

Building Disability Inclusive Education through Data

Webinar

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Speakers' Biographies

ERIN TANNER - UNICEF EAPRO OPENING REMARKS



Erin Tanner is an Education Specialist currently working with the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and Pacific. Her work focuses on issues of education quality and equity in primary school, including issues of learning assessment and curriculum. She also works on issues of inclusive education for children with disabilities, multi-lingual education and digital learning platforms and oversees coordination of the South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics, which is the first regional comparative assessment in Asia. Prior to joining the East Asia and Pacific region, Ms. Tanner worked for UNICEF in Rwanda and the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. She has two master's degrees in Education.

LIM PUAY TIAK – ASEAN DISABILITY FORUM MODERATOR



Mr Lim Puay Tiak is a founding member of the ASEAN Disability Forum and presently serves as its Chairman since December 2017. He is also a Board member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). Mr Lim has 40 years of working experience in the social service sector of Singapore in a wide range of top and middle management roles. He was employed in the Singapore Civil Service from 1981 to 1995 and was responsible for policies and capability building of the disability services sector.

As a wheelchair user, Mr Lim aims to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and empower them to be contributing members of the community.

DANIEL MONT – CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE POLICY



Daniel Mont, the CEO of the Center for Inclusive Policy, has extensive experience in the area of disability and inclusive development, and has worked as a Senior Economist with the World Bank and a wide range of other international development agencies, governments, and civil society organizations. He served as chair of the UN Statistical Commission's Washington Group on Disability Statistics analytical working group, worked with UNICEF and UNESCO on building inclusive Education Management Information Systems, and with UNDP, OHCR, and ESCAP on developing indicator frameworks for reporting on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as with ILO and several countries on developing disability determination eligibility tools for social protection programs. He has published many articles on disability and inclusion in the areas of disability measurement and the relation of disability to poverty, social protection, education and employment.

ROSHAN BAJRACHARYA



Mr. Roshan Bajracharya is the Senior Regional Advisor for UNESCO Institute for Statistics- Asia Pacific region. Mr. Bajracharya has been continuously working with Global, Regional, and National partners in strengthening country capacities in statistical systems particularly education statistics for more than 10 years. He has taken strong leadership in streamlining global monitoring with developing national SDG4 monitoring frameworks by designing and implementing various statistical programmes and projects for strengthening education data both in Household and administrative routine data.

With Ph.D. in Education Administration, Mr. Bajracharya is a trained statistician with Master's in science and Master's in educational Pedagogy, has organized numerous regional and national training workshops for member states on International education statistics, monitoring and data analysis for decision-making. He has also authored and contributed to many technical guides, manual and information papers, and assessment reports in the areas of education data and statistics.

JOHN PAUL CRUZ



John Paul Cruz or Pong is a disability policy specialist for 10+ years focusing on human rights, accessibility, digital transformation, urban development, and child rights. He represented the Philippine ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in the Task Force on Mainstreaming Disability Rights in the Southeast Asian Region (ASEAN). The Task Force developed the region's plan of action on disability, the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Enabling Masterplan). ASEAN adopted the Enabling Masterplan in 2018 at the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore.

Pong was a US-ASEAN Fulbright and a visiting research fellow at the Boalt School of Law, University of California, Berkeley and a Salzburg Global Seminar fellow. He has a master's degree in International Affairs with a concentration on comparative and international disability policy from the School of International Service at American University in Washington DC. He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from the National College of Public Administration and Governance at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Pong is a human rights consultant for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the General Elections Network for Disability Access (AGENDA). He is also working with the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in writing a case report on how select cities around the world are using accessibility to improve their public resources and services delivery. Since later last year, Pong has been working with Save the Children Philippines to develop policy recommendations that will address challenges that Filipino children with disabilities encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BETH SPRUNT



Dr. Beth Sprunt is the Disability Inclusion Specialist on the Fiji Facility's Education Program and the Inclusive Education Adviser on Indonesia's INOVASI program. Beth's PhD was a diagnostic accuracy study of the UNICEF/Washington Group Child Functioning Module for the purpose of disability disaggregating Fiji's Education Management Information System. This system is now being implemented in Indonesia. She designed Fiji's Access to Quality Education Program (AQEP) Disability Inclusion Strategy, which won DFAT's Global Disability Inclusive Development Award. Beth is the lead author of Fiji's Disability-Inclusive Education Handbook for Teachers, which has been adapted for Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon

Islands and Tuvalu. Beth is leading Fiji's review of the national curriculum framework in relation to students with disabilities, and is working with UNICEF to undertake the Pacific Regional Review of Inclusive Education (16 countries) and providing technical support across the region.

JOVESA KOROVULAVULA



Jovesa Korovulavula has had 15 years of teaching both in primary and special school in Fiji. He completed a Master of Special Education at Macquarie University in 2015. As Disability Inclusion Coordinator for the Fiji Program Support Facility's Education Program, he supports inclusive and equitable quality education in Fiji, with a focus on students with disabilities.

He works closely with the Disability Inclusion Specialist to implement the Disability Inclusion Strategy approach to improve access to education for girls and boys with disabilities in Fiji, in line with the Government of Fiji's inclusive education policy agenda.

SAWANG SRISOM – LEONARD CHESHIRE
CLOSING REMARKS



Working in the disability sector for over 18 years, Sawang Srisom has been a strong advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. He is currently the technical consultant for Leonard Cheshire, Thailand and worked with the organisation in various capacities.

Sawang has worked with several international organisations in the Asia Pacific region in the past and ardently promoted the rights of people with disabilities in various aspects of socio-economic development. As a passionate trainer, he regularly conducts 'Disability Equality Trainings' at several regional and international platforms.

Besides his work as a technical expert on disability inclusion in areas of disability inclusive data, employment and education, Sawang also leads a group, 'Transportation for All (T4A)', which advocates for universal accessibility in public transport for people with disabilities and all users requiring better access. He has been an integral part of this growing movement that aims to mobilise efforts to improve accessibility in the Bangkok Mass Transit System - the first sky train in Bangkok - and other modes of public transport.