



MARI PANGESTU



Mari Pangestu is a former Minister of Trade and later served as Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy in Indonesia. Before that time she was a leading staff member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta and active over a long period in various trade fora. She is regarded as one of the most well-known economic experts on trade issues in Indonesia. Mari has served as an instructor in the Faculty of Economics in the University of Indonesia. As a professional economist, she is widely published in the Indonesian and international media. She serves on the Board of External Editors of the Asian Journal of Business (University of Michigan) and Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies (produced by the Indonesia Project at the Australian National University). Mari also served as co-coordinator of the Task Force on Poverty and Development for the United Nations Millennium Project. Mari Pangestu obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Australian National University, and her Doctorate in economics from the University of California at Davis, United States, in 1986.



SAHIB ANANDSONGVIT



Sahib Anandsongvit is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Seekster- Thailand's Leading Cleaning & Repair Service platform for Properties. Seekster helps property owners buy services directly from qualified and reliable service providers. After graduating from Assumption University in Accounting and Finance Major, Sahib started his career as a Junior Auditor at Deloitte. He then joined his family in managing a boutique hotel business in Bangkok, which involved regularly finding skilled workers to repair rooms, clean facilities, or perform other services on short notice. This is what inspired Sahib's idea for Seekster. Unlike a traditional business in this space, which might hire a fleet of service providers and pay them an hourly rate, Seekster took a "platform" approach. Without hiring a single provider directly, Sahib built an online marketplace where micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)—like his own family—can find, hire, and rate the services of independent cleaners, plumbers, pest exterminators, and air conditioner technicians who sign up on the platform. Businesses on Seekster get fast and high-quality services, while individual providers get immediate access to a customer base and can parlay good ratings into much higher and more reliable incomes. Seekster providers earn more than triple the minimum daily wage of 310 Baht (about \$9). He is on a mission to empower and digitize the service labor market.



JOHN KARR



John Karr, based in San Francisco, is the Senior Director of The Asia Foundation's Technology Programs team where he leads an Asia-wide effort to launch and grow projects focused on information technology and innovation. His current focus is on the role of online platforms in international development; the future of work; and distributed systems and blockchain technologies in the Asia Pacific. John also works closely with local developer groups and tech entrepreneurs in Asia to support the development of new solutions to regional development challenges. John leads efforts to promote learning on topics related to platform economies and inclusive growth, and encourages dialogue between the Asia Pacific policy community and the private sector. John also directs the Foundation's efforts to focus on blockchain technologies by bringing together the private sector, government, and civil society organizations to develop partnerships and identify new opportunities and follow through for pilot blockchain initiatives. John has worked on projects throughout the region including in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Afghanistan, Vietnam, China, and North Korea. Prior to serving in his current position, John established and led a cross-functional team that was responsible for developing a variety of civic engagement APIs, analytics and data visualization tools, and mobile applications with local partners in Asia. John has a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington.



JONATHAN WONG



Jonathan is currently the Chief of Technology and Innovation for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. He is a specialist in innovation with experience working in both the public and private sectors. He joined the UN from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) where he was the inaugural Head of Innovation. In this role he developed DFID's innovation strategy with a focus on social innovation, entrepreneurship and impact investment. Prior to joining DFID, he set up the Innovation Centre for the UK National Health Service. Jonathan has also been a Partner in a social investment fund which invested in innovative companies and advised international organisations on innovation policy, management and development.