



Participants List

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
1	Mr Azazul Ansary ZIMY	Bangladesh	Assistant Secretary	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2	Dr Sharon LECOCQ	Belgium	Attaché Federal, Interfederal and International Coordination, Research Teaching Fellow	Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) University of Leuven (KU Leuven)
3	Mr Pancho DACHKINOV	Bulgaria	Assistant Professor	Institute of Robotics - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
4	Mr Pakrigna LONG	Cambodia	Lecturer/Head of Big Data and Data Engineering Unit	Institute of Technology of Cambodia
5	Ms Chanmoneypetch TUY	Cambodia	Official	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia
6	Ms Meizhu HONG	China	Commercial Officer	Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark in Beijing
7	Mr Zhenyang XUE	China	Research Grants Assistant, the Research and Knowledge Exchange Office	University of Nottingham Ningbo China

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
8	Ms Jindřiška SEIDLOVÁ	Czech Republic	Ministerial Officer	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic
9	Dr Carmen KIVISTIK	Estonia	Representative, Brussels Office	Estonian Research Council
10	Mr Axel RAPHALEN	France	Scientific and University Officer	French Embassy in Denmark
11	Mr Benoît TALLEU	France	Foreign Policy Adviser for Asia and the Pacific	Ministry of Higher Education and Research, France
12	Ms Rebekka BOHL	Germany	Research Development/Funding Advisor	University of Applied Science Bochum
13	Dr Katharina VOLLHEYDE	Germany	Research Project Manager	University of Copenhagen
14	Mr Dimitris BOUFIDIS	Greece	PhD Candidate; Science Diplomacy Chair (PSPDG)	University of Pennsylvania
15	Mr Abhishek KATIYAR	India	Officer	CICA Secretariat
16	Mr Deep NARAYAN	India	Senior Science and Innovation Officer	British High Commission, India
17	Ms Cindy FEBIOLA	Indonesia	Science and Technology Development Analyst	Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
18	Ms Sindy FITRI	Indonesia	Assistant Deputy Director for Digital Diplomacy, Office of Vice Foreign Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
19	Mr Killian BROWNE	Ireland	Diplomat	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
20	Dr Garry KETT	Ireland	Researcher	Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research - CIIMAR
21	Dr Carlo Federico DALL'OMO	Italy	Research Manager	Università Iuav di Venezia

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
22	Ms Seiana PRIANTE	Italy	Policy Officer	European Commission - DG CNECT
23	Dr Ena ONISHI	Japan	Research Administrator	Kyoto University
24	Mr Alibek MADIBEKOV	Kazakhstan	Deputy Director	National Center for Higher Education Development
25	Ms Sunyub KIM	Korea	Associate Research Fellow	Science and Technology Policy Institute, Korea
26	Ms Siti Nurlisa BINTI HAZIM	Malaysia	Executive, Financing & Ecosystem Development Cluster	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia
27	Dr Chern Choong (Sean) THUM	Malaysia	Special Functions Officer to the Deputy Minister	Ministry of Communications, Malaysia
28	Ms Dariimaa (Donna) CHINBAT	Mongolia	Foreign Relations Manager/Partnership Manager	National Information Technology Park of Mongolia
29	Mr Soe Yu NAING	Myanmar	Researcher, Project Manager	Utrecht University
30	Ms Clementine FLACK	Netherlands	Programme Manager, International Entrepreneurship	Royal Academy of Engineering
31	Ms Helene Kvam SIGMOND	Norway	First Secretary	Norway's NATO-delegation
32	Mr Saddam SHAH	Pakistan	Assistant Director (Science Diplomacy)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan
33	Mr Paolo ARAUNE	Philippines	Research Deputy Director	Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan
34	Mr Allen Jeremiah DE LEON	Philippines	Research Officer	Foreign Service Institute, Philippines
35	Mr Tran Vinh (Peter) DO	Poland	Senior Administrator	Ministry of Digital Affairs, the Republic of Poland

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Name of Workplace
36	Ms Olga SMĘTEK	Poland	PhD candidate; Head of the Research Management Office, Faculty of Law and Administration	University of Warsaw
37	Ms Laura Zhen Huei LEE	Singapore	Country Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
38	Ms Elena OL莫斯 CARBONELL	Spain	Project Manager	University of Alicante
39	Ms Chayanee LAOTRAKUL	Thailand	International Affairs Staff	Mae Fah Luang University
40	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)
41	Ms Hoa TRUONG	Viet Nam	Official	International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Science and Technology, Viet Nam

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 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 Chanmounyech TUY

Cambodia

Official

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation,
Cambodia

Chanmounyech 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.

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.

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 multidisciplinarity, interconnectedness and continuous broadening of horizons. Some of her previous roles focused on EU-funded programmes or cultural diplomacy.

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.

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 BMFTR. 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.

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-Skłodowska-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.

Mr Dimitrios BOUFIDIS

Greece

PhD Candidate; Science
Diplomacy Chair (PSPDG)

University of Pennsylvania



Dimitris Boufidis is a Ph.D. Candidate in Bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania and the Science Diplomacy Chair of the Penn Science Policy and Diplomacy Group (PSPDG). He leads PSPDG's educational programming and science diplomacy curriculum, designing workshops, seminars, training sessions, and collaborative projects with embassies that equip STEM Ph.D. students to connect their research with international policy-making and diplomacy. Under his leadership, PSPDG has established strong partnerships worldwide, advancing early-career engagement in global science diplomacy. His research focuses on neural tissue engineering and bioelectronics, developing biohybrid neural interfaces to restore brain function. Originally from Greece, Dimitris graduated top of his class from the University of Sheffield (UK), receiving the 2022 Chancellor's Medal. A TEDx speaker and passionate STEM advocate, his outreach work has been featured by The Guardian and BBC News.

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 Cindy FEBIOLA

Indonesia

Science and Technology Development Analyst

Indonesia 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 Minister

Ministry 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 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.

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 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 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.

Dr Chern Choong (Sean) THUM

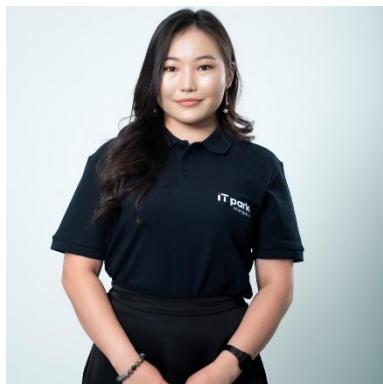
Malaysia

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.

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.

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 Université 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 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 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 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.

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 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 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.

Ms Elena OLMO 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 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 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.

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