



Speakers' Biography

ASEAN-Japan Insights Webinar

BREAKING BARRIERS: WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES IN ASEAN AND JAPAN

Tues, 10 Sep. 2024 | 15:00-16:30 JST Zoom webinar (English, Japanese)

Opening Remarks

Kunihiko Hirabayashi, Md, Ph.D. | Secretary General of ASEAN-Japan Centre



Born in Nagano Prefecture in 1958. Secretary-General of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, from September 2021. Former Regional Advisor Regional Chief of Health, UNICEF East Asian and Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand. He worked as a technical advisor and representative of regional offices for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for more than 18 years from May 2003 to August 2021. Prior to that, he engaged in technical assistance in hospitals in developing countries for around 10 years. He obtained Ph.D. in Physiology and Medicine from the University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan.

Welcome Remarks

Kei Eriksen | Senior Manager, Tokyo AVPN



After more than 15 years of working as a nonprofit professional, facilitator and coach, and raising a family in Seattle, Washington, Kei recently returned to her hometown in Tokyo to serve the social sectors in Japan and Asia. Kei has a Master in International Education from the School for International Training in Vermont, USA. She is also a Certified Co-Active Professional Coach. Currently she works as Program Director at Social Impact Center, Japan Fundraising Association as well as a Japan Manager at AVPN to further promote social change while she serves as Vice President of Programs at iLEAP, a US-based social enterprise for the empowerment of social leaders and youth.

Special Talk on Women's Participation in Tech

Oranuch Lerdsuwankij | Co-founder and CEO of Techsauce



Oranuch Lerdsuwankij, also known as Mimeo, is the CEO and Co-founder of Techsauce, a leading technology and innovation ecosystem builder in Thailand. Techsauce is renowned for organizing the largest technology conference in Southeast Asia, the Techsauce Global Summit. Oranuch is dedicated to positioning Thailand as the tech gateway of Southeast Asia by creating platforms for opportunities, attracting investments, and enhancing the capabilities of Thai organizations, especially startups, to go international. She connects the Thai tech ecosystem with the global community, facilitates knowledge transfer, creates business opportunities through regional tech events, and develops new skills for the younger generation.

Beyond Techsauce, Oranuch serves as the General Partner at VentureBridge VC fund and co-founded Thailand Accelerator. She is a board member at Thailand's National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC) and a committee member of the Digital Council of Thailand (DCT), contributing to the nation's digital transformation. Oranuch is passionate about leveraging technology to benefit society, particularly vulnerable groups such as refugees, children, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Her significant contributions have solidified her reputation as a key influencer in the Thai tech startup industry.

Presentation: Gender Diversity Challenges in Japan's Startup Ecosystem

Kozue Sawame | President, JWLI (Japanese Women's Leadership Initiative), Fish Family Foundation



Kozue Sawame has over 20 years of expertise in gender issues and women's leadership, focusing on philanthropy, nonprofits, and entrepreneurship in the U.S. and Japan. As President of JWLI (Japanese Women's Leadership Initiative) at the Fish Family Foundation, she oversees leadership programs for women nonprofit executives and social entrepreneurs in Japan. Kozue holds degrees from Hosei University and Georgetown University, with additional leadership training from Babson College and the East-West Center. Born and raised in Hokkaido, Japan, she now lives in Boston, passionately advancing women's empowerment and leadership.

Panel Discussion on Ecosystem Actors Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in ASEAN and Japan

Moderator:

Agnes Surry | Deputy Head of Capacity Building and Training and Senior Economist, Asian Development Bank Institute



Her areas of interest include development and public finance, aid effectiveness, climate change adaptation, gender equality, social policies, fiscal policies, public debt sustainability, resource mobilization, and country risk analysis.

She is seconded from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where she worked in the Strategy, Policy, and Partnerships Department for more than 6 years. As senior planning and policy specialist, she supported policy work including country classification processes to determine access to concessional finance and reforms to provide better solutions to ADB developing member countries. She led the replenishment of the Asian Development Fund 13 in 2020, which is the main ADB grant facility. Prior to joining ADB, she worked at the African Development Bank as a resource mobilization expert and at the Treasury of France as a social economist and policy analyst.

She has a master's degree in international economics (development) and bachelor's degrees in econometrics and social sciences from Sciences Po Paris and École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France.

Panellists:

Cristina Amor Maclang, Ph.D. | Secretary General, Co-founder and Trustee of International Digital Economies Association; Asia Chairman of the Global Fintech Alliance; Convenor of Digital Pilipinas and Digital ASEAN



Cristina Amor Maclang is a prominent leader in the tech and fintech industries, serving as the convenor of Digital Pilipinas, the largest private sector-led movement driving innovation in the Philippines. She is a key advisor to multiple government agencies, including the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Science and Technology, guiding the nation's digital transformation. Globally, Amor co-founded the One ASEAN Fintech Movement and holds influential roles such as Asia Chairman of the Global Fintech Alliance and Global Chair for Digital Economies and Literacy for G100.

Her contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including the Singapore Fintech Festival ASEAN Fintech Leader Award and the Fintech Woman Leader of the Year from the Women Leading Change Awards. Amor is also a founding member of the International Digital Economies Association (IDEA) and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Rai University for her work in technology and innovation. Her dedication to advancing the global digital landscape is highlighted by her recent acceptance into the MIT Management Global Programs' IDEAS Asia Pacific Program. As Co-Founder and Chief Reputation Architect of GeiserMaclang, Amor continues to shape the future of digital economies and financial inclusion across Southeast Asia and beyond.

Katrina Inandia | Head of Impact and Sustainability, Amartha



Katrina is the Head of Impact and Sustainability of Amartha. She leads the company through their ESG journey to be a more sustainable company. Experienced in the communication and relations area, she demonstrated a history of working in a non-profit organization managing industries that focuses on sustainability. Katrina was the communication and knowledge management manager of Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development (IBCSD).