

# 11th ASEF Journalists' Seminar

In conjunction with the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13)  
Naypyidaw, Myanmar, 17-22 November, 2017

Shaping Perceptions and Minds towards Achieving the SDGs



Participants, Speakers, Panellists,

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### SPEAKERS

| Salutation | First Name | Last Name | Country of Citizenship |   |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---|
| HE Dr      | Pe         | MYINT     | Myanmar                | Union Minister of Information of Myanmar                |
| Ambassador | Karsten    | WARNECKE  | Germany                | Executive Director of Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)     |
| Mr         | Myo Myint  | MAUNG     | Myanmar                | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information of Myanmar |

### INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

| Salutation | First Name    | Last Name       | Country of Citizenship | Name of Organisation              |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ms         | Claire        | WILSON          | Australia              | Freelance writer                  |
| Mr         | AK Mohammed   | MOINUDDIN       | Bangladesh             | United News of Bangladesh         |
| Ms         | Ilina         | STOYANOVA       | Bulgaria               | Bulgarian National Television     |
| Ms         | Muong         | VANDY           | Cambodia               | The Phnom Penh Post               |
| Mr         | Ting          | WU              | China                  | Pengpai News                      |
| Ms         | Kadri         | VEERMAE         | Estonia                | DELFI                             |
| Mr         | Yermi         | BRENNER         | Germany                | Independent Journalist            |
| Mr         | Mate          | HALMOS          | Hungary                | Independent Journalist            |
| Ms         | Sharada       | BALASUBRAMANIAN | India                  | Independent Journalist            |
| Ms         | Resty         | ARMENIA         | Indonesia              | CNN Indonesia                     |
| Mr         | Chaitanya     | BRADY           | Ireland                | The Irish Catholic                |
| Ms         | Sharmilla     | GANESAN         | Malaysia               | Independent Journalist            |
| Ms         | Bolor         | ZAANKHUU        | Mongolia               | Woovoo Digital Magazine           |
| Ms         | Samreen       | GHAURI          | Pakistan               | Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation |
| Mr         | Sarwell       | MENIANO         | Philippines            | Philippines News Agency           |
| Mr         | Pawel         | SKAWINSKI       | Poland                 | Polish Press Agency               |
| Ms         | Joana Azevedo | VIANA           | Portugal               | Independent Journalist            |
| Mr         | Vlad          | BARLEANU        | Romania                | Sursa Zilei Media                 |

### INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

| Salutation | First Name  | Last Name | Country of Citizenship | Name of Organisation    |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr         | Nikolay     | KORZHOV   | Russian Federation     | Independent Journalist  |
| Ms         | Hui Yee     | TAN       | Singapore              | The Straits Times       |
| Mr         | Paris       | JITPENTOM | Thailand               | Workpoint Entertainment |
| Mr         | Wais        | BASHIR    | United Kingdom         | Independent Journalist  |
| Ms         | Loc Thi Gia | TRAN      | Viet Nam               | Viet Nam News           |

### LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

| Salutation | First Name  | Last Name | Country of Citizenship | Name of Workplace/University    |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr         | Thiha       | SAW       | Myanmar                | Myanmar Press Council           |
| Mr         | Kyaw Swar   | MIN       | Myanmar                | Myanmar Press Council           |
| Mr         | Tin Maung   | AYE       | Myanmar                | Myanmar Press Council           |
| Dr         | Zaw         | THAN      | Myanmar                | Myanmar Press Council           |
| Mr         | Ye Min      | OO        | Myanmar                | Myanmar Journalists Association |
| Ms         | Eih Eih     | TIN       | Myanmar                | Myanmar Journalists Association |
| Mr         | Zay Yar     | HLAING    | Myanmar                | Myanmar Journalists Network     |
| Mr         | Myint       | KYAW      | Myanmar                | Myanmar Journalists Network     |
| Mr         | Zaw Thet    | HTWE      | Myanmar                | Myanmar Journalist Union        |
| Mr         | Chit Win    | MAUNG     | Myanmar                | Myanmar Journalist Union        |
| Mr         | Myint       | THAN      | Myanmar                | Burma News International        |
| Mr         | Khaing Mrat | KYAW      | Myanmar                | Burma News International        |

### MODERATORS

| Salutation | First Name | Last Name | Country of Citizenship | Name of Organisation            |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ms         | Natalia    | ILIEVA    | Bulgaria               | Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union |
| Ms         | Grazyna    | PULAWSKA  | Poland                 | Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)   |
| Ms         | Nathalie   | SAJDA     | Sweden                 | Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)   |
| Ms         | Valentina  | RICCARDI  | Italy                  | Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)   |

### WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

| Salutation | First Name | Last Name | Country of Citizenship | Name of Organisation         |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ms         | Sophie Jo  | RYTTER    | Denmark                | World's Best News            |
| Mr         | Tim        | HILL      | United Kingdom         | Eco-Business                 |
| Dr         | Alex       | WAKE      | Australia              | RMIT University              |
| Mr         | Sein       | WIN       | Myanmar                | Myanmar Journalism Institute |

### ORGANISERS

| Salutation | First Name | Last Name | Country of Citizenship | Name of Organisation               |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ms         | Leonie     | NAGARAJAN | Germany                | Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)      |
| Mr         | Vasil      | STEFANOV  | Bulgaria               | Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)      |
| Mr         | Aye        | KYWE      | Myanmar                | Ministry of Information of Myanmar |
| Dr         | Thida      | TIN       | Myanmar                | Ministry of Information of Myanmar |
| Mr         | Myint      | KYAW      | Myanmar                | Ministry of Information of Myanmar |
| Mr         | Khin Maung | KYI       | Myanmar                | Ministry of Information of Myanmar |
| Ms         | Khin       | CHAW YE'  | Myanmar                | Ministry of Information of Myanmar |

## SPEAKERS

### Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE

Germany  
Executive Director  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



Ambassador WARNECKE is the 7th Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in charge of the management and administration of the organisation, the implementation of its programmes and policies, and representing the organisation. He joined ASEF as the 6th Deputy Executive Director in August 2012.

Before joining ASEF, Ambassador WARNECKE dealt mainly with Germany's and the EU's involvement in ASEAN and in the ASEM Process as part of his portfolio as Counselor at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, where he served as Deputy Head of Division for Regional Organizations and Cooperation in Asia-Pacific. A seasoned career diplomat with over 25 years of experience, including almost 20 years with Asia, Ambassador WARNECKE is adept at working in cross-cultural settings and in bringing people together from diverse backgrounds.

### HE Dr Pe MYINT

Union Minister of Information of  
Myanmar



Dr Pe MYINT has been serving as the Union Minister for the Ministry of Information of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since March 2016 and is taking a leading role in the media reform process of the country. Born on 15 December 1949, Dr MYINT is a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the Institute of Medicine 1, in Yangon.

Dr MYINT has worked as a general practitioner until 1988, but later on switched to full-time writing and become a freelance writer and columnist. He has also served as the Vice Chairperson of the Myanmar Press Council, Editor-in-Chief of the People's Age Journal, and Editor of Myanmar Books Publishing House. Dr MYINT has won the Myanmar National Literature Award for short story in 1995. So far, he has published over 40 books of fiction and non-fiction, and some translated works.

## SPEAKERS

### Mr Myo Myint MAUNG

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Information of  
Myanmar



Mr Myo Myint MAUNG was born on 27 November, 1969. He graduated from the Defence Services Academy, Pyin Oo Lwin in 1991. He studied Science and Military affairs for 4 years and served the military, reaching a Lieutenant Colonel rank. After retiring from the military in 2010, Mr Maung joined the Ministry of Information. He served as Director of the Press Scrutiny and Registration Department of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise, under the Ministry of Information (2010-2012).

Mr MAUNG took the position of General Manager of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise (2012-2015). In 2015, he was appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, and was later promoted to Permanent Secretary.

Mr MAUNG has published several novels and collections of poems.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Ms Claire WILSON

Australia  
Freelance writer



Claire is a writer, editor and researcher with professional experience in the arts and resource development in international and non-profit organisations in Thailand, Singapore and Australia. She is passionate about the capacity of the arts to create deeper understanding between people across cultures, and this is an on-going theme that drives her professional and creative work. Claire is a regular writer for Art Radar and Culture360, and her work has appeared in publications including Writers Bloc, Craft Victoria, Tongues Multilingual Magazine and The Flying Inkpot Reviews. She is an editor at Right Now, an independent not-for-profit media organisation focused on human rights issues in Australia, and a reader for Overland, a journal that fosters progressive writing exploring the relationship between politics and culture. She has also co-written the book *Freelancing in the Creative Industries* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

### Ms AK Mohammed MOINUDDIN

Bangladesh  
Special Correspondent  
United News of Bangladesh



AK Mohammed MOINUDDIN is currently covering foreign and economic affairs representing the United News of Bangladesh (UNB), Bangladesh's leading news agency. He started his career as a reporter back in 2002 with The Bangladesh Observer, which re-emerged as The Daily Observer under new ownership. He also writes for the Dhaka Courier magazine on current affairs. Mr MOINUDDIN had the opportunity to cover important events from various countries, including the United Kingdom, USA, Russia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Italy, Singapore, Hong Kong, Myanmar and Pakistan. He did PGD in Journalism at the Asian College of Journalism in Chennai, India. Before that he did his graduate and post-graduate studies at the Department of Communication and Journalism of the University of Chittagong. Currently, Mr MOINUDDIN is a member of professional bodies like the Diplomatic Correspondents' Association, Bangladesh (DCAB), Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) and Economic Reporters Forum (ERF).

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Ms Iliana STOYANOVA

Bulgaria  
Reporter  
Bulgarian National Television



Iliana STOYANOVA immersed herself in journalism 12 years ago. Her first steps she made in her hometown Varna, where she spent a year in the local television channel „TV Varna“ covering educational and social issues. She further enriched her experience in these topics while working for the local bureau of the national Darik radio.

After two years of work in Varna, at the end of 2006 Iliana STOYANOVA moved to Sofia, where she started in Trud daily, the biggest national newspaper at that period. In the end of 2008, she started working at the Bulgarian National Television as a social, economic and financial reporter. In 2016, she began running an economic news slot. Now her project is dedicated to human rights. She has been making stories about people facing hardship to protect their labour rights.

In 2014 she became the fourth Bulgarian participant in the World Press Institute fellowship and spent 10 weeks in USA.

### Ms Muong VANDY

Cambodia  
Reporter  
The Phnom Penh Post



Muong VANDY is a news feature writer at The Phnom Penh Post newspaper. She was a freelancer for local online media and she has been working as a journalist for more than three years. Ms VANDY has received a number of awards for her articles, including The Post's SOPA awards for „Excellence in Reporting on Women's Issues“ and „Reporting Breaking News“ for her series on surrogacy. She was also honoured for breaking news reporting for her work covering Kem Ley's assassination and she got WAN-IFRA Asian Media Awards with her colleagues as well. Muong VANDY joined a photo-story contest which was organised by the United Nation Development Programme about maternal health of indigenous people in the rural area. She has written about society, politics, art and culture and now reports on property and development.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr WU Ting

China  
Managing Editor  
Pengpai News



WU Ting is working as a Managing Editor and Director at the International News Division for the Pengpai News, known as „The Paper“ ([www.thepaper.cn](http://www.thepaper.cn)) - China's influential and reputable aggregator of original journalism. For more than ten years, he has been covering international affairs, with a particular focus on China-US relations. His in-depth coverage is often re-published on a multitude of key Chinese news websites. In 2013, Mr WU received a Chevening Scholarship with which the British government sponsored him a one-year visiting program at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is now based in Shanghai.

### Ms Kadri VEERMAE

Estonia  
Head of Foreign News Desk  
DELFI



Kadri VEERMAE is the Foreign News Chief at DELFI, a major internet portal in Estonia. She previously worked for five years as Foreign News Editor at the biggest newspaper in Estonia. Her areas of expertise include German politics, Ukraine, and European

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Yermi BRENNER

Germany  
Independent Journalist



Yermi BRENNER is a freelance journalist based in Berlin, covering migration issues, minorities and international affairs. He was born in Israel and earned a Master's degree at Columbia University's School of Journalism. Yermi's articles and video stories have been published by news media worldwide, including Al Jazeera, CNN International and The Huffington Post. He has reported extensively (from Germany, Italy, Sweden, and Israel) about the influx of asylum seekers to Europe and about the integration of migrants and refugees in European societies.

Yermi is a migrant (in Germany, coming from Israel), a son of a migrant (his father emigrated to Israel from the U.S.), a grandson of a refugee (who fled Nazi Germany to the U.S), and a great-grandson of people who needed asylum, but were rejected by several countries (and later perished in Nazi camps). Yermi decided to focus his journalism on migration and integration issues because these topics are very relevant to his family's past, present and future.

### Mr Mate HALMOS

Hungary  
Independent Journalist



Mate HALMOS, a freelance journalist based in Budapest, Hungary, has published stories related to international development cooperation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Ethiopia, about maternal and new-born health, access to food and clean water, and adapting to climate change, among others. He received the Media for Society Prize in 2016 for his article on an innovative Hungarian-Kenyan agricultural development project in rural Kenya. Besides development, he has also written extensively about migration and the refugee crisis in Europe, and social issues such as education or poverty and homelessness in Hungary. Mr HALMOS received the Hegeto Honorka Award for best video reporting on social issues in Hungary (together with the Indexvideo team) in 2015, for a series following the life of a homeless man in Budapest, from a wooden shack in the woods to social housing in the city.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Ms Sharada BALASUBRAMANIAN

India  
Independent Journalist



Sharada BALASUBRAMANIAN is an independent environmental and developmental journalist from India, with over a decade of experience in the media industry. Her articles have appeared in Al Jazeera, The Guardian, Climate News Network, Green Futures, Outlook Business, Rural 21- International Journal for Rural Development, Dhaka Tribune, Village Square, and others. She has published articles on alternative energy, rural development, water, agriculture, conservation, ecology, among other topics.

In 2013, Sharada was one of the ten journalists selected for the Deutsche Welle Akademie Climate Change Reporting Fellowship for South Asia. In 2014, Sharada was one of the journalists to be participating in the United Nations University's workshop on water and energy during the World Water Day event at Tokyo. She was selected as IUCN's Young Scholars and Professionals Fellow in 2014 under Ecosystem for Life, an India-Bangladesh initiative. In 2015, she won the Cushrow Irani (Statesman) award for environmental reporting.

### Ms Resty ARMENIA

Indonesia  
Reporter  
CNN Indonesia



Since May 2014, Resty ARMENIA has been writing stories and producing videos and infographics for cnnindonesia.com. As a news developer, she covers particular governmental institutions in the Republic of Indonesia which mainly handle politics, social welfare, development, law, security, international relations and economy issues.

Ms ARMENIA has been prominently stationed in many important places in the country, such as the Presidential Palace, Jakarta City Hall, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK).

Recently, she has also been writing about entertainment, travel and lifestyle. Her noteworthy works including coverage about the Singapore Biennale 2017 and exclusive interviews with globally famous musicians and actors.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Chaitanya BRADY

Ireland  
Reporter  
The Irish Catholic



Trained in Ireland's top journalism school in Dublin City University, Chai BRADY graduated with a Bachelor of Arts First Class (Honours) in Journalism. He now works as a multimedia journalist in the country's largest religious paper, The Irish Catholic. With a focus on social, political, environmental and religious issues, he uses photojournalism and videography to bring his writing to life. He previously worked in national papers such as the Irish Daily Mail and the country's most-read news source, the Irish Independent.

### Ms Sharmilla GANESAN

Malaysia  
Independent Journalist



Sharmilla GANESAN is a journalist, culture writer and author from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With more than a decade of experience at The Star newspaper and website, she has written on a wide variety of topics, from gender and environment to fashion and entertainment. Most recently, she focused on writing about books, the arts, and film for their features section. Her work has also been published in, among others, The Atlantic and Reader's Digest Asia. Sharmilla was a Fulbright/Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow with the University of Maryland in the United States in 2015/2016, where she studied culture journalism and the digital evolution of long-form journalism. She was also an Asia Journalism Fellow 2017 with the National University of Singapore, where she researched culture journalism.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Ms Bolor ZAANKHUU

Mongolia  
Editor in Chief  
Woovoo Digital Magazine



Bolor ZAANKHUU is a freelance journalist, currently working as Editor-in-Chief at Woovoo digital magazine. She has covered socio-economic issues, politics, lifestyle, arts and culture. Bolor studied journalism at the Press Institute of Mongolia. In the past she has worked for UNFPA, and as the Editor-in-Chief for the Mongolian edition of Cosmopolitan magazine. She is a recipient of the Open Society Forum/ Soros Foundation's Exchange Student Scholarship. In 2012 Bolor earned an „Outstanding Merit“ Award from the Mongolian Youth Federation. In 2016 she was selected to participate in the Women's Leadership Programme funded by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The same year she took part in Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists Fellowship Programme held at the United Nations HQ in New York City. This year she was the first Mongolian to receive the Asia Journalism Fellowship in Singapore. She is a member of Women for Change NGO and Lean In Power Circle.

### Ms Samreen Khan GHAURI

Pakistan  
Freelance Multimedia Journalist  
Pakistan Broadcasting  
Corporation



Samreen Khan GHAURI is a multimedia journalist from Pakistan, contributing to broadcast media, as well as online and print outlets. Through her ground breaking work over a decade, she has covered social development issues, raising awareness of rural-based communities. She is an alumni of the US-Pakistani professional journalism Program in 2012 and acquired skills for effective broadcast media and multimedia journalism. In 2010, Ms ≈ attended a three-week course on re-examining advocacy tools using ICT, in the Philippines. She finds radio is the most effective tool of communication in South Asia and develops IEC material for various organizations to advocate and mobilize masses by using electronic and social media. She serves as a trainer and visiting faculty in Media studies, holds a Master's degree in Mass Communication and is fluent in Urdu, English and Sindh languages.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Sarwell MENIANO

Philippines  
Head of Tacloban Bureau  
Philippines News Agency



Sarwell MENIANO started his journalism career in 2003 right after earning a Bachelor's degree in Communication at the Leyte Normal University. From 2003 to 2010, he was a radio reporter of DYVL until he decided to work full time in the newspaper. He was a news writer for BusinessWorld based in Manila and Leyte Samar Daily Express, based in Tacloban for more than a decade.

In 2014, he completed the mixed online and on-campus Masters in Journalism study at the Ateneo de Manila University, funded by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism. While in the process of writing his thesis, the super typhoon Haiyan struck, making his study and journalistic work quite challenging.

Since October 2014, he has been assigned as Head of Tacloban Bureau of the Philippines News Agency, the official news wire of the Philippine government.

### Mr Pawel SKAWINSKI

Poland  
South Asia Correspondent  
Polish Press Agency



Pawel SKAWINSKI is a correspondent of the Polish Press Agency (PAP) in South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh); based in Kathmandu and Delhi. He is a non-fiction writer, video maker, freelance TV producer, and a contributor to major Polish magazines. Mr SKAWINSKI was awarded Polish Ministry of Culture scholarship for literature. He has covered the 2010 Kashmir unrest, the Nepal Orphan Business story in 2013, the Indian general elections 2014, and the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal. In 2018, he will publish his second non-fiction book about India.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Ms Joana Azevedo VIANA

Portugal  
Independent Journalist  
(based in India)



Joana Azevedo VIANA, born in 1987, is a freelance reporter from Lisbon, Portugal. After graduating in Journalism, she worked as a staff writer for Portugal's three biggest newspapers and as a Foreign Affairs' section Editor between March 2014 and December 2015. She has travelled to the Middle East, covered Uruguay's progressive social policies and reported on the refugee crisis in Europe, particularly in the Balkans. She's a daily contributor to „Expresso“, where she writes about foreign politics. Currently based in India, Joana has been traveling the subcontinent to uncover good stories to tell on one of the fastest growing regions in the world.

### Mr Vlad BARLEANU

Romania  
Economics Editor  
Sursa Zilei Media



Vlad BARLEANU is a Romanian journalist with extensive experience in economy, social affairs and investigations. He has worked with different media platforms - newspapers, radio, magazines, and online news.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Nikolay KORZHOV

Russian Federation  
Independent Journalist



Nikolay KORZHOV is a Russian freelance journalist currently based in Moscow. His work has been featured on international news outlets. Until recently, Mr KORZHOV was based in Shanghai where he reported on China, as well as Central and East Asia.

### Ms Hui Yee TAN

Singapore  
Regional Correspondent  
(based in Bangkok)  
The Straits Times



Hui Yee TAN is an Indochina-based regional correspondent with The Straits Times. She thrives on explanatory journalism and especially on issues related to gender, migration, urbanisation and the Asian political economy. Over her 16-year-career, she has won awards from the Society of Publishers in Asia and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Paris JITPENTOM

Thailand  
Workpoint Entertainment



Paris JITPENTOM is a fresh graduate and a digital journalist at Workpoint Entertainment, a TV channel in Thailand. His job is producing online news. He is trying to cover all processes of news reporting, such as filming, interviewing, script writing, announcing and editing. Culture, education, environment and lifestyle are his interest areas.

### Mr Wais BASHIR

United Kingdom  
Independent Journalist



Wais BASHIR graduated in Law from the University of Warwick and shortly after joined the user-generated-content (UGC) platform Demotix News in London where he managed a team of up-to 25,000 freelance reporters located around the globe, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. He then relocated to Beirut after he was recruited as Transterra Media's Director of News, following which he transferred to Dublin to join Storyful News and to head their project with Google Open News. Mr BASHIR then became Editor of the corporate news platform, FEM, where he set the editorial strategy and hosted their corporate conferences in the UK and the US. He was then recruited by BBC News due to his expertise in UGC and most recently reported for the Council of Europe.

Mr BASHIR has debated on panels at the European Parliament in Brussels, the Chamber of Commerce in Vienna, in Houston and Chicago, and at The Hague. He has also led seminars and workshops in Beirut and Amman.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

### Ms Loc Thi Gia TRAN

Viet Nam  
Reporter  
Viet Nam News



Loc Thi Gia TRAN is a reporter at Việt Nam News since 2008 and a member of SJCOP Asia, an initiative for international collaboration of science journalists in Asia under the World Federation of Science Journalists. She is also a member of the Mekong Matters Journalism Network.

Ms TRAN graduated from the HCM City University of Social Sciences and Humanities (2004-2008). She has attended the World Federation of Science Journalists' two-year training course, short-term training courses on writing stories on agriculture and traffic safety by Thomson Reuters and Asia Injury Foundation, and training courses on Mekong matters.

## LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Thiha SAW

Executive Director  
Myanmar Journalism Institute



Thiha SAW has been serving as Executive Director of the Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI) since September 2015. Prior to that he acted as Chairman of the Board of Directors of MJI (2014-2015).

Mr SAW has obtained a B.Sc. in Physics from the Rangoon Arts and Science University. He also holds a diploma in Journalism from the International Institute for Journalism in West Berlin, FRG (1986). Between 1997-1998, Mr SAW was a Hubert Humphrey Fellow in Journalism at the University of Maryland, USA. He has also served as President of the Myanmar-US Friendship Association (2003-2016).

### Mr Kyaw Swar MIN

Joint Secretary  
Myanmar Press Council



Kyaw Swar MIN is the Secretary of the Myanmar News Media Council as well as the Secretary of the Myanmar Journalists Association. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Science and Mathematics.

In 2002, Mr Kyaw Swar MIN started working as a reporter and in 2003 he joined the 7 Days Journal. Following this, he worked as a Senior Reporter at the Yangon Times and Flower News Journal. Since 2014, he has been working as the Myanmar Country Representative of the Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun.

## LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Tin Maung AYE

Councillor  
Myanmar Press Council



Tin Maung AYE was born on 20 September 1952 in Nattalin, Bago division. He holds a B.A in Geography from the Rangoon Arts and Science University. He has also completed a Journalism training at the Press and Publication Department of the former ruling Socialist Party Head Office.

Mr AYE worked as Assistant Editor for International Affairs Magazine of the Socialist Party for ten years. Then he changed to the tourism field and worked as inbound tour operator for foreign travel firms and as hotel manager in Thailand and Myanmar. He later switched back to journalism in 1994 as a Myanmar Reporter for the Asahi Shimbun daily of Japan (until 2014).

He is currently serving in the Myanmar Press Council as a Councillor.

### Dr Zaw THAN

Senior Foreign Correspondent  
Sankei Shimbun



Dr Zaw THAN is a Foreign Correspondent of the Sankei Shimbun Newspaper (Tokyo). He was born in Yangon, Myanmar on July 1, 1951. He is married and has one daughter.

Dr THAN graduated from the Medical Institute of Mandalay with M.B.B.S in 1976. He worked as a medical doctor in the Ministry of Health of Myanmar from 1981 to 1989. Later, he served as a UNV-Doctor in UNTAC, Cambodia Election (1992-93) and wrote a book about the Cambodia Election, called "PHNOM-PENH DIARY".

Between 1995-1997, Dr THAN served as a UNV-Doctor in Namibia, Africa and wrote a book about his experiences. He has also served as a UNV-Doctor in the East Timor Referendum in 1999 (3 months).

Since 1999, Dr THAN is a writer and Foreign Correspondent of the Sankei Shimbun Newspaper, Japan. As a writer, he has translated short stories, written articles on health, politics, economy and travelogues in current weekly and monthly magazines.

## LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Ye Min OO

Joint Secretary  
Myanmar Journalists Association



Ye Min OO is currently Director of Central News Bureau, Sky Net, Joint Secretary of the Myanmar Journalists Association and a Board of Directors member of the Myanmar Journalism Institute. Previously, Mr OO served as Assistant Director in the Civil Service Department (2002-2005) and Senior Executive Editor of The Voice Weekly newspaper (2005-2011). Since 2012, he is the Director of Sky Net.

Mr OO holds a B.Sc. in Marine Science. He is also an author of several publications, including a jokes collection.

### Ms Eih Eih TIN

Myanmar Journalists Association



Eih Eih TIN joined Fuji TV (Japan) in 2003 and has since been working as a Resident Foreign Correspondent. She is a member of the Foreign Correspondent Club of Myanmar (FCCM) and an EC of Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA).

Recently Ms TIN attended the World Press Freedom Day in Jakarta, Indonesia as a representative of MJA.

## LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Zayar HLAING

General Secretary  
Myanmar Journalist Network  
Member  
Myanmar Press Council



Zayar HLAING is an editor and co-founder of Mawkun magazine which was started in 2012 August, four days after press censorship was abolished in Myanmar. Mawkun is a current affairs and in-depth monthly news magazine in Myanmar. Mr HLAING was one of the co-founders and editors of Yangon Press International (YPI) news group which was founded in 2010 January. He reported and edited news features especially from ethnic areas around the country.

Mr HLAING joined the Kumudra weekly (later changed the Modern weekly) and worked as a reporter from 2005. At the end of 2008, he resigned from the Modern weekly and worked as a freelance journalist. He contributed with photos, videos, radio reports, and news features to international news organizations.

Mr HLAING was elected as general secretary of the Myanmar Journalist Network in August 2015 and became a member of News Media Council which was founded in October 2015.

### Mr Myint KYAW

Executive Committee Member  
Myanmar Journalist Network



Myint KYAW joined the Myanmar Dana business magazine as a reporter in 2003. He has covered business, social issues and other topics. Myint KYAW founded Myitmakha News Group with Ma May Thingyan Hein in 2008. Two years later, he established another news group, Yangon Press International (YPI) with other journalist colleagues. YPI is the first uncensored online news agency in Myanmar. It took advantage of the new government's media relaxation policy. He is currently working as a Media Trainer and Consultant. He is a member of the Myanmar Journalists Network and the Interim Myanmar Press Council.

## LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Zaw Thet HTWE

Director  
Myanmar Media Group



Zaw Thet HTWE was born on October 22, 1966. He holds a B.Sc. in Chemistry. Currently, he is the Director of the Myanmar Media Group. Previously, he served as Director of Tomorrow News Journal and as Adviser on MRTV-4 and Channel-7.

### Mr Chit Win MAUNG

Leading Committee Member  
Myanmar Journalist Union



Chit Win MAUNG is Chief Editor and Publisher of the Tat Lann Sports Journal. Previously, he worked as Chief Editor of Yanantthit Magazine (1992-2004), Chief Editor of Reader's Journal (2000-2003), and Chief Editor of Thamaga News Journal (2012-2013). He has also participated in international workshops and training courses in the United States, Thailand, China, and Germany.

Mr MAUNG holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Burmese from the Yangon Arts and Science University. He is a member of the Myanmar Press Council, a Leading Committee Member of the Myanmar Journalist Union, and an Executive Member of the Myanmar Sports Writers Association. He is the author of a number of books and publications.

## LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

### Mr Myint THAN

Executive Director  
Burma News International



Myint THAN was born in a village in Mudon Township, Mon State. He completed his secondary education in Mudon Township and attended the Rangoon Institute of Technology in 1985. In 1988, he participated in the pro-democracy uprising in Mon State. In 1994, he graduated in Community Management (distance education program), from the South Australia University. He supported the education of social workers in border refugee camps.

In 2000, Mr THAN founded the Independent Mon News Agency, an online network disseminating political coverage, conflict, and other news from southern Burma to the international community. IMNA joined the Burma News International (BNI), an ethnic media network of Burma, in 2003.

Mr THAN received a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the Griffith University of Australia in 2012. He registered IMNA as Mon News Agency in 2015 and led the organization. In 2016, he was elected as Executive Director to the Board of Directors in BNI.

### Mr Khaing Mrat KYAW

Burma News International



Khaing Mrat KYAW has over 16 years of experience in journalism. Besides a journalist, he is also the founder of Narinjara News Agency which was established in 2001 in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The news agency is mainly focus on Arakan (Rakhine) issues. Mr KYAW is also a board member of BNI (Burma News International) which is an umbrella media group formed by ethnic medias around Myanmar. He is also a member of Myanmar Press council MPC).

## MODERATORS

### Ms Natalia ILIEVA

Head of Secretary  
General's Office  
Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union



Natalia Ilieva is responsible for strategy development, members, external relations and marketing at the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union. She is overseeing the ABU outreach campaigns Saving Lives: Preparing for Disasters and Broadcasting For All: Focus on Gender, an initiative for an all - inclusive broadcasting.

Ms Ilieva's journalistic experience spans over two decades across print and electronic media. She began her career in the Bulgarian National Television as a Foreign Desk Editor and Economic Correspondent, followed up by a stint as a Parliament Correspondent for the main news bulletin. For several years she was a North America correspondent for the Bulgarian National Television and Bulgarian News Agency before moving to London to work for the BBC World Service as a Current Affairs Producer and News Presenter.

She has also worked at Thomson Foundation, the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, the UK anti-female genital mutilation organization Forward, and the AIBD.

Ms Ilieva has a BA in Economics from Sofia University, Bulgaria and an MBA from the University of Ottawa, Canada and the University of Kent, UK.

### Ms Grazyna PULAWSKA

Project Manager  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



Grazyna PULAWSKA is responsible for the Asia-Europe Environment Forum programme (ENVforum), which aims to strengthen co-operation between Asian and European stakeholders in the field of environmental and sustainable development. Since 2012 the ENVforum programme specialises in organising conferences and workshops as well as conducting capacity building events tailored for government officials and practitioners.

Prior to ASEF, Grazyna worked for the Ministry of Economy in Poland, working in the field of regional development. She has also been active in the NGO sector, mainly with the Service Civil International network in Belgium and Poland. She also managed projects at the Development Wheel, a Bangladesh-based NGO specialising in supporting local entrepreneurship and fair trade.

## MODERATORS

### Ms Nathalie SAJDA

Project Manager  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



Nathalie joined ASEF's Education Department in June 2014. Nathalie works on projects under the ASEF Education Policy Programme, such as the ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC), and the ASEF Young Leaders Summit (SEFYLS). Prior to joining ASEF, Nathalie worked toward the development of social enterprises and social entrepreneurship in Asia and Europe. Nathalie obtained her first Bachelor's degree at Sodertorn University in International Development and Co-operation, followed by a second Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Stockholm University. She received a full scholarship to pursue her Master's degree in New Politics and Future Governance at Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

### Ms Valentina RICCARDI

Project Manager  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



Valentina is Project Manager in the Culture Department at ASEF, where she oversees ASEF's initiatives related to the development of information platforms, artistic exchanges and cultural networks. She is the coordinator of ASEF's arts and culture portal [culture360.asef.org](http://culture360.asef.org), an online platform that has been enabling easy access to relevant and reliable information for individual artists, arts organisations and policymakers across for the last 10 years.

Valentina holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Sciences from the University of Rome - La Sapienza. She obtained her Master's degree in Art Business from Sotheby's Institute of Art Singapore. She has recently been selected to participate in the Advanced Cultural Leadership Programme (ACLPL) initiated by Clore in collaboration with the Hong Kong University.

## WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

### Ms Sophie Jo RYTTER

Managing Editor and  
Head of Media  
World's Best News



Sophie RYTTER is a journalist and has worked at various Danish national media, mainly newspapers. Currently she is Editor and Head of Media at World's Best News. World's Best News is an independent media for constructive journalism. The reporting is based on the SDG's.

### Mr Tim HILL

Research Director  
Eco-Business Research



Tim has worked as a writer, marketer and researcher in Asia since 1992 with organisations such as the Economist Intelligence Unit and Ipsos Business Consulting. During this time he has consulted for public and private sector organisations in areas such as the environmental and economic impact of climate change, growth strategies, market sizing, expansion in emerging markets, channel strategies and commercial due diligence.

He has authored research papers and articles on topics such as flood controls in Asean, managing the energy mix, the future of education, the impact of the millennial generation and the Asean Economic Community. His opinion pieces and articles have been published in The Business Times and the Straits Times as well as other publications. He is also a regular speaker and conference moderator for industry and client events.

Prior to this, Tim saw active service in the Middle East as an officer in the British Army and has campaign medals for service with the UN.

## WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

### Dr Alex WAKE

Senior Lecturer  
Royal Melbourne Institute of  
Technology (RMIT) University



Dr Alex Wake is a senior lecturer in the School of Media and Communication at RMIT University in Melbourne, the largest university in Australia. She has been a journalism academic for 15 years with a focus on broadcast and innovative journalism technologies. Her research is centred on journalism education in cultures outside advanced liberal democracies. She has developed a number of resources for journalism students working cross culturally. Dr Wake has worked in Ireland, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates for a number of newspapers and later as a senior journalist and editor with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Dr Wake began her teaching career training journalists at the South African Broadcasting Corporation after the election of Nelson Mandela in the transition to democracy, and was later employed as a journalism educator at Dubai Women's College in the United Arab Emirates at the time of 9/11. She completed her MA (Research) at QUT, holds a Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching and Learning from RMIT, and a Certificate of English Language Teaching to Adults from Cambridge. Her PhD in 2015 from Deakin University was entitled "Aiding journalism: Australian journalism educators and their work in post conflict states"

### Mr Sei WIN

Training Director  
Myanmar Journalism Institute



Sein Win is the Training Director for the Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI), which provides a wide variety of journalism training courses in Myanmar language. Sein Win has been active in Myanmar media development for a couple of years. Previously, he was the Managing Editor of the once-exiled Mizzima media. Sein Win has been writing columns for major local newspapers for some years. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering. Moreover, he established a private company offering media communication consultation and training to governmental institutions, INGOs and private sector.

## ORGANISERS

### Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN

Director, Education Department  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



Leonie NAGARAJAN has been working in the field of international relations for over 15 years, with a focus on Education Diplomacy since 2014. As the Director of the Education Department, she is responsible for leading the department in conceptualization and execution of a programme portfolio covering 51 countries across Asia and Europe. Her work addresses education policies, higher education cooperation, university-business partnerships, activities in the field of lifelong learning as well as experiential learning and skills development for

### Mr Vasil STEFANOV

Communications Executive  
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)



Vasil STEFANOV, a Bulgarian national, joined ASEF in August 2017 as a Communications Executive. He currently coordinates the ASEF Journalists' Seminar and also supports various other projects within the Education Department. Vasil holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

Prior to joining ASEF, Vasil completed internships with the UNHCR office in Bulgaria and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). He has also worked as an online journalist for the Sofia News Agency, covering domestic and international politics. Vasil has also been active in supporting civil society projects in his country and participating in international youth conferences. Most recently, he had a 7-month stint in Ecuador, working as a volunteer English teacher.

## ORGANISERS

### Mr Aye KYWE

Deputy Director General  
Information and  
Public Relations Department  
Ministry of Information  
of Myanmar



Mr Aye KYWE is the Deputy Director General of the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information of Myanmar. Previously, he served as Director of the Department from 2008-2017.

### Dr Thida TIN

Deputy Director General  
Information and  
Public Relations Department  
Ministry of Information  
of Myanmar



Dr Thida TIN is currently serving as a Deputy Director General of the Information and Public Relations Department in the Ministry of Information of Myanmar. Prior to this post, she was a university professor.

She was born and raised in Yangon and attended Yangon University, Sejong University (Seoul) and Tokyo University.

## ORGANISERS

### Mr Myint KYAW

Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Information  
of Myanmar



Mr Myint KYAW is the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information of Myanmar. He was born in Zalun township, Ayeyawaddy Division, on October 7, 1970. Mr KYAW holds a Bachelor of Arts in Myanmar Language from the University of Yangon. He is married and has two sons.

Mr KYAW served in the Myanmar Armed Forces and attained a Captain rank. In 2005, he transferred from the armed forces to become a civil servant as Staff Officer. In 2007, he was promoted to Assistant Director and in 2009 he became Deputy Director as a new post. In 2012, he became a Director in the current division (RND). In 2017, he became the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information.

### Mr Khin Maung KYI

Assistant Director  
Ministry of Information of  
Myanmar



Mr Khin Maung KYI was born on 16 August, 1971. He graduated from the University of Yangon in 1996. Currently he serves as Assistant Director of the Ministry of Information of Myanmar.

## ORGANISERS

### Ms Khin CHAW YE'

Staff Officer  
International Relations Section  
Ministry of Information  
of Myanmar



Ms Kihn Chaw YE' has been working as a Staff Officer in Ministry of Information of Myanmar since 2008. Along with her responsibilities as Staff Officer, she also serves as Liaison Officer between the Ministry and international organizations for holding media conferences or media trainings, as well as forums relating to information.

