

06 **innoLab**

ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

**Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an
AI-Powered Future**

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2.	Ms	Cleo	CACHAPERO	Lead for Higher Education Projects, Education Department	Asia-Europe Foundation	
3.	Mr	Martin	HAMMERBAUER	Senior Project Executive, Education Department	Asia-Europe Foundation	
4.	Mr	Lei	ZHANG	Deputy Executive Director	Asia-Europe Foundation	
5.	Mr	Rohan	SACHDEVA	Policy Analyst	Asia Pacific Policy Observatory, NetMission.Asia	Australia
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7.	Mr	Shafiee	YAKOB	Education Officer	Universiti Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam
8.	Dr	Irina	DIMITROVA	National VET Team Expert	Human Resources Development Center	Bulgaria
9.	Mr	Dechkunn	CHHAY	University-Industry Linkage Coordinator	Cambodia University of Technology and Science	Cambodia
10.	Mr	Karol	LEJA	Researcher	Tampere University	Finland
11.	Mr	Panourgias	PAPAIIOANNOU	Research Associate & PhD Candidate	TU Dortmund	Germany
12.	Dr	Liwah	WONG	Principal Investigator	Technical University of Berlin / National University of Singapore	Germany
13.	Dr	Bin	ZHOU	Research Associate	University of Augsburg	Germany
14.	Ms	Kristaline	LEYTE	PhD Student	Eötvös Loránd University	Hungary
15.	Mr	Aviral	KAINTURA	Analyst & Editor	Asia Pacific Policy Observatory, NetMission.Asia	India
16.	Dr	Mohammad	ROKIB	Senior Lecturer	Universitas Negeri Surabaya	Indonesia
17.	Ms	Lidya	VERADILLA	Virtual Scholarship Officer for EU Mobility Programme for Myanmar	Nuffic Southeast Asia	Indonesia
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19.	Dr	Lara	SORRENTINO	Head of Postgraduate and Continuing Education Department, Teaching and Learning Services	University of Florence	Italy
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21.	Mrs	Ieva	VEIDEMANE	Adjunct Lecturer, Riga Business School	Riga Technical University	Latvia
22.	Mr	Nutan Kumar	BALLA	Officer for Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning	Malta Further and Higher Education Authority	Malta
23.	Ms	Nang Thaingi	MYO	Education Consultant	UNESCO Myanmar	Myanmar
24.	Dr	Robert Kerwin	BILLONES	Full Professor & Research Fellow	De La Salle University	Philippines
25.	Dr	Rowena	CAGUIAT	Director for Professional Training and Development, School of Lifelong Learning	De La Salle University	Philippines
26.	Dr	(Anthony) Shun Fung	CHIU	Vice President for External Relations and Internationalisation	De La Salle University	Philippines

27.	Dr	Elmer	DADIOS	Distinguished Professor & University Fellow / Academician	De La Salle University / National Academy of Science and Technology	Philippines
28.	Prof Dr	Alvin	CULABA	Commissioner, UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines	Department of Foreign Affairs	Philippines
29.	Dr	Franz	DE LEON	Director, Advanced Science and Technology Institute	Department of Science and Technology	Philippines
30.	Engr	Gerhard	TAN	Senior Director & Head of Technology Strategy and Innovations	Globe Group	Philippines
31.	Ms	Jo Ann	MAGSUMBOL	Program Chair	Polytechnic University of the Philippines	Philippines
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38.	Mr	Yang	BONG	Visiting Lecturer	University of Nottingham	United Kingdom
39.	Mr	Kenneth	LEUNG	Advisor and Research Director	Asia Pacific Policy Observatory, NetMission.Asia	United Kingdom
40.	Ms	Hoang Ca	PHUNG	International Mobility Coordinator	FPT University	Viet Nam

Dr Shanti JAGANNATHAN
Director for Human and
Social Development

**ASIAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK**



Profile to follow.

Ms Cleo CACHAPERO
Lead for Higher
Education Projects,
Education Department

**ASIA-EUROPE
FOUNDATION**



Cleo CACHAPERO, a Filipino national, joined ASEF's Education Department in July 2023 and now leads its higher education portfolio. Prior to joining ASEF, Cleo worked at the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines for 10 years as the Desk Officer for ASEAN and SEAMEO Affairs of its International Affairs Service (IAS). Cleo earned her undergraduate degree Bachelor of Science in International Relations major in Diplomacy from Lyceum of the Philippines University – Manila in 2013 and finished her Master of Public Administration at the University of the Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance in 2021.

**Mr Martin
HAMMERBAUER**
Senior Project Executive,
Education Department

**ASIA-EUROPE
FOUNDATION**



Martin Hammerbauer works as a Senior Project Executive in the Education Department of the Asia-Europe Foundation, where he focuses on the Higher Education portfolio. Prior to ASEF, he worked on international projects at the Charles University in Prague, where he helped to develop the 4EU+ Alliance and co-developed the first micro-credentials framework in the country. He is also a former member of the Executive Committee of the European Students' Union (ESU), and an alumnus of the 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit. Martin grew up in Czechia, where he graduated from Prague University of Economics and Business with a Master's Degree in International Trade.

Mr ZHANG Lei
Deputy Executive
Director

**ASIA-EUROPE
FOUNDATION**



Mr ZHANG has served in different departments of the Chinese Foreign Ministry and has extensive experience in multilateral affairs. Prior to his appointment at ASEF, he was Counsellor at the Department of International Economic Affairs. Mr ZHANG has also been posted to several overseas missions, including the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations in New York, as well as the Chinese Embassies in Bangladesh, New Zealand, and Trinidad and Tobago. Mr ZHANG graduated from the Beijing Foreign Studies University and holds a Master's degree in Diplomacy and International Strategy from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Mr Rohan SACHDEVA
Policy Analyst
*Asia Pacific Policy
Observatory,
Netmission.Asia*

AUSTRALIA

Other Affiliations: Compliance
Officer at .au Domain
Administration; Student, La
Trobe University



Rohan Sachdeva is a Vice-Chancellor's Scholar at La Trobe University, Australia, pursuing a Bachelor of Cyber Security. He serves as a Compliance Officer at .au Domain Administration (.auDA), contributing to policy development and the security of the Domain Name System. He is also a Policy Analyst at NetMission.Asia through the Asia Pacific Policy Observatory. Rohan has participated in several prestigious fellowships and exchanges, including APIGA in South Korea, APAN in Hong Kong, the University of Tokyo in Japan, and Linköping University in Sweden. He is a fellow of Dexterity Global, where he was trained in leadership and entrepreneurship by Harvard mentors. Passionate about technology, policy, and international relations, he is committed to building secure and inclusive digital ecosystems.

Ms Julia EISNER
Researcher & Lecturer
*University of Applied
Science Wiener
Neustadt*

AUSTRIA

Other Affiliation: Vice
President, Women in AI
Austria



Julia Eisner, BA, MA, is a lecturer and researcher at the University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt (Austria), Faculty of Business. Her academic background is in sociology, with a current focus on human-machine collaboration.

She is currently pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Vienna, where her research focuses on communicative AI in corporate communication. Her dissertation explores the role of AI in professional contexts and how responsibilities and boundaries between humans and machines are being redefined. A central cross-cutting theme of her research is the analysis of ethical and social risks associated with these transformations-particularly in relation to agency, accountability, and the restructuring of communicative labor.

Beyond academia, she serves as Vice President at Women in AI Austria. In this role, she engages in policy dialogue and engage in projects that build a responsible, and human-centred approach to AI in society.

Mr Shafiee YAKOB
Education Officer
*Universiti Brunei
Darussalam*

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



Shafiee Yakob is a passionate and innovative educator with over eight years of experience in English language teaching. Currently an Education Officer at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Shafiee plays a vital role in advancing language education through both academic support and hands-on initiatives. His teaching journey began in Brunei's primary schools, and he broadened his horizons internationally at the UBD-FPT Global Centre in Da Nang, Vietnam, enriching his perspective on multicultural learning environments.

Armed with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography and Development and a Master's of Education (in Higher Education) from UBD, Shafiee is committed to fostering interactive and inclusive classrooms where students gain confidence and find their voice. His research is centered on boosting motivation among adult ESL learners and exploring innovative ways to integrate technology into language learning, driving forward the future of education.

Dr Irina DIMITROVA
National VET Team
Expert
*Human Resources
Development Center*

BULGARIA

Other Affiliation: Programme
Director, Institute for Training
of Personnel in International
Organisations



Irina Dimitrova is a researcher and education expert. Holding a PhD in Economics, she has over 15 years of experience in vocational education and training, with a focus on qualification standards, quality assurance, validation of non-formal and informal learning, and curriculum development. Irina has been actively involved in EU-funded initiatives, particularly those supporting the green and digital transitions, micro-credentials, and skills anticipation. Her work spans across EU Member States and candidate countries, where she provides policy advice, develops national standards, and supports the alignment of qualifications frameworks with EU tools and principles.

Irina is also engaged in methodological innovation in adult learning and lifelong learning systems, contributing to the design of inclusive and competence-based education pathways. She brings a multidisciplinary perspective to her work, blending system-level analysis with practical implementation experience.

Mr Dechkunn CHHAY
University-Industry
Linkage Coordinator
*Cambodia University of
Technology and Science*

CAMBODIA



Dechkunn Chhay is the University-Industry Linkage Coordinator at CamTech University in Phnom Penh where he leads initiatives that build meaningful partnerships between academia and the tech-driven industry.

He earned his Master's degree in Digital Humanities from the University of Göttingen where he focused on using cutting edge technologies such as machine learning and computational methods to study political and social issues.

Mr Karol LEJA
Researcher
Tampere University

FINLAND



Karol Leja is a researcher and doctoral student at Tampere University in Finland. His core focus is international higher education and student participation in university governance. Karol has extensive experience working in administrative roles at higher education institutions across Asia and Europe. He has studied at multiple universities worldwide, including Jagiellonian University in Kraków, National Chiao Tung University in Hsinchu, and Beijing Normal University. He holds MA degrees in philosophy and international relations. Most recently, he advanced his expertise in higher education research through the MARIHE programme, earning a Master of Administrative Sciences degree from Tampere University. He has a diverse professional background, including sales, market research, logistics, and business analytics. Currently, he combines his doctoral studies with his role as a researcher and project coordinator at Tampere University, contributing to multidisciplinary research and academic projects.

Mr Panourgias PAPAIOANNOU
Research Associate/PhD
Candidate
TU Dortmund

GERMANY



Panourgias Papaioannou is a PhD Candidate in Higher Education Management at TU Dortmund University and a board member of EAIR. He holds an Erasmus Mundus master's degree in Research and Innovation in Higher Education from DUK, where he received the Masterlab Prize. His research explores academic performance appraisal and the digitalisation of higher education institutions. He represented Greece at the 21st ASEF Summer University in Australia and New Zealand and actively advocates for the rights of people with disabilities, promoting inclusive learning environments and the use of AI in teaching and research.

Dr Liwah WONG
Principle Investigator
*Technical University of
Berlin / National
University of Singapore*

GERMANY



As co-author of UNEP's CTPR2025, Liwah co-leads on biomass conversion, carbon sequestration, sustainable agriculture, and bio-based materials, shaping reference points for Circular Bioeconomy negotiations at COP30.

Liwah currently spearheads a Technical University of Berlin-National University of Singapore collaboration on Biomass Waste Valorisation for Resilient Cities. Her research on regenerative soil systems as next-generation urban infrastructure has been recognised among the top 10% in Germany by the GUILD Women in Entrepreneurship program (UC Berkeley/Stanford University/Silicon Valley) and placed in the top 25% by the CITRIS Innovation Intensive (UC Berkeley/Merced/Santa Cruz/Davis, CITRIS & Banatao Institute, NASA Ames Research Center).

Dr Bin ZHOU
Research Associate
University of Augsburg

GERMANY



Dr Bin Zhou is a Research Associate at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Augsburg, Germany. His current research lies at the intersection of environmental medicine, informatics, and epidemiology, with a particular focus on advancing evidence-based understanding of how environmental exposures-such as air pollution and temperature extremes-affect human health. With a background in environmental engineering and physical geography, he applies state-of-the-art modeling techniques to simulate environmental stressors and assess their impacts on human health.

Before joining the University of Augsburg, Dr Zhou completed his PhD in Urban Climatology at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, followed by postdoctoral research at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research in Israel. He has substantial expertise in programming, geospatial analytics, and data analysis in clinical and environmental health research.

Ms Kristaline LEYTE
PhD Student
Eötvös Loránd University

HUNGARY



Kristaline Leyte is a Learning Experience Designer with over eight years of experience across government agencies, international organisations and the private sector. Her expertise spans instructional design, adult learning principles, and digital transformation, exemplified by initiatives such as "Learning Goes Digital," which successfully transitioned traditional training programmes into online learning environments.

She holds a Master's degree in Educational Science with a specialisation in Educational Technology and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) where she is also an active member of Higher Education and Innovation Research Group.

With a holistic understanding of human behaviour, talent management, and learning science, Kristaline currently works as an Instructional Design Consultant, creating impactful, learner-centered solutions. Driven by purpose and a commitment to lifelong learning, she continues to champion accessible, inclusive education.

Mr Aviral KAINTEURA
Analyst & Editor
Asia Pacific Policy Observatory, Netmission.Asia

INDIA

Other Affiliation: Student,
National Forensic Sciences
University – Delhi Campus



Aviral Kaintura is a final-year Master's student in Computer Science and Cybersecurity at the National Forensic Sciences University, New Delhi with a strong interest in the intersection of technology, policy, and education. He has contributed to the Internet Governance ecosystem by organising a session at the 2024 Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum on "Is Asia-Pacific Ready for AI? Balancing Innovation, Ethical Governance, and Marginalised Needs," and leading a workshop at the 2024 Internet Governance Forum titled "An Open and Democratic Internet in the Digitization Era." A NetMission.Asia Core Team member and contributor to the Asia Pacific Policy Observatory, he researches Digital Inclusion and Ethical AI/Bias. He is currently an AI intern with the UN's IFAD, has presented on DNS Security as an ICANN 81 NextGen Fellow, and supports capacity-building initiatives like APIGA India.

Dr Mohammad ROKIB
Senior Lecturer
*Universitas Negeri
Surabaya*

INDONESIA



Dr Mohammad Rokib is a digital culture scholar specialising in computational approaches to textual studies and digital archiving. As a curriculum developer in the Indonesian Literature Department at Universitas Negeri Surabaya, he has pioneered technology-integrated curricula, incorporating cutting-edge digital tools into humanities education. Currently, he is a key member of the team designing a postgraduate distance learning programme for language and literature education studies. His research focuses on computational text analysis and digital documentation, with several published works on digital archiving practices. Beyond academia, Dr Rokib actively contributes to public discourse as a columnist for national media outlets in Indonesia, bridging scholarly insights with broader audiences.

Ms Lidya VERADILLA
Virtual Scholarship
Officer for EU Mobility
Programme for Myanmar
(EMPM)
Nuffic Southeast Asia

INDONESIA



Lidya is an education professional with a strong track record in project and non-profit management, particularly in international development. She is passionate about driving impact through cross-border collaboration, technology, and sustainable education initiatives. Since 2022, she has supported regional academic mobility and credit transfer harmonisation across ASEAN through roles with the EU SHARE and EU Mobility Programme for Myanmar (EMPM). Her work reflects a deep commitment to international cooperation and expanding access to quality education, especially through digital platforms. She actively advocates for knowledge diplomacy, education technology, and inclusive learning in emergencies.

Dr Salvatore MOCCIA
Director of Education
and Skills
*European Institute of
Innovation and
Technology*

ITALY



With over 35 years in the higher education sector, working with private and public stakeholders all over the world, Salvatore Moccia is expert in designing and leading high-innovative educational projects in several technologies—from Double Degree Master Programs to Executive Education and Upskilling and Reskilling. He is expert in building leadership, skills and capability to support organisational growth and performance. Salvatore is also a Professor of Strategic Management and from 2022 has been serving as the Director of Skills and Education including the Master and Doctoral School at EIT-Digital, a pan-European organisation co-funded by the European Union. He is the project coordinator of several EU projects in the field of Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, HPC, Chips and Cybersecurity, including the Cybersecurity Skills Academy. He is also the Co-Chair of the Working Group on Skills development of the Industrial Alliance on Processors and Semiconductor Technologies, Member of the ENISA working Group on Skills Development, and Deputy Vice President of the International Federation of Scholarly Associations of Management.

Dr Lara SORRENTINO
Head of Post-graduate
and Continuing
Education Department,
Teaching and Learning
Services
University of Florence

ITALY



Lara Sorrentino is Senior Manager for Higher Education and currently Head of Postgraduate and Continuing Education Department, Teaching and Learning Services Division, at the University of Florence, Italy.

She holds a PhD in Modern Philology and a MBA for University Management. She is experienced in the design and implementation of HE innovative educational programmes, including micro-credentials and joint degrees. She has also been a member of the Teaching & Learning Cluster and Strategy Group within Una Europa University Alliance, developing concepts and methodologies for the design of innovative joint programmes, including micro-credential prototypes and frameworks.

Mr Vitaliy RUDNEV
Program coordinator
*Kostanay Regional
University*

KAZAKHSTAN



Her recent professional experience includes the participation in several international conferences as lecturer or facilitator on the topics of innovation in higher education, methodologies and procedure for international programme design and implementation, continuing education.

Vitaliy Rudnev is a teacher, programme coordinator, and advocate for inclusive education in Kostanay, Kazakhstan. With over 15 years of his experience and a strong background in philosophy and English language instruction, he works at the intersection of technology, accessibility, and human rights and tries to adapt new tools for successful learning. Vitaliy has coordinated internationally-funded initiatives that promote equal access to education and possibilities for employment for marginalised young groups.

Vitaliy is passionate about building innovative educational ecosystems, and his mission is to encourage students through meaningful, human-centred, and moral applications of technology.

Mrs Ieva VEIDEMANE
Adjunct Lecturer
*Riga Business School by
Riga Technical
University*

LATVIA



Ieva Veidemane is a marketing and business process professional with extensive experience working on large and diverse projects in global companies. Ieva holds an MBA degree from Riga Business School and serves as an Adjunct Lecturer.

Describing herself as a "Forever student," Ieva is always on the lookout for opportunities to continue learning.

Mr Nutan Kumar BALLA
Officer for Validation of
Non-Formal and Informal
Learning
*Malta Further and
Higher Education
Authority (MFHEA)*

MALTA



Nutan Kumar Balla is a VNFIL Officer at the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA), with an MBA from India and a Master's in International Management Economics from Italy and Poland. With this background, he brings strong analytical and strategic skills to education quality assurance.

At MFHEA, I focus on programme accreditation and the development of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policies. My role includes assessing and accrediting VNFIL centre applications, reviewing Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) systems, and evaluating assessment processes to ensure compliance with national and European standards. I also conduct spot checks to uphold integrity and high standards across institutions. Passionate about lifelong learning and education quality, I am committed to promoting diverse learning pathways and improving access to formal recognition for all learners.

Ms Nang Thaingi MYO
Education Consultant
UNESCO Myanmar

MYANMAR



Nang Thaingi Myo is an education consultant at UNESCO Myanmar with expertise in teacher education, training, and curriculum digitisation. She is currently pursuing an MSc in Digital Education at the University of Edinburgh, deepening her expertise in technology-enhanced learning, instructional design, and the application of emerging technologies including AI and data analytics. At UNESCO, she plays a key role in developing and managing e-learning courses and resources for the Myanmar Teacher Platform (MTP), ensuring they are accessible and responsive to diverse educational contexts. Her work supports the integration of digital tools in teacher education and training that promotes inclusive and innovative

**Dr Robert Kerwin
BILLONES**
Full Professor &
Research Fellow
De La Salle University

PHILIPPINES

Other Affiliation:



approaches, as well as the development of ICT competencies and digital literacy among educators. With a strong background in curriculum development, project management, and stakeholder engagement, she is committed to advancing equitable, technology-driven education systems in Myanmar.

Dr Robert Kerwin C Billones is a full professor at the Department of Manufacturing Engineering and Management, De La Salle University, Manila, and a research fellow at the Intelligent Systems Laboratory. He earned his PhD in Electronics and Communications Engineering from DLSU in 2018. He completed the Leaders in Innovation Fellowship programme under the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Asian Institute of Management in 2019.

He serves as AI Governance Coordinator for the Asia-Europe for Artificial Intelligence (AE4AI) Network and is a member of the Philippine national standards body to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 on AI. A member of several IEEE societies, he has authored over 113 international research publications. He had also worked on several research projects under the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Council of the Philippines. His interests include AI and data governance, applied AI, digital twins, biomedical engineering, and cyber-physical systems.

Dr Rowena CAGUIAT
Director for Professional
Training and
Development, School of
Lifelong Learning
De La Salle University

PHILIPPINES



Dr Caguiat brings with her extensive experience developing and deploying successful training programmes at De La Salle University and Infor, driving enhanced knowledge and skill development. She has proven leadership in managing complex training initiatives and fostering the growth of both students and professionals through effective mentorship. Complemented by a strong customer-centric approach and deep technical understanding of ERP systems cultivated in consulting roles, she makes sure training aligns with practical application and user success.

Dr Caguiat successfully developed, designed, and implemented an Industry 4.0 Executive leadership development programme for the Manufacturing Industry, fully funded by USAID. She has also mentored IT professionals from state universities and colleges (SUCs) on business continuity planning, funded by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and awarded to DLS-College of St. Benilde (CSB).

**Dr (Anthony) Shun Fung
CHIU**
Vice President for
External Relations and
Internationalisation
De La Salle University

PHILIPPINES



Anthony SF Chiu is the Vice President for External Relations and Internationalisation, Presidential Adviser on Sustainability, University Fellow and Distinguished Full Professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering at De La Salle University. He co-authored more than 200 UN development project manuscripts and indexed journal articles in the SDG12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) area, including Nature and PNAS articles. Anthony also has served the national government as the Pollution Adjudication Board Member (rank of Commissioner) since 2004 to present. He is an official delegate of the Philippine government in various UN summits, i.e. Rio+20, UNEA-6 and SDG Roadmap. He is a member of the UN International Resource Panel [2016-2025], and the founding editor-in-chief of the Elsevier Journal of Cleaner and Responsible Consumption. He is currently president of the International Foundation for Production Research.

Dr Elmer DADIOS
Distinguished Professor
and University Fellow
De La Salle University

PHILIPPINES

Other Affiliation:
Academician, National Academy
of Science and Technology



Dr Elmer Dadios is a Distinguished Professor and University Fellow at De La Salle University (DLSU), Philippines. He earned his BSc in Electrical Engineering from Mindanao State University, MSc in Computer Science from DLSU, and PhD in Robotics and Intelligent Systems from Loughborough University in the United Kingdom.

A recognised authority in robotics and artificial intelligence, Dr Dadios has authored over 570 Scopus-indexed publications and five books on fuzzy logic, control, and automation. He is an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology (2023) and has received numerous distinctions, including the PAASE Severino & Paz Koh Lectureship Award, the NRCP Lifetime Achievement Award, and the DOST 50 Men and Women of Science and Technology.

He is also Founder and Chair of the Intelligent Systems Innovation Corporation, with research spanning robotics, AI applications for smart systems, and computational intelligence.

Prof Dr Alvin CULABA
Commissioner on
Science and Technology,
UNESCO National
Commission of the
Philippines
*Department of Foreign
Affairs*

PHILIPPINES

Other Affiliation: Director, Center
for Engineering and Sustainable
Development Research



Professor Alvin Culaba is a multi-awarded scientist, ASEAN Engineer, and Academician recognised internationally for his pioneering and significant contribution to the development and applications of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology in manufacturing and energy systems engineering. His over 200 scientific paper in various journals are amongst the highly cited publications as evidenced by his h-index of 40, i10-index 99, and 6,232 citations and inclusion in the Top 2% of the World's Scientists, by impact (Stanford List 2005 & 2003).

Dr Culaba is the Vice President of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and Commissioner on Science and Technology of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM). He has held various distinguished positions such as former Philippine Energy Adviser, member of the Joint Congressional Commission on Science, Technology and Engineering and the Presidential Coordinating Council for Research and Development, a past President of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) and the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE) USA, and a Visiting Professor to numerous foreign universities in Asia, the USA, and Europe.

Dr Culaba is currently a Distinguished University Professor, University Fellow and Director of the Center for Engineering and Sustainable Development Research at DLSU. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom, a Master's degree in Energy Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology, and Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Eastern Visayas State University.

Dr Franz DE LEON
Director, Advanced
Science and Technology
Institute
*Department of Science
and Technology*

PHILIPPINES



Dr Franz de Leon is the Director of the Advanced Science and Technology Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-ASTI) and concurrently a Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the University of the Philippines Diliman (UP Diliman).

Dr de Leon holds a BS Electronics and Communications Engineering and MS Electrical Engineering degrees from UP Diliman. He later obtained his PhD in Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the University of Southampton at United Kingdom. His research interests include digital signal processing (DSP) for audio and communications, music

information retrieval, audio engineering, and adaptive filters and linear arrays.

Dr de Leon has over 18 years of teaching experience in his alma mater, UP Diliman, under the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute where he teaches Signals and Systems, Digital Signal Processing, Digital Audio Signal Processing, among other things. He has also received a number of accolades as a faculty researcher and has led various R&D projects from DOST and UP Diliman. He was a visiting researcher at the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, and a Research Fellow at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan. Dr de Leon served as Interim Chair of the Asia Open RAN Academy from 2022-2023.

Engr Gerhard TAN
Senior Director & Head
of Technology Strategy
and Innovations
Globe Group

PHILIPPINES



Engr Gerhard Tan is the Senior Director and Head of Technology Strategy and Innovations at Globe Telecom, Inc., and a Member of the Professional Regulatory Board of Electronics Engineering under the Professional Regulation Commission. He holds a BSc in Electronics and Communications Engineering from the University of Saint Louis Tuguegarao, an MSc in Electronics Engineering from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and is completing his PhD in Electronics & Communications Engineering at De La Salle University Manila.

At Globe, he is responsible for its 3-5 year technology strategy, emerging technology adoption and enablement, network technology innovations, end-to-end network architecture, and master planning, the new technology solutions testing, validation & integration of new services into Globe's network including 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), Satellite Communications through Non-Terrestrial Networks and its various applications in intelligent communities and sustainability.

A licensed Professional Electronics Engineer and Fellow of the ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology, he has received numerous honours, including the 2024 ASEAN Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award, the 2023 PRC Outstanding Professional of the Year Award, and the 2022 ASEAN Outstanding Young Engineers Award. With over 19 years in telecommunications, his expertise spans emerging technologies, network innovation, and AI applications. He is also active in mentoring, research, and community engagement.

Ms Jo Ann MAGSUMBOL
Programme Chair
*Polytechnic University of
the Philippines*

PHILIPPINES



Jo-Ann Magsumbol is a PhD Candidate in Electronics and Communications Engineering at De La Salle University, specializing in intelligent energy systems, fuzzy logic, and renewable energy. She serves as Programme Chair and Department Head of the MS Electronics Engineering programme at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, supporting faculty, research, and academic initiatives. Her dissertation focuses on an Intelligent Battery Management System (i-BMS) for a Hybrid Photovoltaic Smart Farm, integrating LiFePO₄ batteries, fuzzy logic, and IoT monitoring. She has published and presented research locally and internationally and mentors students in AI, automation, and sustainable technologies.

Ms Agata KRÓLIK
Head of AI Product
Solution
BlueSoft (Orange Group)

POLAND



Agata leads AI-driven innovation at BlueSoft, part of the Orange Group. She focuses on applying artificial intelligence to transform how organisations identify, develop, and manage employee competencies. She designs solutions that anticipate market needs and enable the creation of personalised development plans aligned with both business strategy and individual learning styles. Her AI-based systems are implemented by leading Polish enterprises and expanding across European markets. Known for her commitment to hyper-personalisation, Agata uses AI not to generalise but to create tailored pathways that make learning more relevant, engaging, and cost-effective. As a practitioner and thought leader, she advocates for human-centred AI that amplifies potential rather than replacing it. Beyond her corporate role, she co-founded two AI startups and shares expertise as a speaker and academic collaborator, bridging research with practice and inspiring future innovators.

Prof Henrique O'NEILL
Associated Professor
*ISCTE - University
Institute of Lisbon*

PORTUGAL



Henrique O'Neill is an Associated Professor with Habilitation in Operations Management and Information Systems at ISCTE Business School and a senior researcher at ISTAR-IUL. His main teaching and research interests are Business Strategy, Digital Transformation and BPM.

He holds a PhD in Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) at the Cranfield University, United Kingdom, a MSc in Electronics and Computers Engineering at Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal.

He has participated in several national and international projects as a researcher, consultant and project coordinator in industrial sectors like manufacturing and services, healthcare and the public administration. He is the author and co-author of several papers (80+) in national and international conferences and journals as well as academic books and project deliverables. His work bridges academic and practical application, with expertise in organisational modeling, e-business, and IS/IT.

Dr Kian Hoong KWAN
Director, Temasek
SkillsFuture Academy
Temasek Polytechnic

SINGAPORE



Dr Kwan Kian Hoong was appointed Director of Temasek SkillsFuture Academy (TSA) in July 2022. Under his leadership, TSA launched over various full qualification and stackables, and introduced mentorship projects benefiting more than 150 corporates to date. He strengthened CET offerings through partnerships with 20+ industry leaders like KPMG and Ren Chi and developed customised training for organisations. To foster a CET culture, TSA introduced the CET Contributor Award and revised payment rates for staff. Kian Hoong also led the implementation of the CET management system (STEP), streamlining operations.

He joined Temasek Polytechnic in 2007, holding roles including Section Head and Deputy Director. His research in energy analytics contributed to a successful start-up and multiple awards. Kian Hoong holds a PhD and First Class Honours degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Nanyang Technological University.

Prof Dr Daniel BURGOS
Vice-Rector for
International Research
(UNIR Research)
*Universidad
Internacional de La
Rioja (UNIR)*

SPAIN

Other Affiliation: President,
MIU City University Miami, USA



Daniel Burgos works as President of MIU City University Miami, USA and as Vice-Rector for International Research at Universidad Internacional de La Rioja, Spain. He is the UNESCO Chair on eLearning, and the Director of the Research Institute for Innovation & Technology in Education (UNIR iTED). He has implemented 85+ worldwide R&D projects and published 270+ scientific papers, 60 books and special issues, and 12 patents. He holds 14 Doctorate and PhD degrees, including Computer Science and Education. He is a visiting professor at universities in the five continents (e.g., CIT Research Center, China; INTI International University, Malaysia). He works as a consultant for the United Nations (UNECE), the University of the United Nations (UNU-Flores), ICESCO, and the European Commission. His interests are mainly focused on Educational Technology & Innovation, Personalised and Informal eLearning, Learning Analytics & AI in Education, Open Education & Science, eGames, and eLearning Specifications. ORCID: 0000-0003-0498-1101.

Dr David DONCEL ABAD
Associate Professor
*Universidad of
Salamanca*

SPAIN



Dr David Doncel Abad is Associate Professor in Sociology at University of Salamanca, whose expertise lies in applied social research and data analysis at the Centre of Sociological Research (by Ministry of the Presidency), in international relations and diplomacy at the Diplomatic School (under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and in sociology of education at the Centre of Educational Research (under the Ministry of Education).

Today, he holds the positions of Delegate of the University of Salamanca in the Spain-China Foundation of the Spanish State and President of the Spanish Association of East Asian Studies—the most important academic association dedicated to research on East Asia in Spain, Head of the Master's degree programme in East Asian Studies at the University of Salamanca, and Member of Casa Asia's group of experts in educational affairs. He is also the author of 18 research articles, 3 books, and 9 book chapters.

Ms Harisa SHAHID
Policy Analyst
*Asia Pacific Policy
Observatory,
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SWITZERLAND



Harisa Shahid is a cybersecurity professional at a leading multilateral organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland, working at the intersection of technology and public policy. She finds keen interest in digital public governance and is passionate about bridging the digital divide. She is the co-founder of the Pakistan Youth Internet Governance Forum and one of the leading organisers of the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy Pakistan chapter. She is a strong supporter of the multistakeholder model of internet governance.

Mr Yang BONG
Visiting Lecturer
University of Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM



Yang is a Visiting Lecturer at Nottingham University Business School, United Kingdom. His current PhD research is in the intersection of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Business Analytics, and Entrepreneurship. Prior to joining Nottingham, Yang worked in higher education management, where he served as Head of International Partnerships and Mobility at Birmingham City University, United Kingdom.

Being an alumnus of ASEFInnolab, Yang is also a founding member of the AE4AI network and the coordinator for the AI for Sustainable Development (AI4SD) Working Group within the network.

Mr Kenneth LEUNG
 Advisor and Research
 Director
*Asia Pacific Policy
 Observatory,
 Netmission.Asia*

UNITED KINGDOM

Other Affiliations: Independent
 Digital Empowerment
 Specialist; NetMission Board
 Advisor



Kenneth is an independent digital empowerment practitioner across Asia and Europe, where he devises multiple skills development programmes, including co-founding Asia Pacific Policy Observatory (APPO) and serving as the think tank's advisor. He also joined the NetMission Advisory Board to advance the organisation's Internet governance initiatives. Kenneth also mobilised various social impact and commercial campaigns with companies such as CNN, AT&T and WarnerMedia. During his time at AT&T, his stewardship was recognised by AmCham Singapore in the presence of former Singapore President Halimah Yacob for driving digital empowerment initiatives that have impacted 10,000+ lives alongside his government affairs remit. In 2022, he was invited to endorse the accreditation of a new transdisciplinary undergraduate programme by Hong Kong Baptist University. Kenneth is a fellow of the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) on digital economy and an ASEFYLS alumnus.

Ms Hoang Ca PHUNG
 International Mobility
 Coordinator
FPT University

VIET NAM



Phung Hoang Ca is a multimedia communications graduate passionate about sustainable development and education. She brings interdisciplinary experience in learning experience design and international academic collaboration. At FPT University—Vietnam's leading institution in technology—she designs student-centred training programmes and leads regional partnerships to promote global learning. Her research with UNDP Vietnam focuses on youth engagement and climate change education, emphasizing the importance of inclusive, future-ready skill development. With additional experience in media and grassroots initiatives, Ca understands the ethical, creative, and socio-emotional dimensions critical to micro-credential programs, which bridge academic knowledge with real-world needs.

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