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INSTITUTE



# MEKONG FORUM 2023



**DRIVING TRANSFORMATIVE  
CHANGE IN THE GMS**


**SPEAKERS' PROFILES**

July 27, 2023

Kunming Kai Wah Plaza Hotel

Kunming City, Yunnan Province, P. R. China





# MR. SURIYAN VICHITLEKARN



Mekong Institute's Executive Director since September 1, 2020, Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn steers the strategic planning and implementation of the intergovernmental organization's human resource development, capacity strengthening, and research efforts to spur the acceleration of sustainable socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

Recognized as a respected development leader and regional integration advocate, Mr. Suriyan has more than 15 years of experience in delivering innovative approaches and sustainable practices across his specialized areas of agriculture and rural development, public-private partnership, and trade facilitation in the GMS and Southeast Asia.

Before taking the helm of MI, Mr. Suriyan was the Deputy Cluster Coordinator for Food and Agriculture of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in Thailand and Spokesperson for the Agriculture Working Group under the GIZ Sector Network for Natural Resources and Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific.

As Deputy Cluster Coordinator, Mr. Suriyan spearheaded project steering and management, as well as partnership development in the food and agriculture sectors across the GMS. As the Regional Project Director of the Better Rice Initiative Asia from 2014 to 2017, he also ushered in several rice-related initiatives, which continue to be adapted and implemented by major rice-producing countries across Southeast Asia today.

In addition, Mr. Suriyan has developed an extensive international development network, having assumed key positions at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat in Indonesia, and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. He remains one of the most sought-after and prolific speakers for his macro- and micro-level perspectives on agricultural development in high-level knowledge exchanges and dialogue-sharing platforms organized by international and regional organizations such as ADB, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, ASEAN, FAO, the Greater Mekong Subregional Economic Cooperation, and the Sustainable Rice Platform. Mr. Suriyan has also contributed to numerous research and policy studies, including as the lead author of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework.

Mr. Suriyan is a Thai national and graduate of the Faculty of Fisheries at Kasetsart University, Thailand. He completed his master's degree program in Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems (MAKS) at the Wageningen Agricultural University, the Netherlands.



# MR. CHEN RONGJIE

March 2023 to present, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Affairs Office of People's Government of Yunnan Province, P. R. China.



# DR. NARONGCHAI AKRASANEE

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Narongchai, a Thai economist / technocrat, is known for his continuous involvement in the economic development of Thailand in many capacities, and in ASEAN, APEC, and GMS affairs.

He has worked on ASEAN, APEC and GMS affairs all along, being an initiator of AFTA and APEC Leaders Meeting; has been Chairman of Steering Committee and Vice Chairman of Mekong Institute Council, Chairman of Khon Kaen University Council, and is a Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) Founding Member.

He was Minister of Energy, Minister of Commerce, Senator, and member of National Legislative Assembly and an advisor to several Thai PMs; worked as a Board member of National Economic and Social Development Board, Board of Investment, Bank of Thailand, Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand, and Insurance Commission. He also served as Chairman of Thai EXIM Bank.

He is the Board Chairman of MFC Asset Management Plc. and Ananda Property Development Plc. and Brooker Group. Since January 2016, he has been an Independent Non-Executive Director of AIA Group Limited.



# MR. SATVINDER SINGH

Keynote Speaker

Satvinder Singh is the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Economic Community for 2021-2024. In his capacity as the Deputy Secretary-General, he provides strategic advice to the Secretary-General of ASEAN for advancing ASEAN's economic integration agenda as well as to lead the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Department of the ASEAN Secretariat in implementing the AEC Blueprint 2025.

Before assuming this role, he was the Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Trade Connectivity & Business Services at Enterprise Singapore. With over 27 years of experience in holding a variety of local, regional and global management positions across the region, he was instrumental in strengthening Singapore's role as Asia's trading hub as well as driving digitalization efforts in Singapore amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Singh holds a bachelor's degree in social sciences from the National University of Singapore and attended the Harvard's Business School Advanced Management Programme in 2017.



## MS. DING WENLI

- Presidents of Kunming University
- Professor
- Doctoral supervisor
- Young and Middle-Aged Academic and Technical Leader of Yunnan Province
- Yunling Scholars
- Vice Secretary-General of China Society of World Economics
- Vice-President of Yunnan Finance Society



## **BREAKOUT SESSION: A**

### **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND MARKET ACCESS**

# **TRANSFORMING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR TOWARD INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND RESILIENCE**



## DR. HUNG PHAM

Dr. Hung Pham is a development consultant with nearly 20 years of experience leading more than a hundred studies and consultancies in a broad area of development, including (i) designing and capacitating M&E system; program evaluation; (ii) agribusiness value chains and climate change resilience; (iii) policy and project design for poverty and vulnerability (especially for ethnic groups, women, and other marginalized groups); and (iv) rural labour market (with a focus on rural nonfarm sector, migration). His work focuses on the GMS with most of the work in Vietnam, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.

Hung Pham was trained to be a development economist at National Economics University of Vietnam; SOAS, University of London; and University of Sussex in the UK. Before becoming a consultant, he was lecturer at National Economics University (Vietnam), University of Sussex (the UK), Solvay School for Economics and Management (Belgium), and a research officer at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) at Sussex.



# MS. POUCHAMARN WONGSANGA



Ms. Pouchamarn Wongsanga is currently working as Project Director, Agriculture and Food Cluster of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, based in Bangkok, Thailand. She has been working in the intergovernmental organizations in the field of agricultural development for over 30 years.

She joined GIZ since January 2014 and now manages and supervises 5 projects under the Agriculture and Food Cluster, including, ASEAN-German project on Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Value Chain (ASEAN AgriTrade) as Regional Component Leader. She oversees the Public and Private Partnership Project under the Global Project AgriChains on “Sectoral empowerment to enhance livelihoods and climate resilience of smallholder coffee producers”, Thailand.

She also supervises other projects commissioned by the German Government to support ASEAN and ASEAN Member States in the implementation of ASEAN Policy Framework in Agriculture and Food, Public Health Emergencies, and related Global initiatives as well as SDGs.

She can be reached at: E-mail: [pouchamarn.wongsanga@giz.de](mailto:pouchamarn.wongsanga@giz.de)



# MR. SOUVANTHONG NAMVONG



Director for the Production Groups Promotion, Cooperatives and Fund Division, Organization Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives (DAEC), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

He obtained his Bachelor's Degree of Irrigation Engineering majoring in Water Resource Management from the National University of Lao PDR.

He later received his Master's Degree of Science majoring in Extension Education and minoring in Development Management at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

He has more than 20 years of experience in agricultural extension and rural development, expertise on training and organizational development of government, a proven record of building capacity for both local public and private sector clients, farmer organization development, project design and management, conceptual and practical development of green extension approach, with keys feature being Farmer to Farmer learning (F2F).

He also acts as a secretariat for the Sub-Sector Working Group on Farmer and Agribusiness (SSWG-FAB) in Lao PDR and a secretariat for the Mekong Extension Learning Alliance (MELA)



**BREAKOUT SESSION: B**  
**TRADE AND LOGISTICS**

**UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES: RESHAPING LOGISTICS  
AND INVESTMENT THROUGH EMERGING TRENDS  
AND GREEN PRACTICES**



# MR. LI YONGMING

Deputy Director, Division of Logistics Industry Development, Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province, P. R. China



## MS. FEI YUNHAN

Since 2011, Ms. Fei Yunhan has been working as a Program Officer at the ASEAN Trade Division, Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province, P. R. China. She obtained her B.A. in Burmese from Yunnan National University, P. R. China, and M.A. in International Relations from Ritsumeikan University, Japan.



## H.E. CHHIENG PICH

With over 25 years working in the public sector, H.E. CHHIENG Pich had become the Director General, General Department of Logistics and Head of the Secretariat of National Logistics Council since 2017. He has recently been appointed as Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) Leader for Cambodia in late 2020.

Prior to this top civil servant position, H.E. CHHIENG Pich held various key positions in the Royal Government such as National Project Director of Trade Development Support Program (TDSP) supported by European Union and World Bank, National Project Director of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) supported by World Trade Organization (WTO), Commercial Counselor at the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Singapore for three years, and Commercial

Counselor at the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Washington DC for six years. Moreover, H.E. CHHIENG Pich had also supervised a number of National Master Plans development, including Logistics Master Plan with support from JICA and the World Bank, and an Interim Master Plan on Intermodal Transport Connectivity and Logistics System, which has recently been adopted by National Logistics Council.



# DR. WATCHARAS LEELAWATH

Currently, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath is the Honorary Advisor at Bolliger & Company (Thailand), a consulting firm on trade and development; and digital economy, based in Bangkok. He served Mekong Institute (MI) for six years as the Executive Director. He completed his second term there in August 2020.

Prior to joining MI, he was the Deputy Executive Director of the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD) in charge of planning, supervising and conducting research projects, training programs and various capacity building activities. Before coming back to Thailand, he worked as Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Minnesota, Morris, USA where he taught International Economics and Mathematics for Economists.

He is a trade economist with a strong interest in trade and development cooperation issues under GMS and ASEAN frameworks. He has extensive research experience in the fields of Development Cooperation and Regional Economic Integration. He has written several papers for presentation in local and international conferences, has published several articles on trade-related topics and has co-authored a book entitled “Economics and Trade in Goods: An Introduction.” He provided his expertise in a number of research and capacity building activities organized by ITC, ADB, UNESCAP and WTO. During his time at MI, he has implemented several development projects related to cross-border trade and investment; and agricultural value chains for Mekong countries.

Dr. Leelawath received his undergraduate degree from Chulalongkorn University. He finished his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Kansas, USA.



# DR. JULIAN LATIMER CLARKE

Dr. Julian Latimer Clarke is the resident specialist in the Trade and Investment Facilitation Department of the Mekong Institute. He served as a Senior Economist, South East Asia for the World Bank for 12 years. At the World Bank, he oversaw large trade and investment programs in countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and contributed to country programs in Brunei, Malaysia and Thailand. He has worked with multiple development partners such as the DFAT, the European Union, DFID and various organs of the United Nations.

He previously worked for the IMF, IDRC, the OECD and the World Trade Organisation.

Dr. Clarke has 16 years of experience in trade and development. His key areas of interest are trade facilitation, value chains, investment facilitation, competition, and technical barriers to trade. He has designed and implemented multiple programs, working with governments and development partners in East Asia. He has authored numerous reports for the World Bank including policy notes that contributed to government policy and legislative reforms. Dr. Clarke has published in academic journals such as the Antitrust Bulletin, the Journal of World Economics, book chapters published by the WTO and EU among others.

Dr. Clarke has a PhD in Economics majoring in trade and competition from the University of St.Gallen. He earned a Masters degree in International Law and Economics from the World Trade Institute in Bern, Switzerland. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Sydney.





# MRS. FAHMIASARI

Mrs. Fahmiasari is a Transport Specialist Consultant at STC International, World Bank Jakarta, and UNESCAP. She works part-time assisting Think20 (T20, part of G20) Indonesia as the Executive Secretary of Lead Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Task Force. She holds a master's degree from Technische Universiteit Delft with a major in Transport, Infrastructure, and Logistics. Previously, she graduated as a civil engineer from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. She is now attending a doctoral program in Sustainable Port Development at Nanyang Technological University. Now, she is a Chairwoman of the Maritime Transport Forum in the Indonesia Transport Society. She provides policy advice to the Minister of Transport of Indonesia in this capacity.

Her international experience includes working as a Junior Transport Specialist in International Finance Corporation (IFC, World Bank Group) in Washington D.C. after working as a Maritime Economics Manager at Royal HaskoningDHV. She specializes in transport market analysis, port masterplan, infrastructure finance, and transport modeling. She has worked on transport infrastructure projects in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa in different phases of master planning, operation, and maintenance.

She has published several articles and journals in The Jakarta Post, IEEE, and Elsevier. Her article's theme covers port network modeling, green port, and youth development in Indonesia. She loves cooking Southeast Asia cuisine and playing basketball in her free time.



## **BREAKOUT SESSION: C**

**CLEAN ENERGY  
AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

**TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS  
TOWARDS LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE ENERGY SECTOR**



# MR. KE YOUSHENG

Mr. Ke Yousheng is the Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP. He has long been engaged in multilateral cooperation and sustainable development.

Beginning in 2020, he serves as one of eight senior members of MI's Steering Committee, who provides guidance to the intergovernmental organization's strategic development course.



# MR. XU YUXIAO

Xu Yuxiao, General Manager of Strategy And Development Department of China Southern Power Grid Yunnan International Co., Ltd.

Mr. Xu has been engaged in the development and management of interconnectivity and overseas investment projects for more than 20 years at the Dispatching Center, International Department, Foreign Economic and Trade Branch of Yunnan Power Grid Company, as well as CSG Yunnan International. And has been a firsthand and promoter of power cooperation between Yunnan Province and neighboring countries, and has rich experience in interconnection project development and management.



## DR. ZHOU TAIDONG

Dr. Zhou Taidong currently serves as vice president and associate researcher at the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), a think tank affiliated with the Development Research Center of the State Council of China (DRC). His research focuses on China's development knowledge, international development cooperation, South-South Cooperation and global development. Over recent years, he has been leading the compilation of China's Progress Report on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Progress Report on Global Development Initiative, and Report on China's Practice of International Development Cooperation. He has also written intensively on China's foreign aid, the Belt and Road Initiative, and global governance.

Dr. Zhou holds a Ph.D. from China Agricultural University, a Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Public Policy from the Australian National University, and a Master of Laws (LL.M) from the China University of Political Science and Law.



# DR. SALIL K SEN



Pursuit on Sustainability Practice “Living Labs” with the value proposition expressed as an innovative acronym: W W E\_Own = “We Own”, where “W W E\_Own” is Water Waste Energy Interrelated Infrastructure; it is also, “We Own” aligns policymakers, processors, ESG-compliant financiers, AI-informed community.

Multilateralism, interdisciplinarity and multiculturalism embedded Dr Salil’s endeavors. The post-doctoral level Global Classroom on ‘Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development Practice’, hosted by the Earth Institute at Columbia University, NY guided his 20 plus countries and habitats-centricity. Consulting, curriculum curation and capacity building on ESG & Responsible Investments, Energy reforms, Energy Efficiency, Infrastructure propels his lifelong learning.

He served as a resource person with multilateral developmental institutions such as Asian Development Bank, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and United Nations Environment Program.

For country level institutions, he engaged with Energy Research Institute at Nanyang Technological University Singapore, and private sector banks on Sustainability materiality assessment.

For the private sector, he worked on Dissemination of Innovation Project Management, with second largest distributor of CUMMINS, Spain India pioneering Pineapple exports Project, associate company of Caterpillar plc & Larsen & Toubro, Alfa Laval India, and Tata Motors.



## RECEPTION DINNER



# H. E. MR. WANG HAO

H. E. Mr. Wang Hao was born in June, 1972, Guangyuan City, Sichuan Province, China. He is the Vice Governor of the People's Government of Yunnan Province now.

**Education:**

Sep./1990 to Jul./1993

*Study in Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Bachelor's Degree in Marketing Management granted in 1993.*

**Work Experience:**

Jun./2018 to Jul./2020

*President, China Construction Bank Hubei Provincial Branch.*

Jul./2020 to Jun./2022

*Executive Vice President, China Construction Bank*

Jun./2022 to present

*Vice Governor, People's Government of Yunnan Province*