Asia-Europe
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE
for Young Professionals

Asia-Europe Training on Science and Technology Diplomacy 2026

PARTICIPANTS BOOKLET

ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION

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Participants List

	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Institution
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	Salutation, First Name, LAST NAME	Country of Citizenship	Designation	Institution
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Ms Sunidhi GUPTA

Australia

Policy Officer

Department of Industry, Science & Resources, Australia

Sunidhi is a Policy Officer at the Australian Government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources. She currently supports developing policy on offshore infrastructure decommissioning and engaging with multinational oil and gas companies on regulatory and governance issues. Previously, she contributed to policies advancing Australia's clean energy transition and sovereign manufacturing capability through strategic industry engagement. Prior to joining government, Sunidhi worked as a consultant at Ernst & Young working across projects in government, healthcare, and life sciences sectors. She represented Australia at the Sauder Summit Global Case Competition in Vancouver and holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne.

Ms Anna DEVENPORT

Australia

Senior Manager of International Programs

Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

Anna is the Senior Manager of International Programs at the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and a member of the Secretariat of AASSREC. She manages grant programs and International Committee governance support at the Academy, and provides support to the AASSREC Executive Council, with a strong interest in facilitating the collaboration of interdisciplinary social science research and knowledge brokerage for research and policy impact. Anna's qualifications include a research MA in Peace, Development, Security and International Conflict Transformation from the University of Innsbruck in Austria (the UNESCO Chair for Peace Studies), a BA in Philosophy from the University of Queensland, and she is currently pursuing postgraduate qualifications in International Law at the Australian National University.

Ms Lauren SULLIVAN

Australia

Manager, Science Policy and Advice

Australian Academy of Science

Lauren is a science policy specialist who works with Australia's leading scientists to advance evidence-informed policy and decision-making. She leads the Australian Academy of Science's science policy and research functions, providing policy analysis and science advice to government, industry, and the broader science sector. Her work has shaped Australian science policy on issues including long COVID, gender equity in STEM, greenhouse gas removal, and research security. Lauren has led foresight initiatives to identify future national science capability needs and contributed to an international program with the International Science Council and UN Environment Programme to strengthen strategic foresight and futures thinking for planetary health and human wellbeing. Lauren's professional experience spans higher education, industry, and research organisations and she holds qualifications in science, public policy and science communication from the Australian National University and UNSW Sydney.

Dr Josefine ENKNER

Austria

Patent Examiner for Semiconductors

European Patent Office

Since February 2026, Josefine has worked as a Patent Examiner at the European Patent Office, specialising in semiconductor devices. She builds on the technical expertise gained during her PhD in physics at ETH Zürich, where she investigated topological quantum matter and light-matter interactions and published her research in leading scientific journals. After completing her PhD in 2024, she studied Chinese at Peking University and later joined the Austrian Embassy in Beijing as an intern and scientific adviser to the Austrian Cultural Forum, supporting exchange between Austrian and Chinese universities and research institutions. At the EPO, Josefine assesses inventions for novelty and inventiveness, contributing to a fair and robust patent system that supports innovation and protects intellectual property. Her interests lie at the intersection of science, innovation and international cooperation.

Mr Rafid Mahbub AHMAD

Bangladesh

Assistant Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

Rafid is an Assistant Secretary in the South Asia Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, where he oversees Bangladesh's bilateral relations with Afghanistan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. His work focuses on strengthening political relations and facilitating sectoral cooperation between Bangladesh and its regional partners. He has contributed to regional initiatives on disaster management, agricultural standards, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity training, humanitarian assistance, and the recruitment of Bangladeshi medical professionals across South Asia. Ahmad holds a Professional Master's in International Relations and Diplomacy, as well as a Master's and Bachelor's in International Relations from the University of Dhaka. Through this training, he aims to deepen his understanding of science and technology diplomacy and explore how it can strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation by integrating technical insights with diplomacy and public policy.

Mr Naveed ANJUM

Bangladesh

Junior Policy Analyst/Economist

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-OCDE)

Naveed is a Junior Policy Analyst/Economist at the OECD Shipbuilding Unit, where he leads the Organisation's first peer review project on Bangladesh's Shipbuilding and Ship Recycling industries. He is the first professional of Bangladeshi nationality to serve in the OECD Shipbuilding Unit and holds a B.Sc. in Naval Architecture and Offshore Engineering from Bangladesh Maritime University. He will pursue a Master's in International Affairs, Raw Materials and Strategies at Université Paris Dauphine-PSL with his work spanning Maritime policy, Industrial Decarbonisation, Raw Materials, Science and Technology Diplomacy, and Sustainable Development, supported by expertise in Simulation, Physics-based modelling, Data Analysis, and Research generation. His research focuses on finance, risk assessment, education, and technology within the global green and digital maritime sector. He has authored peer-reviewed research on maritime innovation and contributed to evidence-based policy initiatives supporting Bangladesh's sustainable industrial transformation.

Mr Shihab MAHMOOD

Bangladesh

Assistant Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

Mohammad Shihab is a career diplomat at Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving as Assistant Secretary in the SAARC Section of the Ministry's SAARC & BIMSTEC Wing. He promotes Bangladesh's engagement in regional cooperation by coordinating SAARC initiatives and facilitating collaboration with Member States, the SAARC Secretariat, and national stakeholders across sectors including agriculture, science and technology, education, energy, trade, and connectivity. Prior to joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served as an Assistant Director at Bangladesh Bank. Shihab holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and a Professional Master's in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Dhaka. He is currently pursuing an MBA in Marketing at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. He has also completed diplomatic training in China.

Mr Akib Intisar SIAM

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Assistant Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

Akib serves as an Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, where his work across its Policy and Organization and Recruitment and Training sections spans institutional policy and the training of diplomats, including the role technology can play in both. He is interested in how emerging technologies, from artificial intelligence to financial systems, are reshaping the practice of diplomacy. Before joining the Ministry, Akib worked as an Assistant Director at Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, where his work drew him to the geopolitics of financial technology. He holds a Professional Master's in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Dhaka, where he received the Rector's Honour of Merit, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from its Institute of Business Administration. He is keen to help strengthen Asia-Europe cooperation on science and technology.

Mr Adil ENNAJI

Belgium

International Cooperation and Legal Affairs Manager

The Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)

Adil is an official at the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO), where he serves as International Cooperation & Legal Affairs Manager for the Belgian national consortium of microbial biological resource centres (BCCM). His diverse academic background nurtured his passion for science and technology diplomacy. After obtaining a first degree in Economic and Social Law, he pursued European Affairs, specialising in Environmental and Agricultural Policies. Passionate about biology and life sciences, he further challenged himself with a degree in Environmental Science & Management. His interdisciplinary expertise led him to his current position at BELSPO, where he fosters scientific cooperation and diplomacy with foreign research infrastructures and institutes. Recently, he was appointed Vice-Chair of the Assembly of Members of MIRRI-ERIC, a European Research Infrastructure with the status of an International Organization.

Dr Afiqah HJ NOR AMIN

Brunei Darussalam

Lecturer

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Dr Afiqah is a lecturer and researcher at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam School of Business and Economics (UBDSBE), specialising in digital entrepreneurship, consumer behaviour, and sustainable community development. Her work focuses on translating research into practical solutions through community engagement, innovation, and cross-sector collaboration. She has led and contributed to international initiatives on entrepreneurship, responsible management education, sustainability, and digital innovation, working with academic, industry, government, and community partners across the ASEAN region and beyond. Her research interests include women entrepreneurship, inclusive innovation, living lab approaches, and the role of technology in addressing societal challenges. She is committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and developing future leaders capable of creating positive and sustainable impact through research, education, and innovation.

Ms Nevena IVANOVA

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Nevena is a Seconded National Expert at the European Commission, DG INTPA, Unit G3 (Youth, Education, Research and Culture), where she focuses on international cooperation in research and innovation. Prior to joining the European Commission, she served as First Secretary for Education at the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the European Union, representing Bulgaria in Council negotiations on education and training policies. Before that, she worked at the Human Resource Development Centre, the Bulgarian National Agency for Erasmus+, where she held management and expert roles in programme implementation, communication, and stakeholder engagement. Her areas of expertise include EU education and research policies, international partnerships, programme management, capacity building, and cooperation between education, research, and innovation stakeholders.

Mr Dechkunn CHHAY

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AI and Data Science Lecturer

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Dechkunn is an AI and Data Science Lecturer at CamTech University, Cambodia. He holds a Master's in Digital Humanities from the University of Göttingen, Germany, and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Information Technology Management from the American University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and Fort Hays State University, USA. His research interests include digital humanities, computational social science, natural language processing, and human-centered AI. He has coordinated flagship programs of the university including Innovative Tech Challenge and SMEs workshop and training.

Mr Sovathara HENG

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Cybersecurity Specialist, General Department of ICT

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Sovathara is a Cybersecurity Specialist in Governance, Risk and Compliance at the General Department of Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia. Working at the intersection of cybersecurity, public policy and regional cooperation, he supports national cybersecurity policy, regulatory development, public awareness and capacity-building initiatives. He has coordinated cross-ministry initiatives promoting cyber resilience among public-sector officials and ministries, including the Digital Resilience for Cross-Ministry programme. He has also contributed to the Cambodia National Cybersecurity Competition, a national cybersecurity yearly initiative that develops and identifies young cybersecurity talent. Regionally, he has supported the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation and represented Cambodia at CYDES 2025, the ASEAN Cyber Security Forum, and an ASEAN-India program on telecommunications security. He holds a BSc in Information and Communications Technology from American University of Phnom Penh and is pursuing an MSc in Cybersecurity at the University of Liverpool.

Ms Voneat PEN

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Head of Digital Transformation and Research

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Voneat is a technology educator and digital transformation consultant from Cambodia with expertise in software engineering, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation. Through her academic work, she focuses on developing future technology professionals with practical, industry-oriented skills. Beyond academia, Voneat has contributed as a consultant to national digitalisation initiatives with government institutions and international development partners, working across digital public infrastructure, digital identity, education technology, and AI-enabled solutions. She also serves in advisory roles for national programmes promoting secure, inclusive, and responsible technology development.

Ms Vortey VA

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Junior Research Fellow

Future Forum

Vortey is a climate policy and finance professional based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, currently a Junior Research Fellow at Future Forum, an independent public policy think tank. She researches green finance and sustainable development across Cambodia and the wider Mekong region, currently focusing on green finance frameworks and SME environmental reporting. She previously served as Communication Officer for a GCF-funded National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Phase I project at Cambodia's Ministry of Environment, supporting climate finance communication and stakeholder engagement. Va has completed regional capacity-building programmes, including training with the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) in Penang, Malaysia, and the Clean Energy Transition Towards Net Zero programme at Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore. She is keen to build cross-sectoral networks across Asia and Europe on sustainable, science-informed policymaking.

Mr Bao Jian (Blandon) SUI

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Team Assistant

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Bao Jian focuses on the intersection of emerging technology, security, and international affairs, an interest shaped by a varied career spanning the private sector, government, and international organisations.

He has worked with the American Chamber of Commerce, the UK Ministry of Defence, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and INTERPOL, gaining exposure to business advocacy, defence policy, humanitarian protection, and technology governance along the way.

He holds an MA in National Security Studies from King's College London.

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Researcher

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Martin is a Researcher with UNU-CPR in Geneva, where he supports the work at the science-policy interface through policy research and coordination. Before joining UNU-CPR, Martin interned with the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board within the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. He also served as a Visiting Scholar at the Núcleo Milenio Impactos de China en América Latina y el Caribe (ICLAC), hosted by Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, where his work examines China's investment and migration in Latin America. His research has focused on Asian diaspora political participation in France with the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), migrant labor rights in Southeast Asia with National Tsing Hua University, and deportation compliance with the Deportation Research Clinic at Northwestern University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Sociology from Sciences Po Paris and was awarded the Jock McLane Prize for Best Undergraduate Paper in Asian Studies at Northwestern University.

Mr Shuxi (Simon) YIN

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Associate Professor

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Simon is a Professor in China and currently serves as Vice Director of the Office of International Exchange at his university. His research and professional work focus on China-EU relations, global governance, science and technology policy, digital governance, and international cooperation. He has extensive experience in promoting academic exchange and research collaboration between Chinese and European institutions, with particular expertise in science and technology cooperation and diplomacy. His work explores how scientific collaboration can strengthen international partnerships, address global challenges, and support sustainable development. Through both academic research and institutional engagement, he is committed to fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaborative innovation between Asia and Europe.

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FDI Screening Specialist

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Veronika is a Foreign Direct Investment Screening Specialist at the Economic Resilience Unit of the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, where she works on FDI screening, supply chain resilience, and emerging technology governance. She holds a two-semester certificate in regional and multilateral security studies from the Prague Security Studies Institute and participated in a semiconductor-focused workshop in Taiwan in 2025. Her work sits at the crossroads of economic security policy and technology governance, with a growing focus on how governments can engage effectively with the innovative ecosystems shaping tomorrow's critical technologies.

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Jiří currently serves as a Ministerial Officer at the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, where he is responsible for bilateral economic relations with ASEAN member states, as well as the European trade agenda. Prior to joining the Ministry of Industry and Trade, he gained experience in refugee administration at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and in policy research at the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, where he contributed to policy analysis and regulatory research. He holds degrees from Charles University and Macquarie University. His professional interests include economic and societal security, sustainable development, climate change initiatives, and international cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

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Cristofer is Head of the UK Science and Innovation Network for the Baltic States at the British Embassy in Tallinn, where he works at the intersection of science, technology, innovation, and international relations across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. His work focuses on identifying opportunities for international STI cooperation, engaging governments, universities, research organisations, startups, investors, and innovation agencies, and translating emerging science and technology developments into policy insight. He is also pursuing a PhD in Innovation Management at Estonian Business School, researching deep-tech innovation ecosystems and the institutional factors that shape their development. In parallel, he is involved in Reocto, a biotechnology hardware startup developing compact bioreactor systems for research and precision fermentation. His expertise combines science diplomacy, deep-tech commercialisation, innovation policy, and cross-border ecosystem building.

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Finland

Desk Officer for International Technology and Digital Policy

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Saara is a Finnish diplomat working on international technology and digital policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, covering AI governance, EU digital diplomacy, and multilateral technology cooperation. Prior to joining the diplomatic service, Saara worked on international affairs and EU digital policy at the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Finland. She also contributed to the LUMI European-wide supercomputer project at CSC - IT Center for Science Ltd, gaining hands-on experience at the intersection of computing infrastructure and international science cooperation. Earlier in her career, she worked at the European Parliament and completed an internship at Finland's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Saara holds a Master of Social Sciences from the University of Tampere, where she studied European and Global Politics, World Politics, and governance within a multidisciplinary programme.

Ms Lotta YLI-HUKKALA-SIIRA

Finland

Attaché

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Lotta is an attaché at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, currently serving as a Desk Officer for Public International Law. Prior to joining the Finnish MFA, Lotta gained experience across the public, international, and private sectors, including roles at a Finnish education technology company, the European Parliament, and a United Nations agency. She holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) as well as a second Master's in Politics and Communications. She is particularly interested in international law, European affairs, and science and technology diplomacy, with a focus on how legal frameworks can evolve to keep pace with emerging technologies and support international cooperation in addressing global challenges.

Ms Gabrielle CHOTIN

France

Bluebook trainee

European Commission

Gabrielle is a European research and innovation professional with over five years of experience in international scientific cooperation, European project management, and research policy. She has held positions at the French Embassy in India, the University of Bordeaux, and the European Commission, where she has contributed to the development and implementation of Horizon Europe projects and international partnerships. Her expertise includes coordinating multinational consortia, managing research funding programmes, organizing high-level institutional events, and supporting strategic cooperation between European and international stakeholders, with a particular focus on EU-India relations. Gabrielle combines strong project management, policy analysis, and stakeholder engagement skills with extensive experience working in multicultural environments to advance research, innovation, and scientific diplomacy.

Ms Anna LANNUZEL

France

Scientific Cooperation Officer

French Embassy in India / French Institute in India

Anna is a Scientific Cooperation Officer at the French Embassy in India, where she contributes to the development of Indo-French bilateral collaboration programs and provides strategic analysis on science and technology policies. She holds a degree in political sciences from Sciences Po Rennes, where she specialized in environmental policy and diplomacy. Prior to joining the Embassy, she worked in the international relations office of the French national marine science research institute, Ifremer. She also gained experience through several internships and volunteer positions in research institutions and non-governmental organizations, where she developed a strong interest in science diplomacy, particularly related to the international governance of oceans and other global stakes such as AI, sustainable food systems or One Health.

Mr Aïman LAVALLARD-FADLANE

France

Science officer

French Embassy in China

Aïman graduated in Life Sciences Engineering from EPFL (Switzerland) where he studied immunology and cancer biology. His early interest in international cooperation led him to develop the participation of his campus to European sports events and to gain hands-on research experience in Europe and in the USA. Aïman now focuses on enabling better understanding between science and society and developed science communication projects for professionals and the greater public. This background supports his work at the Embassy of France in China, where he leverages his knowledge of academic research and his ability to connect with diverse scientific and non-scientific actors. As a science officier, he supports Franco-Chinese scientific cooperation projects on climate change, helps French researchers navigate the Chinese science ecosystem, and organises events supporting bilateral dialogue.

Mr Marius RAUSCHENBACH

Germany

Counsellor

German Embassy in New Delhi

Marius is Counsellor for Transport and Digital at the German Embassy in New Delhi, where he also represents the science and innovation portfolio in an acting capacity, coordinating the network of German science actors under the DWIH New Delhi framework and overseeing engagement with the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC). He steers the German contribution to the Indo-German Digital Dialogue, covering digital policy, data governance, and AI cooperation, and tracks India's evolving digital sovereignty landscape for German policymakers and companies. Before his posting to New Delhi, Marius spent four years as a policy officer at the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, coordinating cross-modal investment policy and federal road financing programmes. He holds a Master's in European Studies from the University of Leipzig, with study periods in Australia and Portugal, underpinning his intercultural approach to diplomacy.

Mr Tarek SKOUTI

Germany

Scientific Officer / Data Scientist

DLR Projektträger

Tarek is a Data Scientist and Scientific Officer at DLR Projektträger, where he conducts R&I mappings, scientometric and trend analyses for German federal ministries and the European Commission across a wide range of fields, including technology, health, education and sustainability. Beyond his professional role, Tarek is active in civil society on youth participation and AI for Good. He holds an MSc in business informatics and is completing his PhD in computer science at TU Dresden. His academic interests include explainable AI and social inequality.

Dr Rabea WILLERS

Germany

Education Officer

Federal Foreign Office / German Embassy in Beijing

Rabea is a diplomat currently serving at the German Embassy in Beijing. Previously, she worked in the Europe Division at the Office of the Federal President of Germany. Before joining the Federal Foreign Office, she also held positions at Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research, including in the Division for Strategic Foresight and Participation, and at the Council of Europe, where her work focused on democratic governance and innovation. She holds a PhD from the University of Westminster, examining digital democracy in the context of smart cities, and an MA in International Relations from the University of Bremen.

Dr Sarah YOUNG

Germany

Science Policy Advisor

Max Planck Society

Sarah has been working as a science policy advisor for the Max Planck Society's Berlin Office since 2022. In this role, she is responsible for topics in federal politics that often overlap with international interests, for example, in research security. She had the chance to explore international relations by forming connections with many different embassies in Berlin and attending meetings with international delegations. Before joining the Berlin Office, she did her PhD in Biochemistry at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam, while serving as a member of the Max Planck PhDnet's steering group and the network N2, representing around 15,000 PhD candidates from all over the world in Germany. She studied Biochemistry at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich and did the research for her Master's thesis at the University of California in Los Angeles.

Ms Barbara BÁLINT

Hungary

Head of Asian Strategic Partnerships, Office of the President

Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)

Barbara is Head of Asian Strategic Partnerships in the Office of the President at the HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network, working at the intersection of science, international relations and innovation. She holds a BA in European Politics from King's College London and an MLaw in Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy from Tsinghua University, reflecting an academic and professional journey shaped by both Europe and Asia. At HUN-REN, she advances strategic research and industry partnerships, with a particular focus on artificial intelligence, longevity research and emerging interdisciplinary fields. She has led initiatives at the intersection of research and industry, translating international scientific cooperation between leading European and Asian research organisations and universities into joint research and long-term strategic partnerships. Looking ahead, Barbara aims to explore how science diplomacy and brain circulation can shape globally connected research ecosystems, harnessing the movement of talent, knowledge and ideas to accelerate scientific excellence and innovation through global collaboration.

Dr Ashish AVASTHI

India

Vice Chair

Marie Curie Alumni Association

Ashish is an EU innovation, funding, and science policy professional. He has a multidisciplinary background in nanomedicine research, science communication, and EU research policy. After finishing his doctoral research in nanomedicine, he moved into roles that bridge science and policy across European institutions and civil society networks. His experience spans academia, EU institutions, and consultancy, reflecting a comprehensive understanding of the European research and innovation ecosystem. He completed the Bluebook Traineeship at the European Commission, contributing to MSCA policy processes, the MSCA Supervision Guidelines, and international research cooperation. Currently, he serves as Vice Chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA).

Ms Tanvi MISRA

India

Innovation Lead

NITI Aayog - Atal Innovation Mission

Tanvi is an innovation and public policy professional with experience in designing and implementing initiatives that strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation ecosystems, and institutional capacity. As an Innovation Lead at the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Government of India, she leads programmes focused on capacity building, ecosystem development, and strategic partnerships to advance innovation-led growth. Her work spans innovation policy, programme design, stakeholder engagement, and international collaboration. Prior to joining NITI Aayog, she worked across the public and development sectors on governance, digital transformation, and inclusive development. She has represented AIM at international forums, contributed to bilateral and international partnerships promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and is passionate about leveraging innovation and cross-sector collaboration to address public policy challenges and foster sustainable, inclusive growth.

Ms Tanya SHARMA

India

Inward Investment Adviser

Department for Business and Trade, British High Commission, India

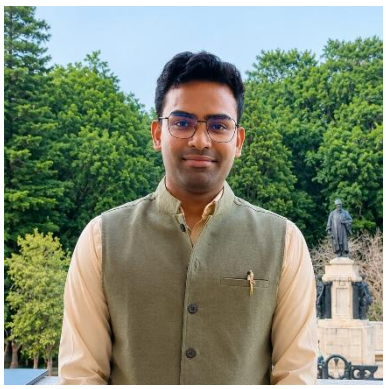
Tanya is an Inward Investment Adviser at the British High Commission in India where she facilitates collaboration between the Indian and UK innovation ecosystems by supporting technology-led investments, research partnerships and international business expansion. With over eight years of experience in international trade, investment promotion and commercial diplomacy, she has worked closely with government institutions, industry associations and private sector stakeholders to strengthen bilateral economic and innovation partnerships. Prior to that, she has worked as a Commercial Analyst at the Embassy of Argentina in India, working on matters related to trade and market opportunities in South Asia. Tanya holds a Master's in International Business from Jamia Millia Islamia, has advanced Spanish language qualifications from Instituto Cervantes and the University of Salamanca, and is a Certified AI Governance Professional.

Mr Kunal THAKUR

India

Policy Analyst

Policy Analytics and Insight unit, Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt. of India



Kunal is a policy analyst at the Policy Analytics and Insight Unit of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, with experience in data governance, data privacy, artificial intelligence, and science, technology and innovation ecosystems. His work includes research and landscaping exercises focused on emerging technology policy and governance. He has a strong interest in science and technology diplomacy, as well as the governance and policy dimensions of emerging technologies.

Ms Nirupa VIJAYKUMAR

India

Lead-Portfolio and Partnerships

International Institute of Information Technology – Hyderabad (IIIT-H)

Nirupa is the Lead - Portfolio & Partnerships at the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), IIIT Hyderabad, where she works at the intersection of research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and international collaboration. She leads strategic initiatives spanning deep-tech incubation, accelerator programmes, technology commercialization, and research translation, while building partnerships with government, industry, academia, and international organizations. With over six years of experience in the startup ecosystem, Nirupa has designed and managed programmes that support research-driven innovation, faculty entrepreneurship, and early-stage technology ventures. Her recent work includes research on faculty commercialization pathways and institutional mechanisms that strengthen the journey from laboratory research to societal impact. She is particularly interested in science and technology diplomacy, innovation policy, and fostering cross-border collaborations that enable research, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Ms Nadya AINIKA

Indonesia

Clinical Research Associate / Former IPSF Program Director for UNEP

Increase Laboratorium Indonesia / International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

Nadya is driven by the question: How can we accelerate global access to clinical innovation? As a Clinical Research Associate, she handles clinical trial activities across complex regulatory environments. She sees the importance of translating scientific evidence into products that can be implemented in the community and regulatory recommendations. Her experience in health governance is grounded in global advocacy. Serving as the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) Program Director for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), she briefed international delegates for the UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) in Busan. Before diving into regional clinical trials, she managed health and educational initiatives much closer to the ground. As the CEO of Nguliah Kuy, she led a team to deliver inclusive higher education and mentorship to youth. To her, bridging the gap between high-level diplomacy and ground-level implementation isn't a contradiction—it is exactly what is required to build systems that actually last.

Ms Garnis Nur ANGGRAENI

Indonesia

Directorate of ASEAN Economic Cooperation, Directorate General of ASEAN Cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

Garnis is a junior diplomat at the Directorate of ASEAN Economic Cooperation, Directorate General of ASEAN Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. She graduated from the 44th cohort of the Indonesian Foreign Service School (Sekolah Dinas Luar Negeri), the most recent intake of the programme. In her current role, she is part of a team responsible for ASEAN cooperation on investment, regional economic initiatives, including IMT-GT and BIMP-EAGA, the blue economy, and cross-pillar issues such as tourism, creative economy, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). She currently handles ASEAN connectivity and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) issues, including coordination within the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI) and the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI).

Mr Abriansyah ARISONI

Indonesia

Researcher

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Abriansyah is a Researcher at Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN). He manages multi-party R&D projects, overseeing innovations ranging from autonomous vehicles to telemedicine infrastructure. Bridging engineering and public policy, he also serves on the working group for Indonesia's national Artificial Intelligence roadmap to help shape AI governance. He holds an M.Sc. in ICT Innovation from KTH Royal Institute of Technology and a B.Sc. in Electronics and Instrumentation from Universitas Gadjah Mada. His expertise spans systems integration, human-centred design, and strategic project coordination.

Mr Mohammad Abyanara FATAH

Indonesia

Public Relation Officer

Bakamla RI, Directorate of Cooperation

Abyanara he is Public Relation Officer in Directorat of Cooperation Bakamla. Has been working in field of communications for 10 years. He currently works as a public relations officer in the Domestic Cooperation Sub-Directorate, routinely facilitating domestic cooperation, including drafting, reviewing of MoU. He frequently assists in Sub-Directorate of International Cooperation as LO to coordinating between Bakamla and foreign MARSEC agencies, High Delegate, and vessel Crew on maritime security and safety agenda, and also committee for the establishment of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum from 2024 to 2026. He previously worked as a public relations officer for the Indonesian Red Cross in a humanitarian role from 2016 to 2024 and is currently an active Red Cross volunteer. He is deeply interested in cooperation, international relations, foreign languahe, expanding social networks, and community empowerment.

Ms Annisa FITRIA

Indonesia

Head of Science and Technology Section

German Embassy in Indonesia

Annisa is the Head of the Science and Technology Section at the German Embassy in Jakarta, where she leads bilateral cooperation in research, innovation, and science diplomacy between Germany, Indonesia, ASEAN, and Timor-Leste. She facilitates strategic partnerships among governments, universities, research institutions, and funding organizations, focusing on higher education, sustainable development, and international research collaboration. Annisa studied Social Work at HTW Saar and Modern South and Southeast Asian Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Before joining the German Embassy, she worked as a social worker at a youth welfare institution in Berlin. With extensive experience in science diplomacy and international cooperation, she coordinates high-level policy dialogues, academic exchange initiatives, and collaborative research programs, fostering long-term partnerships between Germany and Southeast Asia.

Mr Anthony ISWARA

Indonesia

Deputy Attaché for Scientific and Technological Cooperation

French Embassy in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN

Anthony is Deputy Attaché for Scientific and Technological Cooperation at the Institut français d'Indonésie - the Embassy of France in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN. He manages five bilateral France-Indonesia science and technology cooperation schemes, including co-funded PhD scholarships, researcher mobility programmes, and postdoctoral fellowships, and organised the One Health ASEAN-France Scientific Conference (2025), bringing together 21 agencies and 50+ participants across ASEAN. Before entering science diplomacy, he spent three years conducting policy research on social welfare issues for Indonesian and international development organisations, and four years as a journalist covering public policy and climate issues, including as a COP26 Climate Tracker Fellow. He holds a Master of Public Policy and Management from Monash University Indonesia as an Australia Awards Scholar, and is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ms Prisma KARTINI

Indonesia

Policy Analyst

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Prisma is an early-career policy analyst at Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), where she works on research and innovation policy evaluation. She is developing her experience in STI policy diplomacy, focusing on AI adoption frameworks through personal projects and planned collaborations with BRIN's research centres. She has also participated in an OECD capacity building programme on digital governance best practices as a delegate from BRIN's Deputy Chairman for Research and Innovation Policy. She holds a Bachelor's in Architecture from Universitas Diponegoro and a Master's in Smart Energy and the Built Environment from University College London (UCL), completed in 2024. Her studies sparked an interest in energy policy, which grown into a broader curiosity about the intersection of renewable energy transition, artificial intelligence, and STI policy diplomacy.

Mr Asido KENZIE

Indonesia

International Cooperation Analyst

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Asido is an International Cooperation Analyst at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia. Asido has over six years of experience in managing international partnerships and research administration. In his current role, Asido coordinates and facilitates bilateral research cooperation initiatives with government agencies and academic institutions across Europe and the Americas. He previously managed similar portfolios for the Asia-Pacific region at the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education. He holds a Bachelor's in International Relations from Brawijaya University and a Master of Science in International Relations from the University of Indonesia

Ms Fiqriah KHUMAIRAH

Indonesia

Junior Researcher

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Fiqriah is a Junior Researcher at the Research Centre for Applied Microbiology, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia. She specialises in soil microbiology, plant-microbe interactions, and agricultural biotechnology, with a particular focus on rhizosphere microbiomes, microbial biostimulants, halotolerant bacteria, and nano-biofertilisers for sustainable agriculture. She currently leads a structural biology research project and contributes to multidisciplinary research on microbial biotechnology and climate-resilient agriculture. Previously, she served as a lecturer and postdoctoral researcher at Universitas Padjadjaran, supervising student research and advancing microbiome-based agricultural innovations. Her work has been recognised through international publications and research awards. Through her research and leadership roles, she is committed to advancing science that informs innovation, strengthens international collaboration, and contributes to sustainable development.

Dr Latifah LATIFAH

Indonesia

Researcher

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Latifah is a researcher in animal genetics and molecular breeding whose work focuses on livestock genomics, molecular genetics, and genome editing for sustainable livestock improvement. She obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, where her research investigated genetic polymorphisms associated with economically important traits in livestock. Her current research explores the application of advanced biotechnologies, including genome editing and genomics, to enhance the productivity and resilience of indigenous livestock while supporting sustainable food systems. She has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in international journals and actively engages in scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange. Through her participation in the Asia-Europe Training and Youth Summit on Science and Technology Diplomacy, she aims to strengthen her understanding of science diplomacy, foster international partnerships, and contribute to evidence-based policies that advance sustainable agriculture, food security, and scientific cooperation between Asia and Europe.

Mr Iqbal MAULANA

Indonesia

Bilateral Cooperation Officer

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Iqbal is a bilateral cooperation officer at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN), specialising in international science, technology, and innovation (STI) cooperation. He facilitates strategic partnerships, international agreements, and diplomatic engagement to strengthen global research collaboration and advance science diplomacy. He works closely with government institutions, foreign embassies, international organisations, and research institutions across Asia, the Pacific, Oceania, and Africa. Iqbal holds a Bachelor's in International Relations from Universitas Budi Luhur, graduating cum laude. He is an awardee of the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program (ADB-JSP) and will pursue a Master of Arts in International Relations at the International University of Japan. He has contributed to major international events, including the G20 Research and Innovation Ministers Meeting, ASEAN COSTI meetings, and the Global Research Council Asia Pacific Regional Meeting.

Mr Yudhi NUGRAHA

Indonesia

Researcher & Head of Scientific Committee Cryo-EM Lab / Eijkman Research Center for Molecular Biology

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Yudhi is a researcher at the Eijkman Research Center for Molecular Biology, Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), where he serves as Head of the Scientific Committee of BRIN's National Cryo-EM Facility. He established Indonesia's first national Cryo-EM facility and developed it into an open-access national platform, E-Layanan Sains (ELSA), leading a team that achieved a world-record 1.52 Å resolution protein structure. His expertise spans structural biology, recombinant protein production and protein engineering, with a particular focus on characterising viral pathogens at atomic resolution in support of pandemic preparedness. He sits on Indonesia's National Expert Taskforce for Pandemic Preparedness and was selected as Indonesian Country Delegate for Biosafety and Biosecurity at the ASEAN-UK Regional Workshop on Engineering Biology (London, 2025). He is President of the Indonesia Structural Biology Association and a member of ALMI's Science and Policy Division. He maintains active international collaborations with NAIST (Japan), CNIO (Spain) and the University of Pavia (Italy), and has authored 23 international publications.

Dr Naswandi NUR

Indonesia

Researcher

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Naswandi is a researcher at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia, working on microbial biodiversity, enzyme discovery, and protein engineering. His research explores extremophilic microorganisms to discover and engineer novel enzymes for applications in industrial and environmental biotechnology. He has collaborated with researchers and institutions across Asia and Europe on microbial biodiversity, protein design, structural biology, and enzyme biotechnology. He has also participated in international discussions on biodiversity governance, including activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) related to synthetic biology and Digital Sequence Information (DSI). Through these experiences, he has developed a strong interest in the interface between science, policy, and international cooperation to support the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity.

Ms Adhita NURUNNIZAR

Indonesia

Researcher

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Adhita is a researcher at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN), specialising in advanced photovoltaic materials and devices. She holds a PhD in Physics from Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia, and undertook a student exchange at The University of Osaka, Japan, during her doctoral studies, where she enhanced her intercultural competence and gained valuable experience in international research collaboration. She conducts research, supervises students, manages research grants, develops national and international research collaborations, and organises scientific seminars. Her research focuses on perovskite solar cells and interface engineering for sustainable energy applications. She believes that science, technology, and innovation diplomacy are vital to strengthening international partnerships, fostering knowledge exchange, and accelerating collaborative solutions to global sustainability challenges.

Mr Amal Rezka PUTRA

Indonesia

Researcher

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Amal Rezka is a researcher in the field of radiopharmaceuticals and medical radioisotopes. Since 2015, he has worked at the Center for Radioisotope and Radiopharmaceutical Technology, formerly under the National Nuclear Energy Agency of Indonesia, and currently at the Research Center for Radioisotope, Radiopharmaceutical, and Biodosimetry Technology, Nuclear Energy Research Organization, National Research and Innovation Agency. He earned his Bachelor's in Pharmacy in 2013 and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Chemistry at Universitas Indonesia. His research focuses on radiochemical analysis, nanoparticle synthesis and conjugation, medical radioisotope production, and radiopharmaceutical characterization. His work supports the development of radiopharmaceutical agents for nuclear medicine applications, including diagnostic imaging, targeted therapy, and preclinical evaluation through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Ms Sakina RAHMANIA

Indonesia

Associate STI Human Resources Analyst

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Sakina is an Associate STI Human Resources Analyst at the Directorate of Talent Management, the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia. She works on science, technology, and innovation (STI) talent management by designing and implementing capacity-building programmes, strengthening research competencies, and supporting bilateral and multilateral collaboration, particularly in talent mobility. At BRIN, she has contributed to regional research and innovation cooperation, serving as Indonesia's focal point for the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Science and Technology Research Infrastructure and Resources Development (SCIRD) in 2022 and as a member of the ASEAN Expert Group on Talent Mobility since 2023. She has also supported the organisation of major international initiatives, including the 1st ASEAN-India Startup Festival (2022), the 1st EU-ASEAN Workshop on the ASEAN Technology Management Hub (2023), and the 9th STS Forum ASEAN-Japan Conference (2025).

Dr Sailent SIMAREMARE

Indonesia

Researcher, Research Center for Public Health and Nutrition

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Sailent is a Junior Researcher at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia, specialising in public and environmental health. Her research focuses on environmental exposure assessment and its implications for population health. She has authored several peer-reviewed articles and contributes to international research collaborations. Dr Simaremare has participated in international leadership and research capacity-building programmes, including the British Council's Research Connect Training (2025). She previously served as a Youth Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals (2021–2022) and represented the New York Tzu Chi Foundation at several United Nations forums. She holds a Bachelor's in Public Health and a PhD in Health Sciences and is committed to advancing evidence-based research and international collaboration to address global health challenges.

Mr Ligar YOGASWARA

Indonesia

Technical Policy Analyst

National Cyber and Crypto Agency of Indonesia

Ligar is a Technical Policy Analyst at Indonesia's National Cyber and Crypto Agency, where he supports the development of cybersecurity policy and international cooperation. His work focuses on cyber diplomacy, strategic partnerships, and legal and institutional frameworks that strengthen national cyber resilience. He has contributed to bilateral and multilateral cooperation initiatives, coordinated engagements with domestic and international stakeholders, and supported the development of cooperation agreements and strategic policy recommendations. Ligar holds a Bachelor's in International Relations and has participated in international programmes on cybersecurity, digital governance, and science and technology diplomacy. His professional interests include international cyber law, digital governance, emerging technologies, and the role of science diplomacy in fostering secure, inclusive, and resilient digital ecosystems.

Dr Wita YULIANTI

Indonesia

Researcher

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Wita is a junior researcher at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN). She began her academic career as a laboratory assistant in several laboratories at Andalas University, where she actively contributed to both academic and extracurricular activities, earning a range of achievements. She was awarded a full scholarship from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to pursue both her master and doctoral degrees at Tokyo Metropolitan University. Her long-standing commitment to research on invasive species, spanning from her undergraduate studies through to her doctoral research in Japan, has enabled her to secure several competitive research grants and prestigious international training opportunities. Dr. Yulianti is currently engaged in interdisciplinary research that integrates invasive species management with their sustainable utilization. Her work aims to develop innovative approaches that contribute to environmental restoration while creating practical benefits for local communities.

Ms Indah ZUMROTUN

Indonesia

Public Relation Officer

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)

Indah is a Public Relation Officer working at the Directorate of Talent Management of National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia, where she is involved firsthand to the Indonesia's priority program; National Talent Management in the field of research & innovation. Her works evolves around science dissemination & research-innovation talents scouting and exposures through strategic programs, events and creative works involving a strong experience in engaging, collaborating, and building a strong partnership with local and international parties and stakeholders. Her latest contribution in international collaboration for scientific events (in 2025) includes the STS Forum ASEAN-Japan Conference, the Global Hackatom Indonesia - BRIN, Rosatom, & Tomsk Polytechnic University, & the Science Management & Innovation (SMI) Symposium-BRIN & CSIRO Australia. She is currently overseeing the national program of research-innovation competition and exhibition namely Indonesia Research and Innovation Fair (IRIFair) and Indonesia Appreciation's Programs for high-achiever research-innovation talents in various fields of science.

Ms Hana EFENDIC

Ireland

Third Secretary - Southeast Asia desk

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland

Hana is a diplomat with the Irish foreign service, working on Ireland's engagement with the 11 countries in Southeast Asia and ASEAN. Prior to this, she worked in the Embassy in The Hague, representing Ireland at international organisations such as the ICC and OPCW, as well as reporting on high profile cases at the ICJ. She holds a Master's in International Peace and Security from King's College London and a Bachelor's in Economics and Social Studies from Trinity College Dublin. For her Master's thesis, which examined genocidal intent at the ICTY, she was awarded the Barrie Paskins Prize for the Best Dissertation in the War Studies Department. Multi-disciplinary and curious at heart, she has authored several reports and articles, such as on the economic impacts of the Russo-Ukrainian war, reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and bridging divides between East and West. She is a George Moore Scholar and author of novel, Nia.

Mr Nicola CARRARO

Italy

Knowledge Analyst

SEE Lab

Nicola is a Knowledge Analyst and a researcher at the SEE Lab (Space Economy Evolution Lab) at SDA Bocconi School of Management. In 2025, he obtained a degree in International Relations and Supranational Institutions. At the same time, he completed a Master's programme in Space Institutions and Policies at the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI), where he developed a thesis on the law of space activities in Africa, analysing the overall legal framework and its application to a concrete space mission. He also participated in the SIOI Spring School on Italy as a Maritime Country, organised in collaboration with the Italian Navy. During his academic training, he undertook internships at the Italian Space Agency, within the Office for International Cooperation and Space Diplomacy, and at the Embassy of Mexico in Italy. He is the author of two papers presented and published at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), held in Sydney in 2025.

Dr Francesco MANETTI

Italy

Policy Assistant

European Commission

Francesco is a Policy Assistant at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), where he contributes to the development of the Science for Policy agenda, strengthening the role and impact of research and innovation in the policymaking process in the EU, and to the implementation of the Ethics Appraisal Process in Horizon Europe. Prior to this, he worked at the Scientific Advice Mechanism, supporting the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors in providing scientific advice to the European Commission. Francesco holds a Master's in Engineering Physics and a PhD in Physics from Politecnico di Milano and conducted experimental research at the University of Tokyo and at Kyushu University.

Mr Lorenzo RASETTI

Italy

Diplomat, Digital Diplomacy and New Technologies Unit Italian

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy

Lorenzo is an Italian junior diplomat specialised in digital diplomacy and the governance of emerging and disruptive technologies, with a particular focus on AI and Quantum. He currently works at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he contributes to international policy and diplomatic engagement on technology governance. Prior to his current role, he served in the Ministry's International Litigation Department, dealing with matters of international law and dispute resolution. Before joining the diplomatic service, he completed his legal traineeship and passed the Italian bar exam. He holds a Law degree from the University of Bologna and a double degree in comparative law from Université Paris Nanterre. His academic and professional background combines expertise in international law, diplomacy and technology policy, with a particular interest in strengthening multilateral cooperation on the technologies that are shaping the future.

Ms Minami KOTANI

Japan

Head of Academic Relations

Swissnex in Japan / Consulate of Switzerland in Osaka

Minami is Head of Academic Relations at the Consulate of Switzerland and Swissnex in Japan, where she promotes academic and research collaboration between Switzerland and Japan. She builds partnerships between universities, research institutions, government bodies and other stakeholders, while supporting institutional cooperation, academic delegations, researcher mobility and knowledge exchange. As a founding member of Swissnex in Japan, she has contributed to the development of its academic network and to positioning higher education as an important bridge between the two countries. Minami holds a Master's in Chemistry from University College London and has also studied in Switzerland. Drawing on her scientific background and international experience, she is particularly interested in science diplomacy, interdisciplinary exchange and the role of universities in addressing shared global challenges.

Mr Leo WATANABE

Japan

Strasbourg, France

Consulate General of Japan in Strasbourg

Leo is a Japanese diplomat currently serving as Vice-Consul at the Consulate-General of Japan in Strasbourg, France. Having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 2023, he worked in the First African Division and the Secretariat of TICAD, where he was responsible for Japan's diplomatic relations with West and Central African countries, with a particular focus on Chad and Benin, including the design of ODA programmes and bilateral cooperation frameworks.
In this role, he contributed to sustaining and strengthening Japan-Africa diplomatic ties through the TICAD framework, including the development of thematic agendas and liaison with senior dignitaries. He is currently undergoing professional training at France's National Institute of Public Service (INSP), deepening his understanding of French and European foreign and public policy. His engagement with science and technology diplomacy has grown through his TICAD experience, alongside a keen interest in climate change, global issues, and development challenges. He is fluent in Japanese, English, and French.

Ms Aisaule NURGAZY

Kazakhstan

Project manager, Department of International Cooperation

D.Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University

Aisaule is a Project Manager in the Department of International Cooperation with experience in higher education internationalization, academic partnerships, research collaboration and science diplomacy initiatives. Skilled in coordinating international projects, building institutional partnerships, organizing academic mobility and facilitating collaboration between universities, researchers and international stakeholders.

Dr Svetlana PESHAYA

Kazakhstan

Vice Dean of Scientific Innovations and International Relations

al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Svetlana is Vice Dean for Research, Innovation and International Relations at the Faculty of Physics and Technology, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. She leads international partnerships, research collaboration, academic mobility, and innovation initiatives while contributing to the university's internationalisation strategy. Her research focuses on nanomaterials and advanced functional materials. Svetlana is particularly interested in science diplomacy, international research cooperation, and building sustainable partnerships between academia, government and industry. She holds a PhD in Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology.

Mr Jeongyun LEE

Korea

Researcher at the Research Center for S&T HR Policy

Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI)

Jeongyun (David) is a Researcher at the Research Center for S&T HR Policy at the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), a government-funded research institute in South Korea. His research focuses on science and engineering talent development policy and the space industry, covering topics such as STEM workforce cultivation, career pathways of scientists and engineers, and human resource strategies for Korea's emerging space sector. He has contributed to national policy studies that inform government strategies on nurturing and retaining S&T talent. He holds a Master's in Public Policy from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management and will begin his Ph.D. in Management of Technology at Yonsei University in September 2026.

Ms Dzekija EILANDE

Latvia

Senior Desk Officer at the Economic Relations Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia

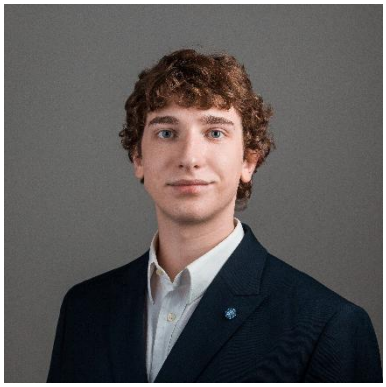
Džekija serves as a Senior Desk Officer in the Economic Diplomacy Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, where she is responsible for Latvia's bilateral economic relations with countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Her work focuses on advancing trade cooperation, supporting economic outreach, and strengthening strategic partnerships. She holds a Bachelor's in Humanities from the University of Latvia, East-West Intercultural Studies.

Mr Renārs KAIRIS

Latvia

Head of Sustainable development

University of Latvia



Renārs is Head of Sustainable Development at the University of Latvia and Chair of the University's Eco-Council. Holding an MA in Political Science, he leads institutional sustainability initiatives spanning environmental governance, climate action, resource management, and diversity, equity and inclusion. His work focuses on embedding sustainability into higher education through strategic planning, policy development, stakeholder engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Alongside his university role, he has contributed to civil society initiatives in security policy and public engagement, while coordinating international conferences, educational projects, and European collaboration on sustainability and inclusion. At the heart of his work is the creation of interdisciplinary spaces where diverse perspectives and responsible coexistence encourage critical inquiry, meaningful dialogue, and the development of an empathetic society guided by a strong moral compass.

Mr Matas GLOBYS

Lithuania

Chief Specialist, International Cooperation Group

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Lithuania

Matas currently works as a Chief Specialist in the International Cooperation Group at Lithuania's Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. His role involves supporting preparations for Lithuania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027, including the coordination of high-level events and cooperation with national authorities, EU institutions, and international partners. Before joining the Ministry, he worked in the private business development sector, building strategic partnerships and contributing to innovation-focused events in the health technology sector. Through these roles, he gained experience in stakeholder engagement, project coordination, and cross-sector collaboration. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Business Management from Anglia Ruskin University. His professional interests include international cooperation, science and technology diplomacy, and strengthening collaboration between governments, academia, and industry.

Mr Julius MITRIKEVIČIUS

Lithuania

Chief specialist at International Cooperation Group

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Lithuania

Julius works as a Chief Specialist in the International Cooperation Group at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, where he contributes to the preparation of Lithuania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. His work primarily focuses on coordinating and preparing expert-level meetings in the field of science and supporting international cooperation within the EU framework. He holds a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Relations from Vilnius University. His academic background, combined with his professional experience in EU policymaking and international cooperation, has strengthened his interest in the intersection of science, diplomacy, and European policy.

Mr Dominykas MONTVILA

Lithuania

Chief Officer at the International Economic Organisations Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Dominykas is a foreign policy professional dedicated to strengthening Lithuania's economic security and global competitiveness. As Chief Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he works in the Department of External Economic Relations and Economic Security Policy, focusing on cooperation with international economic organisations and strategic partners. He supports Lithuanian business representation abroad, promotes the country's digital sector, and shares Lithuania's digital governance experience with other states. He also expands opportunities for Lithuanian academia in international programmes and knowledge exchange platforms. He is committed to building connections between diplomacy, business, and research to advance Lithuania's role in global economic and technological developments.

Mr Akmal BIN ZULKARNAIN

Malaysia

Senior Assistant Secretary

International Relations Division, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia

Akmal Fahmi is a Senior Assistant Secretary (Administrative and Diplomatic Officer, PTD) at the International Relations Division, Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia. He coordinates Malaysia's international higher education engagements and supports strategic collaborations with multilateral organisations, foreign governments, and higher education institutions. His work involves facilitating bilateral and multilateral cooperation and supporting high-level ministerial engagements on higher education. He has contributed to initiatives involving organisations such as UNESCO, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the United Nations University (UNU), ASEAN, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Akmal holds a Bachelor's in Administrative Science and Policy Studies from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). His professional interests include higher education internationalisation, education diplomacy, lifelong learning, TVET, and science and technology diplomacy. He is committed to advancing international partnerships that strengthen Malaysia's higher education ecosystem and contribute to sustainable global development.

Ms Aqilah Amanda BINTI AHMAD RIDZUAN

Malaysia

Assistant Secretary

International Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia (MOSTI)

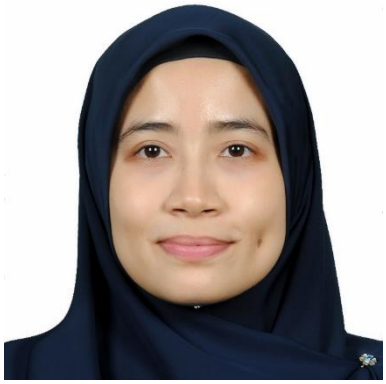
Aqilah Amanda is an Assistant Secretary at the International Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia, where she focuses on international cooperation in science, technology, and innovation. Prior to joining MOSTI, she served in the Prime Minister's Department and the National Audit Department, gaining experience in programme management and human resource administration. With almost five years in the Malaysian Civil Service, she has worked across several government agencies and is actively involved in youth empowerment initiatives. She was selected to represent Malaysia in the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP) 2026, an international leadership and cultural exchange programme involving ASEAN Member States and Japan.

Ms Syaheera BINTI ZULKIFLI

Malaysia

Assistant Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia



Nur Syaheera Adila is a Malaysian civil servant currently serving as Assistant Secretary in the International Cooperation and Development Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia. She holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences in International Studies from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, an International Master's in European Regional Integration from Universiti Malaya, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration from INTAN. With over six years of public service experience, Syaheera has held roles across several key government agencies, including the Prime Minister's Department (MAMPU) and the Ministry of Digital, where she contributed to strategic planning, corporate communications, and institutional development. In her current capacity, she focuses on international cooperation and development initiatives, which serve as one of Malaysia's key foreign policy instruments.

Ms Samantha KHOO SU YEN

Malaysia

Researcher, Cyber and Technology Policy

The Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia

Samantha is a Researcher in the Cyber and Technology Policy (CATP) programme at ISIS Malaysia, where her work focuses on AI governance, digital policy, and emerging technologies in Southeast Asia. Her research explores the intersection of artificial intelligence, human rights, and regional governance, with interests in AI safety, platform accountability, online harms, and technology diplomacy. She has contributed to ASEAN digital governance initiatives, AI policy development, and multistakeholder processes involving governments, industry, academia, and civil society. Samantha also serves as a Policy Group Lead at the Center for AI and Digital Policy (CAIDP), contributing to the analysis of national AI strategies and international policy recommendations on AI governance. She holds an MA in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute Geneva and a BA in International Relations and Modern Languages from the University of Essex.

Dr Maria AZZOPARDI

Malta

Director (Internationalisation)

Xjenza Malta

Maria is currently the Director for Internationalisation within Xjenza Malta and works at the interface between research and innovation, policy and international cooperation. She leads initiatives to strengthen the international engagement of Malta's research and innovation community. Together with her team, she develops and delivers initiatives that translate policy priorities into impactful bilateral and multilateral collaborations, strengthening research capacity, international research networks, and the local R&I ecosystem. These initiatives include funding opportunities for transnational research activities and projects, as well as access to research infrastructures. Maria represents Malta on the Management Board of JPI Oceans and sits on its Internal Advisory Committee and serves as the alternative national delegate to the Board of Trustees of the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), amongst other roles. She holds a PhD in biochemistry and molecular genetics from the University of Malta.

Ms Dolgormaa BATAA

Mongolia

Head of the Biotechnology Laboratory

Citi University

Dolgormaa is the Head of the Biotechnology Laboratory at the School of Cosmetic Science, City University, Mongolia, where she is building the institution's research and development capacity in cosmetic formulation and novel active ingredient studies. She holds a PhD in Engineering from Osaka University, with a research background in plant biotechnology and glycoprotein engineering for pharmaceutical applications. Prior to her current role, she was a Researcher at Gunma University of Health and Welfare and a Visiting Researcher at the International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University, specialising in antibody development and immunological assays. Her interdisciplinary expertise spans molecular biotechnology, immunology, and cosmetic science, and she is committed to strengthening Asia-Europe research networks and advancing scientific and regulatory cooperation.

Mr Bilguun ENKHBAYAR

Mongolia

Attaché

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia

Bilguun serves as an Attaché in the Department of Public Administration and Human Resources Management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. He joined the Ministry as a specialist in January 2025 and was appointed to his current role in May 2025, where he contributes to human resource development, legal and ethics compliance, and the professional development of diplomatic staff. He is also secretariat for the Ethics Sub-committee of the Ministry, overseeing ethics-related procedures and institutional integrity. His work has given him practical insight into how governance, capacity-building, and emerging policy areas intersect within modern diplomacy. He is particularly interested in the growing role of science and technology diplomacy and how Mongolia can strengthen its engagement in this field to support its foreign policy priorities and international partnerships.

Mr Chan Myae (Zenko) KO KO

Myanmar

Foreign Expert

Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand

Chan Myae is a Myanmar researcher and environmental professional with over six years of interdisciplinary professional experience, currently serving as a Foreign Expert at the Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. He develops knowledge articles on climate policy, net-zero transition, and climate change education for the faculty's policy lab, facilitates international training programmes, and fosters research partnerships. Previously, he worked with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Asia Pacific Regional Office, supporting infrastructure resilience, project management, and capacity-building initiatives, and contributed to community-driven development projects in Myanmar. In 2026, he served as a youth panellist at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, contributing perspectives on youth employment, skills development, and financing for sustainable development. He is the recipient of Mahidol University's Outstanding Thesis Award for Promoting SDG Policies (FY2025). His research interests include climate policy, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), climate change mitigation and adaptation, and science-informed policymaking.

Dr Yin Nyein MYAT

Myanmar

Designated Assistant Professor

Nagoya University

Yin Nyein is a Designated Assistant Professor at Nagoya University's Institute for Space-Earth Environmental Research. She holds a PhD in Health, Environment, and Safety; a master's in Marine Plastics Abatement; and a bachelor's in Medical Laboratory Technology. During her graduate studies, she conducted research on airborne microplastics. Her current research at Nagoya University focuses on the roles of marine aerosols in cloud microphysics and radiative effects. Dr Yin is passionate about interdisciplinary research on ocean-atmosphere-cloud interactions, as well as about bridging climate science and policy to support evidence-based decision-making. She is also driven by a strong aspiration to help foster climate-resilient communities in developing regions through education, disaster management, and quality healthcare.

Ms Win THEINGI

Myanmar

Staff Officer

Ministry of Science and Technology, Myanmar

Win Lett is a Staff Officer at the Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar, working in the Foreign Relations Department. She graduated with a B.A. (English) from Mandalar University and has completed the Master's Qualifying Course. In her current role, she supports international cooperation by reviewing draft agreements, coordinating with international partners, and assisting scholarship-related activities. She is interested in international relations, science and technology diplomacy, and cross-cultural exchange. She also completed the Singapore Cooperation Programme's Intermediate English Language and Communication Skills Course in 2025. She looks forward to strengthening her knowledge of science diplomacy and building connections with professionals across Asia and Europe.

Ms Erika PINHEIRO MACHADO

Netherlands

Grant strategy advisor

University Medical Center Groningen

Erika is a Grant Strategy Advisor in the Grant Office of the University Medical Center Groningen, The Netherlands, where she advises early-career to senior researchers on grant strategy, evaluates scientific proposals, and delivers training on competitive funding, particularly personal grant schemes such as the NWO Talent Program (the Dutch Research Council). Having begun her career in the laboratory, she moved into research strategy and increasingly works where research funding meets policy. She holds a PhD in Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine from the University of Groningen and previously worked as a researcher and university lecturer. Her training spans Brazil, the United States, Denmark, and The Netherlands, and she holds dual Brazilian-Dutch nationality. She is particularly drawn to why some international research collaborations flourish while others, just as strong on paper, quietly fall apart.

Dr Nicholas FRASER

New Zealand

Investment Manager

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand

Nick is a Science Investment Manager at New Zealand's Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, where he helps deliver New Zealand's largest contestable research investment fund. His work focuses on the management and monitoring of government research investments alongside providing advice on programme performance and opportunities across New Zealand's science system. He works with research organisations and government agencies to support research investment and collaboration. Previously, Nick was a Research Assessor at Royal Society Te Apārangi managing discovery-led research investments and a Senior Funds Advisor at the University of Auckland, where he supported researchers to secure domestic and international research funding. He holds a PhD in Chemistry from the Australian National University and is interested in how science diplomacy can strengthen New Zealand's international research partnerships and advance scientific collaboration.

Dr Bilal ASLAM

Pakistan

House Officer

University of Lahore Hospital

Bilal is a physician-researcher and House Officer at the University of Lahore Teaching Hospital, where he rotates across internal medicine, general surgery, paediatrics, and obstetrics and gynaecology. He holds an MBBS from UCMD, University of Lahore, a BSc (Hons), and is currently completing a B.Pharm. He has authored or co-authored more than forty peer-reviewed publications and maintains active international research collaborations with Hamad Medical Corporation in Qatar and Imperial College London. He was named the University of Lahore's Best Researcher for five consecutive years (2020-2025). His interests include global health equity and science diplomacy, complemented by community hepatitis prevention initiatives and a strong commitment to advancing international collaboration in health research. He is currently working on a nonfiction book examining disease, disparity, and the architecture of global health.

Mr Abdul Rahim BALOCH

Pakistan

Manager

Aerospace Design & Innovation Center

Abdul Rahim is an Aerospace Project Management Professional at the Aerospace Design & Innovation Centre (ADIC), National Aerospace Science & Technology Park (NASTP), Pakistan. His work focuses on aircraft system layout and integration, project planning, production coordination, quality management, certification support, and multidisciplinary collaboration within the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex. He holds a Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering, a Master of Business Administration, and additional degrees in Sociology and Political Science, enabling him to integrate technical, managerial, and policy perspectives. Abdul Rahim has also contributed to education development projects in Balochistan and actively participated in youth leadership, science, peace, and international dialogue initiatives. His interests include science diplomacy, responsible innovation, international cooperation, and youth engagement in science and technology policy.

Ms Mehwish SAQLAIN

Pakistan

Lecturer Computer Science

Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Pakistan

Mehwish is a Lecturer in Computer Science at the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Pakistan. With over eight years of experience in Higher Education, she teaches undergraduate courses in Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Software Engineering and Programming. She also serves as the BS Computer Science Programme Coordinator, facilitating communication and collaboration among students, faculty and departmental administration, coordinating academic activities, supervising undergraduate final-year projects, and supporting the management of computing laboratories and departmental IT resources. Her research focuses on deep learning, computer vision and machine learning, with an emphasis on developing AI solutions for real-world applications. She is the first author of a Scopus-indexed publication on deep learning-based computer vision for retail shelf monitoring. She is interested in advancing international collaboration at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence, Science and evidence-informed policymaking.

Mr Jonathan AGBAYANI

Philippines

Head of Research, Development, and Innovation Unit

Department of Science and Technology Northern Mindanao, Philippines

Jonathan is a Senior Science Research Specialist and Head of the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Unit at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Northern Mindanao, Philippines. He leads initiatives that strengthen regional innovation ecosystems through strategic planning, R&D portfolio management, and science, technology and innovation (STI) policy development. He also serves as Lead Secretariat of the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RRDIC-X) and Consortium Director of the Northern Mindanao Consortium for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technologies R&D (NorMinCIEERD). Jonathan has led programmes supporting technology commercialisation, MSME innovation, startup incubation and acceleration, and local government S&T planning.

Ms Jasmin Coleen INTIA

Philippines

Science Research Specialist II

Department of Science and Technology - Science Education Institute, Philippines

Jasmin Coleen is a Science Research Specialist II at the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI), Philippines, where she leads science communication initiatives that promote public engagement with science and inspire young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). She currently serves as the Project Leader of the 10th Indie-Siyensya Science Filmmaking Competition, DOST-SEI's flagship science filmmaking initiative, and contributes to national science communication campaigns, exhibitions, and capacity-building programmes. With a background in communication, Jasmin advocates for evidence-informed, people-centred science communication to foster scientific literacy and meaningful dialogue between science and society. Her work highlights the power of storytelling to make science more relevant, inclusive, and accessible.

Ms Cyrill LIM

Philippines

Senior Science Research Specialist

Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD)

Cyrill is a Senior Science Research Specialist at the Policy Coordination and Monitoring Division (PCMD) of the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD). In her role, she serves as the head of the Resource Generation Section, where she is responsible for driving the agency's international engagement efforts. She plays a pivotal role in coordinating and expanding DOST-PCAARRD's global linkages, facilitating the development of strategic partnerships with a wide range of international organizations, research institutions, and stakeholders. Ms. Lim ensures the promotion and nurturing of collaborative initiatives, identifying opportunities for joint research and capacity-building efforts that align with the agency's strategic goals. Ms. Lim holds a Bachelor's in Development Communication, majoring in Science Communication, and a Master's in Public Affairs, specializing in Strategic Planning and Public Policy, both from the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Mr Joshua Rei MAXIMO

Philippines

Senior Economic Development Specialist

Department of Economy, Planning, and Development, Philippines

Joshua Rei R. is a Senior Economic Development Specialist at the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) of the Philippines, serving under the Innovation Staff and the Secretariat of the National Innovation Council. His work focuses on innovation policy, digital government transformation, regulatory reform, strategic planning, and public sector modernization. He has led and contributed to policy research on business regulatory reform, artificial intelligence, ease of doing business, digital public infrastructure, and innovation governance, while also supporting the appraisal of major public investment projects and national innovation initiatives. Previously, he worked on advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, foresight and futures thinking, and governance reforms. Joshua has served as a resource speaker and facilitator for national and regional capacity-building programs and has presented his work in various government, academic, and international forums.

Ms Zaneta BIALEK

Poland

Attaché

Polish Embassy in Hanoi

Zaneta is a Polish diplomat currently serving as Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Hanoi, where she focuses on political relations and research and innovation cooperation between Poland and Vietnam. She previously worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and served as Expert for Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Poland in London, supporting cooperation in trade, science, and technology. Zaneta holds an MSc in Political Economy of Europe from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a BA in International Relations with Politics from Queen Mary University of London, complemented by postgraduate training in Financial Analysis from the University of Oxford. With a multidisciplinary background spanning economic development, finance, and international relations, she is passionate about advancing international cooperation through science, innovation, and diplomacy.

Mr Miłosz KUCZMA

Poland

Senior Administrative Assistant

Maria Curie-Sklodowska University

Miłosz oversees the administrative management of international research programmes and fellowships at the International Cooperation Centre of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. In this role, he works closely with research managers, principal investigators, and academic staff to support the implementation of research projects funded by European agencies, ensuring compliance with funding requirements and facilitating effective international collaboration. He is also responsible for coordinating institutional agreements with universities and research institutes worldwide, including the newly established LUkraNet network, which strengthens academic cooperation between partner institutions. A graduate of linguistics, Miłosz is currently pursuing a postgraduate diploma in Diplomacy and Foreign Service, reflecting his professional interest in international relations and higher education cooperation. Before joining the university sector, he gained experience in international trade, developing expertise in communication, negotiation, and cross-cultural collaboration that continues to support his work in research administration.

Ms Aleksandra WAJMER-OGONOWSKA

Poland

Head of Unit, International Cooperation Department

Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

Aleksandra is a Head of Unit at the Ministry of Digital Affairs of Poland, working at the intersection of digital policy, international cooperation, and public administration. In her current role, she leads the Ministry's international engagement, overseeing official international visits, diplomatic protocol, and high-level engagements with governments and international partners. Most recently, she coordinated the Ministry's international work during Poland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, supporting the delivery of Poland's digital priorities on the international stage. She holds a Master's in International Relations and a Bachelor's in Political Science. Her professional interests include digital transformation, science and technology diplomacy, European affairs, and public sector innovation, with a strong commitment to fostering international cooperation and effective public policy.

Ms Mari Franciele JANKE

Portugal

Embassy of Portugal in Berlin, Germany

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

Mari is a Portuguese diplomatic professional specialising in international relations and multilateral diplomacy. She currently serves at the Portuguese Embassy in Berlin, Germany. Prior to her current role, she worked at the Portuguese Embassy in Vienna, Austria, where she participated in high-level bilateral meetings and represented Portugal in the work of international organisations, including the United Nations (UN), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Mari holds a Bachelor's in Languages and International Relations from the University of Porto and a postgraduate qualification in History, International Relations and Cooperation. She is currently pursuing a Master's in International Relations at the Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa. Her academic background and diplomatic experience have provided her with a strong foundation in international relations, diplomatic practice, and cross-cultural cooperation.

Mr Alin Natanael CĂBĂU

Romania

DCM - Political Affairs

Romanian Embassy in Singapore

Alin-Natanael is a Romanian diplomat, First Secretary at the Embassy of Romania to the Republic of Singapore, where he currently serves as Political Affairs Officer. He joined Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Department of Bilateral European Affairs and Regional Cooperation before his posting to Singapore in July 2025. His portfolio covers bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, as well as economic and trade promotion. A graduate of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, he holds degrees in International and European Law (Bachelor), International Business Law (Master), and Law and Governance of International and European Affairs (LL.M.). Before joining the Diplomatic Corps, he practised in international arbitration and international investment funds in Paris and held various councillor positions in France. He works fluently in Romanian, French and English, with interests in economic diplomacy, EU-ASEAN cooperation and science and technology diplomacy.

Dr Daniel PRELIPCEAN

Romania

Postdoctoral Researcher

European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Daniel is a Postdoctoral Researcher at CERN and an expert in the interaction of radiation with matter, where he also serves as scientific secretary for several EU projects, advancing radiation-testing infrastructure and nuclear-technology access for European industry. His work is on the world's largest particle accelerator in the world and the development of innovative new detection technologies. He holds a Doctor of Science in Applied Physics from the Technical University of Munich, during which we was awarded a Wolfgang Gentner Scholarship. He also collaborates with Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava on two CERN experiments. A Forbes 30 Under 30 Romania honouree, Daniel is passionate about science communication and bridging research, industry, and international cooperation.

Dr Iulia-Madalina STREANGA

Romania

Policy Assistant

European Commission

Iulia is an Earth scientist with a BSc in Environmental Geoscience from The University of Edinburgh and a PhD in Chemical Oceanography from the MIT/WHOI Joint Program. She currently works as a Policy Assistant at the Directorate-General for Environment within the European Commission, where she supports the integration of scientific evidence into environmental policymaking. Iulia developed a growing interest in science diplomacy and the connections between science and policy throughout her academic and professional journey. In her career, she aspires to contribute to initiatives that leverage science and innovation to build a more sustainable and resilient future for people and the planet.

Ms Kei Nin CHAN

Singapore

Senior Assistant Manager, Research Support Office

Nanyang Technological University

Kei Nin is a Senior Assistant Manager with the Research Support Office at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. In her current position, she manages local biomedical and healthcare research grant funding awarded to the university, including ensuring compliance with relevant regulations through each grant's lifecycle from application stage to final report submission. With a grants portfolio mainly covering funders such as the Singapore Ministry of Health, National Medical Research Council, and other biomedical consortiums and agencies, she engages with both internal and external stakeholders to ensure alignment between existing processes and evolving policies and is an active advocate for process improvements to reduce administrative burden where possible and promote ease of collaboration between researchers from different institutions. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours with Distinction) in Philosophy from Nanyang Technological University.

Ms Jodi Yun Yi TAN

Singapore

Product Policy Specialist

Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech Singapore)

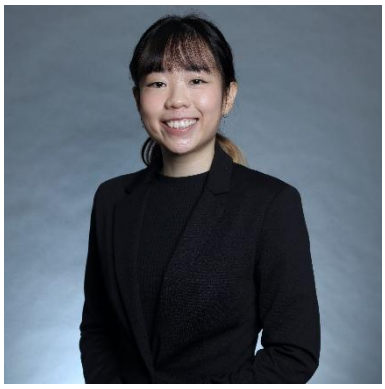
Jodi is a Product Policy Specialist at GovTech Singapore, where she develops governance frameworks for government digital services. She has contributed to the adoption of Singapore's Code Classification Framework, guiding how government-owned code repositories are classified and shared while balancing security considerations with software reuse and AI-assisted development. She also contributes to Singapore's digital accessibility initiatives under the Enabling Masterplan 2030, supporting the translation of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines into national Digital Service Standards. Beyond her professional role, Jodi is a YSEALI alumna and YSALI mentor, reflecting her commitment to cross-border leadership and collaboration. Her professional and international experiences have strengthened her interest in regional cooperation advancing technology governance and responsible innovation. She holds a Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Nanyang Technological University.

Dr Jessie (Ling Ai) WONG

Singapore

Manager

Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore (A*STAR)



Jessie is a Manager at the Biomedical Research Council (BMRC), Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore, where she drives biotechnology and research and development strategy. She also serves as a Venture Associate with National GRIP, supporting the translation of deep-tech research into commercial ventures, and as Director of External Partnerships at Nucleate Singapore, fostering collaboration within the local biotechnology ecosystem. Jessie transitioned into biotechnology strategy following her academic training in cancer and stem cell biology. She holds a PhD in Integrated Biology and Medicine from Duke-NUS Medical School, where her research focused on the molecular mechanisms of breast cancer brain metastasis and lipid biosynthesis.

Ms Elena GABINO CUELLAR

Spain

Coordinator at the Scientific Strategy Unit

Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

Carmen Elena is a Coordinator at the Scientific Strategy Unit and a Cabinet Member to the Vice-Presidency for Scientific and Technical Areas at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). She leads strategic planning actions across CSIC's three scientific areas - Society, Life and Matter - and advises senior leadership on institutional strategy and science diplomacy. Previously, she coordinated 29 multidisciplinary research and innovation initiatives with combined budgets exceeding €150 million and led the CSIC White Books 2030. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she managed the CSIC Global Health Platform, coordinating over 800 researchers. She holds a double degree in Law and Political Science from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and an LL.M. from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, and is a qualified lawyer (Spanish Bar, 2020). She was a Fulbright Fellow in R&D Governance and Science Diplomacy at Yale University.

Dr Ander MARTINEZ ALONSO

Spain

Senior Researcher

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Ander is a senior researcher in energy systems modelling and analysis at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). He holds a joint PhD in Engineering Sciences from VUB and Kobe University (Japan). He has contributed to a broad portfolio of European projects under H2020, Interreg, FCH-JU and Horizon Europe, as well as projects in Japan with NEDO and the EU-Japan Industrial Cooperation Centre. His research has led to policy advisory roles for the European Commission and Interreg, in expert groups on energy resilience and security, renewable energy valleys, hydrogen value chains and grid congestion. Before dedicating himself to research, Ander worked two years in aeronautics in Toulouse, France and three years as a Technical Manager for Asia and Oceania based in Shanghai, China. He earned his M.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from the Public University of Navarre (UPNA) and a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from the University of La Rioja (UR), Spain.

Ms Ella CARLSSON

Sweden

Trade Promotion Office

Swedish Embassy in Hanoi

Ella is currently serving as Promotion Officer at the Embassy of Sweden in Hanoi, focusing on trade promotion and bilateral engagement in the areas of climate and sustainability, energy, trusted networks and development. Prior to this role, she worked at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, where she was responsible for consular crisis and contingency management with regional responsibility for the Middle East and North Africa. She also served as Desk Officer for Afghanistan and held several EU coordination roles, including for working parties on Asia-Oceania and UK-related affairs. Ella holds a Master's in Political Science from Stockholm University and a Bachelor's in World Politics from Leiden University College The Hague.

Ms Oona LAGERCRANTZ

Sweden

Science and Innovation Officer

Swedish Embassy in London

Oona works at the Swedish Government's Office for Science and Innovation at the Embassy of Sweden in London, where she advances strategic collaboration between Sweden and the United Kingdom in research, innovation, and higher education, with a focus on emerging technologies including AI, quantum technologies, and the life sciences. She is also an editor of the Cambridge Journal of Artificial Intelligence and previously worked at the Center for AI Safety, delivering training on AI ethics and risk mitigation to professionals. Her previous experience includes roles at the Scientific Foresight Unit of the European Parliament and the Tech Policy Program at the Center for European Policy Analysis in Brussels. She has published research on AI policy, quantum technologies, and geoengineering. Oona holds a BA and MPhil from the University of Cambridge, where she specialised in the history and politics of emerging technologies.

Mr Joël BRUNNER

Switzerland

Science Counselor

Swiss Embassy in Singapore

Joël serves as the Science Counselor at the Embassy of Switzerland in Singapore, where represents the swissnex network. In his role he strengthens cooperation between Switzerland and Singapore by connecting government, research, and industry partners in the fields of education, research and innovation. In his role, Joël works at the intersection of diplomacy and science policy, fostering ties between Swiss and foreign actors. Previously he worked for the EFTA Statistical Office in Luxembourg. He Joël holds an M.A. International Affairs and Governance from the University of St.Gallen.

Ms Lea VANNINI

Switzerland

Academic Engagement Associate

Swissnex in India

Lea Selina is a project manager with a background in international collaboration, organizational development, and stakeholder engagement. She recently worked as an Academic Engagement Associate at Swissnex in India, the Swiss Consulate General in Bengaluru, where she developed and managed international collaboration projects connecting academia, government, industry, and civil society. Lea holds a Master's in Management, Organisational Studies and Cultural Theory from the University of St.Gallen, with a specialization in Organizational Development and Change Management, and a Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Her academic and professional interests lie in fostering dialogue across disciplines and sectors, bringing together diverse perspectives, and creating collaborative approaches to addressing complex societal challenges.

Ms Amawasee VIRIYANUCROA

Thailand

Plan and Policy Analyst

Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand

Amawasee is a Plan and Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand, operating within the Division of Foreign Affairs for the Office of the Thai KOSEN Project. She holds an MA in International Relations from Chulalongkorn University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Studies at SOAS University of London. Specialising in strategic policy formulation and educational diplomacy, her expertise focuses on advancing national engineering education and forging robust industry collaborations. Notably, her analytical initiatives on 'KOSEN Education' directly support higher education strategies for Thailand's industrial workforce development. Globally, she served as the Thailand Representative to the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) mission on AI Transformation in South Korea, leveraging advanced technological insights to modernise public administration. Additionally, she serves as an expert trainer in creative media and AI integration for government ministries and the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

Ms Phatthira WISSAWASWAENGSUK

Thailand

Investment promotion officer

Thailand Board of Investment

Phatthira is an investment promotion officer at the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), Office of the Prime Minister. She is a Ph.D. candidate in business management at the Asian Institute of Technology, where she also earned her MBA with a full scholarship from His Majesty King of Thailand. Phatthira's diverse educational background includes a Bachelor's in Business English Communication from Thammasat University and international experiences in Japan, China, and the United States. Her career spans academia and government service. She specializes in international business and investment promotion, focusing on connecting Thai entrepreneurs with government agencies to boost CSR-ESG projects and support SMEs with government policy, including the industry Thailand 4.0 and green investment.

Ms Alaka BHATT

United Kingdom

Senior Manager, Engineering Diplomacy

Royal Academy of Engineering, United Kingdom

Alaka is the Senior Manager for Engineering Diplomacy at the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK), where she leads programmes that strengthen bilateral and multilateral relationships with national engineering academies worldwide. She oversees a portfolio of initiatives under the UK Government's International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF), including thought leadership workshops on future technologies that connect leading engineers across Asia, Europe, and North America. She also manages the Academy's strategic engagement with global multilateral networks, including CAETS and Euro-CASE. Alaka holds a Master's in International Relations from Leiden University and has a background in delivering capacity-building programmes at the International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP). She is passionate about fostering international collaboration, innovation, and inclusive leadership.

Ms Sophie CONN

United Kingdom

Science and Technology Officer

British Embassy in Tokyo

Sophie is a Science and Technology Officer at the British Embassy in Tokyo, where she develops bilateral projects to strengthen UK-Japan cooperation, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence, embodied AI, and robotics. She also provides analysis of Japan's science, technology, and innovation landscape, with a focus on government policy and strategy relating to emerging technologies. Prior to joining the UK Government, Sophie worked in Japanese local government, supporting international researchers and technology start-ups in establishing a presence in Japan. Drawing on this experience across both the policy and commercial dimensions of science and technology innovation, as well as perspectives from both UK and Japanese institutions, she works to advance collaboration between the UK and Japan in a range of cutting-edge sectors. These positions have given her a strong appreciation of the role of science and technology diplomacy in bridging different policy, research, and innovation ecosystems, and has fostered a keen interest in using international collaboration to address shared global challenges.

Mr Matthias MEHEUST-KEMP

United Kingdom

Science & Tech Attaché

British Embassy in Paris

Matthias is a Science and Technology Attaché at the British Embassy in Paris, working within the UK's Science and Technology Network. He leads engagement across the French research and innovation landscape, building partnerships between UK and French institutions in areas such as AI, quantum technologies, health, climate, energy and research infrastructures. His work combines science diplomacy, policy analysis and stakeholder engagement to support UK priorities and strengthen bilateral collaboration across government, academia and industry.

Ms Sadie SWEETLAND

United Kingdom

Digital and Technology Lead

British Embassy in Tokyo

Sadie is the Digital and Technology Lead at the British Embassy Tokyo, where she works in science and technology diplomacy to strengthen UK, Japan and wider Indo-Pacific collaboration on emerging technologies. She advises government on areas including AI governance, semiconductor supply chains and digital policy, while building partnerships with researchers, universities and industry. Previously, she held strategic roles across the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, leading technology strategy, supporting ministerial decision-making, and shaping the UK's Industrial Strategy. Her earlier experience spans data science, environmental policy, global health partnerships and science communication. Sadie holds an MSc in Science Communication from Imperial College London and a BSc in Biomedical Science from King's College London.

Ms Pham (Diana Susan) NGOC

Viet Nam

Teaching Assistant, UEH Mekong Campus, University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City

UEH University

Pham is a Teaching Assistant in the Faculty of Bussiness and Management at UEH Mekong, the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH), Viet Nam. Her work focuses on management education, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development, with particular interest in regional resilience and human capital development in the Mekong Delta. She is currently pursuing an MBA at Western Sydney University, Viet Nam. Her research has been presented at international conferences and explores topics including AI adoption and responsible innovation. Beyond academia, she actively contributes to international youth and policy initiatives, including programmes supported by UNODC, USA Ambassy and regional partners, promoting digital literacy, cross-cultural collaboration, and evidence-informed approaches to sustainable development.

Ms Phuong Thao NGUYEN

Viet Nam

Project Manager (Tuberculosis)

Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU)

Phuong Thao is a Project Manager with the Tuberculosis Group at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where she works with clinicians, scientists, funders, and international partners to advance collaborative research in tuberculosis and global health. Prior to joining OUCRU, she served as a Programme Coordinator at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), supporting initiatives in nanotechnology, advanced biomanufacturing, and biomedical research. She also contributed to the development and clinical validation of blood-based oncology diagnostics at Oxford BioDynamics. She holds a Master of Biotechnology from Georgetown University, specializing in Cell and Gene Therapy, and is passionate about advancing global health through science and international collaboration.

Ms Quynh (Quill) NGUYEN

Viet Nam

Innovation Startups Support Officer

Department of Science and Technology of Haiphong city, Vietnam

Nhu Quynh is an Innovation and Startup Support Officer at the Department of Science and Technology of Hai Phong city, Vietnam, where she advises startups on scaling, funding, and legal fundamentals, coordinates strategic initiatives such as competitions, training programmes, and symposiums, and supports the growth of regional innovation ecosystems and partnerships. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics of International Trade from Vietnam Maritime University. Her international experience includes the YSEALI Academic Fellows Program on Natural Resources (U.S. Department of State, East-West Center), collaborating with fellows from across ASEAN on resource management and environmental sustainability, and the Political Management Training Program by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, focused on governance and policy communication across the Asia-Pacific.

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