

Chairman, Asian Economic Forum



H.E. Dr. Haruhisa Handa *Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia; Founder and Chairman, Asia Economic Forum; Chancellor, The University of Cambodia; President and Founder, International Foundation for Arts and Culture*

H.E. Dr. Haruhisa Handa is a highly-praised business man, a respected philanthropist, a successful author, a musician, poet, painter, dancer, and a motivational speaker. He received his B.A. in Economics at Doshisha University and later received an M.A. in Vocal Music from Musashino Academia Musicae. H.E. Dr. Handa went on to acquire an M.A. in Creative Arts from Edith Cowan University in Australia, which also later awarded him an honorary doctorate. He is also an ordained Zen Buddhist priest in the Rinzaï tradition. H.E. Dr. Handa has served as a guest lecturer at numerous esteemed universities around the world, sharing his extensive experience and knowledge. Currently, he operates several overseas companies; and serves as Vice-Chairman of the International Shinto Foundation, the President and Founder of the International Foundation for Arts and Culture, the Vice-Chairman of the Sihanouk Hospital, an Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Chancellor of the University of Cambodia, and the Founder and Chairman of the Asia Economic Forum (AEF).

Vice-Chairman, Asian Economic Forum



H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn *Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia; Member, Supreme National Economic Council; Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Vice-Chairman of AEF; President, The University of Cambodia*

H.E. Dr. Kao began high school in the US at the age of 16, with little schooling and no English language skills, yet graduated in only 3 years. He went on to receive his Bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from Baylor University; and two Masters' degrees, in Political Science and International Affairs, from Ohio University. H.E. Dr. Kao then returned to Cambodia to help found various think-tanks concerned with peace and recovery. He later went to the University of Hawaii to do a doctorate in Political Science. Thereafter, H.E. Dr. Kao returned to Cambodia again, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he is now a Secretary of State responsible for ASEAN affairs; as such, he played a leading role in the development of the ASEAN Charter. He is also the founder and President of the University of Cambodia.

Invited Panellists in alphabetical order



H.E. Bagas Hapsoro *Deputy Secretary-General for Community and Corporate Affairs, ASEAN Indonesia*

H.E. Bagas Hapsoro graduated with a Bachelor's in Public International Law from the University of Indonesia and a Master's in Political Science from St. John's University, New York. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and was assigned various diplomatic postings in the United States and Switzerland related to Economic Affairs. Thereafter, H. E. Bagas returned to Indonesia to assume the post of Secretary to the Director-General of ASEAN Cooperation at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He was subsequently appointed Director for ASEAN Dialogue Partners and Inter-Regional Cooperation before being assigned as Indonesia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Lebanon. In 2010, he was appointed as ASEAN's first Deputy Secretary-General for Community and Corporate Affairs (DSG CCA).



Dr. Chheang Vanarith *Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, Phnom Penh*

Dr. Chheang Vanarith earned a BA in International Relations from the Institute of International Relations in Vietnam, a Graduate Certificate in Leadership from the East West Center, USA, a MA in International Relations from the International University of Japan, and a PhD in Asia Pacific Studies in Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan. Currently, Dr. Chheang is Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP). He has participated in various national and

international conferences and other events on regional economic integration and defense cooperation; as well as publishing academic and policy papers on these issues. Dr. Chheang is also involved in youth leadership training and education, as a supervisor of Cambodian UNESCO Youth for Peace and Asian Network of Youth Volunteers.; a lecturer in the fields of international relations and political economy; and an assistant to the Ministry of National Defense of Cambodia in regional security analysis.



Mr. Chheng Kimlong *Economic/Commercial Specialist, Embassy of the United States to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Phnom Penh*

Mr. Chheng Kimlong earned a Master's degree in Economics from Kobe University in Japan, an MBA from Preston University, a BBA in Management from National University of Management, and a Bachelor of Education from the Institute of Foreign Languages. After working at the Japan International Cooperation Agency on various aspects of private sector and economic development, Mr. Chheng was a Research Consultant at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI). In his present position, he is an analyst responsible for monitoring developments in key sectors of the Cambodian economy, including the garment, tourism, agriculture, finance, construction, and petroleum sectors; and their relations to poverty alleviation, investment, corruption and economic growth. Mr. Chheng has also taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Cambodia



Mr. Dave Gordge, *First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Mr. Dave Gordge completed a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) at the University of Adelaide. He has been an official at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade since 2002. In that time he has been posted to Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2011 to present) and Santiago, Chile (2004 to 2006). He was seconded in 2003 as a civilian monitor attached to Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. He has held positions in the Consular Branch, Environment Branch and Anti-Terrorism Branch at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra.



Mr. Din Merican *Consultant, Penang Halal Hub Project; Independent Director, Bina Darulaman Berhad; Adjunct Professor, University of Cambodia*

Mr. Din Merican received his tertiary education from the University of Malaya, and completed his postgraduate studies at the George Washington School of Business, George Washington University, Washington DC; he also studied for a period at INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France. Mr. Din served in government as a foreign service officer and a central banker, before moving out into the private sector to work as a senior corporate figure in industry and commerce. Recently, he has become involved in politics, latterly as an independent commentator.



Professor The Lord George Carey *Privy Counsellor and Former Archbishop of Canterbury, United Kingdom*

George Leonard Carey has a Bachelor's degree in Divinity, and a Master's and doctorate in Theology. After being ordained into the Church of England and serving in a number of preaching and teaching posts, Lord Carey was appointed Bishop of Bath and Wells and subsequently served as the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury. Then and since, he has been actively involved in initiatives regarding the role of religion in community development and the escape from poverty and the need for communication between different religions. In 2005, Lord Carey received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Cambodia.



H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron *Secretary of State (Deputy Minister), Ministry of Economy and Finance; Permanent Vice Chairman, Supreme National Economic Council, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.*

H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron earned an MA and Ph.D. in international economics from Moscow State Institute for International Relations in Russia. Thereafter, he served an Attaché at the Cambodian Embassy in Moscow in 1988; he also Upon his return, he worked as a part-time consultant for the Australian Permanent Mission in Phnom Penh, thereafter being appointed Senior Research Officer at the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh. Subsequently, H.E. Dr. Hang took up positions as Economic Assistant to the Prime Minister and First Deputy Director of the Budget and Financial Affairs Department. He was promoted to Deputy Secretary General at the Ministry of Economy and Finance (where he is now Secretary of State) as well as Secretary General to the Supreme National Economic Council (where he is now Permanent Vice Chairman).



Mr. Jayant Menon *Lead Economist, Office for Regional Economic Integration, The Asia Development Bank, Metro Manila, Republic of the Philippines*

Prior to joining the Asia Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Jayant Menon worked in academia, as a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, where he worked mainly on economic modeling and trade and investment issues; he also worked at the University of Melbourne and Victoria University in Australia, and the American University in Washington, DC. Since moving to ADB, he has worked on the India Desk, Regional Economic Monitoring Unit, Southeast Asia Department, the ADB Institute in Tokyo and the Office for Regional Economic Integration on a range of trade, international finance and development issues, with a particular interest in the development challenges facing Southeast Asian transition economies. Mr. Menon also holds adjunct appointments with the Australian National University, the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom and the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace. He is co-editor of the *ASEAN Economic Bulletin* and serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals; as well as being the author or co-author of more than one hundred academic publications.



Professor Katherine Marshall *Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and Visiting Associate Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Cambodia; former Counsellor, The World Bank, Washington DC, USA*

Professor Katherine Marshall graduated from Princeton University with two Master's, in Public Administration and in History. She then joined the World Bank, rising to become Counsellor to the then-President Wolfensohn; whilst there, some of the many issues she addressed relating to international development were leadership, conflict resolution, and the role of women and religious faith. In addition, Ms. Marshall has been instrumental in the creation and development of the World Faiths Development Dialogue, where she is the Executive Director. She also serves on boards of numerous international NGOs and advisory groups. Presently, Ms. Marshall is a Senior Fellow at Georgetown's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs as well as a Visiting Professor in its School of Foreign Service. In 2006, Katherine Marshall received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Cambodia.



H.E. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong *Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; Ambassador-At-Large and Non-Resident Ambassador to Iran, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore; former Secretary-General, ASEAN*

H. E. Ong Keng Yong is a graduate of the University of Singapore and Georgetown University in Washington DC, USA. After diplomatic postings to Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, USA, India and Nepal, he was appointed Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of Singapore and concurrently held senior positions in both the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts and the People's Association in Singapore. Subsequently, H. E. Ong served as Secretary-General of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from January 2003 to January 2008.



Dr. Oum Sothea *Associate Researcher, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta, Indonesia*

Dr. Oum Sothea holds a Bachelor's in Economics from National Economics University in Vietnam, a Master's in Economics from Kobe University in Japan, and a doctorate in Economics from the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University, Australia. After working as an administrative officer in ACLEDA Bank, Dr. Oum subsequently served as an assistant consultant for Asia Policy Research Ltd., a researcher at the Economic Institute of Cambodia, and a consultant with the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank. Currently, Dr. Oum is an Associate Researcher at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).



Dr. Paul Chambers *Director of Research, South East Asian Institute of Global Studies, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Kingdom of Thailand*

Dr. Paul Chambers holds an MA in International Affairs and an MA in political science, both from Ohio University, and a Ph.D. in political science from Northern Illinois University. After serving as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand's rural northeast, Dr. Chambers took up an appointment as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma. Thereafter, he moved back to Thailand as a Lecturer at Chiang Mai University teaching Political Science; before moving to Payap University in Chiang Mai, where he is now Director of Research at the South East Asian Institute of Global Studies. Dr. Chambers has published papers in various East Asian and Southeast Asian journals.



Dr. Peter John Brimble *Deputy Country Director, Senior Country Economist, Cambodia Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank*

Dr. Peter Brimble is an Economics graduate of the London School of Economics, Georgetown University, the University of Sussex, and Johns Hopkins University. His Ph.D. thesis examined the productivity performance of Thai manufacturing firms. He has worked for various agencies in Central, South-East and North Asia, including the Asian Development Bank, Harvard Institute for International Development, several United Nations agencies, the Thai Board of Investment and USAID. Dr. Brimble joined the ADB Cambodia Resident Mission as Senior Country Economist in July 2010, to oversee GMS issues.



H. E. Mr. Pich Rithi *Director-General, Directorate General for Domestic Trade, Ministry of Commerce; ASEAN Senior Economic Official Meeting (SEOM) Leader for Cambodia and ASEAN SEOM Chair for 2012.*

H. E. Mr. Pich Rithi graduated with a Diploma and a Doctor in Economics from Leipziger Business University, Germany. Upon his return, he was appointed Chief of ASEAN Bureau of Foreign Trade Department at Ministry of Commerce of the Royal Government of Cambodia Ministry of Commerce. Thereafter, H. E. Rithi was promoted to Director of ASEAN and International Organizations Department, and then Deputy Director-General in charge of ASEAN Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce. One of his early roles in the latter position was as a member of the Cambodian Negotiation Team for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). In addition, H.E. Rithi is the Leader of the Cambodian representation on the ASEAN Senior Economic Official Meetings (SEOM); and has assumed the SEOM Chair for 2012.



H.E. Mr. Pou Sothirak *Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Republic of Singapore; former Ambassador of the Royal Government of Cambodia to Japan*

H.E. Mr. Pou Sothirak received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Oregon State University in U.S.A and subsequently worked as an engineer at Boeing Company in Seattle Washington, U.S.A. He then returned to his home country to work as a Humanitarian Coordinator in the field of education and community development with USAID at one of the refugee camps along the border between Thailand and Cambodia. Subsequently, he was twice elected as Member of Parliament; during part of this time, he served as Minister for Industry, Mining and Energy of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Thereafter, he was appointed as Ambassador of the Royal Government of Cambodia to Japan. At present, Mr. Sothirak is a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in the Republic of Singapore.



Rev. Dr. Pradit Takerngrangsarit *President, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Kingdom of Thailand*

The Reverend Dr. Pradit Takerngrangsarit received a M.Div. from Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand (where he was a member of the university's first graduating class), an S.T.M. from the Christian Theological Seminary, and a Th.D. from the Melbourne College of Divinity at Melbourne University. As an Old Testament scholar, Dr. Pradit returned to Payap University to teaching in the McGilvary Faculty of Theology, and the first Thai Chaplain at Payap. Thereafter, he rose to take over the position of Head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. Subsequently, Dr. Pradit was promoted to Vice-President for Student Affairs and thence to the Presidency.



Mr. M. Rajaretnam *Special Advisor to the ASEAN Secretary General on Community Building and Outreach; Senior Advisor to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)*

Mr. M. Rajaretnam was one of the early Research Fellows at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore. Subsequently, he established the Information and Resource Centre (IRC) as a private think tank and consultancy focused on Asian-Pacific affairs; one major project was focused on the enlargement of ASEAN to include Vietnam and the other CLMV states, at a time when he was also Executive Director of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, Coordinator of the Singapore Institute of Pacific Economic Cooperation, and Secretary of Singapore- Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. Subsequently, he was appointed advisor to the Institute for Policy Research, a policy think tank in Malaysia and helped design and coordinate the Institute's *Asian Renaissance* Project. More recently, as Director and Chief Executive of the International Centre, Goa, India, Mr. Rajaretnam has expanded his work to include Central and South Asia, having developed and launched the idea of the *Goa Dialogues* to build a greater Asian community; to this end, he convened the *Asian Dialogue Society*, a "fellowship" of "friends and citizens of Asia" committed to the pan-Asian idea of "building a better Asia". Mr. Rajaretnam has published widely on Southeast Asian issues and is an Adjunct Senior Fellow of the S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.



H.E. Mr. Sadasivan Premjith *Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia*

H.E. Mr. Premjith Sadasivan holds a Bachelor with Honours in Economics from Murdoch University, Australia, and a Master of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. After joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, he occupied positions in the Southeast Asia Directorate, Policy Planning and Analysis Directorate II and the International Economics Directorate. After serving as Director of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa Directorate, H.E. Premjith was appointed Singapore's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia in August 2010.



Professor Simon Tay *Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs, Republic of Singapore*

Professor Simon Tay received an LL.B. from the National University of Singapore and an LL.M. from Harvard University. His varied career has included periods as a Singapore Volunteer Overseas, a Nominated Member of Parliament and Chairman of the National Environment Agency of the Republic of Singapore. Currently, Professor Tay is the Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, as well as teaching International Law and Public Policy at the National University of Singapore; he also contributes a biweekly column in *Today* newspaper in Singapore. Professor Tay has also been a Visiting Professor at Yale, Harvard Law School, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; as well as an advisor to various multinational corporations on regional business investments and on sustainability and environmental issues.



H.E. Dr. Sok Siphana *Chair of Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) Board of Directors; Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia*

H.E. Dr. Sok Siphana holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Widener University School of Law and a Ph.D. in Law from the Bond University School of Law. H.E. Dr. Sok served as a legal adviser to the United Nations Development Program. He was then appointed to be the Vice-Minister of Commerce in the Royal Government of Cambodia, where he helped lead the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Subsequently, H.E. Dr. Sok served as Director of Technical Cooperation at the International Trade Centre. At present, H.E. Dr. Sok chairs the Cambodian Development Resource Institute and is an advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia.



Dr. Thein Swe *Professor of Economics, International Finance and Globalization, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Kingdom of Thailand; Former Principal Portfolio Management Specialist, Asia Development Bank*

Dr. Thein Swe earned a Master in Economics and a Doctorate of Economic Science from Central School of Planning and Statistics in Warsaw, Poland. He has served as an Advisor and Alternate Executive Director of the World Bank, before being promoted to Director of the Foreign Economic Relations Department. Thereafter Dr. Thein moved to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where he was involved in many development projects, and was promoted to the Deputy Resident Representative of the ADB Resident Office in Vietnam. After this, Dr. Thein joined Payap University, teaching economics, finance and globalization. His research interests include regional economic development and integration.



Sir Tim Lankester *Former President, Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom*

Sir Tim Lankester rose through the ranks of the Civil Service to hold senior positions in the British Treasury (including being the UK representative on the boards of the IMF, World Bank and the European Investment Bank), and served as Private Secretary (Economic Affairs) to Prime Ministers Callaghan and Thatcher and Permanent Secretary in the UK's International Aid and Education Ministries. From 1996 to 2001, Sir Tim was Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London, moving on to become President of Corpus Christi College at Oxford until 2009. He currently chairs the Council of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Board of Governors of Contemporary Dance Trust; and is Vice-Chairman of World Support for Development, Tokyo.



Miss Vong Socheata *Democracy and Governance Specialist, U.S. Agency for International Development, Phnom Penh*

Miss Vong Socheata earned Bachelor's degrees in International Relations from the University of Cambodia and in Management from the National University of Management. After working as a Program Development Assistant with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), she was promoted to be Democracy and Governance Specialist providing technical support on political processes, local governance and anti-corruption.