



# 20th New Generation Seminar

September 26-October 10, 2010

Honolulu • Okinawa • Tokyo • Seoul

## Participant Biographies

### Bangladesh

#### **Mr. Andaleev Rahman Partho**

*Member of Parliament, Head of the Bangladesh Jatiya Party*

Andaleev Rahman Partho is the head of the Bangladesh Jatiya Party, a member of the opposition Four Party Alliance. He was elected to Parliament from Bhola-1 constituency, a seat held previously by his father Naziur Rahman, a former Minister during the Jatiya Party's government in the late 1980s. A British educated Barrister, Mr. Partho also teaches and practices law. He is an articulate and passionate advocate for development of his constituency and has been a proponent of reform within the political system. He played a significant role as a member of the four party alliance during the Care Taker Government from January 2007 to December 2008 to restore a democratically elected government in Bangladesh. He has been active in attempts to coax members of his generation into politics.

### China

#### **Ms. Xiaojuan Jiang**

*Project Officer, Governance for Equitable Development (GED) Project, Beijing*

Ms. Xiaojuan Jiang is a project officer with the Governance for Equitable Development (GED) Project in Beijing. Aimed at strengthening the rule of law and enhancing civil society participation in China, the GED project is the most important and influential project on democratic governance in China with a budget of more than 10,000,000 USD provided by the United Nations Development Program and the European Union. In today's China, new actors are challenging state authority, in particular, non-governmental organizations and civil groups. Pressure on the government is growing, particularly in the areas of transparency and accountability. Focusing on civil society participation, Ms. Jiang's work is to develop a more enabling legal framework for NGOs in China and improve their dialogue with government agencies and other social sectors. Prior to joining the GED project, Ms. Jiang worked with the 2<sup>nd</sup> China Development Marketplace Program initiated by the World Bank for poverty reduction in China. As a media consultant, she led a team in delivering a media strategy and introducing the program to the public and sponsors from the business community. Many medium-sized and small-sized grass roots NGOs in China benefited from the program through microloans and capacity building. Ms. Jiang holds an M.Phil in journalism from Wuhan University and an M.A. in global communications from The Chinese University in Hong Kong.

<< The New Generation Seminar is funded by the Freeman Foundation >>

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*The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.*

## **India**

### **Mr. Ashwath Chikka Kalya Narayanappa**

*Member, Legislative Assembly in the Karnataka State Legislature*

Mr. Ashwath Narayanappa was elected to the Legislative Assembly in the Government of Karnataka representing Malleshwaram constituency in 2008. His accomplishments in this role include taking the government to account for road safety and repairs, and creating Vajpayee Arogyashree, an exclusive health insurance scheme for people living under the poverty line. He is also vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Karnataka and played a key role in the party getting voted into power in Karnataka province. A medical doctor by training, in 1996, Mr. Narayanappa established the Padmashree Group of Institutions in Bangalore, an educational organization offering over 30 different health science, management and basic science related courses for students across the country and also from abroad. Along with a few other like minded people, he also set up the Padmashree Medicare Private Ltd. which runs a multi-specialty diagnostic center in the heart of Bangalore. Mr. Narayanappa plays an active role in the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka as an elected member of the Senate and Syndicate of the University, where he has implemented reforms to protect the interests of students and create jobs.

## **Japan**

### **Mr. Igarashi Tatsuo**

*City Councilor, Tsukuba City Assembly, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki*

Mr. Igarashi Tatsuo is a city councilor with the Tsukuba City Assembly. He was first elected in 2004 and re-elected in 2008 with the highest votes among about 40 candidates. He is a member of the standing committee on infrastructure development and the special committee on crime and disaster prevention. Previously, as a member of the special committee on town development along the Tsukuba express train route, he played a key role in introducing building height restrictions to the city. Councilor Igarashi has initiated many new projects that are revitalizing Tsukuba city's communities which were otherwise isolated. He established the Tsukuba Internship Consortium and a community radio station, and introduced a farmers market. In addition to his role as a public official, Mr. Igarashi is a certified executive coach and runs Igarashi Coaching Office, providing coaching to small and medium-sized business owners in Tsukuba city. In 2006 he was nominated for The Best Effective Policy by the 1<sup>st</sup> Manifest Award, and has been selected as a delegate for a U.S.-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program and The German-Japanese Young Leaders Forum, both in 2007. He holds a PhD in international political economy from the University of Tsukuba and a master's in public policy from University College London, University of London.

## **Korea**

### **Ms. Jung Mi Cha**

*Assistant Secretary to the President for Civil Society, The Office of the President of the Republic of Korea*

As the assistant secretary to the president for political affairs in the office of the president of the Republic of Korea, Ms. Jung Mi Cha provides advice and consul to the president and secretary on political affairs. Previously she served as assistant secretary on diplomatic security affairs. She has more than ten years of experience in the political arena in Korea. Before coming to the president's office, Ms. Cha served as an assistant to the presidential candidate on the campaign and as assistant to the president of the Grand National Party for domestic politics. She also served as an assistant to a congressman on the diplomatic security committee. She spent three years as a researcher on political affairs at the Youido Institute, the think tank for the Grand National Party. Ms. Cha holds a master's in political science and spent one year as a visiting scholar to the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing.

## **Philippines**

### **Mr. Aquilino “Jong” Yorac Cortez, Jr.**

*City Councilor, Olongapo City Council, Olongapo City, Zambales*

Mr. Aquilino Yorac Cortez was first elected in 2007 and re-elected in 2010 for a second three year term as city councilor for Olongapo City. A city of 230,000, Olongapo City is home to the former Subic Naval Base, the largest American naval base outside American soil. Subic Naval Base was closed in 1992 after the government of the Philippines rejected an extension of the Military Bases Agreement with the U.S. government, leaving Olongapo city a ghost town overnight. Heroically, 8,000 Olongapo volunteers, including Mr. Cortez, answered the call and protected the abandoned military base. The same volunteers later lobbied the Philippine Congress to create the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The Philippines' first free port ultimately received direct foreign and local investments, generating employment and opportunities thereby rebuilding the city's economy. Mr. Cortez, a young volunteer then eventually led the investment team which secured a \$130 million investment from Shell Oil Company, creating hundreds of jobs and paving the way for the development of former base facilities. Mr. Cortez remains committed to sustainable development for Olongapo City, for example he was successful in pushing for renewable, environment-friendly energy solutions like a proposed wind turbine farm, replacing an earlier planned coal power plant in Subic Bay. In addition to his government service, Mr. Cortez is a property manager and consultant. He holds a B.A. in political science and was a member of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) Program to Wales, Manchester and Liverpool in 2009. While in the United Kingdom, Councilor Cortez studied the best practices in waste management, environment protection, renewable energy and traffic management.

## **Pakistan**

### **Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi**

*Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, National Assembly of Pakistan*

Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi was elected to the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan in the February 2008 general election representing Dera Ismail Khan, one of 24 districts in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP). He won with the highest number of votes ever received by any candidate of the Pakistan People's Party in the NWFP. He was subsequently elected as the 17th Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan on March 19, 2008. As a young, first-time elected Member of the National Assembly (MNA) at the age of 33, Mr. Kundi also has the distinction of being the youngest Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan. He serves as the patron of the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), a multi-party forum of young MNAs to ensure meaningful participation of young assembly members in the legislation process. He also is Chairman of the FATA caucus, a group of MNAs and Senators from the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and adjacent districts of the NWFP that lead policy debate and reform relating to FATA in the Parliament. Mr. Kundi began his political career in 2003 and has served as the divisional coordinator of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for Dera Ismail Khan. Mr. Kundi graduated with an LLB in 2002 from Thames Valley University, UK. He was selected as a delegate to the Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2009.

## **Taiwan**

### **Mr. Cheng Chia-Ching (Marc)**

*Deputy Director of Research, Foundation on Asia-Pacific Peace Studies, Taipei*

Mr. Marc Cheng is deputy director of research at the Foundation on Asia-Pacific Peace Studies (APS), a newly founded think tank after President Ma became president of Taiwan and now one of the leading think tanks in Taiwan. He participates in various research groups organized by APS, including those focused on China, regional security issues, and cross-Strait relations. Mr. Cheng regularly contributes to the public debate on these issues through radio interviews, newspaper articles, and policy papers as well as through direct advice and guidance to the government. In 2006, Mr. Cheng spent three months at the Henry Stimson Center in Washington DC as a visiting fellow. He has almost ten years working experience in think tanks and research institutes, from Academic Sinica to the Foundation on International and Cross-Strait Studies.

## **United States**

### **Mr. Jim Burns**

*Member, Greenville County Council, Greenville, South Carolina*

Councilman Jim Burns was elected to the county commission in 2004. As a local elected official he deals daily with the challenges of promoting economic stability and growth locally in an ever-shrinking and interdependent world arena. During his tenure on the council he has focused much of his legislative effort on public planning and economic development for the Greenville area, which is steadily emerging as a high-tech, strong growth market for big and small businesses alike. Prior to his election, Councilman Burns served on the Board of Zoning Appeals for both Greenville County and the City of Greenville. Councilman Burns also sits on the Board of Directors of Greenville Forward and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He has been named one of Greenville's Best and Brightest under 35 and one of Greenville's Most Influential People. Outside of his policy work, Councilman Burns serves as senior vice president for real estate services for the South Financial Group. He is head of the Bank's Real Estate Services Group with direct responsibility for over 200 different facilities throughout the Southeast part of the state. He manages acquisition of properties, lease negotiations, budgets and all construction and move management for the organization. He traveled on an ACYPL delegation to Brazil in 2007.

### **Mr. Ryan Coonerty**

*Vice Mayor, City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California*

Vice Mayor Ryan Coonerty is serving his second term on the Santa Cruz City Council. As mayor in 2008, he led successful efforts to reach a historic agreement with the University of California at Santa Cruz, pass a Clean Oceans initiative and bring a new generation into civic life through the creation of Santa Cruz NEXT. Some of his other legislative efforts have received national attention, including creating an Ayuda Linea (help line) for day laborers to report incidents of abuse, investing the City's reserve funds in local financial institutions to spur the local economy, and banning the use of styrofoam in restaurants. Mr. Coonerty is the co-founder and chief strategist of NextSpace – Coworking + Innovation and a lecturer on constitutional law and government at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Previously, Mr. Coonerty served as legislative counsel to two national commissions, including President Carter and Ford's National Commission on Federal Election reform and the Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age. Mr. Coonerty is the author of *Etched in Stone – Enduring Words from our National Monuments* (National Geographic, 2007). In 2009, he was selected by the Aspen Institute to be a Rodel Fellow – one of 24 young elected officials from across the country honored for their service and leadership potential. Mr. Coonerty graduated from the University of Oregon, received a master's degree from the London School of Economics and a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

**Ms. Marina Dimitrijevic**  
*County Supervisor, Milwaukee County*

At the age of 22, Marina Dimitrijevic was the youngest person ever elected in Milwaukee County in 2004 and was re-elected as county supervisor with 73% of the vote in 2008. Ms. Dimitrijevic represents 50,000 residents of the 4th District in Milwaukee County and has focused her policymaking on protecting the environment and promoting sustainability. She has been active in the National Association of Counties and is Wisconsin state director for the Young Elected Officials Network, a national organization of over 250 progressive, elected officials under the age of 35. She has received the prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt award for outstanding contribution as a female elected official in the state of Wisconsin from the Wisconsin Democratic Party. Ms. Dimitrijevic traveled on an ACYPL Delegation to Argentina and Uruguay in 2007 and spent a semester abroad in Spain in 2001.

**Ms. Judith Lanz**  
*Member, City Council, Stevenson, Washington*

As an elected city council member since 2003, a top priority is overseeing the city budget, continued development of city infrastructure and long-term vision for a region that includes Bonnaville Power Plant and Hanford Nuclear Waste Reservation as neighbors, both posing unique security issues to the area. Ms. Lanz owns a successful insurance and financial services agency, employing six staff members. She also owns a real estate corporation focusing on the acquisition of commercial properties. She is currently a candidate for Public Utilities District Commissioner. Ms. Lanz was an ACYPL delegate to Korea in 2007.

## **Vietnam**

**Mr. Thang Nam Nguyen**  
*Government Inspector, Government Inspectorate of Vietnam, Hanoi*

As an inspector with the Government Inspectorate, a ministerial agency in Vietnam, Mr. Thang Nam Nguyen analyzes and evaluates social and economic affairs, especially as related to transparency, corruption, administrative reforms and loopholes of policies and laws. He also specializes in coordinating multi-funded capacity building projects for inspectors at both national and provincial levels and works as a focal point to accelerate close collaboration between his Government Inspectorate and donors, partner organizations and others such as the World Bank and Asia Foundation. Mr. Thang has conducted analysis and research projects to provide policy guidance for the Inspectorate at various conferences such as the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Steering Committee of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Ombudsman Association Conference. He recently analyzed the benefits and losses of Vietnam joining the WTO and UN Convention against corruption and other international and regional agreements, and made policy recommendations for Vietnam's participation. He regularly contributes articles to *Inspection Newspaper*. In addition, Mr. Thang is an executive member of the Government Inspectorate's Youth Union, and head of one of the youth branches. He also has been a volunteer with Operation Smile, an international NGO that repairs cleft palates. Mr. Thang Nam Nguyen holds an M.A. in political science from Hanoi National University.