List of Speakers


3 May 2018, Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand

- **H.E. Ambassador, Staffan Herrström, Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, Myanmar and Lao PDR**

Staffan Herrström has been Ambassador of Sweden to Thailand, Myanmar and Lao PDR since 2015/2016. He has previously served as Ambassador to Poland, Vietnam and Tanzania. He was Deputy Director General for the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, 1995-2007. Before that he served for three years as State Secretary in the Prime Minister’s office, responsible for political coordination under Deputy Prime Minister Bengt Westerberg. He spent five years as the Head of the Secretariat for the MP-group of the Liberal Party between 1986 and 1991. In the 80’s he worked as a journalist for three years at the second largest Swedish morning daily, Göteborgs-Posten.

- **Ms. Misako Ito, Regional Adviser for Communication and Information, UNESCO Bangkok**

Misako Ito works as Advisor for Communication and Information at UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok since 2015. She is responsible for UNESCO’s Communication and Information programme in the Mekong countries and coordinates the UNESCO Memory of the World programme for safeguarding the documentary heritage in Asia and the Pacific.
Before joining Bangkok, she spent six years at UNESCO Office in Rabat, Morocco, in providing advisory services for media development, its legislation on freedom of information as well as for the media and information literacy policies in Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

She is an engineer in information systems graduated from the Ecole des Mines and HEC School of Management in Paris. Before joining UNESCO, she worked for the French Development Agency and the Institute of Research for Development in Guinea, Gabon and Senegal for the development of environmental information management tools.

- **Dr. Golam Rahman, Member of the UNESCO Global Report on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development**

Dr. Md. Golam Rahman, a Professor in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh served as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of Bangladesh and retired in January 2018. In a career spanning four decades, he has served the University of Dhaka as the Chairman of the Department of MCJ (in 1990-93, 2004-2005) and as one of the Provosts of the University. He served Papua New Guinea University of Technology as Professor and Head of the Department of Language and Communication Studies from 2009-2011. He was the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Daffodil International University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prof. Rahman has been part of the advisory group of the editorial team for the publication of the UNESCO Global Report 2017/2018 on World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development.

- **Ms. Duong Bich Hanh, Programme Specialist and Chief of Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok**
Ms. Duong Bich Hanh is an anthropologist with extensive knowledge and experience in Southeast Asia and international development. She joined UNESCO in 2009 to manage the culture program in the Hanoi Office and moved to the Bangkok Office in 2016 to cover the culture program in the Mekong cluster countries and coordinate a number of regional projects in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Her work involves the promotion for ratification and implementation of UNESCO’s six cultural conventions, which includes the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The Convention shapes the design and implementation of policies and measures that support the creation, production, distribution and access to cultural goods and services, and ultimately provides a new framework for informed, transparent and participatory systems of governance for culture.

- **Ms. Yin Yadanar Thein, Co-founder, Free Expression Myanmar**

Yin Yadanar Thein co-founded the human rights organisation, Free Expression Myanmar (FEM), to give national strategic leadership to legal reform in the country. Since Myanmar opened up, Yin has worked on media law reform, digital rights, gender-based censorship and the right to information. She previously worked for the INGO, Article 19, as the organisation's country manager, and before that a women's rights activist and editor. Yin has spent time working in Myanmar's IDP camps in Rakhine state, and working with the UN special mechanisms in Geneva.

- **Mr. Yingcheep Atchanont, Program Manager, iLaw, Thailand**

Mr. Yingcheep Atchanont is program manager of iLaw - Internet Dialogue on Law Reform. Founded in 2009, iLaw is a non-governmental organization working on freedom of expression. iLaw strongly supports public participation to achieve democracy, freedom of expression, civil and political rights, and a fairer and more accountable system of justice in Thailand through campaigns for legal reforms. iLaw also monitors and documents cases and trials relating to freedom of expression. The database is available online in Thai and English at [freedom.ilaw.or.th](http://freedom.ilaw.or.th).
• **Ms. Sheen Handoo, Public Policy Manager for Asia-Pacific, Facebook Singapore**

Sheen is Public Policy Manager at Facebook, based in Singapore. Sheen is part of the content policy team responsible for Facebook’s global Community Standards, which set forth what content can and cannot be shared on the site. Her team strives to strike the right balance between giving people a place to express themselves authentically and promoting a welcoming and safe environment for everyone. Sheen originally joined Facebook in 2015 as Public Policy Manager for South and Central Asia, and was working on various policy issues in these regions. Sheen received her B.A. LLB (H) from Indraprastha University in New Delhi, and LLM from the University of Pennsylvania, USA.

• **Ms. Vicheika Kann, Reporter, Voice of America’s Khmer Service, Cambodia**

Kann Vicheika is a reporter at Voice of America (VOA)’s Khmer service, base in Phnom Penh. Her stories focus on political, human right, social justice and social issue. Before taking her current position at VOA in 2016, Vicheika used to be a full time reporter at the independent media radio, Voice of Democracy (VOD). While she was working at the Voice of Democracy, she got Indigenous Voices in Asia (IVA) Regional Award from Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation (AIPP) in 2015 after she produced video documentary “My land my life”. She was a citizen journalists’ mentor at VOD too. She graduated bachelor of law at the Royal University of Law and Economic. Vicheika now is writing her thesis for her master of law; her research explores the ethic of journalist in Cambodia, which related to access of information law and journalist right.
• Ms. Anisa Widyasari, Advocacy Officer, Southeast-Asia Press Alliance (SEAPA)

Anisa Widyasari works as Advocacy Officer for Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), based in Bangkok. Within SEAPA, her responsibility is to lead in the legal analysis of policy affecting press freedom and freedom of expression to inform SEAPA's advocacy responses and strategies. She is a law graduate and finished her master degree on law from the University of Edinburgh School of Law. Before joining SEAPA, she worked as Project Manager for hukumonline.com, an online platform for legal news and analysis based in Jakarta, Indonesia

• Mr. Cedric Alviani, Director of Reporters Without Borders (RWB) Bureau for East-Asia

Cedric Alviani is the head of the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) East-Asia bureau. A French national and graduate from the CUEJ journalism school in Strasbourg, Cedric previously served as an audio-visual specialist for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Thailand and Taiwan. In 2005, he founded the Taiwan European Film Festival (TEFF) and from 2010 to 2012, served as General Manager of the France Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFT). Reporters Without Borders, also known under its French name Reporters sans frontières (RSF), is an international non-profit organisation defending the freedom of information throughout the world thanks to its network of correspondents in 130 countries, its 13 offices (Paris, London, Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Helsinki, Rome, Madrid, Stockholm, Vienna, Rio de Janeiro, Tunis, and Washington D.C.) and its consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO and the Council of Europe.
• Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota, Assistant Professor, Chulalongkorn University

Pirongrong Ramasoota is presently vice president of Chulalongkorn University, in charge of social outreach and global engagement. Prior to joining the university administration, Dr. Ramasoota ran the Thai Media Policy Center, a research unit specializing in issues related to media law and regulation at the Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, where she has taught for the past 20 years. Apart from teaching, Pirongrong has participated in several policy-related endeavors including commissioning two media laws, and serving as member of advisory committee for the national communications regulator – the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC). Dr. Ramasoota completed her PhD in communication studies in 2000 from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada, under the now defunct Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) scholarship. Her research interests include media policy and regulation, social implications of ICTs, Internet freedom, media and democratization, and information privacy.

• Mr. Laurent Meillan, Deputy Head Office, Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Bangkok

Mr. Laurent Meillan has worked at OHCHR for the last 20 years. He started in the research department of OHCHR in 1998. Since 2003, he has been working on the Asia Pacific region, especially Cambodia, China, North Korea, Myanmar, Pakistan, Maldives, Philippines and Thailand. He has worked in country and regional offices and as human rights advisers within Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator Offices. From 2009 to 2012, he was deputy chief of the Asia Pacific Section in Geneva. He joined the South East Asia Regional Office in April 2012 as a Deputy Head of Office. He was acting Regional Representative from 2015 to 2017.