Regional Meeting on Enhancing digital literacy among older persons in Asia and the Pacific: Developing tools to increase digital literacy of older persons

1 and 2 August 2024
In-person (Lake View Hotel, Beijing, China) and online

BIO SKETCHES
(by programme order)

Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Thailand

Ms. Lin Yang oversees ESCAP’s substantive programmes on finance, social development, and statistics, as well as five regional institutions supporting these divisions. She coordinates ESCAP’s collaborative efforts with other UN agencies at the regional level.

Ms. Yang joined ESCAP from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) where she provided advice on intergovernmental processes as well as follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, SAMOA Pathway and Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review as the Head of Strategic Planning and Communication Services, Office of the Under-Secretary-General.

Ms. Yang holds a Master's degree in international relations from Peking University and a bachelor's degree in diplomacy from China Foreign Affairs University.

Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in China, UN Resident Coordinator Office, China

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee took office as the UN Resident Coordinator in China on 16 January 2021 and presented his letter of credentials to the President of the People’s Republic of China on 14 April 2021. The Resident Coordinator is the highest-ranking representative of the UN Development System in China.

Mr. Chatterjee has more than 25 years of experience in international cooperation, sustainable development, humanitarian coordination and peace and security. Most recently, he served as the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya after holding other leadership positions across the Organization, including as Resident Representative of the UNDP and Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Kenya; Regional Director for the Middle East and Europe for the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Denmark; and Chief of Staff in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). He also held leadership positions with the United Nations...
Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Indonesia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan, and in UN Peacekeeping
Operations with the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH). Mr. Chatterjee has also
served in the Red Cross Movement (IFRC) as the Chief Diplomat and Head of Resource Mobilization
in Switzerland.

A three-time TEDx speaker, Mr. Chatterjee is a regular contributor to various journals, including
Jazeera, The Guardian, and a number of mainstream Chinese journals. Mr. Chatterjee holds a Master’s
degree in public policy from Princeton University in the United States of America and a bachelor’s
degree from the National Defence Academy in India.

Zhang Xiaofeng, Deputy Director, Department of Ageing Work, Ministry of Civil Affairs, China

Mr. Zhang Xiaofeng currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Department of Ageing Work at the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Throughout his tenure, he has been involved in theoretical research, policy formulation, and administrative management in various areas, including child welfare, aged care services, welfare for persons with disabilities, funeral and cemetery management, and ageing work.

Dan He, Director-General, China Population and Development Research Centre (CPDRC), China

Ms. He Dan is the Director-General of China Population and Development Research Centre and a member of the 13th and 14th CPPCC National Committee. She serves as an executive member of the China Population Association and China Family Planning Association. Ms. He is also the Chair of Editorial Board for Journals of Population and Health (Chinese) and China Population and Development Studies (English).

She provided crucial technical support for improving China’s fertility policy, including the launch of
the universal two-child policy in 2015 and the three-child policy in 2021. Ms. He was a leading expert
in formulating the National Strategy for Population Development and integrating the “Healthy
China” strategy into the national agenda. Over the past five years, she has published over 20 articles
relating to fertility, ageing, and the Healthy China strategy in top journals.

Meiyun Zuo, Professor, School of Information, Renmin University of China, China

Mr. Meiyun Zuo is Wu Yuzhang Chair Professor of Renmin University of China, Vice Dean of the School of Information, President of the Smart Health Care and Home Care Branch of China Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Chair of Smart Senior Care 50 Forum, and Vice President of the Chinese Information Economy Society. He has received the New Century Outstanding Talents award from the Ministry of Education and the Baosteel Excellent Teacher Award.
In 2014, Mr. Zuo co-launched the Chinese Smart Senior Care and Medical Care Forum. His research interests focus on applying digital intelligence technology, such as big data, artificial intelligence, the metaverse, and blockchain, to senior care, health, and medical treatment. He has led five projects funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, a National Social Science Major Project, and a Philosophy and Social Science Major Project of the Ministry of Education. His publications include “Smart Senior Care: Connotation and Modes” and “Smart Senior Care: Service and Operation,” and he is the co-editor of “Smart Medical Care and Senior Care in China: Progress and Innovation.”

Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, Thailand

Ms. Henning leads work on population and development, including research, capacity-building and intergovernmental support on population dynamics. Substantive focus include ageing, migration, population and development and youth and their linkages to sustainable development.

From 2015-2018, she was Senior Population Affairs Officer and Chief, Office of the Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), United Nations, New York. From 2000 to 2015, she served successively in the Population Division’s Population Estimates and Projections Section, the Population and Development Section, the Migration Section and the Population Policy Section.

She has been involved in UN interagency work and coordination for over 20 years and has supported capacity-building of member States throughout Asia and the Pacific. She co-authored UN reports, such as the Asia-Pacific Report on Population Ageing 2022 and the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2020, published in peer-reviewed journals, and serviced numerous intergovernmental meetings and high-level events at UN Headquarters and ESCAP.

Ms. Henning has a Ph.D. in Geography with a doctoral-level certificate in Demography from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a graduate-level certificate in Strategic Management from Harvard University.

Sean Doral, Programme Officer, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand

Mr. Sean Doral serves as a Programme Officer at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), specifically in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. His role encompasses critical thematic areas like capacity development and digital inclusion, with a special focus on persons with disabilities, older persons, and migrant communities.

As a Programme Officer, Mr. Doral supervises the ITU Academy Training Centres and Digital Transformation Centres. He also provides country-specific technical assistance concerning capacity development and digital accessibility in the Asia-Pacific region.

Before joining ITU in 2020, Mr. Doral built considerable expertise in the field. From 2004 to 2010, he served as a Lifestyle Facilitator for persons with disabilities at a New Zealand NGO. Later, he
transitioned to a role as Senior Executive of Capacity Building and Corporate Trainer for Boustead Holdings Limited in Malaysia from 2010 to 2014. He then served as Assistant Director of International Affairs for the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission from 2014 to 2019, focusing on ITU-T and ITU-D missions related to policies and regulations concerning the digital economy and digital transformation.

Mr. Doral holds a bachelor’s degree in Information Systems with a minor in International Relations from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

**Peter Chin Tse Nam, Associate Social Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA), ESCAP, Republic of Korea**

Mr. Peter Chin Tse Nam works on issues regarding youth, gender and older persons for the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia, ESCAP. He has published two reports on low-carbon cities and is currently drafting a report on digital case studies to improve the quality of life for older persons in East Asia. Mr. Chin Tse Nam holds a bachelor's degree in Materials Engineering and a Master’s degree in Innovation Management. His areas of interest include technology and its intersection with politics and society.

**Pengfei He, Deputy Director, Data and Information Department, CPDRC, China**

Mr. Pengfei He is the Deputy Director of the Data and Information Department at the China Population and Development Research Centre. He is a senior information system technician with extensive experience in developing and implementing digital solutions for managing population data, analyzing health data trends, and optimizing health information systems. Mr. He conducts research on emerging technologies for healthcare and works with interdisciplinary teams to drive innovation and improve population health outcomes. He primarily oversees the Elderly Health Information Management Systems and the Childcare Institutions Registration Management Systems.

**Qiushi Feng, Associate Professor, National University of Singapore, Singapore**

Mr. Qiushi Feng is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He serves as Assistant Dean of the Research Division of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at NUS and Vice President of the Population Association of Singapore. His research fields include aging and health, population studies, and economic sociology.

Mr. Feng is the Co-Editor of Current Sociology, Associate Editor of Asian Population Studies, and Deputy Editor of the International Journal of Population Studies. He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, Aging and Health Research, Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Journal of Aging and Health, and Research on Aging. His research has been supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE), and the National Medical Research Council (NMRC).
Mr. Feng is the principal investigator (PI) for the project “Lifelong Education for Ageing Productively (LEAP) in Singapore” and the PI in charge of social determinants of health for SG70, a project launched by NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. He recently led another project, “Analyses and Projections of Households and Living Arrangements in Six ASEAN Countries (HOUSEHOLD-ASEAN).”

**Mr. Xuying Zhang, Deputy Director-General and Senior Research Fellow, CPDRC, China**

Mr. Xuying Zhang is Deputy Director-General and Senior Research Fellow at the China Population and Development Research Centre. He is a standing member of the board of the China Population Association and an expert enjoying special government allowance from the State Council. He also serves as an expert to the Seventh National Census Advisory Committee and a consultant to the National Territorial Plan (2020-2035) development. Mr. Zhang has long been engaged in research on population policy and population projection, among other topics.

**Daniel McFarlane, ESCAP Consultant and Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University, Thailand**

Mr. Daniel McFarlane is a social scientist specializing in the social impact of digital technologies and building an inclusive digital society. He is currently a lecturer at Mahidol University’s Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Mr. McFarlane received his Ph.D. from the Australian National University, where he researched Cambodia’s emerging mobile phone market and its impact on society. Building on his academic research, Mr. McFarlane regularly undertakes consulting research and has authored multiple major reports for the ITU, Internet Society, ESCAP, UNICEF, and SPIDER (Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions). His research focuses on understanding the digital divide and innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected to create an inclusive digital society.

**Vira Tum, Executive Director, HelpAge Cambodia, Cambodia**

Mr. Vira Tum 15 years of dedicated service to HelpAge Cambodia. He has led and contributed to support older people from the grassroots level to the national level, in areas such as health, income security, climate and disaster risk management, social protection, and policy advocacy for older Cambodians. At the national level, Mr. Tum has supported the Government as a Technical Advisor to the Secretariat of the Cambodia National Committees for Older Persons. He participates in several technical working groups related to ageing and actively facilitates research, review, and development of many national policies and guidelines related to ageing. Mr. Tum has been instrumental in renovating grassroots-level community-based organizations, including the Older People’s Association (OPA). He led the establishment and support of the Cambodia Ageing Network (CAN), the national platform advocating for and representing the interests of older persons. He initiated the Yeay Ta Digital project, which aims to ensure that older persons can access and utilize technology to benefit their livelihoods and daily lives.
Rohit Prasad, Chief Executive Officer, HelpAge India, India

Mr. Rohit Prasad has been working with HelpAge India as CEO since 2020. Previously, he served as COO, responsible for program strategy and implementation in healthcare, aged care, livelihoods, and advocacy. He has over 20 years of experience in both the corporate and social sectors, with a focus on healthcare and public health. Mr. Prasad is focused on mainstreaming ageing into India’s national development agenda and advocating for the care and rights of older persons. He contributes to policy and programme forums and has been a member of several committees and groups on elderly care and the social sector.

Before joining HelpAge India, Mr. Prasad worked as Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a non-profit public-private initiative. He has also worked with McKinsey & Company in practice-building and growth roles, among other organizations. Mr. Prasad holds an MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS), University of Delhi, and a bachelor’s degree in Economics (Hons) from Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), University of Delhi.

Nguyen Thi Phuong Lien, Consultant, HelpAge International in Vietnam, Viet Nam

Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Lien is a dedicated social worker from Viet Nam, committed to promoting healthy living and advocating for the well-being and inclusion of older persons. As an officer at HelpAge International in Viet Nam, she has played a pivotal role in deploying the Intergenerational Self-Help Club Development (ISHC) Model, focusing on community-based organizations promoting healthy longevity. She also serves as a National ISHC Consultant for the project “Reducing Income and Health-related Vulnerability of Older Persons in Viet Nam,” funded by the Japan Social Development Bank and administered by the World Bank. Recently, Ms. Lien completed a one-year scholarship with the Australia Awards Fellowship-Women in Health Leadership Program, further enhancing her leadership skills to make a meaningful impact in the health and social care sector.

Mengjun Tang, Senior Research Fellow, CPDRC, China

Ms. Mengjun Tang is a senior research fellow at the CPDRC and serves as Vice Chairperson of the Gender Committee of the Chinese Population Association. Her research interests include fertility policy, family dynamics, gender studies, and reproductive health, with a strong emphasis on interpreting population dynamics from sociological perspectives. With over 20 years of experience, she has conducted extensive research and interventions on population-related issues.

Ms. Tang is frequently consulted by the Chinese government and international organizations on matters related to population trends, their consequences, and policy formulation. Her efforts are dedicated to promoting information-oriented management and evidence-based policymaking in the field of population and development.
Moon Jeong Choi, Professor and Head of Ageing and Technology Policy, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy, Republic of Korea

Ms. Moon Jeong Choi has found and led the Aging and Technology Policy Lab at KAIST since 2014. Her research group examines the mechanisms of social problems related to population ageing and new technologies. She provides policy analysis and recommendations to promote evidence-based policymaking. Current research projects include policy research on older drivers based on big data analytics, artificial intelligence fairness focusing on ageism and sexism, and welfare technology and active ageing using a living lab approach.

Ms. Choi has served as a consultant to the United Nations and on research and policy committees of Korean ministries. She has an interdisciplinary background, with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Yonsei University, a master's and doctoral degrees in Social Welfare with a concentration in Gerontology from Seoul National University, and Case Western Reserve University.

Wenmeng Feng, Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Research Office of the Institute of Public Administration and Human Resources, Development Research Centre of the State Council (DRC), China

Mr. Wenmeng Feng has served in various research capacities, including as Director of Research Department II of the China Development Research Foundation and Director of the Research Office of the Department of Social Development Research. His research focuses on population, healthcare, rural development and urbanization, income distribution, and social security.

After graduating from Renmin University of China in 2000, Mr. Feng studied in Japan and received his Ph.D. from Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology in 2006. He was a visiting scholar at the University of Tokyo, the Harvard Kennedy School, the Centre for Global Health at Duke University, and the School of Government at the University of Oxford. Mr. Feng has led or participated in numerous major research projects of DRC. His individual monograph Population Problems and Social Realities in China won the 2009 Research Award of the Japan Association for Rural Studies (JARS). He also coordinated the China Development Report 2013/14: The Road to Comprehensively Building a Well-being in China’s Rural Areas, which won the 7th China Rural Development Research Award.

Momoko Abe, Programme Officer, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), Japan

Ms. Momoko Abe joined JCIE in 2019 and currently serves as a Programme Officer overseeing the Healthy and Active Aging in Asia programme. Her main responsibilities include facilitating expert dialogues in international forums and spearheading the Healthy Aging Prize for Asian Innovation (HAPI), an award programme recognizing innovations addressing the challenges of ageing societies. The award has received nearly 240 applications from 12 countries and regions in East and Southeast Asia, creating a platform for knowledge sharing and network development.
Together with her team, Ms. Abe authored a chapter for ESCAP’s forthcoming report “Leveraging Technology for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,” introducing outstanding practices on how technology supports older persons in Japan. She graduated from Waseda University’s School of International Liberal Studies and holds a Master’s degree in Global Health from the University of Tokyo.

**Karen Wee Siew Lin, Executive Director, Lions Befrienders Service Association, Singapore**

Ms. Karen Wee Siew Lin is a dynamic strategist and innovator with over 36 years of experience in the nonprofit, media, and audit industries. She holds certifications such as CFRE, CMktr, FCIM, Chartered Accountant (Singapore), and Certified Internal Auditor. Karen’s expertise spans leadership, strategic planning, stakeholder management, financial oversight, advocacy, and fundraising.

With 15 years dedicated to the nonprofit sector, Ms. Wee Siew Lin has held crucial leadership roles in leadership and communications. As the Executive Director of Lions Befrienders Service Association, she has been instrumental in transforming the organization into a leader in population health, elder care, and digital innovation. Her efforts have led to the holistic care of 12,000 older persons and the successful implementation of scalable, sustainable health initiatives.

In her previous roles, she managed media sales and marketing in APAC MNCs and statutory boards and contributed to Big 4 audit and internal audit functions. She has also held significant positions at YMCA of Singapore, National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, and Children’s Cancer Foundation. She serves on several boards, including Vital Strategies and SATA CommHealth, where she contributes to public health and community healthcare advancements. Her accolades include the Public Service Medal (COVID-19) and numerous organizational awards, reflecting her commitment to social impact and innovation through strategic leadership.

**Napaphat Satchanawakul, Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP, Thailand**

Mr. Napaphat Satchanawakul works on population and development issues, including research, capacity-building and intergovernmental support on population dynamics, with a special emphasis on population ageing, intergenerational relations and their linkages to sustainable development. He has been involved in exploring strategies and tools to enhance digital inclusion of older persons in the region. He was involved in supporting the preparations for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference. Prior to joining the United Nations, he was a faculty member at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, Thailand. He contributed to policy research, particularly on the concept of ageing in place and the implications of universal health coverage, and published in peer-reviewed journals in the fields of population ageing and health systems. Mr. Satchanawakul has a Ph.D. in Public Policy from King’s College London.
Charkris Phomyoth, ESCAP consultant and Chief Executive Officer, YoungHappy, Thailand

Mr. Charkris Phomyoth is a committed social entrepreneur focused on enhancing the lives of older persons across Asia. Witnessing the loneliness and depression experienced by his older family members, he founded YoungHappy in 2017. This social enterprise aims to create a supportive and engaging community where older persons can remain active, connected, and content. Through his leadership, YoungHappy has trained over 12,000 older persons in digital skills and engaged 30,000 urban older persons.

As the CEO of YoungHappy, Mr. Phomyoth has pioneered an innovative platform that promotes physical health, mental well-being, and social connections through a range of activities, both online and offline. His vision encourages an active and purposeful life for older persons and aims to reduce healthcare costs from the family level to the national level.

His work has earned him several distinguished awards, including the Social New Gen Award, Youth Co-Lab Asia Pacific Finalist, Gen.T Leader of Tomorrow, and ASEAN Youth Fellowship.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Aviation Management from Kasetsart University, Thailand, and brings a robust background in leadership development and a deep commitment to serving older persons.

Dana Choi, Research Assistant, Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA), ESCAP, Republic of Korea

Ms. Dana Choi’s primary responsibilities include supporting social affairs projects and facilitating the monitoring and coordination of SDGs implementation at both the country and subregional levels. She is currently working on a report focused on accelerating digital innovation for ageing populations in China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

Formerly, Ms. Choi worked as a consultant at the UN Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), where she contributed to e-learning courses and ICT skills development projects under the Catalyzing Women’s Entrepreneurship (CWE) programme. Additionally, she served as a UNV Youth Programme Analyst at UNFPA, implementing the UNSCR 2250 Youth, Peace, and Security agenda in Nepal. She holds a Master’s degree in International Education and Development from the University of Sussex.

Benjamin Rae, Head of Office (a.i.) and Senior Economist, United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, China

Mr. Benjamin Rae joined the Resident Coordinator Office in China in November 2022, where he coordinates the office’s South-South cooperation efforts and the UN in China’s work on advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Previously, he spent three years as the economist in the Resident Coordinator Office in Ecuador, where he worked on economic recovery from COVID-19, strengthened relationships with International Financial
Institutions, and provided actionable economic analysis to UNCT members. He also spent six years at UN-DESA in the United Nations Statistics Division, where he was deeply involved in the design and implementation of the global indicator framework to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals.

His career in the United Nations began at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), where he worked in the Economic Development Division, conducting macroeconomic research and analysis. Before joining the United Nations, he spent one year at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Presidential Management Fellow and served for three years as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, focusing on small business development and microfinance projects.

Mr. Rae holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from Swarthmore College and a Master’s degree in public policy with a focus on international development from Duke University. He speaks English and Spanish.

Minavanh Pholsena, Managing Director, Namjai Community Association, Lao PDR

Ms. Minavanh Pholsena is a trained economist from Corvinus University of Hungary, well known for her active work in basic education, child rights, and diversity empowerment since 1993. She started her career as a junior gender officer and then became Country Programme Manager of Norwegian Church Aid in Lao PDR. She specializes in gender issues, strategic planning, and transformative programme design. Minavanh founded and directs the Namjai Community Association, a local civil society organization with about 55 members advocating for the rights of older persons, child rights, and gender equality. She is currently chair of the education working group of the Lao Civil Society Organizations Coordination Committee. Minavanh serves as a gender consultant for the feasibility study and formulation of various projects for different development partners and the private sector, including UNDP, World Bank, ADB, and AFD.

Svetlana Bashtovenko, President, Resource Center for Elderly, Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Svetlana Bashtovenko is the President of the Public Association “Resource Center for Elderly” (RCE) in Kyrgyzstan, a position she has held for 33 years. She holds higher education in the humanities and has extensive experience working with state management bodies, contributing significantly to the development of legislation and programmes for social protection and elderly care in Kyrgyzstan.

Since 2004, Ms. Bashtovenko has coordinated the international gerontological network “AgeNet International.” She has been actively involved in various working groups and councils, including the development of the law on older persons within the framework of the “Older Generation” programme, and participating in the Interagency Expert Council of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic. She has also contributed to the national programme “Older Generation,” the law “On State Social Order,” and the Strategy for Reforming Social Protection of the Population. Additionally, she has been a member of the Public Supervisory Council under the
Ministry of Social Development and the Board of the Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Ly Kimleang, Deputy Director, Department of Elderly and Veterans, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodia

Ms. Ly Kimleang serves as the Deputy Director of the Department of Elderly and Veterans at the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY) in Cambodia. Since 2008, she has been working in the areas of elderly welfare and veterans, overseeing administrative documents, communications with relevant ministries and organizations, and organizing reports on elderly and veterans for the minister and other stakeholders. She assists in preparing action plans for elderly and veterans, contributing to the National Ageing Policy 2017-2030, and providing inputs on older persons and veterans’ issues in ministry and Government reports.

Ms. Kimleang has attended numerous national and international meetings, training sessions, and workshops in ASEAN countries, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and other countries. She has contributed to preparing Cambodia's old age policy for ASEAN and international reports. She is eager to share experiences and learn new strategies to improve the quality of life for older persons.

Gulzaada Aidaralieva, Head, Sector for the Development of Professional Standards, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Gulzaada Aidaralieva has over 20 years of experience in public service in the Kyrgyz Republic. Before her current appointment as head of the sector for the development of professional standards at the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration, she worked as the chief specialist of the Department for the Development of Services for Persons with Disabilities and Elderly Citizens for three and a half years. Appointed head of the sector in March 2024, her main areas of expertise include designing and implementing policies to improve the delivery of social services to older citizens. She developed strategic documents and amendments to key laws, including the Law “On Older Citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic” and the Law “On State Social Order,” as well as the Concept of an Active Longevity Policy.

Ms. Aidaralieva holds Master’s degrees in public administration from Yonsei University, Republic of Korea, and the Institute of Public Administration in Türkiye.

Chomyaeng Phengthongsawat, Director-General, Department of Policy for Devotees, Disabilities and Older Persons, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Mr. Chomyaeng Phengthongsawat has been serving as the Director-General of the Department of Policy for Devotees, Persons with Disabilities, and Older Persons since March 2024. His extensive career in public service in Lao PDR reflects a strong commitment to social welfare and development. From 2019 to February 2024, Mr. Phengthongsawat was the Director-General of the National Regulatory Authority Office for UXO/Mine Action, where he
played a critical role in addressing the challenges posed by unexploded ordnance and mine action. Prior to this, from 2013 to 2019, he served as the Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and International Cooperation, where he was instrumental in shaping the country’s international development agenda.

Mr. Phengthongsawat has also held significant leadership roles in regional and international cooperation. He was the Leader of ASEAN Senior Officials on Social Welfare and Development from 2013 to 2019 and the Leader of the ASEAN Migrant Workers Focal Point from 1998 to 2019. Additionally, he served as the ILO focal point in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare from 1997 to 2019, working closely with the International Labour Organization on various labour and social welfare initiatives. His academic background includes a Bachelor’s degree in Education, obtained in 1998, a Diploma in Public Administration received in 2007, and a Master’s degree in Social Science with a major in Social Development, completed in 2013.

Suthida Konglertmongkol, Social Development Worker, Department of Older Persons, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand

Ms. Suthida Konglertmongkol is a Social Development Worker at the International Cooperation Sub-Division, Strategy and Planning Division, Department of Older Persons, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand. She initiates and implements programmes focusing on bilateral, regional, and international cooperation to promote quality ageing and address demographic challenges at both national and global levels. Before her current position, she gained extensive experience in international relations and foreign affairs while working for the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Justice.

A Royal Thai scholar, Ms. Konglertmongkol holds a Master’s Degree in International Social and Public Policy (Development) with Distinction from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a bachelor’s degree from Chulalongkorn University. Her interests include advocating for social development and aligning ageing and population policies with cultural and local contexts.

Young Sun Lee, Director, Competency Development Team, National Information Society Agency, Republic of Korea

Mr. Young Sun Lee has over 24 years of professional experience in digital inclusion, ICT strategy, service, and policy, significantly contributing to the progress of ICT in the Republic of Korea. Since the launch of the digital competency education project for all citizens in 2020, he has worked to improve the digital competency of vulnerable groups, such as older persons and persons with disabilities, as the project manager. Mr. Lee has accumulated diverse experience across digital inclusion projects, including digital overdependence prevention and digital social innovation.
Ms. Kasititorn Pooparadai obtained her Ph.D. in Science and Technology Policy Studies from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, in 1999. With nearly two decades of expertise at the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC/NSTDA), she has played a pivotal role in shaping Thailand’s ICT and digital policies.

Joining the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA) in 2017 as part of its pioneering executive team, Ms. Pooparadai assumed the role of Senior Executive Vice President for the Strategy and Security Promotion Unit. She leads the Digital Strategy and Intelligence Division, drives the Digital Economy Promotion Plan, and oversees initiatives within the Quality of Life and Security Promotion Division, dedicated to enhancing digital skills and leveraging technology to improve the lives of older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

Ms. Pooparadai is passionate about exploring the profound impact of digital technology on social dynamics and economic progress, positioning her as a key figure in advancing Thailand's digital economy landscape.

Mr. Myo Nyein Aung is an Associate Professor in the Department of Global Health Research at the Graduate School of Medicine, Juntendo University, Japan. He is also affiliated with the Juntendo Advanced Research Institute for Health Sciences and the Faculty of International Liberal Arts. He teaches courses on global gerontology and policy in collaboration with WHO, JICA, and JAGES study experts, as well as advanced research methodology for graduate students.

Mr. Aung also teaches research design and implementation research in global health classes at Juntendo University and trials, applied statistics, and implementation for clinical epidemiology classes at the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. He is a faculty member at the GACD Implementation Science School and has served as an international adviser for health system strengthening and service delivery in several low- and middle-income countries, with JICA and USAID.

Dedicated to health promotion, community-based social innovation for healthy ageing, and digital inclusion research internationally, Mr. Aung is the principal investigator of the Digitally Inclusive Healthy Ageing Communities (DIHAC), a cross-cultural study in India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Thailand. He is also the principal investigator of Community Integrated Intermediary Care (CIIC) for Thai older persons, a cluster randomized controlled trial funded by the World Health Organization, aimed at developing a long-term care model for low- and middle-income countries.

Mr. Aung has authored more than 80 original research articles, with his work published in top journals such as The Lancet and The Gerontologist.
David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director, UN Development Coordination Office, Asia-Pacific, Thailand

Mr. David McLachlan-Karr is a senior international civil servant with thirty years of experience with the United Nations in the political, humanitarian and developmental fields. Prior to joining the UN on secondment from the Australian Government in 1993, he was an Australian diplomat (1984-1993) serving in Mexico (Third Secretary), the Republic of Korea (Second Secretary) and Iran (First Secretary/Deputy Head of Mission).

Prior to his current role as Regional Director (from February 2022), Mr. McLachlan-Karr was Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General at MONUSCO and the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. From 2004 to 2019, Mr. McLachlan-Karr served as UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator in Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Jordan. He also held the position of Senior Adviser on Public-Private Partnerships at the World Economic Forum in Geneva. He has extensive field experience in complex emergencies, having worked in Somalia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Kosovo, Sudan (Darfur), and Iraq.

Mr. McLachlan-Karr holds a Master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, and a Bachelor’s degree in Government and Law from the University of Queensland, Australia, where he was awarded a University Medal for academic achievement. He is fluent in English, French, and Spanish, and has working knowledge of Thai and Chinese.

Observers

Fanlei Kong, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Center for Health Management and Policy Research, Shandong University, China

Mr. Fanlei Kong graduated from Tokyo Metropolitan University in Japan and received his doctoral degree in Urban Policy Science. In 2014, he began working at the School of Public Health, Shandong University. His main research interests include healthy ageing, social policies for older persons, quality of life of older persons, long-term care needs for older persons, and social welfare and social security of older persons.

To date, he has authored or co-authored over 50 papers in SCI/SSCI/CSSCI/other related journals. Additionally, he has been the principal investigator or participated in over 20 scientific research projects, including the National Natural Science Foundation of China, China Postdoctoral Science Foundation, Natural Science Foundation of Shandong Province, Post-doctoral Innovation Fund of Shandong Province, and the Tokyo Advanced Cooperative Research Program. Mr. Kong has also authored or co-authored more than 10 books, including 2 in English. Further, he has served as an anonymous reviewer for SCI/SSCI journals such as Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics, BMC Public Health, Sage Open, and Geriatrics and Gerontology International.
Suchana Sinthavathavorn, Vice President, Quality of Life and Security Development and Promotion Department, Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), Thailand

Ms. Suchana Sinthavathavorn is the Vice President of the Quality of Life and Security Development and Promotion Department at the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA). She leads initiatives focused on digital inclusion for vulnerable groups, such as older persons and persons with disabilities, empowering these groups by providing essential digital skills. Her efforts aim to ensure safe and effective navigation of digital technology and facilitate reintegration into the workforce and economic empowerment through upskilling, reskilling, and acquiring new digital competencies.

Before her role at DEPA, Ms. Sinthavathavorn accumulated over 16 years of experience in digital media strategy, training and development programs, and consulting with leading firms in New York City and Bangkok.

==========================================