

Biographical Notes

Opening Remarks



Mr. Masakazu Toyoda currently serves as the Chairman and CEO of the Japan Economic Foundation (JEF), as well as Special Advisor to the Institute of Energy Economics of Japan and Director of the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research.

He is the former Chairman and CEO of the Institute of Energy Economics (2010-2021); served also for nearly a decade on both the Board of Governors of the Oxford Institute of Energy Studies (2012-2021); and the International Advisory Board Council of the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) in Saudi Arabia (2011-2019).

During his distinguished government career, he served in numerous key positions within the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan culminating in his service as Vice Minister for International Affairs (2007-2008). He also subsequently served as Secretary General of the Secretariat for Space Policy in Japan's Cabinet Secretariat.

Mr. Toyoda holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University (1979), and an undergraduate Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Tokyo (1973).



Dr. Somkiat Tangkitvanich is President of the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). He earned a Doctor of Engineering and an M.Eng. in Computer Engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, and a B.Eng. in Computer Engineering (First-Class Honors, Gold Medal) from Chulalongkorn University.

His research and policy expertise spans national development strategy, media and telecommunications (ICT) policy, law and economics, international trade and investment policy, and science, technology, and innovation policy (including R&D/innovation policy). He was a principal architect of Thai PBS, Southeast Asia's first public television service, and contributed to several landmark media laws in Thailand. Under his leadership, TDRI was named "Person of the Year" (2012) by the Bangkok Post.

Dr. Somkiat's recognitions include the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) Outstanding Research Award (2006) and the Thailand Anti-Corruption Award (2004). He has also served widely in public roles, including as a member of the Law Development/ Reform Commission, University Council member at Prince of Songkla University and Mahidol University, and Academic Committee member at the King Prajadhipok's Institute.

Keynote Address



Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee, a Thai economist/ technocrat, is known for his continuous involvement in the economic development of Thailand in many capacities, and in ASEAN and APEC affairs. He had a number of appointments in the Thai Government, including as Advisor to several Thai Prime Ministers, as a former Minister of Energy and Minister of Commerce, a Senator, and a member of the National Legislative Assembly.

He has worked on ASEAN and APEC affairs all along, being an initiator of AFTA and the APEC Leaders Meeting. He has also served as the Chairman of the Steering Committee and Vice Chairman of the Council of Mekong Institute.

In the private sector, Dr. Narongchai is on the Board of several publicly listed companies including MFC Asset Management Plc., Ananda Property Development Plc. and the Brooker Group. In January 2016, he was reappointed to be an Independent Non-executive Director of AIA Group Limited, Hong Kong.

Dr. Narongchai served as a member of the Board of many Thai public institutions including the National Economic and Social Development Board, Board of Investment, Bank of Thailand, Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand and the Insurance Commission. He was also a Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of Thailand.

Having graduated with a Ph. D. in economics from the Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Narongchai has a keen interest in education and research. He is a founding member of the Thailand Development Research Institute, Chairman of the Khon Kaen University Council, and Chairman of Mekong Institute Steering Committee.

Session 1



Dr. Josef T. Yap was President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), where he worked for 26 years until his retirement on June 30, 2013. While at PIDS, he specialized in macroeconomic policy and applied econometrics. Dr. Yap finished his undergraduate and doctoral studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman and went to the University of Pennsylvania on a post-graduate program. In 2010, Dr. Yap was honored as one of the 100 outstanding alumni of the UP Diliman College of Engineering as part of its Centennial celebration. His current research interest centers on regional economic integration in East Asia and promoting energy security in the Philippines. Dr. Yap was the regional coordinator of the East Asian Development Network and was actively involved in the establishment of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). From 2019 – 2022 Dr. Yap was Senior Technical Advisor to the ASEP-CELLs Project (Access to Sustainable Energy Program, Clean Energy Living Laboratories) which was implemented under the auspices of the European Union and the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG). He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at ASoG and Emeritus Research Fellow at PIDS. Dr. Yap is co-author of the books *The Philippine Economy: East Asia's Stray Cat? Structure, Finance and Adjustment* and *Lessons from Nationalist Struggle: The Life of Emmanuel Quiason Yap*.



Dr. Vo Tri Thanh is former Vice-president of the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM). He is currently a member of Vietnam National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (VNCPEC) and a member of the National Financial and Monetary Policy Advisory Council. He is also Director of Institute for Brand and Competitiveness Strategy (BCSI). He holds a Bachelor of Science from the Moscow State University, and a master's degree in economics and a PhD degree in Economics both from the Australian National University.

Dr. Vo Tri Thanh mainly undertakes research and provides consultation on issues related to trade liberalization, international economic integration and macroeconomic policies. His other areas of interests include institutional reforms, financial system and economic development.



Dr. Sachin Kumar Sharma brings over two decades of expertise in international trade, development cooperation, and multilateral and regional negotiations. His research, advocacy, and capacity-building work have shaped discussions on trade and development, agricultural subsidies, investment, food security, sustainability, market access, trade disputes, transparency, LDC graduation, Aid for Trade, and negotiations at the WTO, FAO, G20, and in regional trade agreements.

He holds an M.Phil. and a PhD in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, with a specialisation in the WTO, international trade, quantitative techniques, and agricultural policy. He is skilled in econometrics, Computable General Equilibrium (GTAP), Partial Equilibrium Modelling, and statistical tools, with extensive experience in trade analytics.

A prolific scholar, Prof. Sharma has authored six books, numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, several working papers, and book chapters, in addition to regularly contributing to policy debates through articles in leading newspapers and participating in global forums.

Before joining RIS, he served as a Professor at the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. At CWS, he led and supervised a multidisciplinary team of economists, lawyers, and officials, working on a wide range of economic, development, and legal issues. His evidence-based policy inputs, analysis, and recommendations were extensively utilised by many developing countries and LDCs to comply with WTO obligations and to advance negotiations on agriculture and sustainability, including securing the perpetual peace clause on food security and shaping disciplines on domestic support.

Through knowledge sharing, critical inputs on proposals, and capacity-building initiatives, he also coordinated with key members of the G-33 to develop and advocate common negotiating positions among high-level policymakers of developing countries and LDCs.

Representing India, he made significant contributions to South-South Cooperation through WTO proposals on domestic support, sustainability, food security, cotton, Special and Differential Treatment, and several other issues, many of which were co-sponsored by 75 countries from the G-33, OACPS, and the African Group. His initiatives played a pivotal role in invoking the Bali Peace Clause, thereby safeguarding India's public stockholding programs for food security from WTO disputes. As an integral member of the Indian delegation, he played a crucial role in negotiations at the last five WTO Ministerial Conferences. He has conducted numerous training programmes on trade issues to strengthen South-South cooperation and collaborated with leading organisations, think tanks, and UN agencies.

As Director General of RIS, Prof. Sharma envisions strengthening RIS as the premier institution of the Global South, providing cutting-edge, development-oriented research and policy dialogue on contemporary global economic challenges. He aims to further RIS's mission of fostering South-South cooperation, supporting evidence-based policymaking, and ensuring that the voices of developing countries are strongly represented in the international economic discourse.



Dr. Yose Rizal Damuri is the Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies. His research activities focus on international trade, regional integration and globalization of value chain. He also maintains a keen interest in examining the political economy aspects of international economic governance and the multilateral trading system. Yose has authored numerous academic articles on these subjects and is currently directing his attention toward the implications of major power rivalries on the global and regional economic landscape. He received his PhD in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland.

He is active in many networks of research institutes in East Asia, such as in Asia Pacific Research Network on Trade (ARTNet) and ERIA Research Institute Network (ERIA-RIN) and Think 20, the think tank network of G20 countries. Currently he serves as the Co-Chair of Indonesia National Committee of Pacific Economic Cooperation (INCPEC). Yose is also active in various policy forums in Indonesia, including as the Founder of Indonesia Service Dialogue, a forum dedicated for the development of services sector in Indonesia.

Session 2



Mr. Manu Bhaskaran is the Founding CEO of Centennial Asia Advisors. He provides independent economic research on Asian political and macroeconomic trends for investment institutions, government agencies, multilateral institutions and companies with interests in Asia, leveraging off 40 years of studying Asia.

Mr. Bhaskaran is also Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies in Singapore where his main interests are in analyzing macroeconomic policy frameworks in Singapore.

Prior to Centennial, Mr. Bhaskaran held senior positions at Société Générale's Asian investment banking division where he supervised Asian economic and investment strategy analysis and was a member of the Executive Committee, in charge of Asian equity research. In 12 years with the firm, Mr. Bhaskaran helped to establish its business presence in Southeast Asia and in South Asia, while also helping to develop the firm's highly-rated equity and economic research. Prior to that, Mr. Bhaskaran worked for the Singapore government, supervising a team that prepared strategic political and economic assessments of Asia for senior Singapore government officials.

In terms of public service, Mr. Bhaskaran has served as Chairman of a high-level government committee reviewing the regulation of moneylenders in Singapore in 2014–2015. He also served as a Member of the Competition Appeals Board, Singapore for several years until August 2023. In addition, he is a Council Member of both the Economic Society of Singapore and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA); and an advisor to the Asia Foundation.

Mr. Bhaskaran also serves on the boards of several companies whose businesses span the ASEAN region including SembCorp Industries and NIKS Professional (which are listed in Singapore) as well as Luminor Capital.

Mr. Bhaskaran was educated at Magdalene College, Cambridge University where he earned an MA (Cantab) and at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where he obtained a Masters in Public Administration. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst.



Amb. Murray McLean is a Fellow of the Australian Institute for International Affairs (since 2018) and Chairman of his family company, Dunmore McLean Pty Ltd. He was Chair, Australia Japan Foundation (2012-2020); a Vice Chancellor's Professorial Fellow at Monash University (2012-2015) a non-resident Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy (2014-2016) and Chair, Foundation of Australian and Japanese Studies (NPO) (2015-2025).

Formerly a senior officer of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), he retired in 2012 after a 42 year career culminating in his role as Ambassador to Japan (2004-2011) initiating negotiations on the Japan/Australia EPA and on growing security cooperation as well as leading Australia's response to the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters of 2011.

Prior to that role, he served as Deputy Secretary of DFAT (2004); First Assistant Secretary, North Asia Division (2001-2003), High Commissioner to Singapore (1997-2001); Assistant Secretary, East Asia Branch, (1992-1996), and Consul General, Shanghai (1987-1992). His other DFAT postings were at the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C. (1983-1986); the Australian Embassy in Beijing (twice) (1973-1976 and 1979-1983) and in Hong Kong (1971-1973). In DFAT, he was consistently involved in the formulation of Australian policy towards Asia and also served as a special ministerial envoy on North Korean nuclear matters visiting North Korea on several occasions.

He was appointed as an officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Australia Day Honours list 2013 and in November 2014, the Japanese Emperor presented him with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.



Dr. Mignonne Man-jung Chan has extensive experience in the academia, government, business, and media. Dr. Chan is Deputy Director & Research Fellow, Taiwan Center for Security Studies, National Chengchi University. She is also Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) of the Forum on Humanities, a top-notch cross-strait bilateral business forum, as well as CSO of Healthy Asia, a region-wide company that flagships AI technology, medi-care management expertise, and comprehensive medical humanity. Furthermore, she sits in many Boards, and of the Sino-U.S. Economic & Cultural Association. In addition, she is also commissioned as Senior Advisor to the Legislative Yuan.

Dr. Chan currently also serves as Advisor to the KMT Party think tank, National Policy Research Foundation; Chinese Taipei APEC Study Center at Taiwan Institute of Economic Research; and Advisor to the Chinese Cyan Geese Peace Education Foundation. She is also coaching a special inter-college negotiation program commissioned by the Ministry of Education



Dr. Aladdin D. Rillo currently serves as Managing Director of the Policy Design and Operations Department at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Jakarta, Indonesia, a position he has held since April 2024, following his tenure as Senior Economic Advisor from April 2021 to March 2024.

From March 2018 to March 2021, he served as Deputy Secretary-General for the ASEAN Economic Community Department at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Prior to that, he held several leadership positions at the Secretariat, including Director and Chief Economist of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (2010–2013), Assistant Director and Head of the Finance Integration Division (2008–2010), and Senior Officer and Head of the Finance and Macroeconomic Surveillance Unit (2000–2006).

He was previously Senior Economist for Capacity Building and Training at the ADB Institute in Tokyo (2013–2018) and served as International Consultant and Macroeconomist at the Asian Development Bank's Office of Regional Economic Integration (2007–2008). His private sector experience includes serving as Senior Manager for Transfer Pricing and Head of the Center for Economic Excellence at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in Toronto (2006–2007), and as Chief Economist and Assistant Vice-President at the Development Bank of Singapore Philippines Inc. (1995–1997).

He has also taught economics at universities in the United States, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Bulgaria. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Economics from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, and a B.A. in Economics from Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines.



Dr. Shujiro Urata is Professor Emeritus, Waseda University. He was Professor of International Economics, Graduate School Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University. He is currently Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), Specially Appointed Fellow at the Japanese Centre for Economic Research (JCER), Senior Research Fellow, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO). Professor Urata received his BA in Economics from Keio University, MA and Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University. He is a former Research Associate at the Brookings Institution, an Economist at the World Bank. He specializes in International Economics and Economics of Development. He has held a number of research and advisory positions including senior advisor to the Government of Indonesia, consultant to the World Bank, OECD, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan. He has published a number of books and articles on international economic issues. His recent books include *Achieving Inclusive Growth in the Asia Pacific*, co-editor, Australian National University Press, 2020, *Enhancing SME Participation in Global Value Chains*, editor, Asian Development Bank Institute, 2021, *The Effect of Globalisation on Firm and Labour Performance*, co-editor, Routledge, 2021, and *Globalization and Its Economic Consequences: Looking at APEC Economies*, co-editor. Routledge, 2021



Ms. Khine Khine Nwe (Rosaline) is the first female Secretary General (SG) of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in over a Century Period as well as the Secretary General of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA). She heads the Responsible Business and Natural Resources Development Committee in UMFCCI and also is a Trustee on the Board of ASEAN CSR Network. She is also Board member of ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) and is a focal person for Strengthening Women Empowerment and Gender, Equality Diversity, and Inclusion (GEDI). She is an Advisor to Myanmar Institute of Directors (MIOD). She is Patron of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) and Advisor to Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (MWEA). She is a Board Member of National Standard Council, Myanmar. She is also on the Board of UNGC Network Myanmar and is active in Industrial Relations and has been attending International LaborConference (Geneva) as Employers' Delegate since 2011.

She holds her Master's Degree from Yangon University, Myanmar and taught at Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand. She is Chairman of Myanmar Garment HumanResource Development Center (MGHRDC) and Honorary Principal of UMFCCI Training Institute. She is a member of Accreditation and Certification Committee and Chairman of Manufacturing Industry Occupational Competency Standard Committee, National Skills Standard Authority(NSSA). She is a member on ASEAN TVET Council and is also nominated as National Ambassadorfor ASEAN Year of Skill 2025 (AYOS 2025). She was a member of Building Human Capital Base Pillar under Private Sector Development Committee (2016 – 2021), member of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) (2011 – 2016), and member of National Accreditation and QualityAssurance Committee (NAQAC) (2017-2021), Ministry of Education.

She is a successful business woman leading Best Industrial Co.,Ltd, a garment manufacturing company as Managing Director. Her passion is to enhance skilling, upskilling andreskilling of working levels, and help develop an inclusive socio friendly economic environment in Myanmar that will lead to equitable growth and prosperity of the Nation.

Session 3



Mr. Naoyuki Haraoka has been Executive Managing Director of the Japan Economic Foundation (JEF) since 2007. After graduating the University of Tokyo in 1978 (Bachelor of Economics), he joined MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry) of Japanese government.

Having been posted in the industrial policy section and the international trade policy section for a few years, he was enrolled in a two year MPA (Master of Public Administration) programme at Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University in the US on a Japanese government sponsorship. After having acquired MPA at Princeton, he rejoined MITI in 1984 as an economist. Since then he had been posted as Deputy Director and Director of a number of MITI divisions including Research Division of International Trade Policy Bureau. He was also posted in Paris twice, firstly, Principal Economist of Trade Bureau of OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) from 1988 to 92 and secondly Counselor to Japanese Delegation of OECD from 1996 to 99. After coming back to MITI from his second stay in Paris, at the occasion of the government structural reform in 2001 when MITI was remodeled as METI (Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry) he joined the efforts to found METI research institute, Research Institute of Economy Trade and Industry as its Director of Administration. He became Chief Executive Director of JETRO San Francisco in 2003 and stayed in San Francisco until 2006. He was Director-General of METI Training Institute from 2006 until July, 2007 when he left METI permanently.



Prof. Wang Yuzhu is a distinguished professor of Shenzhen University since November 2024, before that, he served as a Research Fellow and Doctoral supervisor at National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (NIIS, CASS), started from 2000. He received his PhD of Economics from the Graduate School of CASS in 2006. He spent six months as a visiting scholar at National University of Singapore in 2004 and he was a visiting scholar at Chicago University during 2006-2007 academic year. And in 2019, he conducted research at the John King Fairbank Center of Harvard University. He is listed in the National High-Level Personnel Special Support Program for Philosophy and Social Sciences and in the Project of Cultural Masters and "the four kinds of a batches" Talents. Currently, Professor Wang focuses his research on theory and practice of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation, ASEAN studies, China-ASEAN relations, the Belt and Road issues and the protection of China's overseas interests.



Datuk Seri Jayasiri Jayasena is the former Secretary General of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia. He joined the civil service in December 1981 as Assistant Secretary of International Affairs, Ministry of Primary Industries dealing with international commodity issues. He later assumed the post of First Secretary/Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Malaysia in Geneva from 1988 to 1997 representing Malaysia in the Uruguay Round of negotiations to establish the WTO. He returned to MITI in 1997 and served in various positions. He was Malaysia's Senior Official to APEC from 2002 – 2006. He assumed the post of Deputy Secretary-General, MITI, in charge of strategy and monitoring in January 2015 before serving as the Secretary-General from July 2016 until his mandatory retirement from civil service in May 2018.

Throughout his career, he represented Malaysia in numerous international meetings and trade negotiations. He led Malaysia's team in the ASEAN-China FTA, Malaysia-Japan FTA, the TPPA and CPTPP negotiations.

He was also deeply involved in many industry related issues and led the High-Level Task Force on the way forward for Malaysia to embrace Industry 4.0.



Dr. Mia Mikic is a trade economist with a keen interest in sustainable development and with an extensive track record and experience in academia and international civil service. She is a Board member of the Friends of Multilateralism Group and of the Board of Advisors for the Trade Policy Research Forum, Advisor at Large for the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), Research Fellow at the Waikato Management School, The University of Waikato, New Zealand and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Euro-Asian Studies, the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb. Mia is part of the Global Advisory Council of the Centre for a Smart Future, Sri Lanka, and a member of the Advisory Board or the Center on Inclusive Trade and Development, Georgetown Law, USA. She provides advisory services in a broad area of trade, development and global governance.

Previously, she was a Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division in United Nations ESCAP (2017-2021), and help other functions in the UN (2005-2017). She was also Head of the Department of Economic Theory, Professor of International Economics and Director of Economic and Business International Program at the University of Zagreb (2001-2005), and Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland (1988-2005).



Dr. Ahn Choong Yon is currently a Distinguished Professor, Chung-Ang University GSIS in Seoul and the author of *South Korea and Foreign Direct Investment: Policy Dynamics and Aftercare Ombudsman* (2023 Routledge). The major posts he served include Co-Chair of the Korea-India Strategic Dialogue (2012-2021) organized by Korea Foundation and the Seoul International Forum, former Chairman, Korea Commission for Corporate Partnership (KCCP: 2014-2018) to induce voluntary collaborations between Korea's big businesses and SMEs, and also Chairman of the Board, Korea Electric Power Corporation, presidentially appointed Foreign Investment Ombudsman (2006-2014) for foreign direct investors in Korea, Chairman of the Presidential Regulatory Reform Committee (2010-2012). While on sabbatical from Chung-Ang University, he also served several posts such as the President of the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (2002-2005); Chair of the APEC Economic Committee(2002-2005); Chair of Board, Choheung Bank; consultant to the World Bank; UNIDO Chief Technical Advisor to the Economic Planning Unit of Malaysia to design Malaysia's industrial master plan; and served as President of several academic societies in Korea including the Korea International Economics Association, Korean Association of Trade and Industry Studies, and the Korea Econometric Society. He was also a visiting professor to Economic Research Institute, Kyoto University, Japan. Dr. Ahn's honors include the Economist of the Year Award from the Maeil Business Daily Newspaper in Korea, the Okita Policy Research Award by the National Institute for Research Advancement in Japan for his publication on "Modern East Asian Economy," and Free Economy Publication Award by the Federation of Korean Industries. Since receiving his Ph.D. from Ohio State University, Dr. Ahn has published many articles in international journals including *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *European Economic Review*, *Japanese Economic Review*, *Journal of Asian Economics*, *Global Asia*, and Monograph papers in North-Holland, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Springer, Edward Elgar, Palgrave Macmillan, Iwanami Shoten of Japan, Peking University Press, etc.