



EAST-WEST CENTER

EDUCATION PROGRAM

ASIA PACIFIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, 2008-2009

Introduction to Fellows

Asia Pacific Leadership Program
1601 East-West Road
East-West Center
Honolulu, HI
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Robbie Adams (United States) is an Office Manager for Hawaii State Representative Dwight Takamine. She regularly travels to meet constituents on the Big Island about bills that concern their community, including a recent resolution introduced by students requesting that the Department of Education include peace studies in high school curriculum. She is experienced in domestic and international NGO management having worked for the Red Cross in Honolulu and having volunteered at various organizations including the Counseling Center for Refugees in the Czech Republic, Massachusetts Peace Action, and Volunteers for Peace in the Netherlands. Ms. Adams is trained in conflict resolution and was a Mediator at Hawaii's Mediation Center of the Pacific. She received her BA in Social Thought and Political Economy from the University of Massachusetts and spent a year studying gender and development issues in India.

Asal Baragchizaden (Iran) has been working at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office) in Tehran since May 2006, initially as Assistant to the Director, and as Program Assistant for Culture since December 2007. She implements regular programs and extra budgetary projects in four countries that UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office services: Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan. Her career includes stints as a Research and Development Technician at biomedical companies, where her research focused on stem cells and physiotherapy equipment for hospitals and therapists. Her first position was as Senior Assistant at a testing book publisher. She is also familiar with national testing as a tutor to students with financial difficulties in southern Tehran trying to pass entrance exams at gifted and talented schools. Ms. Baragchizaden received her BA in Electrical and Biomedical Engineering from Islamic Azad University in Iran, graduating at the top of her class.

Neha Chaturvedi (India) has significant experience working with NGOs at the grassroots and national level in India. Her focus is on raising the collective voice of civil society to pressure governments to be more people-centered and participatory in their policies and programs. She has served as Regional Coordinator at Samarthan Center for Development Support; Research Associate at the National Social Watch Coalition; State Coordinator at Voluntary Action Network India; and a Consultant at Development Assistance Systems India. She worked with the UK Department for International Development on its Poorest Area Civil Society Program and Social Watch Movement, a worldwide movement that aims to monitor governments to make them accountable to the UN Millennium Development Goals. She holds an MA in Psychology from Aligarh Muslim University and a BA in Psychology from the Aligarh Women's College in India. As an East-West Center fellow and recipient of the Toufiq and Ulrike Siddiqi Degree Scholars Award, she completed her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Hawaii.

Sunita Chaudhary (Nepal) holds an MS in Protected Areas Management from the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, and a BS in Forestry from the Institute of Forestry in Pokhara, Nepal. She was recognized by the ethnic minority Tharu Welfare Council as the first Tharu woman forester and by the Nepalese Forest Association for her pioneering contributions as a woman in the forest sector of Nepal. Ms. Chaudhary has worked in the Development, Research and Monitoring Unit of WWF Nepal, the Institute of Ecology in Austria, and as an Instructor at the Institute of Forestry's Department of

Wildlife, Parks and Recreation in Nepal. Her numerous publications and reports cover topics of ecotourism, threats to the Ganges river dolphin, and the status of Asian tigers. She also shares her passion and commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development by volunteering for education campaigns and a children's Environmental Awareness Camp in Nepal.

Teresa Cheung (Hong Kong, People's Republic of China) coordinated Fulbright and other high-level academic exchanges between Hong Kong, mainland China, and the United States as a Program Officer at the Hong Kong - America Center. She previously worked at Oxfam Hong Kong as Liaison for its China Program Division. Ms. Cheung completed a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and an academic year of anthropology study at the University of Copenhagen. For her degree she conducted research on Hong Kong street vendors and provided policy recommendations for decriminalization in the Hong Kong context. Ms. Cheung has also worked at a Shanghai-based travel agency and on donor recruitment for Orbis, an eye medical-aid project.

Vannarith Chheang (Cambodia) is an Associate Research Fellow at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) and a PhD candidate in Asia Pacific Studies from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Oita, Japan. His published articles are titled: "China and the Creation of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area: Implications for Cambodia," "Cambodia, from a Killing Field to a Court of Justice: Challenges Ahead," "Japan and East Asian Regionalism," and a forthcoming article to be published in *The Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research* on the political economy of tourism in Cambodia. Mr. Chheang received his MA in International Relations from the International University of Japan in Niigata and a BA in International Relations from the Institute for International Relations in Vietnam. While studying in Hanoi, he interned at the Royal Embassy of Cambodia and has served as an interpreter for the Japan Assistance Team for Small Arms Management in Cambodia.

Xiu Min Cui (People's Republic of China) spent seven years working in print media as an Editor-in-Chief at *Level* magazine, Senior Editor at *Women's Day* magazine, and Senior Editor at *China Art* newspaper. Her first position after receiving her BA in Journalism from Renmin University in China was as a Marketing Specialist in Chinese literature and art circles. When the public relations field emerged in China, she moved into a career, first as Senior Associate for Ogilvy Public Relations in Beijing, then as Senior Account Executive for Edelman PR Company, and currently as Corporate Communications Director for Bates141 China, where she does full-service marketing communications for the company in China. Bates141 China is owned by WPP, one of the world's largest communications services group, and has over 21 offices with 1,700 staff in 15 Asian countries.

Kusal Dharmarathne (Sri Lanka) created Sri Lanka's first fisheries database while working as an Information Technology Specialist and then District Officer at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The database, now being replicated at the national level, improves the livelihoods of rural fisherman by tracking disaster risks and successful sustainable development methods, and informing donors how best to rehabilitate marine fisheries. Mr. Dharmarathne is currently the Information Manager at Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka's largest charity agency, where he tracks and delivers agricultural information on-site for more than 10,000 rural farmers. He is trained in MIS, system analysis and design, software development, and hardware engineering and is skilled at carrying out market research and advertising campaigns using web-affiliate programs.

Sayed Ferdous (Bangladesh) is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka. He teaches courses such as South Asian History and Culture; Ethnicity, Nationalism and Identity; and History, Memory and Narrative at the graduate and undergraduate levels. He has published on postcolonial state and nationhood; indigenous identity; gender and language; and Western liberalism and cultural hegemony. Outside of the classroom he is an activist for social justice and an occasional contributor to the major national newspapers in Bangladesh. Mr. Ferdous holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Amsterdam and Master's and Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Jahangirnagar University.

Rita Madarieta Gallardo (Philippines) is Senior Economic Specialist to the Majority Floor Leader in the Senate of the Philippines. Previously she worked as an Economic Specialist to the Senate Economic Planning Office and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries. Ms. Gallardo received a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Santo Tomas. She was selected to represent the Philippines as a 21st Century Trust Fellow at Oxford University and completed a diploma, Universalizing Socio-economic Security for the Poor, at the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands. She received the Pope Leo Award for Communitarian Service for her work in the community. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Public Administration and Governance.

Eva Haahti (Finland) is the former Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister of Finland, Matti Vanhanen. Before working for the Parliament of Finland, she began her career at the Finnish League for Human Rights. In this role she drafted the shadow report for the United Nations Committee Against Torture and drafted complaints to the Parliament Attorney Official concerning racism and discrimination. As a Refugee Case Worker with Amnesty International in Australia, she assisted 90 individuals, mostly from Asia Pacific countries. Ms. Haahti received an MA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney with a thesis titled "Spoils of War: Sexual Violence and Human Rights Violations Against Women in War." She also holds a BA in International Relations from Hawaii Pacific University. In early 2008, she was selected to be an Observer for Parliamentary elections in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Shawn Hall (United States) has over 15 years of experience in the IT and Communications Industry. Currently he is a Telecommunications Technical Associate at Verizon Telecommunications Corporation in New York and is experienced in network design and applications as well as operations support systems. He is a former U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division Communications Sergeant and has furnished critical VHF-Satellite communications in past military operations. He recently completed a degree in Digital Communications and Media at New York University, supplemented by studies in Chinese journalism and broadcast media at Hong Kong University, Tsinghua University, and Peking University. Mr. Hall is currently completing a dual Master's degree in Business Administration and Technology Information Management in Entertainment at New York University Polytechnic Institute.

Tomohiro Hamakawa (Japan) holds a BA in Social Anthropology from Harvard University and Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. While completing a Chinese Studies Certificate at Tsinghua University, he collected and analyzed field data on children of migrant workers in Beijing to investigate the relationship between child nutrition and the influence of media. At UNICEF-India he collected and analyzed data on malnutrition, immunizations, and discrimination in rural communities in Eastern India, culminating in a published case study and short documentary film. Mr. Hamakawa serves as a director of NGO Rabsal, which aims to represent and regenerate Tibetan culture through production of documentary films. He traveled extensively in the region as a writer for *Let's Go Travel Guidebooks* on Japan and Southeast Asia. He received a Carr Center travel grant to conduct fieldwork in Cote d'Ivoire for his Master's thesis on reintegration of female/former child soldiers and gave final recommendations to an NGO working in the region, Save the Children UK.

Alvarif Harjati (United States) holds an MS in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a BS in Chemical and Industrial Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. As a graduate research assistant, he worked on environmentally conscious design packaging systems for internationally sourced auto parts and published the findings in the *Journal of Cleaner Production*. Upon completion of his graduate work, he joined Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, as a supply chain analyst, working on logistics and supply chain activities for North America and Asia Pacific operations. Most recently, Mr. Harjati helps to manage production planning and supply chain strategies for Holcim (U.S.). Outside of work, he is launching his family's coffee products with the proceeds being donated to Pachamamas Children project in Cusco, Peru.

Meredith Holmgren (United States) is an Ethnomusicologist with experience in intercultural and media organizations. She has toured internationally as a singer in the Bulgarian women's choirs Superdevoiche and Usmifka. She has performed with a number of Javanese and Balinese gamelan orchestras from the United States, using gamelan angklung skills learned in Bali. Ms. Holmgren received a BA in Ethnomusicology from UCLA while working at the International Council for Traditional Music and UCLA's Center for Intercultural Performance. For the latter, she assisted in organizing Los Angeles's largest citywide festival, the World Festival of Sacred Music. Ms. Holmgren studied international human rights at the University of Malmö, Sweden, and conducted cultural exchange research for Global Contact, a division of the Danish Association for International Development. She has written and edited articles on

musician censorship in Southeast Asia and the United States for *Freemuse – The World Forum on Music and Censorship*. She recently completed course work in the Danish and Indonesian languages, receiving a fellowship for the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin.

Yoriko li (Japan) is a cross-cultural education program coordinator whose work has taken her to Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Pacific islands. Her first position was with the Japan International Cooperation Agency. She then became an Assistant Coordinator for the Government of Japan's Ship for World Youth. Ms. li went on to become Program Coordinator at the Center for the International Youth Exchange and most recently worked as Assistant Program Coordinator at the International Center of Osaka Gakuin University. She received her BA in English and American Literature at Aoyama Gakuin University. As a liaison to universities and students from the United States, China, Thailand, Korea, and Western Europe, she coordinated exchange programs, including a month-long exchange of student athletes from England. She also counsels Japanese students on studying abroad, often to Hawaii.

Seongtaek Im (Republic of Korea) is a Professor of Computer Information Systems at the Korean Military Academy and former Army Officer. His research focuses on artificial intelligence and military automated computing system. He was the Director of the Policy Campaign Committee for a Korean political party and directed the campaign and strategic report for the 17th Korean presidential elections. His expertise in military and international trade attracted the party to him. Mr. Im received an MS in Information Systems from Hawaii Pacific University. He received a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in MIS from Drexel University. At Drexel University he served as President of the Korean-American Student Association.

Feifei “Nancy” Kong (People's Republic of China) currently works for Motorola Electronic in the Human Resources department. She previously planned communication strategies and trainings at Sun Microsystems in China. She graduated first in her department with a Bachelor's degree in Diplomacy at China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and went on to complete her Master of Law degree in International Relations. She received foreign diplomatic delegations from Africa and Southeast Asia as Team Advisor at the Foreign Affairs Office at CFAU and organized numerous student exchanges from foreign universities. Ms. Kong drafted the National Development and Reform Commissions speech and helped it to establish the Chinese Association for Small and Medium Enterprises. She has interpreted for business executive delegations and international conferences, such as the China Mergers & Acquisitions Conference and Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza. Ms. Kong also served as Secretary-General of the 2007 Beijing Model UN.

Thanit Kongkaew (Thailand) holds a Master of Arts in Speech Communication and Bachelor of Business Administration from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. He is

currently the Productivity Promotion Officer at the Thailand Productivity Institute. In this role he applies his knowledge of finance, marketing, and management with his teaching and communication skills to improve worker productivity in organizations and the education sector. Most recently he led the Productivity Improvement in Ayutthaya Province project to improve productivity in 20 area factories. Mr. Kongkaew was selected to represent Thailand at the Honda-sponsored IATSS Forum for talented young business leaders from Southeast Asia and Japan. He was also selected out of thousands of applicants as one of 28 Thai participants on the Ship for Southeast Asia Youth, which engages Asian youth in mutual understanding programs while traveling to Southeast Asian countries.

Palenitina Langaoui (Tonga) provides policy analysis and recommendations to the Tongan Cabinet and Ministers as Senior Assistant Secretary of the Tonga Public Service Commission. In her eight years with the Tongan government she has served in the Prime Minister's office and directed the Commission Support Services. She received her PhD in Public Administration and Political Science from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan; an MBA from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji; and a BS in Math and Biology from the University of Auckland. Ms. Langaoui was a Visiting Researcher at the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Center for Pacific Studies and has published articles on Tonga's diplomatic relations with China and Tongan public service strikes and inequality. She presented at the International Seminar on Good Governance in Thailand hosted by the Center for Bhutan Studies; the Asia Pacific Sociological Associations' annual conference in Malaysia; and China in Oceania Conference sponsored by the Institute of International Strategic Studies in Japan.

Vincent Liwanag (Philippines) has 10 years of experience in the IT industry working with prestigious multinational companies in the Philippines. As Country Sales Manager for NetApp, he has led revenue growth and spearheaded operations in the Philippines. As a Sales Manager with Symantec Corporation, he closed their biggest sale with the largest telecommunications company in the Philippines. He recently completed his MBA at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid in Spain and works with companies to find creative solutions for sustainability that balance economic, environmental, and social interests. Before his MBA, Mr. Liwanag received a BS in Manufacturing Engineering and Management from De La Salle University in Manila.

Khalid Lodhi (Pakistan) is Director of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority of the Pakistan Federal Government where he works to reduce corruption and promote good governance, transparency, and accountability. He is heading a massive Public Sector Capacity Building Training Program in Islamabad to train senior public sector procurement officials for individual and institutional capacity building. He joined the Civil Service of Pakistan and was placed in the Revenue Service of Pakistan. Previously he served as the Deputy Commissioner of Corporate Income Tax in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi. As Second Secretary of the Central Board of Revenue, he was part of a World Bank-funded Tax Reform Project in the country. Earlier in his career, Mr. Lodhi taught English language and literature classes. He has also taught courses in business as well as tax, corporate, and international law at universities in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. He received his first Master's degree in English from Punjab University,

a Bachelor of Law at Karachi University, and a Commonwealth of Learning MBA from Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad.

Benugopal Mukhopadhyay (India) has two decades of experience in agricultural and rural development in Kolkata, Mumbai, and Lucknow with Apex Development Financial Institution and the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development. At the bank, he managed micro-finance/enterprise portfolios and won the Organization Development Institute's Most Outstanding Turnaround Project for a rural poor project in Rajasthan. He now heads the Corporate Social Responsibility division which trains adult and youth farmers in new technology and financial accessing through more than 25,000 clubs. Mr. Mukhopadhyay is a Faculty Member at the Bankers' Institute of Rural Development and has published on risk mitigating mechanisms for farmers. He holds MS degrees in Agriculture (State Agriculture University, India) and Organizational Development (Bowling Green State University, U.S.) and holds a PhD in Agriculture from the Indian Agriculture Research Institute.

Phatry Derek Pan (United States) is Public Relations Director of Khmerconnection, the largest Khmer community website, while also working as PR Director for one of Phnom Penh's busiest hotels, Hotel Cara. He is one of only two contributing authors from Cambodia to *Global Voices*, a Harvard University online publication. He was Co-Editor of the *Cambodian Scene* and *Cambodia Estate Guide*, both based in Phnom Penh. Previously, Mr. Pan was Country Coordinator for One World Foundation, a partnership to place U.S. university students in internships at Cambodian social development organizations. He was also an arts reporter for the *Phnom Penh Post*, an instructor of Khmer arts at the Nature Consortium, and an intern museum docent at the Asian Museum in Seattle. Mr. Pan completed his secondary education in the United States and received his BA in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Washington.

Eunhee Park (Republic of Korea) is Coordinator of the Executive Master of Law Program jointly offered by Northwestern Law School and Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Seoul. She holds two Bachelor's degrees from Sookmyung Women's University in Political Science/International Relations and English Literature. She has been recognized for her outstanding fund-raising and implementation of a water collection and purification project in Zambia with the NGO Humana International. As a Development Instructor for Humana she also ran child aid and environmental projects, as well as monitored micro-credit loans. She worked in Zambia as a teacher and traveled to Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya and wrote an award-winning essay on the experience. As a student, she received a scholarship for her New Zealand-based research on international student programs at two universities and another scholarship for her research in Rwanda on women's leadership in development work at CARE International.

Isabelle Rettig (France) is a PhD candidate in Social Anthropology at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris and holds a Master's degree in Social

Science from Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg, France. Funded by the Government of New Caledonia and relevant to her own family history, her current research focuses on migrations between the South Pacific islands of Wallis-Futuna and New Caledonia. The results of her research on women in politics, completed for the Pacific Women's Bureau, are currently being published and were presented at the 10th Regional Conference on Pacific Women. Formerly, she was a Social Development Advisor to the Urban Development Department and a Cultural Mediator at Tjibaou Cultural Center in New Caledonia. Ms. Rettig participated in a UN Working Group that helped draft the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is a member of many indigenous political rights groups in North America and the Pacific.

Nawal Naissana Sampaco (Philippines) has focused on interfaith dialogue, peace education, and peace-building in Southern Philippines as a Junior Researcher at the Center for Strategic Studies, Ateneo de Manila, and as a volunteer teacher and facilitator at the Peacemakers' Circle Foundation. She writes from her perspective as a Muslim woman in *Issues Magazine*, a Miriam College publication, where she served as Managing Editor and contributing writer. Ms. Sampaco received a BA in International Studies with a focus on Development Studies from Miriam College and has studied sociology at Mindanao State University.

Diosdado M. San Antonio (Philippines) is Superintendent of Schools at the Department of Education in Ligao City, Philippines. Throughout his 23-year career in education, he has been promoted from a secondary school teacher to Principal to Assistant Superintendent to his current position which oversees 59 schools and 900 teachers and staff. Mr. San Antonio's publication record includes articles in major educational journals such as the *International Journal of Educational Management* and the *International Journal of Leadership in Education*. His primary publication focus is on effective participatory school administration. He holds a PhD in Education and a Master of Leadership and Management in Education from the University of Newcastle in Australia and an MA in Education from Bicol University in the Philippines.

Huma Sheikh (India) is a journalist from Kashmir working in New Delhi with United News of India. In her position as Senior Sub-editor she covers issues in her homeland, politics, lifestyle, economics, and culture. Ms. Sheikh has also written for the *Hindustan Times*. In addition to print media, she anchors a live English language television program on Doordarshan TV and a Western music program on All India Radio. She narrated in English for a University of Kashmir Educational Multimedia Research Center documentary that was telecast on Doordarshan TV. Ms. Sheikh struggled amidst mandatory bans on school attendance during her region's conflict, eventually completing her secondary education. She now holds a BA and postgraduate degree from the University of Kashmir - New Delhi in Journalism.

Mihoko Shimoji (Japan) is the Coordinator of the Planning and Empowerment Division at the Okinawa Women's Foundation where she conducts workshops and lectures to foster the younger generation's awareness of gender equality. She previously taught at

Okinawa Prefectural high schools and was Editor at the National Institute of Informatics in Tokyo. She interpreted for the Republic of Palau's First Lady at the Okinawa Pacific Islands Leaders Summit and for international tourists visiting Okinawa's World Heritage Sites, Shikinaenn and Shurijo. Ms. Shimoji received her Bachelor's degree in Literature from Waseda University. She has been a youth ambassador for Japan on the Ship for World Youth, the 21st Century Youth Leaders Invitational on education and national development, and JICA Seminar on peace building and postwar reconstruction of Okinawa.

Seung Hun Shin (Republic of Korea) is a Certified Public Accountant and Senior Associate at Samil PricewaterhouseCoopers in Seoul. As a Team Manager for international audits, he does business valuations and assessments of funding proposals for foreign-affiliated companies operating in the Republic of Korea. Previously he was the Vice President of the Economic Issues Discussion Association, which took him to Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, and mainland China to research markets. He has attended Bloomberg trainings to better understand the Indian and Vietnamese markets in order to assist clients starting businesses in those countries. Mr. Shin received a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Yonsei University.

Kamal Raj Sigdel (Nepal) is Sub-Editor of the editorial section of Nepal's largest selling English daily, *The Katmandu Post*, and was Editor of the *Sustainable Development Herald*, a bi-monthly magazine. He has published over 100 articles in leading English-language newspapers in Nepal on the country's need for reform in mass media, cultural sustainability, sexism in the media, and ecotourism. He concurrently works as a Program Officer at the Forum for Sustainable Development where he coordinates with national and international donors and partners. When not performing all these duties, Mr. Sigdel leads the production team for the radio program 'Naya Nepal' on conflict management and peace building that is broadcast on seven FM stations. He received a Master's degree in English and BA in Economics from Tribhuvan University and completed research of the impact of mainstream mass media and visual culture in non-Western societies.

John Taylor (United States) received a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Harvard University and completed his thesis on bridging social and territorial divides in Rio de Janeiro using intercommunity dialogue. He received the Community Service Fellowship from the Harvard Graduate School of Design to plan for the implementation of a slum upgrading plan targeting 800,000 residents in cooperation with a local NGO in Bogota, Columbia. As a Project Assistant for the UN-HABITAT Latin American Regional Office, he co-authored World Bank-funded research on municipal management of urban security and crime prevention in Latin America and on Rio de Janeiro's Favela Barrio slum upgrading program. Mr. Taylor currently works in Angola where he initiated workshops between Angolan, Mozambican, and Brazilian activists and policymakers to facilitate dialogue on participatory governance. He has also worked for the UN Urban Management Program in Ecuador and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras. He received his BA in Architecture from the University of California - Berkeley.

Fumie Tsukagoshi (Japan) is an international educator who brings first-hand knowledge of the Federate States of Micronesia (FSM), Cambodia, and the Philippines back into Japanese schools. As a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, she lived with a local

family in a village in Yap, FSM for two years while developing math curricula with Yap teachers and Asian Development Bank staff. With UNICEF-Japan she went to Cambodia to study international organizations' work, using her findings to develop UNICEF's lesson plans for schools and to present at summer teacher trainings in Japan. With the Japan Philippines Volunteer Association, she supported education initiatives in both countries. Ms. Tsukagoshi has developed a progressive environmental education curriculum for her elementary school in Tokyo. Her thesis on environmental education was completed as part of her BA in Education at Rikkyo University in Tokyo.

Tashi Wangchuk (Bhutan) is one of only two Geotechnical Engineers in Bhutan, where he is Head of the Material Testing & Research Division at the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement. In this role, he is responsible for the national calibration laboratory that establishes weights and measurement laws of Bhutan. Previously he was a lead engineer in the Standards & Quality Control Authority at the Ministry. Recognized by the Government of Bhutan for his oversight of the main road project from Gyelpozhing to Nganglam, he plays a key role in the country to ensure the quality of construction projects. He received an MS degree in Geotechnical Engineering from the University of New South Wales in Australia and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Madras in India. Mr. Wangchuk has published on building and road works, Bhutan's national building codes, and urban road standards. In addition he is a Trainer of volunteers at a domestic violence protection center for women and girls.

Shaaroni Wong (United States) is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at Boston University's Emergency Medical Services, where she also supervises and teaches courses to graduate assistants in the emergency medical field. She received an MEd in Education of the Deaf and a BS in Journalism from Boston University. Her interest in education for the deaf started with volunteering at the Hawaii Center for the Deaf and the Blind. Originally from Hawaii, Ms. Wong spent her summers working at the University of Hawaii Taro Lo'i, helping rejuvenate traditional Hawaiian practices by teaching students how to grow taro plants and build traditional Hawaiian hale (buildings). Ms. Wong also lived in Mumbai, India, and worked as a Lead Teacher at Akankasha, an international NGO working to eradicate global poverty and illiteracy.

Dina Zenitha (Indonesia) conducted research on gross violations of human rights in Timor Leste in 1999 and drafted the final report to the Commission on Truth and Friendship Indonesia – Timor-Leste, based in Bali. She travels to Timor-Leste and refugee camps in Kupang as a Researcher for the Commission on Truth and Friendship Indonesia. Previously she was a Legal Researcher with Indonesian Corruption Watch working with other NGOs to propose the national Law of Witness Protection. Ms. Zenitha also served as a Research Assistant at the Center for International Law Studies and as a Legal Researcher for the Indonesian Legislative Support Project, a collaborative venture between the University of Maryland and Indonesian Parliament. She received two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Indonesia in Law (majoring in International Law) and Social Sciences (majoring in Criminology). Ms. Zenitha also holds a Master of Law degree from Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany.