

MODERATOR

SATU P. LIMAYE, PhD, VICE PRESIDENT, EAST-WEST CENTER & DIRECTOR, EAST-WEST CENTER IN WASHINGTON

Satu P. Limaye is Vice President of the East-West Center and the Director of the East-West Center in Washington where he created and now directs the Asia Matters for America initiative and is the founding editor of the Asia Pacific Bulletin. He is also a Senior Advisor at CNA Corp (Center for Naval Analyses). He is a graduate of Georgetown University and received his doctorate from Oxford University (Magdalen College) where he was a George C. Marshall Scholar. He publishes and speaks widely on Indo-Pacific regional issues and supports various U.S. government, foundation, fellowship, and professional organizations. Among his current affiliations are Center for New American Security (CNAS) Task Force on the U.S.-Philippines Alliance, United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Senior Study Group on the North Pacific, Project 2049 Study Group on the U.S.-Australia Alliance, Korea Economic Institute (KEI) Advisory Council, and Global Taiwan Institute-Taiwan Asia Exchange Foundation project. Recent publications include: Southeast Asia's choices: Economic, political, and geopolitical integration face complications, India in East Asia: Focused on the Quad and Border Disputes with China, and Maintaining the Technology Edge: Strengthening US and Indo-Pacific Alliances to Counter Chinese Technology Acquisition (with Rose Tenyotkin).



OPENING REMARKS

MS. SUZANNE PUANANI VARES-LUM, PRESIDENT, EAST-WEST CENTER

Ms. Suzanne (Suzy) Puanani Vares-Lum took office as President of the East-West Center in January 2022. She is the first woman, Native Hawaiian, and Hawai'i resident to be chosen for this role. Vares-Lum brings executive leadership and planning experience spanning the past several decades, culminating in five years serving with and advising the most senior officials at US Indo-Pacific Command, where she cultivated and maintained key relationships with nations throughout the Indo-Pacific region. As a retired Major General with 34 years of service, Vares-Lum has held key roles addressing priority national security challenges in the region. After retirement, she formed Vares-Lum Indo-Pacific Consulting, LLC to provide consulting and advising on regional issues. She is a seasoned keynote speaker and advocate on Indo-Pacific issues; leadership and mentorship; and Women, Peace, and Security. She led collaborative initiatives in the Pacific, including Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. As a community leader, Vares-Lum serves on a variety of non-profit boards, including the American Red Cross Pacific Islands Region. She has also served on committees that promote Hawai'i's economic diversification, workforce development, and community dialogues on issues regarding land and water. She has also served as a Strategic Advisor to the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism in 1989 and her Master of Education in Teaching in 1996 from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. As a graduate of the US Army War College, she earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree in 2011. In 2019, she became a National Security Fellow of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is also an alumna of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. Vares-Lum received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2017. Additionally, the State of Hawai'i House of Representatives, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Congressional Delegation presented her with certificates of recognition for outstanding service to the State of Hawai'i in 2021. Ms. Vares-Lum is a resident of Kaneohe, Hawai'i, and is married to Courtney Vares-Lum, and they have two daughters, Diana (23) and Connie (19).





KEONE NAKOA, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Keone Nakoa joins Interior from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs where he worked with Congress and federal agencies as the Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief. Keone previously served as speechwriter for the late Senator Daniel Akaka, clerk for the Chief Judge of the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals and as a lawyer at a private firm in Honolulu. He holds J.D. and MBA degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a bachelor's degree in biological anthropology from Harvard University. Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i, he is part Native Hawaiian and lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Stephanie.



REP. DON YOUNG (AK- AT LARGE), CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDS CAUCUS

Congressman Don Young was re-elected to the 117th Congress in 2020 to serve his 25th term as Alaska's only Representative to the United States House of Representatives. First sworn in as a freshman to the 93rd Congress after winning a special election on March 6, 1973, Congressman Young is today the Dean of the House and the longest serving member of the current Congress. Congressman Young served as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee from 1995 to 2001 and then as the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from 2001-2007. In the 110th Congress, Representative Young returned to the helm of the Resources Committee to lead his fellow Republicans as the Ranking Member. In the 112th Congress, he was chosen to serve as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs (IIANA) – a position he held until January 2017. After fulfilling a successful 6-year term as Chairman of the IIANA Subcommittee, Congressman Young was named Chairman Emeritus of the full House Committee on Natural Resources – a role that allows him to bring his years of experience and knowledge to all five of the panel's Subcommittees. Today, Congressman Young currently serves as the most senior Republican on both the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and House Natural Resources Committee. Congressman Young calls Fort Yukon, Alaska home; a remote village of approximately 700 people located 7 miles above the Arctic Circle in Alaska's central interior region. Born on June 9, 1933 in Meridian, California, he earned his associate degree at Yuba Junior College in 1952, and his bachelor's degree in teaching at Chico State College in 1958. Between earning these degrees, he served in the US Army's 41st Tank Battalion from 1955 to 1957.



REP. ED CASE (HI-1), CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDS CAUCUS

U.S. Representative Ed Case proudly represents Hawaii's First Congressional District (O'ahu from Makapu'u through Central Honolulu and Leeward to Mililani, Waipahu, Ewa, Kapolei and Ko Olina). Congressman Case previously represented Hawaii's Second Congressional District (Windward O'ahu, North Shore, Central O'ahu, Wai'anae, Neighbor Islands, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands) from 2002 to 2007. He also served as Hawai'i State Representative from 1994 to 2002 in various positions including Majority Leader. Ed Case was born and raised in Hilo. His great grandparents on his father's side emigrated to Hawai'i in 1896 from Kansas and his family has lived on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island over the generations since. His mother was born and raised in Missouri and met his father in Boston where she was attending college and he was attending law school. Ed attended Waiakea-Kai and Keaukaha Elementary Schools in Hilo before graduating from Hawai'i Preparatory Academy in Kamuela. He went on to graduate from Williams College in Massachusetts before working on Capitol Hill for three years as legislative assistant to U.S. Representative/Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawai'i. Following this first of three DC tours, Congressman Case graduated from University of California/Hastings College of



Law in San Francisco before returning to Hawai'i to serve initially as law clerk to Hawai'i Supreme Court Chief Justice William Richardson. He then joined the Honolulu-based law firm of Carlsmith Ball, Hawaii's oldest, where for two decades he practiced litigation, property, transactional, business and government law and rose from associate to partner and managing partner. Following his initial service as U.S. Representative, Case practiced law for seven years with the Honolulu firm of Bays Lung Rose & Holma, where he also served as managing attorney. He then served for five years as Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of Outrigger Enterprises Group, one of Hawaii's oldest hotel and resort companies with properties throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific-Asia-Indian Ocean region.

REP. AMI BERA (CA-7), CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDS CAUCUS

Congressman Ami Bera has represented California's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2013. The 7th district is located just east of California's capitol city, Sacramento, and lies entirely within Sacramento County. Representative Bera is currently a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation. He is also a senior member on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Congressman Bera is also Vice Chair for Outreach for the New Democrat Coalition, a group of over 100 forward-thinking Democrats who are committed to pro-economic growth, pro-innovation, and fiscally responsible policies. As a first-generation American born and raised in California, Congressman Bera grew up believing America was a land of opportunity, where if you worked hard and played by the rules, you could reach your full potential. He attended California's public schools from grammar school through medical school, earning both his B.S. and M.D. from the University of California, Irvine. With help from his family, scholarships, and working part-time, he put himself through medical school while taking advantage of federally-funded student loans, and graduating with less than \$10,000 in debt. He credits much of his success to his country's investment in him, and he's working to ensure that we continue to invest in hard working Americans to keep the American Dream alive for the next generation. During Congressman Bera's twenty-year medical career, he worked to improve the availability, quality, and affordability of healthcare. After graduating from medical school in 1991, he did his residency in internal medicine at California Pacific Medical Center, eventually becoming chief resident. He went on to practice medicine in the Sacramento area, serving in various leadership roles for MedClinic Medical Group. Chief among his contributions was improving the clinical efficiency of the practice. He then served as medical director of care management for Mercy Healthcare, where he developed and implemented a comprehensive care management strategy for the seven-hospital system. Congressman Bera went on to put his medical experience to work for his community, serving Sacramento County as Chief Medical Officer. In that role, he fought to reduce the cost of health care, create jobs, and deliver care to tens of thousands of Sacramento residents. He then moved into education, working as clinical professor of medicine and associate dean for admissions and outreach at University of California, Davis, where he taught the next generation of doctors. He also helped the University's student-run clinics find innovative ways to engage with the community and deliver care to those who needed it most.



REP. STEVE CHABOT (OH-1), CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDS CAUCUS

Congressman Steve Chabot has proudly served Ohio's First Congressional District for 24 years. A lifelong Cincinnati, Steve previously served as a Cincinnati City Councilman and Hamilton County Commissioner for five years each prior to being elected to Congress in 1994. Since becoming a Member of Congress, Congressman Chabot has served on the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Congressman Chabot currently serves as the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation. He has also served as: Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business from 2015-2018; Chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution from 2001-2006; Ranking Member on the Small Business Committee from 2019-2020 and 2007-2008; Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia from 2011-2012; and





Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific from 2013-2014. Steve continues to fight wasteful government spending in Congress, where he is one of the leading advocates for fiscal responsibility. He has consistently voted to eliminate wasteful spending and reduce the excessive tax burden on hard-working Americans. Nonpartisan taxpayer advocacy groups such as Citizens Against Government Waste, the Concord Coalition and the National Taxpayers Union have time and again rated him as one of the most taxpayer friendly members of Congress. While in Congress, Steve has also helped lead efforts to reduce the regulatory burden on America's small businesses, and to combat the opioid epidemic. He is an outspoken defender of the rights of the unborn, most importantly having authored the ban on the practice of partial-birth abortions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, as Ranking Member of the House Small Business Committee, Steve worked closely with Democratic Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez and their colleagues in the Senate to help craft, enact, implement and improve the Paycheck Protection Program. This critical program provided forgivable loans to small businesses struggling to survive the economic shutdowns implemented by states across the country, provided that the businesses kept their employees on payroll. Ultimately, the program helped to save over 50 million jobs nationwide, including more than 256,000 in the First Congressional District. In January 1999, Congressman Chabot served as one of 13 House Managers during the Senate impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, where he received praise for his even-handed and thoughtful approach to the trial. Steve graduated from LaSalle High School in 1971, and earned his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary four years later. After college, he returned to Cincinnati to teach at St. Joseph's School in the West End, while studying at Northern Kentucky University's Salmon P. Chase College of Law in the evening.

REP. BRAD SHERMAN (CA-30), CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDS CAUCUS

Congressman Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) was born and raised in southern California and represents California's San Fernando Valley. Sherman is currently serving his thirteenth term in Congress and has served in the House of Representatives since 1997. Congressman Sherman currently serves on three major House Committees. He is a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, and a member of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. In 2019, Sherman was elected to serve as Chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets. He previously served as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Asia Subcommittee. During his tenure in Congress, Sherman has developed a reputation as a strong advocate for the interests of working families. He has worked to craft and advance priorities such as robust environmental standards, federal aid to education, real healthcare reform, and the protection of Social Security and Medicare. The Congressman has also supported policies to expand U.S. exports, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and promote a just and effective U.S. foreign policy. A consumer rights advocate, Sherman was among the leaders behind the formation of the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, which protects consumers from financial institutions issuing credit cards and offering costly overdraft protection. Sherman also protected families' retirement funds and college savings and put controls on companies which reward corporate CEOs multi-million dollar bonuses for bad performance. Early in his congressional career, while serving on the House Budget Committee in 1997, Congressman Sherman authored an amendment to the annual Budget Resolution providing an additional \$700 million for the acquisition of environmentally important lands in FY '98. The Sherman Amendment was included in the Joint Budget Resolution and effectuated by a \$699 million appropriation. Sherman also secured \$20 million to acquire land and to complete the Backbone Trail through the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Congressman Sherman's public service career includes serving on the California State Board of Equalization from 1991 to 1996. He was Chairman of the Board from 1991 to 1995. As a board member, Sherman led the successful fight to repeal the snack tax, which previously required grocers to differentiate between a cupcake and a muffin, imposing an inconsistent tax burden on Californians for food. Sherman received a BA from UCLA, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. Later he received his law degree from Harvard, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. Sherman then worked as a CPA [inactive], attorney and Certified Tax Law Specialist.



FIRESIDE CHAT 1: US ROLE IN THE PACIFIC

MS. ERIKA L. MORITSUGU, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER SENIOR LIAISON, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF, THE WHITE HOUSE

Erika L. Moritsugu, currently the Vice President at National Partnership for Women & Families has spent her career in the federal government and politics fighting for social justice and the empowerment of communities and individuals. She served as the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the leadership of Secretary Julián Castro in the Obama Administration after being confirmed by the Senate in 2014. Moritsugu was recently appointed as the Vice President of a newly formed Congressional Relations team to lead an enterprise-wide advocacy strategy across all of the Partnership's program areas, including economic justice and health justice. Prior to her work at the National Partnership, Moritsugu led the Government Relations, Advocacy and Community Engagement team at the Anti-Defamation League, a leading anti-hate organization that was founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry. Moritsugu has diverse and deep experience on Capitol Hill and within governmental agencies. Moritsugu served as the General Counsel for Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, for whom she provided legislative and political strategic counsel and managed the Senator's AAPI outreach and judiciary, civil rights and economic policies. She was the Deputy Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs at the newly-established Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Deputy Legislative Director for Senator Daniel K. Akaka of Hawai'i focused on economic policy and health issues; and held several different roles at the Senate Democratic Policy Committee under Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, including Acting Staff Director and Policy Director and economic policy advisor. She previously worked at the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, the Prosecutor's Office for the City and County of Honolulu, and the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division. Before committing to a career in public service, she practiced international trade, legislative, and immigration law at Hogan and Hartson and managed grassroots and coalition-building campaigns at The Wexler Group. Moritsugu attended Brandeis University, the College of William and Mary, and George Washington Law School.



MR. MARK LAMBERT, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mark Lambert is the Deputy Assistant Secretary with responsibility for Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. He has extensive experience in East Asia. He recently finished a tour in the International Organizations Bureau where he was nominated for a Meritorious Presidential Rank Award for his efforts in designing a plan to defeat China's candidate to lead the World Intellectual Property Organization. Previously, he served as the Special Envoy for North Korean Affairs where he participated in negotiations with the DPRK aimed at the denuclearization of that country and devised and implemented a global pressure campaign to cut off hard currency to Pyongyang. Before that, he was Director of the Office of Korean Affairs where he managed a 17-person team addressing U.S. relations with the Republic of Korea and with the DPRK. For over a year, his team shaped the response to a series of ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests conducted by North Korea. He was Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi where he worked with our Asian allies to devise a South China Sea maritime strategy and led a team that won recognition for dramatically improving U.S. relations with the Vietnamese Communist Party and Government that culminated in the first ever meeting of the Secretary General of the Communist Party of Vietnam with the President in the Oval Office. He served twice in Beijing, most recently as Chief of the Political Unit that managed U.S. political military affairs with China, supported the Six Party Talks aimed at North Korea denuclearization, and monitored China's relations with Japan, the DPRK, and South Korea. While serving in China he was named the State Department's human rights officer of the year for devising a strategy to release political prisoners and promote religious freedom. He has served as Political Military officer in Bangkok where he helped to shape the response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, in Tokyo where he was a political military officer, and on the State Department's Japan



Desk where he worked with Japan on the Kyoto Climate Change Treaty. While attached to the United Nations, he was a weapons inspector in Iraq. His first tour was in Bogota, Colombia during the era of Pablo Escobar. He has received awards for his work bringing the United States and Vietnam closer together, for his voluntary efforts responding to the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, for helping to shape the U.S. response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, and for his work helping to resolve the 2001 EP-3 crisis involving a U.S. naval aircraft forced down on China’s Hainan Island. He has studied Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

REP. AUMUA AMATA RADEWAGEN, (AMERICAN SAMOA – AT LARGE), US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Amata Coleman Radewagen (Aumua Amata), Republican, was elected as American Samoa’s third Member of Congress on November 4, 2014. She is the first woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from American Samoa, the first Republican woman of Samoan descent in Congress and the most senior Republican elected federal office holder of Asian Pacific heritage. Congresswoman Amata serves on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee in a senior role as Vice Ranking Member of the full Committee, as well as two of its Subcommittees: The Subcommittee on Health, her top choice of assignments for the Veterans of American Samoa, along with the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. She has a similar senior role as a Member of the House Committee on Small Business, where she serves as Vice Ranking Member of the full Committee. Her two Small Business Subcommittees include the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship; and the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access. In her third Committee, she serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and two of its Subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, her top choice for the islands of American Samoa, along with the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States. In her capacity on these committees, she legislates, conducts oversight of laws and Departments in the Administration, and proposes policies and programs. She is active on issues of health, education, welfare, political status, and all economic and social programs concerning the U.S. Territories: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), along with the Freely Associated States (FAS) of Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Federated States of Micronesia (RMI), in addition to overseeing policies affecting the 562 Federally recognized Indian Tribes in the United States. The Congresswoman holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Guam, with additional studies at Loyola-Marymount and George Mason Universities.



MS. CARA ALLISON MARSHALL, PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR, EAST ASIA, OSD-POLICY/INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY AFFAIRS, US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Cara Allison Marshall is the Principal Director for East Asia within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. She advises senior Departmental leadership on the development and implementation of defense strategy, plans, policies, and bilateral security relations for the East Asia region (Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Mongolia, the Pacific Islands, and North Korea). Immediately prior to this position, she was the Director for Strategic Design in the newly-created Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China, where she was responsible for the development and implementation of defense strategies, plans, and concepts pertaining to China. Until October 2019, Cara served as the Director for Plans, where she managed civilian-military dialogue across a range of issues regarding the Department’s planning for major conflicts. There, she managed the Secretary’s reviews of contingency plans and led the development of the President’s statutorily required planning guidance in 2012, 2015, and 2018. Cara joined the Defense Department in 2001, receiving a permanent appointment through the prestigious Presidential Management Fellows program. During her career in the Defense Department, Cara has worked across a breadth of issues, to include: setting policy on detainees held in conjunction with the war on terror; Iran policy; standing up a crisis management capability for the Office of the Secretary of Defense within the National Military Command Center; and developing contingency planning for mass atrocity prevention and response. Cara holds a Master of Arts in International Relations from Syracuse University. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Mary Washington College (now the University of Mary Washington) in Virginia. She is a member of Women in Defense and a former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



FIRESIDE CHAT 2: US ALLIES AND PARTNERS

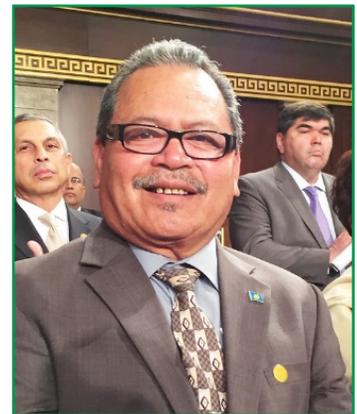
H.E. DR. SATYENDRA PRASAD, AMBASSADOR OF FIJI TO THE UN, PERMANENT MISSION OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS (VIRTUAL)

From 2016 until his latest appointment (2018), Dr. Prasad was the Chief Executive Officer of the Papua New Guinea Governance Facility. Before that, he served as Senior Governance Adviser at the World Bank between 2009 and 2016, Governance Adviser at the United Kingdom's Department for International Development from 2003 to 2009, and Commissioner of Fiji's Public Service Commission from 1998 until 2000. Between 2001 and 2003, Dr. Prasad was an associate professor of international management at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan, having previously been a senior lecturer and head of department at the University of South Pacific between 1987 and 2000, and a lecturer in development studies at University College in Cork, Ireland, from 1995 to 1996. Dr. Prasad holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Pacific, a master's degree in sociology from the University of New Brunswick in Canada, and a PhD in the same field from Warwick University in the United Kingdom.



H.E. HERSEY KYOTA, AMBASSADOR OF PALAU TO THE UNITED STATES, EMBASSY OF PALAU IN WASHINGTON, DC

Hersey Kyota is a Palauan politician and diplomat who has served as the ambassador of Palau to the United States since 1997. He is the current Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Washington, D.C., as the longest-serving ambassador to the United States.



H.E. ARTHUR SINODINOS, AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED STATES, EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA IN WASHINGTON, DC

The Hon. Arthur Sinodinos AO is Australia's Ambassador to the United States of America, taking up his posting in Washington in February 2020. Ambassador Sinodinos was previously Australia's Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science and was a Senator for New South Wales in the Australian Parliament from 2011 to 2019. During his parliamentary career, he also held other key roles in and outside Cabinet, including Cabinet Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Over a career spanning four decades, Ambassador Sinodinos has dedicated his professional life to the advancement of Australia and its people. On the election of the Hon. John Howard AC as Prime Minister of Australia in 1996, Ambassador Sinodinos was appointed the Prime Minister's Senior Economic Adviser and in 1997, the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, a position he held for nine years. Between 1987-1989 and 1995-1996 Ambassador Sinodinos also served as Senior Economic Adviser to Mr Howard while in opposition. He started his Australian Public Service career in 1979, rising to the Senior Executive Service in the Department of the Treasury. In 2006, Ambassador Sinodinos left government to work with Goldman Sachs JBWere, followed by the National Australia Bank and various corporate appointments. In 2008, Ambassador Sinodinos was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his service to politics through the executive function of government, to the development of economic policy and reform, and to the Greek community. In 2019, he was made a Distinguished Fellow of the Australia & New Zealand School of Government in recognition of his promotion of public sector leadership.



H.E. ROSEMARY BANKS, AMBASSADOR OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNITED STATES, NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rosemary Banks has had a forty year career in Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including six previous overseas assignments. She was Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2005–2009) and Ambassador to France and Portugal and New Zealand’s Permanent Representative to the OECD (2010-2014). Rosemary earlier served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Honiara and Canberra. As Deputy Secretary in New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Rosemary was responsible for multilateral, legal and consular affairs. Earlier Wellington based positions included Director of Development Assistance, Director of North Asia Division, Director of Public Affairs and foreign policy adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Prior to her appointment as Ambassador to the United States, Rosemary served as a Crown negotiator for the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process. She was also a member of the Council of the University of Canterbury and a Senior Adjunct Fellow in the Department of Political Science. Rosemary has provided diplomatic trade craft training for the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Treasury, the New Zealand Defence Force and the Papua New Guinea Department of Foreign Affairs. Rosemary has a Master of Arts degree in Russian with First Class Honours from Canterbury University and a Master of Science from London School of Economics.



H.E. GERALD M. ZACKIOS, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Ambassador Zackios is honored to serve as the Ambassador of the Marshall Islands to the United States. He presented his credentials to President Barack H. Obama on September 16, 2016. Prior to this appointment, he started his civil service in the Marshall Islands in 1985 when he was hired as the Fiscal Officer for the Department of Aging, in what was then the Ministry of Social Services (now the Ministry of Internal Affairs). He worked there for two years before returning to school. He completed his Bachelor in Law degree in 1989 at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby. Mr. Zackios returned after completion of his university studies to the RMI and was engaged as an Assistant Attorney General from 1990-1992. During this period, he also attended the IMO International Maritime Law Institute in Malta where he received a Masters of Law Degree in International Maritime Law in June 1992. Mr. Zackios was promoted to Deputy Attorney General following this accomplishment from 1992-1995, including serving as Acting Attorney General until his appointment as Permanent Attorney General in 1996. Mr. Zackios served as Attorney General from 1996 until he won a seat in the Nitijela (Parliament) in November 1999 representing the people of Arno. He was appointed to serve in President Note’s Cabinet, first as Minister in Assistance to the President (2000-2001) then as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001-2007). Mr. Zackios served in the Nitijela until 2012 with his last appointment as Vice Speaker of the Nitijela from September 2011 to January 2012. During his tenure in the Nitijela, Mr. Zackios chaired and served on various Committees. He was also the Chief Negotiator for the Compact of Free Association between the RMI and the United States during its renegotiations in 2001-2004. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee (JEMFAC), and Vice Chairman of the Trust Fund Committee in 2003-2008. Following an unsuccessful reelection bid to the Nitijela in November 2011, Mr. Zackios started his own law firm. He practiced law from January 2012 until July 2013 when he assumed his post as the Regional Director for the Pacific Community (SPC) North Pacific Regional Office in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. He held that post until his appointment as the RMI’s Ambassador to the United States of America.

