Speakers’ Biographies

DATUK DR. HABIBAH ABDUL RAHIM, SEAMEO SECRETARIAT
opening remarks

Datuk Dr Habibah Abdul Rahim is currently Director at SEAMEO Secretariat (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat) (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2027). She is also Honourary Fellow at MASA Institute, Senior Advisor of Edvolution, and Board Member of Teach for Malaysia Foundation and Dewan Bahasa and Pustaka.

Datuk Habibah is the former Director General of Education Malaysia and has served the Ministry of Education Malaysia for more than 34 years. Throughout her career, she held various positions such as the Head of the Delivery Management Office for the Executive Director of the Education Performance and Delivery Unit, Director of the Educational Planning and Research Division, and Deputy Director General of Education (Policy and Curriculum). She has extensive experience in policy development, macro planning, programme implementation and evaluation. She played an instrumental role in the development of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025, Education Development Master Plan 2006-2010 and Education Development 2001-2010.

NYI NYI THAUNG - UNESCO MULTISECTORAL REGIONAL OFFICE IN BANGKOK
Opening remarks / Workshop facilitator

Nyi Nyi Thaung is currently the Programme Specialist (Education Planning and Management) at UNESCO Bangkok Regional Bureau for Education. Prior to joining UNESCO Bangkok, he served as Chief of Education Team at UNESCO Islamabad Office. He also worked as Programme Specialist at various UNESCO Offices and Institute, such as the Section of Education Policy at UNESCO HQs (Paris), and UIS (UNESCO Institute for Statistics) Headquarters in Montreal, Canada.

He has accumulated more than 20 years of development experience in the areas of education, planning and statistics, both at UNESCO field and regional Offices, including HQ and institute, leading and implementing education programmes and projects in more than 50 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Arab States. Mr Thaung holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Statistics and a Master Degree in Economics.
MITSUE UEMURA - UNICEF EAPRO
opening remarks

Joining EAPRO in June 2022, Ms. Uemura leads the regional office’s support to country offices’ education programming for achieving ‘every child learns’ and works with regional partners to advance regional and global education goals. Prior to this, she served as Chief of Education in Myanmar for six years and Chief of Education in Viet Nam as well as in Papua New Guinea. She held the position of Education Specialist in the East and Southern Africa Regional Office based in Kenya, and in Ecuador. She also worked as UNV in Bhutan and education consultant for the World Bank.

DANIEL MONT – CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE POLICY
Workshop facilitator

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 - UNESCO MULTISECTORAL REGIONAL OFFICE IN BANGKOK
Workshop facilitator

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.

NATASHA GRAHAM, UNICEF EAPRO
Workshop Moderator

Natasha Graham is an international expert in disability-inclusive development focusing on education of children with disabilities. Prior to joining UNICEF’s East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, she has been working for UNICEF Headquarters supporting Regional and Country offices in planning and implementing disability-inclusive education and piloting the work on disability-inclusive education sector analysis and sector planning. Most recently, Natasha was one of the lead course designers and instructors in UNICEF-UNESCO-IIEP course on Foundations of Disability-Inclusive Education Sector Planning, which was implemented in five different regions providing training for MOE staff.

Natasha joined GPE Secretariat after working for Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) piloting disability screening and assessment in low-income countries. Over the past 20 years she has worked with many governments and international agencies on designing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive education programs and systems. Natasha has extensive experience working in East Africa, South Asia and South East Asia and the Pacific focusing on understanding the needs of marginalized children and those excluded from education. She holds a Masters degree in Public Administration specialized in international education policy from the Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey.
ERIN TANNER - UNICEF EAPRO
Workshop Moderator

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.

CATHALINE WILCZEK - UNESCO MULTISECTORAL REGIONAL OFFICE IN BANGKOK
Workshop Moderator

Catherine is the Assistant Programme Officer at UNESCO Bangkok office, supporting the regional programme on inclusive education, primarily on children with disabilities and including other marginalised and vulnerable groups of children. She also coordinates and facilitates the activities of the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group. Catherine also supports the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme at UNESCO Bangkok. She holds a Master of International Business Degree from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia.

BETH SPRUNT
Speaker – Fiji experience

Dr. Beth Sprunt is Inclusive Education Adviser on the Fiji Facility’s Education Program and 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. Beth brings a practical lens to work with countries in their efforts to improve disability disaggregation in Education Management Information Systems, with experience working on EMIS’s with governments in the Pacific, Indonesia, Timor Leste, and sub-Saharan Africa. Beth is the lead author of Fiji’s Teacher’s Guide to Disability-Inclusive Education, which has been adapted for Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Beth works as Inclusive Education Adviser for UNICEF Pacific and was lead author of the Pacific Regional Review of Inclusive Education.
Jovesa Korovulavula is a Special and Inclusive Education coordinator with Fiji Program Support Facility’s Education Program. He works with Project Heaven, Fiji Health Programs, and schools to strengthen data recording and monitoring of referrals and services provided to learners with disabilities in the student’s function/disability tab within FEMIS. Jovesa works with Organisation of Persons with Disabilities to address stigma regarding the enrollment of students with disabilities. He attained a Master of Special Education from Macquarie University in 2015.