the Universitat de Tours, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and the University of Edinburgh, and a BA in Neuroscience from Earlham College, USA. He previously worked at the University of Pennsylvania on HIV cure research using RNA-based approaches and CAR-T cell therapy, coordinating studies with ACTG, NIAID, and major pharmaceutical partners. Currently a researcher at Utrecht University's Biomolecular Health Sciences department, his work focuses on Whole-Genome Sequencing, antimicrobial resistance, and emerging infectious diseases. He is completing a PhD through the COINCIDE project on colistin resistance in Indonesia and collaborates with ISGLOBAL, One Health Trust, and WHO. He also teaches at Parami University and advocates for sexual and reproductive health awareness in Myanmar.

Ms Hninn Wutt Mhone PHOO

Myanmar

Assistant Director, Research
SectionDepartment of Technical and
Vocational Education and
Training, Myanmar

Hninn Wutt Mhone is currently serving as Assistant Director at the Research Section of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET), Myanmar. With over seven years of experience in TVET, she has worked extensively in teacher training, curriculum development, and international collaboration to strengthen skills development systems. Formerly a teacher trainer at the TVET Teacher Training College, she focused on competency-based pedagogy and capacity building for both pre-service and in-service teachers. Her work emphasises aligning TVET with labour market needs, advancing green skills, and fostering innovation in education policy. She has represented Myanmar as a keynote speaker at regional and international forums, including UNESCO and ASEAN-related events.

Ms Honey THU

Myanmar

Head of Branch-2, ASEAN
DepartmentMinistry of Foreign Affairs,
Myanmar

Honey Moe is a well-qualified legal practitioner and civil servant, she has International Affairs, Legal, and Consular working exposure. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, she focused on assisting the specific cases in Shwe Taung Yar Zar Law Firm, where she graduated with a LL.B. Currently, she works for the ASEAN Affairs Department, where she bridges her legal keenness with diplomacy, environmental, and energy policy programs, she is also taking the Master of Laws in International Law. She balances analytical delicacy on strong interests in environmental sustainability, social science, and political science, in her undertaking in projects like BBNJ and environmental impact assessments reflected on huge influenced by ambient environmental and legal landscape. Intimation of both vision and dedication, she is focused on making a significant contribution towards regional cooperation and environmental protection in collaboration with her past experience in legal and consular areas with ASEAN-related activities.

Ms Clementine FLACK

Netherlands

Programme Manager,
International Entrepreneurship

Royal Academy of Engineering



Clementine supports innovation ecosystems around the world in working towards a more welcoming environment for entrepreneurs. As Programme Manager for International Entrepreneurship at the Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK, she drives global innovation through impactful training, strategic partnerships, and constructive evaluation. With experience spanning Peru, Togo, England, and France, she has worked with diverse communities, senior leadership, and funders to support entrepreneurship and community development. Prior to joining the Academy, Clementine led an enterprise programme focused on empowering individuals furthest from the job market. She is passionate about learning, sharing best practice, and fostering international collaboration to improve lives through innovation.

Ms Josine Jin (José) SNOEP

Netherlands

Advisor for Innovation, Science
& TechnologyEmbassy of the Kingdom of the
Netherlands in Singapore

José is Innovation, Science and Technology Advisor at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Singapore, where she strengthens cooperation between the Netherlands and Singapore by connecting government, research, and industry partners in emerging technology fields such as artificial intelligence, data, cybersecurity, quantum, and semiconductors. She previously worked in the Ministry of Defence's IT Innovation team as a junior data scientist and prototype developer, and was later seconded to the Ministry of Economic Affairs' International Innovation department. José holds an MSc in Business Information Management and a BSc in International Business Administration from Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Mr Finlay (Fin) FIELD

New Zealand

Science and Technology Adviser

British High Commission,
Wellington

Finlay is a policy adviser for the British Government based in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. He is part of the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office's (FCDO) Science and Technology Network, which leads on developing the UK's science partnerships and science diplomacy around the world. Finlay leads FCDO's AI policy engagement in NZ, alongside work in aerospace, quantum, and synthetic biology. A dual citizen of the UK and NZ, he believes in a future underpinned by collaboration across Europe and the Asia Pacific. Previous roles have covered New Zealand and Australia, Hungary, and the UK; national government, international relations, and non-governmental organisations. He is a member of Hāpai Public's New Professionals leadership team and a former President of the Oxford Media Society. Finlay is an ongoing student of Tikanga Māori (indigenous customary law), and holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Oxford.

Ms Antonia VERSTAPPEN

New Zealand

Research Fellow University of
Auckland

Antonia is a Doctoral Candidate and early-career Research Fellow at the University of Auckland. Based in the School of Medicine, she specialises in public policy, health workforce, and health systems research. Her research programme centres around running a nationwide, longitudinal health workforce study, working with government to identify future medical workforce priorities. Antonia has recently completed her doctoral thesis, which identified the policy interventions required to alleviate the medical workforce burden for General Practice and primary care in New Zealand. In her professional work, Antonia has a passion for fostering international academic and science collaborations to tackle shared, global public health and health systems challenges.

Ms Filippa BRAARUD

Norway

Embassy Secretary, Emerging
Tech and Digital Public GoodsRoyal Norwegian Embassy, New
Delhi

Filippa is currently posted to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi, where she covers the embassy's emerging technology and digital public goods portfolio. Before joining the Norwegian foreign service, she worked as a cybersecurity consultant at Accenture Security in Brussels, working on digital transformation projects for various European companies and institutions. She holds a dual master's degree in international security from Sciences Po Paris and MGIMO University and a bachelor's degree in international justice from Leiden University College The Hague. She also has experience working on governance reform at the UNDP in Tbilisi, conducting research in security studies at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and working on an online dispute resolution project at HiiL Innovating Justice in The Hague.

Ms Tu An NGO

Norway

Senior Adviser

Norwegian Ministry of
Digitalisation and Public
Governance

Tu An is a Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Ministry of Digitalisation and Public Governance, working on internet governance, digital policy, and multilateral processes including UN engagement. Previously, she served as a Public Engagement Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Oslo, where she led initiatives to strengthen U.S.-Norway bilateral relations, particularly among youth, minorities, and emerging networks. Her work included strategic communications, policy outreach, and grant management. Tu An also coordinated international student exchange programs and held roles in humanitarian and reconciliation-focused organisations such as the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bangkok. She holds an MSc in Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice from SOAS and a BA in International Relations from UEA. Tu An has international experience from Thailand, the UK, and Norway, including roles in diplomacy, peacebuilding, and policy.

Ms Helene Kvam SIGMOND

Norway

First Secretary

Norway's NATO-delegation



Helene works for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is currently posted to Norway's delegation to NATO, where she works on emerging and disruptive technologies and innovation. Her focus is on the intersection between innovation, technology and security policy and understanding their impact. Previously, she was posted in Abu Dhabi where she worked on regional politics, commerce and trade and Expo2020 in Dubai. She has a broad experience from the Middle East and grew up partly in the Middle East and South-Asia. Her work is driven by a deep interest in international cooperation and bridging international developments with national policies. She holds an MA in political science and a BA in International Relations.

Mr Vishal ISHWAR

Pakistan

Advisor to the Prime Minister

Prime Minister's Office



Vishal is Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Technology and Innovation (AI & Emerging Technologies), where he contributed to shaping the country's first National Artificial Intelligence Policy, aligning it with OECD and UNESCO standards. He has contributed to partnerships with global technology leaders such as Google and Microsoft, which enabled over 1.2 million digital-skills enrolments for youth under the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program. Alongside his government service, he teaches Data Science and Machine Learning at leading institutions, bridging academia, policy, and practice. A Fulbright Scholar with an MSc in Analytics & AI from Emory University and advanced studies at ETH Zurich, Vishal has represented Pakistan at the United Nations, the European Parliament, and the World Bank, advocating for inclusive and responsible digital cooperation.

Mr Irfan JAMSHEED

Pakistan

Lecturer / Manager Research
ManagementMirpur University of Science
and Technology (MUST), Mirpur
AJK, Pakistan

Engr. Irfan is Manager Research Management at the Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (ORIC) and a Lecturer in the Computer Systems Engineering Department at Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST), Mirpur, Pakistan. He holds an MS in Electrical Engineering and a BS in Electrical Engineering from local universities. Since 2021, he has managed research grants, facilitated university-industry collaborations, and organised national and international workshops, seminars, and exhibitions to strengthen research culture. His expertise includes research administration, HEC portal management, technical documentation, and digital outreach. Engr. Jamshed is committed to advancing science and technology diplomacy by fostering knowledge exchange, building strategic networks, and promoting collaboration across science, technology, and innovation sectors.

Mr Saddam SHAH

Pakistan

Assistant Director (Science
Diplomacy)Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Pakistan

Saddam is a civil servant in the Foreign Service of Pakistan, currently serving as Assistant Director in the Arms Control and Disarmament Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He looks after Pakistan's Science and Technology Diplomacy portfolio and serves as the national focal point for the implementation of National Science, Technology, and Innovation (NSTI) Policy 2022. He also deals with Emerging Technology and Cyber Diplomacy-related issues and engages with national and international stakeholders, including COMSTECH, COMSATS, and the ECO Science Foundation. Mr. Shah is co-editor of the Journal of Science Communication and Diplomacy, a joint initiative of COMSTECH and the Ministry.

Ms Anne ALMAZAN

Philippines

Project Technical Specialist V

Department of Science and
Technology (DOST), Philippines

Anne is currently a Project Technical Specialist (PTS) V at the International Technology Cooperation Unit of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Working in DOST for almost a decade, she has been at the forefront of Philippines' Science Diplomacy. As a PTS V, Anne is in charge of facilitating DOST's international cooperation with bilateral partners from Europe, Asia, and Africa. Specifically, in (i) building and maintaining linkages; (ii) preparing Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) inputs and policy recommendations; (iii) conceptualising proposals for possible collaboration; and (iv) facilitating the forging of international agreements and monitoring of implemented projects, among others. Anne completed a Bachelor's Degree in Consular and Diplomatic Affairs at the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, and is currently pursuing Master of Arts in International Affairs.

Mr Paolo ARAUNE

Philippines

Research Deputy Director

Xavier University-Ateneo de
Cagayan

Paolo is a youth leader, educator, and researcher dedicated to advancing education, ethical research, and community development. He holds an MSc in Mathematics from Ateneo de Manila University and a BSc in Mathematics from Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude and Class Valedictorian. His work bridges technical expertise and social impact, with projects in education, economics, health, and policy leading to cross-disciplinary collaborations and publications. As a faculty member, he teaches mathematics and mentors student researchers, while at the university research office, he manages grants, oversees policy and reporting, and leads initiatives to strengthen research engagement and partnerships. Paolo also guides youth councils and academic competitions, championing innovation, integrity, and inclusive growth through education and research.

Mr Allen Jeremiah DE LEON

Philippines

Research Officer

Foreign Service Institute,
Philippines

Allen Jeremiah Manalese has been involved in activities that create meaningful conversations - ones that spur environments of innovation, collaboration, and empowerment. Currently as a Research Officer, Mr. De Leon introduced the concept of sustainable finance with a focus on ocean-or blue finance at the Philippines' Foreign Service Institute (FSI). This has given him the opportunity to develop and co-manage several fora and publications on topics related to the blue economy such as national and local stakeholder engagement in blue economy development, blue financing mechanisms, regional collaboration for a sustainable blue economy, marine biodiversity and blue cultural diplomacy, among several others.

Mr Jason OCCIDENTAL

Philippines

Director - Innovation and
Technology Support Office

Ateneo de Davao University



Jason is an assistant professor at the Computer Engineering Department of Ateneo de Davao University in the Philippines. At the same university, he also serves as the director of the Innovation and Technology Support Office, a designated Technology and Innovation Support Center of the World Intellectual Property Organization. He aspires to build the innovation ecosystem in his university and his community, particularly in utilising science and technology research for creating new industries and promoting science-backed policies. Among his administrative duties, he conducts research on developing appropriate technologies for geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. He believes that science and technology is a key enabler towards sustainable development.

Mr Paolo SAMOZA

Philippines

Senior Science Research
Specialist

Philippine Space Agency



Paolo currently serves as a Senior Science Research Specialist at the Space Policy and International Cooperation Bureau of the Philippine Space Agency. In this capacity, he focuses on advancing bilateral cooperation and international partnerships, facilitating cooperation agreements with various countries, and overseeing projects at both the national and regional levels. Prior to this role, he served as Senior Science Research Specialist at the International Technology Cooperation Unit of the Department of Science and Technology, where he managed the Department's cooperation portfolios with Australia, Malaysia, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. His professional interests include science diplomacy, public diplomacy, and security studies. He holds a master's degree in Philippine Studies with a specialisation in Foreign Relations from the Asian Center, University of the Philippines, and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Service (cum laude) from New Era University.

Mr Tran Vinh (Peter) DO

Poland

Senior Administrator

Ministry of Digital Affairs, the
Republic of Poland

Tran Vinh (Peter) is a Senior Administrator in the GovTech Poland Department at the Ministry of Digital Affairs of the Republic of Poland. He is currently pursuing studies in Economics at the University of Warsaw and in New Technology Law at SWPS University. He previously gained professional experience at the Ministry of Finance, which provided him a knowledge about policy making and finances. With a strong foundation in project management and public procurement, he has built expertise in the digital economy and in developing international cooperation through technology. In his role, he organises technological and economic missions representing Ministry and Poland at leading international conferences and fairs, helping Polish technology companies expand their global presence. His work focuses on digital diplomacy and strengthening Poland's role in the international sphere on science and technology.

Ms Olga SMĘTEK

Poland

PhD candidate; Head of the
Research Management Office,
Faculty of Law and
Administration

University of Warsaw



Olga is Head of the Research Management Office at the Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Warsaw, where she leads a team supporting the Faculty's research strategy, managing grants, and strengthening international partnerships. A PhD candidate at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, her research examines the institutional and legal aspects of public research funding, focusing on comparative analyses of national grant agencies and grant evaluation mechanisms. She previously served as Deputy Head of the School of Law and Economy of China, overseeing Polish-Asian academic exchange and outreach, and coordinated the Warsaw-Beijing Forum, fostering dialogue between Polish and Chinese scholars. Olga holds a Master's from the Warsaw School of Economics and a Bachelor's from the University of Warsaw, and studied Chinese Language and Literature at Xiamen University under a Confucius Institute Scholarship.

Ms Beatriz CORADO

Portugal

Science Manager

DINÂMIA'CET- Iscte - Centre for
the Study of Socioeconomic
Change and the Territory

Beatriz is a Science Manager at DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte, a leading R&D centre within Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon. She manages national and international research projects across diverse fields, including political science, urban sociology, and heritage studies, while supporting strategic funding applications and doctoral programmes. With academic training in Political Science and Public Policy, Beatriz brings a multidisciplinary perspective to science management, particularly in connecting research with policymaking. Beyond academia, Beatriz serves as a youth association leader in Sintra (Lisbon), where she leads community-based projects focused on social development, cultural engagement, and local empowerment-reinforcing her commitment to inclusive and participatory approaches to policy and innovation.

Mr André TEIXEIRA

Portugal

Diplomatic Attaché

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Portugal

André is a Diplomatic Attaché at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, holding a Master's in International and European Law from Nova University of Lisbon, as well as a Master's and Bachelor's in Computer Engineering and a Bachelor's in Law from the University of Minho. His previous roles include Political Section Trainee at the Portuguese Embassy in Washington DC, BlueBook Policy Cooperation Trainee at the Secretariat-General of the European Commission in Brussels, and Trainee Lawyer in Lisbon. He has served as Portugal's Youth Delegate to the Council of Europe's World Democracy Forum, Member of the General Council of the University of Minho, General Coordinator of the European Commission Trainees Association, and President of the Portuguese National Council of Law Students. André is also a European Climate Pact Ambassador, Editorial Director of the iGlobal.Lawyer Project, and Member of the General Council of ZERO – Sustainable Earth System Association, while pursuing a post-grad in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in Conflict Situations.

Ms Raluca COSCODARU

Romania

Innovation Projects Specialist

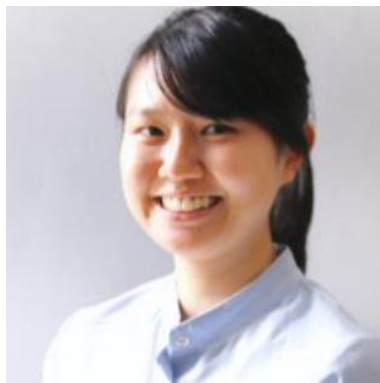
Executive Agency for Higher
Education, Research,
Development and Innovation
Funding (UEFISCDI)

Raluca is an Innovation Projects Specialist at the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) in Romania. With over ten years of experience, she has worked on EU-funded projects translating science into policy, designing innovation funding instruments, and fostering science diplomacy. Since 2023, she has acted as UEFISCDI's contact point in the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance. Raluca is also responsible for UEFISCDI's newly established Centre for Science Diplomacy and Policy, further strengthening the institution's strategic role in advancing science diplomacy at national and European levels. She holds a PhD in Political Science and dual Master's degrees in Diplomacy & International Negotiation and Evaluation of European Public Policies.

Ms Zealyn Shi Lin HENG

Singapore

Senior Head

Ministry of Education,
Singapore

Zealyn started her career as a researcher with interests in cancer, neuroscience and sustainability. She attained her Master's Degree at United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, based in Japan. At Singapore Management University, she developed and ran short-term academic and leadership training programmes for students with a focus on ASEAN countries. Currently, she is at the Ministry of Education, Singapore, managing innovation and enterprise grants as well as overseeing international research, innovation and enterprise collaborations across local institutes of higher learning.

Ms Laura Zhen Huei LEE

Singapore

Country Officer

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Singapore

Laura is a Foreign Service Officer with the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, currently covering Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain in the Middle East Directorate. She previously served in the International Organisations Directorate, where she handled issues at the intersection of science, technology, and international security, including nuclear disarmament, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and outer space. She supported Singapore's chairmanship of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Cybersecurity, and coordinated national positions on UN and IAEA resolutions. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public Policy and Global Affairs from Nanyang Technological University.

Mr Peter CUNINKA

Slovakia

Director of Centre of European
Projects, Cooperation with
Practice, Innovation and
Technology TransferSlovak University of Technology
in Bratislava

Peter received his PhD in Cybernetics in 2020 at the Faculty of Materials Science and Technology, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava. Since his engineering studies, he has been engaged in Horizon 2020 and later the EIT scheme. In 2015 he coordinated a Teaming project with responsibility for organisational and financial matters. From 2017, he managed the university's EIT activities, and since 2018 has served as Head of International Projects and Relations, implementing multiple international projects. In 2021, he joined the EIT Manufacturing RIS Hub Slovakia, and in 2022 became Director of the university Project Centre, which also oversees the RIS Hub. Since January 2024, he has been Director of the Centre of European Projects, Cooperation with Practice, Innovation and Technology Transfer, remaining active in project development and fostering collaborations.

Ms Elena OLMOS CARBONELL

Spain

Project Manager

University of Alicante



Elena is a Project Manager at the Institutional Project Management Office (OGPI) of the University of Alicante. Since joining in 2022, she has managed EU-funded cooperative projects between Higher Education Institutions under programmes such as Erasmus+, EIT-HEI, and Horizon 2020, involving partners across Europe, Asia, and Africa. She is skilled in building international consortia, designing proposals, organising conferences and training events, and coordinating multicultural teams. Elena holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Alicante, where she earned an Extraordinary Award, and a Master's in Environmental and Sustainability Law (cum laude). She studied at the European School of Political and Social Sciences (ESPOL) in Lille, France, and completed an internship in Turin, Italy, under the Erasmus+ MULTITRACES project on Circular Economy. She was also a collaboration grant recipient at the University's Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology.

Ms Clara SOLÉ

Spain

Head of Internationalization &
Science DiplomacyInstitute of Marine Sciences,
Spanish National Research
Council (ICM-CSIC)

Clara is Head of Internationalization and Science Diplomacy at the Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM-CSIC). She leads strategies to strengthen global partnerships, promote science-policy interfaces, and ensure marine research informs decision-making at local, regional, and international levels. Previously, she served as Principal Investigator for an EU-funded programme at the Government of Catalonia, designing policies in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Trained in International Relations and International Security & Diplomacy at Sciences Po Paris, and in Business Administration at UOC, she brings an interdisciplinary perspective to science and innovation diplomacy. She has represented ICM-CSIC in high-level forums such as the EU Mission Ocean Forum, the UN Ocean Decade Coastal Cities Conference, and the Shenzhen Global Marine Economy Forum, with a strong focus on advancing evidence-based ocean governance and fostering international cooperation.

Mr David VELASCO

Spain

Research and Development
Manager

Instituto de Salud Carlos III



David is a Spanish professional with a multidisciplinary background in research, science policy, and innovation. He began his career as a researcher before moving into roles that bridge science and policy across the private and public sectors. His experience spans diverse disciplines and institutions, reflecting a comprehensive understanding of the research and innovation ecosystem. He has worked at the Spanish Embassy in Canada, promoting scientific diplomacy, and later at the European Commission, contributing to innovation policy and international partnerships. Currently, he works at the Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII, Spain), supporting national and European research infrastructures and initiatives that integrate science, health, and technology within global cooperation frameworks, promoting scientific diplomacy and fostering collaboration between Europe and Latin America,

Mr Enric RUBIELLA NAVARRO

Spain

Project and Research Manager

Agency for Health Quality and
Assessment of Catalonia
(AQuAS)

Enric is a Project and Research Manager at the Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia (AQuAS), where he coordinates two Horizon Europe projects (EDiHTA and SustainHTA) focused on health technology assessment, digital health and international collaboration. He has experience managing large-scale, multi-stakeholder EU programmes, having previously overseen alliances and research projects at Universitat Pompeu Fabra and the University of Barcelona, as well as cultural and innovation funds in the Government of Catalonia. Academically, Enric holds a Master's in Diplomacy and International Public Service, a Master's in Global East Asian Studies, and is pursuing a Master's in Financial Management. He is also a fellow of the Mercatus Center's Don Lavoie Program. His professional expertise combines project management, evaluation, financial oversight, and stakeholder engagement, while his international experience in Europe and Japan and Xina underlines his interest in bridging science, technology, and diplomacy.

Mr Francesco BEE

Switzerland

Scientific Collaborator Global
Engagement OfficeBern University of Applied
Sciences

Francesco holds a Master's degree in European Global Studies from the University of Basel and serves as a Scientific Officer at the Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH). Within the Global Engagement Office, he contributes to the PIONEER University Alliance as Delegate for Mobility and Internationalisation and is responsible for the university's partnerships with India. He has extensive experience at the interface of science, policy, and international cooperation, having worked at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) on strategic science-policy initiatives and previously at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), where he supported bilateral cooperation, including the Swiss-Japanese Joint Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation. Francesco is a member of the Swiss Accreditation Council and an active contributor to the foreign policy think tank foraus, which conducts research and publishes analyses on international affairs.

Ms Claudia ELMIGER

Switzerland

Diplomatic Attaché

Swiss Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs

Claudia currently serves as Diplomatic Attachée at the Embassy of Switzerland in Amman, Jordan and covers bilateral relations between Switzerland and Jordan, as well as economic and cultural topics. Claudia will transfer to a role focusing on Science Diplomacy and the nexus of Finance, Technology and Diplomacy with the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in Bern, Switzerland. Before joining the FDFA, Claudia worked in the technology department of a leading Swiss financial institution between 2017 and 2024 in User Experience and Content Design as well as project management and software localization. Between 2013 and 2019, Claudia obtained an MA in Legal and Economic Translation and a BA in Multilingual Communication from the University of Geneva, King's College London, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Ms Chayanee LAOTRAKUL

Thailand

International Affairs Staff

Mae Fah Luang University



Chayanee is an international affairs staff at Mae Fah Luang University (MFU), Thailand, with over six years of experience in international collaboration and academic mobility. She holds a Master's degree in Science, which allows her to act as a connector between the university's research community and its international partners. Her work focuses on developing partnerships that align MFU's international and research goals. She has a particular interest in strengthening academic cooperation within the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and promoting research with wider regional and global relevance.

Ms Chittiporn NUANLA-ONG

Thailand

Research Administrator

Mahidol University



Chittiporn is a research administration professional at Mahidol University with over seven years of experience in managing international research funding and collaborations. As the official contact for EU and US funding programmes, she has coordinated major projects under Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, ERC grants, and US NIH and DoD funding through Mahidol University's Supporting Unit for International Research Funding (MU:SURF). Her expertise spans the full research administration cycle, including managing institutional profiles, proposal submission, reporting, and compliance with funding regulations. She actively promotes grant opportunities, organises workshops, and hosts capacity-building events to strengthen research collaboration and support Mahidol researchers in securing grants. With a background in medical microbiology, she blends scientific knowledge and administrative skills to enhance institutional capacity and foster sustainable international partnerships.

**Ms Kuncharee
THANADDOENKHAO**

Thailand

Attaché

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Thailand

Kuncharee, also known as Rijel, is a diplomatic officer at the Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. She is currently serving in the Visas and Travel Documents Division, where she supports the development and implementation of the e-Visa system to promote secure, efficient, and accessible travel.

Ms Juthathip WAEWSAMPUN

Thailand

Assistant International
Relations OfficerThailand Institute of Scientific
and Technological Research
(TISTR)

Juthathip is an Assistant International Relations Officer at the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR). Over two years, she has led international cooperation efforts in sustainable railway and transport systems, future health food innovation, and municipal solid waste management. Her work focuses on expanding research partnerships beyond Thailand, bridging science and policy to enhance Thailand's global engagement in science diplomacy. She has represented TISTR in multilateral networks and contributed to institutional strategies that position scientific research as a tool for diplomacy and sustainable development.

Dr Ben SWINTON-BLAND

United Kingdom

Senior Policy Adviser, Science
and Technology NetworkBritish High Commission
Canberra

Dr Ben is a Senior Policy Adviser at the British High Commission Canberra, where he leads UK-Australia policy engagement on artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and nuclear skills pathways. His career has been focused on the nexus between science, policy, and diplomacy, shaping strategic policy and fostering bilateral collaboration. Ben previously worked as a Policy Analyst at the Australian Academy of Science where he delivered high-impact science advice to the Australian Government on AI governance, environmental policy, and national research infrastructure investment. He also led foresight initiatives and convened national roundtables on emerging science priorities. Ben holds a PhD in experimental nuclear physics from the Australian National University.

Ms Linh NGUYEN

Viet Nam

Junior Trade and Investment
AdvisorEmbassy of Denmark in
Vietnam

Linh is a Junior Trade and Investment Advisor at the Danish Embassy in Vietnam with nearly three years of economic diplomacy experience. She supports the bilateral partnership by advising on global public affairs and market access, focusing on innovation and technology to advance sustainable development in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agrifood, and STEM education. She builds public-private partnerships that foster green growth and digital transformation. Linh graduated with High Distinction in International Business Economics and was 2nd runner-up in a competition on digitalised supply chains. Actively engaged in community and volunteer work, she is committed to inclusive, sustainable collaborations connecting Asia and Europe.

Mr Nam PHAM

Viet Nam

PhD Student/ Scientific
Research Management
SpecialistNencki Institute of Experimental
Biology, Polish Academy of
Sciences/
University of Management and
Technology, Ho Chi Minh City

Nam is a PhD Student at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences (Poland), where he conducts research in the Laboratory of Cytoskeleton and Cilia Biology. With an interdisciplinary background, including a Master of Science from Kyushu University (Japan) under the prestigious JDS Scholarship and seven years in Vaccine R&D in Vietnam, Mr. Pham is committed to translating complex scientific findings into practical, evidence-based policy. His expertise lies in molecular biology, recombinant protein production, and scientific project management. He is dedicated to fostering robust Science and Technology Diplomacy between Asia and Europe, facilitating shared knowledge and cooperation to address global challenges.

Ms Ngoc TRAN

Viet Nam

International Programmes
Officer (Training and
Development)

Technology Coordinator

University of Medicine and
Pharmacy - Vietnam National
University, Hanoi (UMP-VNU) /
The Asia Research Center -
Vietnam National University,
Hanoi (ARC-VNU)

Ngoc is a dedicated professional advancing international higher education and science and technology cooperation. She serves as International Training Programmes Officer at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy under VNU Hanoi and as part-time Science and Technology Coordinator at the Asia Research Center. With extensive experience in international collaboration, she has led academic partnerships, student mobility, and cross-border research. At VNU's University of Economics and Business, she strengthened global engagement through international conferences, research cooperation, and study-abroad initiatives. She has coordinated programmes such as the USAID-funded Capstone course with Indiana University, the Global Partnership of Asian Colleges, Erasmus mobility projects, and the Vietnam-Ireland Bilateral Education Exchange. Her collaborations include the Italian Chamber of Commerce and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Holding a Bachelor's in International Law and pursuing a Master's at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ngoc is committed to linking diplomacy, law, and education to promote innovation and sustainable global partnerships.

Ms Hoa TRUONG

Viet Nam

Official International
Cooperation Department,Ministry of Science and
Technology, Viet Nam

Hoa is an International Cooperation Official at the Ministry of Science and Technology of Viet Nam, where she coordinates international cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI) within ASEAN and APEC frameworks. With nearly a decade of experience in multilateral and bilateral collaboration, she has been engaged in regional mechanisms on standards and conformance, and STI cooperation. Her portfolio includes coordinating Viet Nam's participation in the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) and the APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation (PPSTI). She also supports FTA negotiations and implementation on TBT and contributes to the EU-ARISE+ Viet Nam component on national quality infrastructure. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English for Science and Technology (with Distinction) and has completed various professional training courses on diplomacy and international cooperation.

ORGANISED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



HOSTED AND FUNDED BY:

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK

GENERAL FUNDERS:

*Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 11 July 2025*

SUPPORTED BY:

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE DIPLOMACY
& SUSTAINABILITYBRIN
BADAN RISET
DAN INOVASI NASIONALInternational
Science Council
Regional Focal Point for
Asia and the PacificHOSTED BY
Australian
Academy of
Science