

## **HANG Chuon Naron**

### **Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia**

Mr. HANG Chuon Naron is currently Minister of Education, Youth and Sport and the Vice-Chairman of the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC), a Think Tank of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

He holds Master's and Ph.D. degrees in International Economics from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (1982-1991), an Advanced Diploma in Insurance from the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), United Kingdom, and the Malaysian Insurance Institute (MII). Since 2008, he is an associate of the CII and the MII. In 2012, he received a Master's degree in international law (LLM) from the Royal University of Law and Economics and the University of Lyon 2, France, and was awarded a Diploma in the Law of the Sea by the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy.

He worked in various diplomatic missions and research institutions as a political and economic analyst. Since 1999, he held various positions at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, such as Research Coordinator of the Economic Advisory Team and First Deputy Director of Budget and Financial Affairs Department. Since 2000, he introduced the reform of school financing by channelling funds directly to school, leading to the establishment of school operating budget.

In 2001, he was appointed Deputy Secretary General in charge of Policies, including economic, fiscal and financial policies, ASEAN, financial industry, economic analysis as well as responsible for coordination with the IMF and the World Bank. He held the position of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Finance from 2004 to 2010. He served as member or chair of the Board of a number State-owned companies and research institutes, such as CDRI, the Learning Institute and Youth Star, as well as the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). He represented Cambodia at the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meetings between 2000-2010.



In 2010, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance. He represents Cambodia at the Meetings of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors during Cambodian chairmanship of ASEAN in 2012. He also coordinated the policy dialogues between the Cambodian Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

He is author of a number of government policy papers and socio-economic development strategy and books on Cambodian economy and public finance. His book, “Cambodian Economy: Charting the Course for a Bright Future”, was published by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS). Since September 2013, he was nominated Minister of Education, Youth and Sport and published in 2016 a book in Khmer entitled: “Education Reform in Cambodia: Towards a Knowledge-Based Society and Shared Prosperity.”

### **Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua- Valenzuela**

**Director, SEAMEO Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand**

“Equity Effects of Children’s Background on Learning Opportunities”

Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua- Valenzuela is the director of the SEAMEO Secretariat, which serves as the executive arm of the SEAMEO Council of Ministers from 11 member economies that make up SEAMEO.

Dr. Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela is the 18th Director of SEAMEO Secretariat and the first woman director since its establishment in 1965.

Since Dr Ethel Valenzuela joined the SEAMEO Secretariat, she oversaw the implementation of SEAMEO College projects, SEA PLM- the first regional assessment of grade 5 learners in reading, writing, mathematics literacy as well as global citizenship and SEAMEO Inter-centre collaboration activities. She represents SEAMEO in the UNESCO SDG Steering Committee and Intl Teacher



Task Force. She is a board member of UNESCO GEM and the ASEAN TVET Council. Presently she takes the lead in crafting the new SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021-2030.

When the pandemic broke in, she has introduced a wide range of COVID-19 responses of the organization including the development and rolling off the SEAMEO Webinar Series, SEAMEO CARES and SEAMEO Border Schools Project aligning its actions to the UNESCO Global Education Coalition for COVID-19 Response. She often took the lead in their implementation of regional projects of SEAMEO as a thought leader.

Prior to joining SEAMEO, Dr Valenzuela also served in the Philippines as Commissioner of UNESCO National Commission (2003-2010) and played an integral role in the ratification of UNESCO Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Degrees, Studies and Certificates (2003) as well as in the drafting of the TOKYO Convention for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (2011). She was Director IV of the Commission on Higher Education for International Affairs Services as well as Office of Student Services. She contributed to several CHED policies on international linkages, transnational education and distance education and serves as CHED technical panel for Transnational and Distance Education.

An accomplished academic and writer, Dr Valenzuela led SEAMEO researches on K to 12 Toolkit, Regional Comparison of K to 12 Systems in Southeast Asia, Teaching Competency Standards, Education For All Assessment of the Philippines, Multigrade Instruction in Southeast Asia, SEA ECCE Standards, as well as UNESCO Toolkit for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications and Toolkit for National Information Centre to name a few. As a passionate educator, Dr Valenzuela also serves as Professorial Lecturer at the University of the Philippines -Diliman College of Education. She also taught at DLSU Taft Graduate School and served as also the first College of Education Chairperson at De LA Salle – Lipa.

## **Krai Yos Patrawart**

### **Deputy Managing Director, Equitable Education Fund, Thailand**

“Multilingualism and Equitable Education: A Case Study from the Homegrown Teacher Program in Thailand”

Dr. Krai Yos Patrawart is Deputy Managing Director at the Equitable Education Fund (EEF), an independently-managed public fund for equitable education and human development in Thailand. He is also Director of the Equitable Education Research Institute, an autonomous public research institution, funded by EEF, to develop innovative research and technology that lead to solutions for equitable education and human development in Thailand at local and national levels.

Krai Yos has recently been appointed as a member of the Thailand’s national education reform committee to oversee the national education reform plan and makes policy recommendations to the Royal Thai Government in multiple education reform areas. Between 2017-2019, Krai Yos was also a member of the Independent Committee on Education Reform (ICER) appointed by the Royal Thai Government. He had helped drafting a number of key education reform legislations as authorized by the 2017 constitution of Thailand.

Krai Yos obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of London and his MSc in Economics at the University of Warwick. Prior to his appointment at EEF he was Assistant Managing Director on policy and research at the Quality Learning Foundation and Research Fellow at Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science.



## **Muhammad Zaman Sagar**

**Senior Advocacy Officer, Forum of Language Initiatives (FLI), Pakistan**

“MTB-MLE in Pakistan: The Initiatives from the Communities, Challenges, and Way Forward”

Muhammad Zaman Sagar is a Language Development Consultant for Forum of Language Initiatives (FLI) and Executive Director of the Gawri Community Development Programme (GCDP).



He has been working on language development since 1992 and with FLI since 2004. He is language and education activist, researcher, linguist, advocate and mobilizer for the marginalized language communities of Pakistan. He has some publications in the Gawri language and some other languages as well.

His expertise is also in the field of MTB-MLE and the use of the guide and tools for Planning the Future of Our Language (PFOL) by SIL International.

He has presented papers in many national and international conference on language documentation, language preservation, mother tongue based multilingual education and language in education policies.

He also authored more than a dozen books, academic papers and articles.

## **Joseph Lo Bianco**

**Professor Emeritus of Language and Literacy Education, University of Melbourne, Australia**

“Towards Policy as an Implemented Reality”

Dr. Joseph Lo Bianco AM, is Professor Emeritus of Language and Literacy Education in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, at the University of Melbourne, and a past president of the Australian Academy of the



Humanities. He specialises in language policy studies, bilingualism and intercultural education and research and action on peace and conflict in multi-ethnic settings.

Dr. Lo Bianco was author of the 1987 National Policy on Languages, widely recognised as the first multilingual policy in an English speaking society. He has been an invited consultant on solving language problems in education and in wider society in 25 countries since 1990 and led major language education writing teams and research for major international organisations in Europe and Asia.

Since 2012 he has directed a multi-country project on language policy and social cohesion in conflict affected settings in SE Asia for UNICEF and conducted large scale policy workshops for high level policy officials across Asia, under the auspices of UNESCO. His work combines academic analysis of language policies, practical advising on language policy design and implementation to various authorities and direct engagement in bottom-up language planning.

In his work in Southeast and South Asia on language grievances and language problems in the context of interethnic conflict he has devised and implemented over 50 facilitated dialogues as a methodology for building consensus on tackling language problems. Professor Lo Bianco has an extensive list of publications with a strong recent focus on social cohesion, peace and conflict mitigation in multi-ethnic settings.