Speakers’ Biographies

**Session Title:** Transformative ECCE Through Social and Emotional Learning

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<th>Date and hour of the side event</th>
<th>14 November 2022, 17:30 – 18:30 Tashkent time (GMT+5)</th>
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<td>Organizer</td>
<td>UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education</td>
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<td>Co-organizing party: The Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)</td>
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**Catherine Wilczek – UNESCO Bangkok Regional Bureau for Education**

Side event MC

Catherine is supporting the UNESCO Bangkok’s regional programme on inclusive education, primarily focusing on children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, as well as early childhood care and education. She also coordinates the activities of the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group. She holds a Master of International Business Degree from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia.

**Shigeru Aoyagi – UNESCO Bangkok Regional Bureau for Education**

Mr Aoyagi is the Director of UNESCO Bangkok, Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education. He has been associated with UNESCO since 1984 through educational and cultural programmes of the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO in Tokyo. He joined UNESCO in 2002 as Chief of the Literacy and Non-Formal Education in Paris. Mr Aoyagi was Director of the UNESCO Office in Kabul and Representative to Afghanistan. He initiated the largest literacy project in the history of UNESCO, “Empowerment of Literacy in Afghanistan” in 2006. In 2012, Mr Aoyagi took up the post of Director of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, and Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. He led the development of SAARC Framework for Action for SDG4: Education 2030.
**MARC DE ROSNAY – UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG**

Professor Marc de Rosnay, Academic Director, Early Start, University of Wollongong, Australia, leads transformational early childhood initiatives with the goal of improving developmental, educational, and social opportunities for vulnerable children in regional, rural, and remote contexts. Marc works to translate current evidence on child development and early learning into the everyday care of children and professional practices. His research focuses on how children become socially and emotionally competent. Full CV can be found on UOW: [https://scholars.uow.edu.au/display/marc_de_rosnay](https://scholars.uow.edu.au/display/marc_de_rosnay)

**KYUNGAH KRISTY BANG – UNESCO BANGKOK REGIONAL BUREAU FOR EDUCATION**

Kyungah Kristy Bang is a programme officer responsible for UNESCO Bangkok’s regional programmes on early childhood care and education and inclusive education including children with disabilities and mother tongue-based multilingual education. She is also the coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Multilingual Education Working Group (MLE WG). She holds a M.Sc. from the National University of Singapore.

**EVELYN SANTIAGO – Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)**

Evelyn D. Santiago is the current Executive Director of ARNEC. She has more than 25 years of professional experience in development work encompassing child development, investment programming, strategic planning, project planning and design, programme management, grants development and partnership building. Prior to joining ARNEC, she spent 10 years working for ChildFund International in various management positions at Country Offices in the Philippines, Timor Leste and at the Asia Regional Office in Bangkok. She also worked previously with the German Technical Cooperation (now called GIZ) and with the Central Economic Planning Ministry of the Philippine Government. Evelyn has a Master of Arts degree in Economics of Development from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, The Netherlands.
CHOON CHHEANG – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Cambodia

Mr. Chheang, chief of preschool office of Early Childhood Education Department has been working in MoEYS for 36 years including 19 years of work experience in Early Childhood Care and Development. He was a Khmer Literature teacher at Secondary and High School for 12 years and was the author and editor of Khmer language textbooks for primary and secondary education for 9 years. He holds two master’s degrees, one in a public administration law and the other in Educational Management, and he has received Advanced International Diploma on Child Rights, Classroom and School Management in Lund University, Sweden; Train the Trainer Course for early childhood education in Singapore. He worked in the Department of Early Childhood Education since 2003. Accepted in the field of state preschool, community preschool and private preschool as well. The most responsibilities are: Develop and implement office action plan, Orientation new national curriculum for state preschools and community preschool monitoring, strengthening and mentoring for preschool, provide in-service training on technical support for preschool teachers such as social and emotional learning, and working a cross-sectors. He holds two master’s degrees, one in a public administration law and the other in Educational Management, and he has received Advanced International Diploma on Child Rights, Classroom and School Management in Lund University, Sweden; Train the Trainer Course for early childhood education in Singapore.

ANJEELA JOKHAN – Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Fiji Islands

Dr. Jokhan was appointed as the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts in November 2020. She holds a PhD from University of Bristol, United Kingdom in plant physiology. Prior to this she accomplished her Bachelors, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters from the University of South Pacific. She earned the title of Associate Professor in 2016. Dr. Jokhan served as the Dean for Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment at the University of South Pacific, Laucala Campus for 12 years before taking up the Challenging role of the Acting Vice-President, Planning, Quality, Institutional Research & Data, and Commercial in 2019 and earlier as Acting VP for Digital Service and Human Resources.

She has been in the University’s Senior Management Team for over 14 years during which she held leadership positions in many institutional initiatives. She was the key driver of several changes in the area of curriculum reviews, online learning and policy development for the University as it underwent significant transformation. Not only has Dr. Jokhan been an influential academic leader but has also contributed significantly as a societal leader. She has served as Board Member for several Organizations in Fiji. She is currently the General Secretary of UNESCO’s National Commission in Fiji and the second Vice-President of the Tokyo Convention Bureau and Asia Pacific Network Information Centre. She is passionate about research in the areas of plant physiology, eLearning, mLearning and institutional research and as an active researcher, she has published over 50 journal articles, 25 books and book chapters and several conference papers. In 2020, Dr. Jokhan received the Independence Commemorative Medal from His Excellency, The President of Fiji.
Serah Vurobaravu Liki is from Vanuatu, an island nation located in the South Pacific Ocean. She currently resides in the capital city of Vanuatu, Port Vila with her beautiful family. She works for the Ministry of Education and Training as the National ECCE Coordinator for over 8 years. Her role is crucial as she coordinates and manages any matter related to ECCE throughout the entire country. She graduated with a certificate in primary teaching from Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education and taught for over 15 years. She holds a Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language to Speakers from Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand in 2015. She graduated with a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management in 2018 from the Australian-Pacific Technical College (APTC) in Port Vila. Recently, she graduated with a Bachelor of Early Childhood Care and Education from the University of the South Pacific in Suva Fiji, in June 2022. She is currently pursuing her Post Graduate Diploma in Education. Her passion is young children. It is her desire to ensure young children receive quality nurturing, teaching and learning in early years to enable them build strong academic foundation for a well-educated nation. Her hobbies are cooking, singing, swimming, reading and enjoying family time at home.

Prof. Lam has more 20 years of experience in researching and training teachers in early childhood education and special education. Her research interests are supporting for teachers and parent to caring and education for children, especially in caring and education for children from ethnic minority groups and disadvantaged areas. She has been coordinator some national and international projects that focus on adaptation international scales/manual to Viet Nam context such as Ages & Stages Questionnaires – ASQ 3, East Asia-Pacific Early Child Development Scales (collaboration with UNICEF), ACEI Global Guidelines Assessment (collaboration with UNICEF), Emergent Literacy and Math toolkit (collaboration with Save the Children); Asia-Pacific ECCE Teacher Training for Social Emotional Learning -APETT-SEL (collaboration with ARNEC)... She was invited to be a national consultant in projects such as Viet Nam’s Early Childhood Education Curriculum funded by Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam School Readiness Promotion Project funded by World Bank, Projects of Promoting Early Childhood Care and Development for Disadvantaged Ethnic Minority Children in Vietnam funded by UNICEF, Plan, Save the Children, Aide et Action.
Ms Sachs-Israel is the Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education, UNESCO Bangkok, Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education since June 2021. Ms. Sachs-Israel has over 30 years of experience in education and international development. Before joining UNESCO Bangkok, she was the UNICEF Regional Education Advisor for Latin American and Caribbean. Prior to that, she held the position of Chief Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning; and was the UNESCO focal point for the development of the United Nations Education 2030 Agenda at UNESCO Headquarters. In her capacity as Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education, Ms. Sachs-Israel oversees major work of the Section, which includes the SDG4-Education 2030 regional coordination, education policy, planning and management, quality of education, inclusive education, multi-lingual and mother tongue education, ECCE, as well as health education and well-being. In addition, she serves as the UNESCO co-chair of the newly established UN networking group, “Learning and Education 2030+”, co-led by UNESCO Bangkok and UNICEF EAPRO and ROSA.