



HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
ALUMNI PHILIPPINES



2023

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE: DIVERSIFYING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

PROGRAM BOOK

September 15-17, 2023
SEDA Manila Bay Aseana Avenue cor. Abueva Road
Aseana City, Parañaque, 1701
Metro Manila, Philippines

ABOUT

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, a Fulbright exchange, enhances leadership among international professionals who collaborate to address local and global challenges and foster change for the collective good. Through academic study and professional development with U.S. counterparts, this growing global network shares best practices and builds expertise in fields of critical importance to advance societal and institutional capacity, promote human rights and freedoms, ensure sustainable environments, and develop thriving communities.

Humphrey Alumni Global Policy Dialogue

In anticipation of the Humphrey Fellowship Program's 45th Anniversary in 2023-2024, the Humphrey Fellowship is launching the Humphrey Alumni Global Policy Series. This policy series will convene Humphrey alumni across world regions to address crucial global concerns and challenges at the national, regional, and local levels.

This year's Global Policy Dialogue will take place in Manila, Philippines from September 15-17, 2023, and will focus on green economy, market diversification, financial inclusion of vulnerable sectors, and other critical issues. This event will include roundtable dialogues, engagement with key stakeholders, and collaborative networking.

Date: September 15-17, 2023

Venue: SEDA Manila Bay, Aseana Avenue cor. Abueva Road
Aseana City, Parañaque, 1701
Metro Manila, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

Fostering sustainable economic development stands as a paramount objective for nations emerging from the profound aftermath of the pandemic, geopolitical tensions, factionalism, polarization, climate volatility, and other contemporary challenges. A strategic pathway to achieving this aspiration lies in embracing economic diversification—a transformative process entailing the evolution towards a more multifaceted landscape of domestic production and trade. This shift, aimed at bolstering productivity, job creation, and the foundation for enduring poverty-alleviating growth, remains pivotal.¹

As underscored by the World Bank Group, “economic diversification remains a challenge for most developing countries and is arguably greatest for countries with the lowest incomes as well as for those whose economies are small, landlocked and/or dominated by primary commodity dependence. For such countries, economic diversification is inextricably linked with the structural transformation of their economies and the achievement of higher levels of productivity resulting from the movement of economic resources within and between economic sectors.”²

Guided by these precepts, the Hubert H. Humphrey Alumni Association - Philippines is poised to undertake the Asia-Pacific Region Conference—a global forum centered on the discourse of “Diversifying Economic Prosperity”. This conference will convene approximately 50-60 delegates, hailing from both the Philippines and diverse international locales, in a collaborative endeavor to explore and deliberate upon the imperatives and strategies for nurturing varied avenues of economic prosperity.

¹ A paraphrase - unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/economic-diversification

² [aid4trade19_chap5_e.pdf \(wto.org\)](https://www.wto.org/trade/aid4trade19_chap5_e.pdf)

SESSIONS: GENERAL AND COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

1. Market Diversification

The Importance of Expanding Markets: Building Foundations Among Stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific

Exploring the essence of economic diversification strategies as fundamental elements of comprehensive economic progress, wherein nations evolve towards intricate production and trade frameworks. This session will feature relevant case studies from the Philippines, Fiji, and Malaysia.

2. Policies that Enable and Sustain Growing Economies

The Pivotal Role that Well-Crafted Policies Play in Shaping the Trajectory of these Expanding Economies

As we navigate a rapidly changing economic landscape, the session aims to provide insights into policy strategies that can empower emerging economies to not only participate actively in the global economy but also to steer their growth towards sustainability and long-term prosperity. This session will encompass insightful illustrations culled from the countries of the Philippines, Indonesia, and Lao PDR.

3. Financial Inclusion of Vulnerable Sectors

Inclusive Financial Engagement Across Diverse Sectors Especially the Most Vulnerable

Engaging an inclusive perspective on the business landscape of the Asia-Pacific region through analytical lenses that center around the participation of specialized and vulnerable sectors (women; people with disabilities; micro, small, and medium enterprises, others) through diverse channels such as digital financial services, etc. This session will feature case studies from the countries of Indonesia, Philippines and Fiji.

4. A Shift to Green Economy

Examining the Impact of Climate Change and Other Vulnerabilities and How to Move Forward

The substantial expansion of economic activities has exacted a significant toll on the global ecosystem. Notably, the process of industrialization has contributed to the emergence of climate change, a critical challenge imperiling the survival of every nation. This session will delve into the illustrative cases of Thailand, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines as they provide transition strategies to attain the level of green economy.

5. Blue Economy to Sustain a Healthy Future

Sustainable Use of Marine Resources for Economic Development

The Blue Economy session centers around the sustainable development around our oceans, seas, and coastal areas. Unlike traditional economic models, which often exploit natural resources without long-term considerations, the Blue Economy seeks to harness the potential of marine resources while safeguarding their health for future generations. This will be expounded by the countries of Fiji and Lao PDR.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Friday, 15 September 2023 - Arrival of international Delegates

Billeting at the SEDA Manila Bay Hotel

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM **Informal Onboarding and Networking Meeting of HHH Alumni
(foreign and local)**

Dama de Noche Room, 4th floor, SEDA Manila Bay Hotel

6:00 PM **Welcome Dinner**

Barbara's, Intramuros, Manila

Special Guest:

H.E. MaryKay Carlson

Ambassador

US Embassy, Philippines

Saturday, September 16, 2023 - Program Proper

"Diversity Economic Prosperity", SEDA Manila Bay

Master of Ceremonies - **F.D Nicolas B. Pichay**

8:00 AM Preliminaries:

Welcome Address

Benedicto Bacani

President, HHH Alumni Association, Philippines

Opening Remarks

Julio Amador

Executive Director, Fulbright Commission

Message

John Groch

Public Affairs Counselor, US Embassy

Photo Ops

All Guests & Delegates

8:30 AM

Program Overview

A holistic understanding of the program's components, structure, and expected outcomes.

Putli Suharni Samanodi-Candao

on Program Flow & House Rules

Philippines

Ngọc Diễm Nguyễn

Vietnam

&

Vichetratha Khlok

Cambodia

on “A participant’s Interest & Perspective in this Global Dialogue”

9:00 AM

Session 1: Market Diversification

Session Moderator:

Katryn Cadiente

Philippines

Main Discussant:

Jan Redmond Dela Vega, *on Trade Agreements*, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines

Panelists:

1. Khairuddin Md Tahir

on Rural Development, Malaysia

2. Josephine Migalbin

on Rural Development, Philippines

3. Fitriani Ardiansyah

on Sustainable Commodities and Supply Chains, Indonesia

10:30 AM

Break

10:35 AM

Session 2: Policies that Enable and Sustain Growing Economies

Session Moderator:

Marie Tanya Recalde

Philippines

Main Discussant:

Ivan Uy

Secretary, Department of ICT

Philippines

Panelists:

1. Phongsavanh Phomkong

on Finance and Private Sector Development, Lao PDR

2. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed

on "Malaysia's Development Journey: Reforms and Sustainable Development"

3. Rima Hasanah

on Creative Economy Sector, Indonesia

12:05 PM

LUNCH BREAK & INTERCULTURAL PRESENTATION

1:00 PM

Session 3: Financial Inclusion of Vulnerable Sectors

Session Moderator:

Rommel Miranda

Philippines

Main Discussant:

Achmad Fauzi, Indonesia

Panelists:

1. Aleem Guiapal

on Halal and Islamic Finance, Philippines

2. Latu Sera Kaukilakeba

Vulnerable Sectors' Financing, Fiji

3. Jesusa Natividad Roxas

on Agri Industries/MSMEs, Philippines

2:30 PM

Session 4: A Shift to Green Economy

Session Moderator:

Amy Avellano

Philippines

Main Discussant:

Petch Manopawitr, Thailand

Panelists:

1. Rensie Xhira Bado Panda

on Climate Change Accords/ Global Policies, Papua New Guinea

2. Floro Balato Jr.

Addressing the Effects of Climate Change, Philippines

3:45 PM

Working Coffee Break (5 mins RRB)

3:50 PM

Session 5: Blue Economy to Sustain a Healthy Future

Session Moderator:

Supranee Kampongsun

Thailand

Main Discussant:

Anna Maria M. Gonzales, Philippines

Panelists:

1. Litia Gaunavou-Tuberi

on Maritime Protection, Fiji

2. Ronnie Amorado

on The Blues

3. Khamlar Phonsavat

Phonsavat on Environmental Management, Lao PDR

5:20 PM

3-minute closing review of the day's activities (digital presentation)

- 5:23 PM **Wrap up and Synthesis**
 Arnel Jose Bañas
 Senate Deputy Secretary
 Former Humphrey-PH President
- 5:30 PM **Closing Remarks**
 Jennyfer Wong
 Office of Global Educational Programs
 U.S. Department of State
- 5:40 PM **Manila Bay Sunset Watch & Socials, Rooftop, Seda**

Sunday, September 17, 2023

- 8:30 AM **Visit to Zigzag Glass Tower (an ecozone locator) in**
 Ortigas, Pasig City
 with foreign HHH Fellows and the PH Humphrey Org'l Team
- 10:30 AM **Manila Cultural Immersion**
 (Sight Visit/Educational Tour)
- 12:00 NN **Lunch at the SEDA Hotel or Mary Grace**
 (nearby Ayala Mall)
- Afternoon **Departure of the International Delegates**

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ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

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PROFILES OF GUESTS, SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

SPECIAL GUEST



H.E. MaryKay Carlson

*Ambassador
US Embassy, Philippines*

Ambassador MaryKay Carlson began her stint in the Philippines in 2022. She previously served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, among many other assignments.

A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Ambassador Carlson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and International Studies from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. She holds a Master's Degrees from Georgetown University (International Relations) and the National War College (National Security Studies). She is married to retired Foreign Service officer Aubrey Carlson, and they have two daughters.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
SEDA MANILA BAY
PROGRAM PROPER
"DIVERSIFYING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY"

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



F. D. Nicolas Pichay
Senate of the Philippines

Humphrey Fellow
Syracuse University, 2017-2018

Director of the Senate Legislative Library Service; UP College of Law; Palanca Hall of Fame; Asian Cultural Council Grantee for Theatre (New York); South East Asia Write Awardee by the Royal family of Thailand; Hubert H. Humphrey Scholar (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, New York); author of "The Honor of the Senate", a book that memorialized the first impeachment proceedings in the country; also wrote the libretto and script of the musical: "Lapulapu, Ang Datu ng Mactan" to mark the quincentennial of the Battle of Mactan and the opening of the renovated Metropolitan Theatre.



Julio Amador

*Executive Director
Philippine American Educational Foundation
(Fulbright Commission)
Philippines*

Julio is the current Executive Director of the Philippine-American Educational Foundation (Fulbright Commission). July, as fondly called by friends and peers, is the founder and CEO of Amador Research Services.

Previously, July was the Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Service Institute at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He provides policy analysis and strategic advice on ASEAN issues, Southeast Asia security and international relations, and foreign policy to several offices in the Department of Foreign Affairs. He earned a Master of Arts in International Relations and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Security Studies as a Fulbright Graduate Scholar at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University for 2012-2013.



Benedicto Bacani

*President, Humphrey Alumni Philippines
Humphrey Fellow
University of Minnesota, 2000-2001*

Benny serves as the founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), a dynamic institution located at Notre Dame University (NDU) in Cotabato City, within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Philippines. Formerly, he held the position of Dean of the College of Law, where he also taught as an Associate Professor specializing in Political and Constitutional Law, as well as Human Rights Law at Notre Dame University.

Benny's academic pursuits led him to pursue a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, during which he delved into Federalism and Conflict Management at the University of Minnesota.



John Groch
Public Affairs Counselor
US Embassy

John arrived in Manila in September 2021 to serve as Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy. John joined the State Department as a Public Diplomacy-focused Foreign Service Officer in 2004 and has served overseas previously in the Philippines as well as in Singapore, Myanmar, and Afghanistan; he has also served several tours in Washington DC, where most recently he was the Deputy Director of Public Diplomacy in the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

John is a native of Chicago, Illinois and a graduate of Brown University (BA) and the University of Iowa (MA, PhD). Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he spent 13 years as a professor of Film and Media Studies, teaching both in the U.S. and in Turkey.



Arnel Jose S. Bañas
Deputy Secretary, Philippine Senate

Humphrey Fellow
University of Washington, 2007-2008

Arnel graduated with a B.S. Tourism degree from the University of the Philippines in 1984 (ranked 3rd), and Bachelor of Laws degree from the Ateneo de Manila College of Law in 1990. He also took up his Master of Laws degree at the University of Warwick, England in 1997 as a British Chevening Scholar. He is both an IVLP and a Hubert H. Humphrey alumnus. He undertook his HHH fellowship at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA, in 2008.

Once dubbed as HHH-PH Alumni Association's president for life, Arnel served as its president for eight (8) productive years and ably handled the staging of about 66 Humphrey Voices Series (HVS), a learning and sharing platform of the Philippine Humphrey Alumni Association; Humphrey Turon Series (HTS) for light and fun moments of Humphrey camaraderie; Humphrey Barangay for the socio-civic engagements of the alumni; and Humphrey Lakbay (travel) of the more adventurous and fun-loving Pinoy Humphrey explorers



Jennyfer Wong

*Academic Exchange Specialist
US Department of State*

Jennyfer is an Academic Exchange Specialist in the Office of Global Educational Programs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State. She joined the office in 2018 where she helps manage the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program and Community College Initiative Program. Prior to joining ECA, she worked as a program assistant at the Department's Foreign Service Institute (FSI) in the Consular Training Division, where she managed training courses for U.S. consular foreign service officers and locally employed staff. Jennyfer speaks Cantonese and Spanish. She went to the University of Florida for her undergraduate degree and holds a Master's in Public Policy from American University.



Ngọc Diễm Nguyễn

Vietnam

Humphrey Fellow

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2006-2007

Diem Nguyen was a Humphrey fellow in 2006-2007 at University of Oregon (pre-university program) and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her majors are Economic Development, Policy and Institution Analysis, and Environment. Diem has experiences working with community, NGOs, and international organizations, conducting many research projects and has publications.

Diem has been working at the Southern Institute of Social Sciences – Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences as a researcher since 2008 with different roles and positions. She is also a co-founder of JPK Animal Nutrition, an enterprise that serves on animal health for human health. In 2012, Diem established a trial animal farm which applies zero-antibiotic system by natural nutrition. Diem also started two farming projects which support local workers in the highland since 2020.



Vichetratha Khlok
Cambodia

*Humphrey Fellow
Indiana University, Indianapolis, 2021-2022*

After completing the Distinguished Humphrey Fellowship Program on Climate Change, taking place at Indiana University in August 2022, Vichetratha has returned back to her workplace, where she is a Deputy Director of the Climate Change Department, General Directorate of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Environment, in charge of offices of Climate Change Knowledge Management and GHG Inventory and Mitigation Office, continuing her work in policies review, NDC and LTS4CN coordination, working with CCTWG members from Line-Ministries and Development Partners, joining the organization of the training workshop, meetings, joining in the preparation of knowledge management materials and also as National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point to UNFCCC, working related to Gender and Climate Change, Climate Change and Health. Joining several workshops and meetings in and outside the country. Joined with other Cambodian Delegates to the COP26, COP27, and SB58 in the climate change negotiations.

Vichet earned her Bachelor's degree in Education from the Royal University of Phnom Penh and Master's degree in Education from Nagoya University, Japan and pursuing her Ph.D. through Graduate School of International Development, Nagoya University under the "Transnational Doctoral Programs for Leading Professionals in Asian Countries", delivered in close collaboration with Nagoya University's Asian Satellite Campuses Institute.



Putli Suharni Samanodi-Candao
Philippines

*Humphrey Fellow
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, 2004-2005*

Suh has dedicated 28 years to her legislative role at the Senate of the Philippines. During this tenure, she adeptly managed the Committee on Foreign Relations for a span of 15 years, among her other committee responsibilities. She is an alumna of both the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program on Public Policy and e-Governance and the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP-2001) on e-Commerce and the Global Economy. She holds degrees in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Bachelor of Laws from the University of San Carlos in Cebu; and a Master in Public Management degree at the Ateneo School of Government, Ateneo de Manila University. Presently, she contributes her expertise as an in-house speaker of the Legis Quorum—a knowledge sharing platform of the Senate. She is currently with the Senate Legislative Research Service. But beyond her titles and dedication to public service, Suh's passions paint a vivid picture of her persona. A culinary enthusiast, devoted teacher, and avid traveler who loves to write.

MAIN DISCUSSANTS



Jan Redmond Dela Vega

Bureau of Int'l Trade Relations

Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines

Jan is a Senior Trade-Industry Development Specialist of the Regional Relations and Arrangements Division of the DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations (BITR-RRAD). He represents the Philippines as Lead in the Trade in Services (TIS) negotiations and desk officer handling overall engagements of the Philippines in various international trade fora, particularly for ASEAN Free Trade Agreements negotiations (i.e. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership, ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA) and in facilitating economic cooperation with select Dialogue Partners (i.e. United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, ASEAN Plus Three, among others). He likewise served as Officer-in-Charge of BITR-RRAD from January – May 2023 during which the Philippines secured Senate concurrence in the ratification of the RCEP Agreement. Mr. Dela Vega earned his degree in Master of Arts in Political Economy with Specialization in International Relations and Development from the University of Asia and the Pacific.



Secretary Ivan Uy

Department of ICT, Philippines

Humphrey Fellow

University of Minnesota, 1998-1999

Ivan attended the Ateneo de Manila University where he gained his Bachelor of Arts degree, then went to the University of the Philippines where he obtained a law degree in 1988. He took his Humphrey fellowship program at the University of Minnesota in the United States.

Ivan was the former Chairman of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology under President Benigno Aquino III. He oversaw the conceptualization of the Philippine Digital Strategy from 2011 to 2016.



Achmad Fauzi

Indonesia

Humphrey Fellow

Boston University, 2009-2010

Following after the Humphrey Program at Boston University in 2010, Achmad has successfully received a scholarship from the Belgium Government to take his advanced master degree in Antwerp during 2010-2011. Back to his office at the Indonesian Debt Management Office, Mr. Fauzi served as the accounting manager from 2012 to 2015. In 2016, he has been awarded a scholarship by the Indonesian Government to pursue his doctoral degree at Australian National University and received his doctorate in 2020. For the last three years, Mr. Fauzi has been the securities manager at the Directorate General of Budget Financing and Risk Management, Ministry of Finance. Mr. Fauzi is also a lecture at various universities in Jakarta. He is currently serving as panel member on the interview selection of Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program in Indonesia.



Petch Manopawitr

Thailand

Humphrey Fellow

Cornell University, 2008-2009

Petch is a seasoned conservation scientist with over a quarter-century's experience in biodiversity conservation, protected area management, and sustainability science. Holding a PhD from the University of Victoria, Canada, Petch previously served as Conservation Director for WWF Thailand and Deputy for IUCN SE Asia. Today, he is a Technical Advisor for global entities like UNDP, UNEP-WCMC, and WCS, and is actively involved in boards of foundations like Green World, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, and Earth Agenda Foundation. Additionally, he co-founded the sustainability enterprise ReReef in 2017. Recognized as a National Geographic Explorer in 2018, Petch has been an environmental writer since 1995, garnering awards like the Green Globe and Best Green Change Maker Influencer. His accolades include the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, WCS Clive Marsh Conservation Scholarship, and recognition as Thailand's Outstanding Fulbright Alumni in 2021. He made it to the Thailand Future List in 2022.



Anna Maria Gonzales
Philippines

*Humphrey Fellow
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2001-2002*

Anna possesses over 35 years of expertise in housing, planning, and the built environment. For 12 years, she has been a pivotal corporate sustainability figure at Ayala Land Inc., a premier real estate firm in the Philippines. Since 2011, she's headed their sustainability unit, enhancing their local and global ESG stance. Gonzales has integrated climate action and circular economy approaches into the firm's main objectives, setting targets for GHG emissions and waste plastic usage in construction. She supervises Ayala Land's six forest carbon sites across the Philippines, which contributed to a 14% emissions reduction in 2022. Her team is currently drafting the company's Net Zero strategies, aiming for decarbonization by 2050. Before Ayala Land, Gonzales contributed to various projects focusing on urban poor and indigenous communities, participatory planning, and infrastructure development across 8 cities. She studied architecture and planning at the University of the Philippines and Erasmus University. Her dedication to climate action is motivated by her commitment to the future of her three grandchildren and subsequent generations.

PANELISTS



Fitrian Ardiansyah
Indonesia

*Humphrey Fellow
Indiana University-Indianapolis, 2021-2022*

Fitrian is an Impact Investor and Social Entrepreneur. He is ESG and Impact Director of ACLF, ADM Capital Climate. He is co-leading the development of project pipeline related to sustainable commodities and supply chains in agriculture, forestry and aquaculture. He is also a member of Global Advisory Committee to PepsiCo, a regional committee member for Tropical Forest Alliance/World Economic Forum (TFA/WEF) in Southeast Asia, and advisory board member of LTKL (Sustainable District Alliance) in Indonesia.



Khairuddin Md Tahir

Malaysia

Humphrey Fellow

University of California – Davis, 1988-1989

Khairuddin has been involved in agricultural and rural development in various capacities for nearly 50 years. Among his assignments in Malaysia were to prepare regional development plans for the Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister Department, coordinate training programs at the Centre for Economic and Policy Analysis, National Institute of Public Administration, and a consultation team member crafting the National Agrofood Policy (2011-20) for the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrobased Industry. His last posting of 32 years of public service was as Deputy Director General Department of Agriculture Malaysia. At the international level he was Malaysia's representative and Agriculture Attache to UN FAO Rome and CEO of International Tropical Fruit Network (TFNet). Over the years he was also a trainer and consultant to international organisations for the governments of Oman, Kenya, Syria and Afghanistan. He is currently President of Humphrey Fellows Association of Malaysia. He graduated in Bachelor of Agric Sc University of New England Australia and MSc Cornell University USA.



Josephine Migalbin

Philippines

Humphrey Fellow

University of California - Davis, 2007-2008

Jo has an illustrious career in agriculture and education, having served in the field for over 40 years. She has held multiple leadership roles at the University of Southern Mindanao, including Dean of the College of Agriculture from 2018-2021 where she brought forth reforms, implemented outcomes-based education, focused on enhancing faculty capabilities, and ensured that the college retained its esteemed status as a Center of Excellence in Agriculture Education. Post her tenure as dean, Jo was appointed Director of the SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research & Development Consortium (SOXAARRDEC) where she supervises 20-member institutions dedicated to research, technology transfer, and science communication in the Agri-fisheries sector. She also leads the formulation of a strategic plan for the priority agricultural commodities of the SOCCSKSARGEN Region. Her expertise has also been recognized internationally, as evidenced by her 8-year consultancy with the JICA, as well as engagements with the FAO-UN and the Korea International Cooperation Agency. Jo remains committed to education as a Professor VI, teaching animal science courses in both undergraduate and graduate levels. She also continues her research and educational endeavors related to Halal.



Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed

Malaysia

Humphrey Fellow

Boston University, 1980-1981

Dato' Sri Mustapa is a retired politician where he most recently served as the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) until 2022. He has held several government positions, including as the Deputy Finance Minister, Minister for Entrepreneur Development, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Minister for Higher Education, and Minister for Agriculture and Agro-based Industry. He graduated with a First-Class Honors degree in Economics from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a Masters in Economic Development from Boston University. He participated in Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program in 1980.



Aleem Guiapal

General Manager, Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Humphrey Fellow

State University of Michigan, 2017-2018

Aleem presently holds the position of General Manager of the Philippine Halal Industry at the Department of Trade and Industry. He formerly served at the Philippine Economic Zone Authority. Previously, he also served as the Bureau Director of Muslim Economic Affairs at the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

Aleem's educational journey encompasses a wide range of disciplines, including Political Science, Law, a Masters in Development Management, and a Certificate in Islamic Microfinance, Negotiation, and Resource Mobilization. During his Humphrey Fellowship year in 2017-2018, Aleem was affiliated with the State University of Michigan, where his focus centered on Economic (Ecozone) Development.



Jesusa Natividad Roxas

Philippines

Humphrey Fellow

American University, 2001-2002

Jena is a seasoned Finance professional who spent many years in development banking, agri-manufacturing and building & construction materials industries. During her Hubert H. Humphrey fellowship year from 2001-2002 at the American University in Washington DC, she focused on Development Finance and Banking, particularly microfinance, and did fellowship work at the Grameen Foundation and International Finance Corporation. At the early part of her career, she was in the academe, teaching at Ateneo - Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro for 5 years. Presently, Jena is working out of South Cotabato for an agri-manufacturing company that advocates People, Planet and Prosperity. It works closely with farmers and farm cooperatives to ensure sustainable growth in the communities where it operates.



Latu Sera Kaukilakeba

Fiji

Humphrey Fellow

Boston University, 2016-2017

Latu possesses a 12-year background in central banking with a specialization in sustainable finance and financial inclusion. She delves into areas such as digital financial services, green finance, gender-inclusive financing, and the impact of Secured Transactions Reform (STR) on SME lending. Representing the RBF, Latu is an active member of the global Alliance for Financial Inclusion's (AFI) Inclusive Finance Working Group, earning recognition for her contributions in March 2023. In collaboration with Griffith University, Australia, and ADB-Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative, Latu supports research on green finance and STR impact evaluations. She played a pivotal role in the RBF team's success in securing the 2023 FLPMI Research Prize on Gender Inclusivity from TUFTS University. Additionally, she co-authored a notable publication on green finance determinants in small island economies, which earned her the RBF Governors Award in May 2023. Latu's academic achievements include a Master of Commerce in Economics, Bachelor of Arts from the University of the South Pacific, and a Postgraduate diploma in International Relations & Diplomacy from the University of Fiji.



Rima Hasanah

Indonesia

Humphrey Fellow

Boston University, 2021-2022

Rima is an accomplished project manager and policy analyst with ten years of extensive experience in nationwide and multinational economic development and community empowerment programs. Currently, she serves as a Monitoring Officer at the ASEAN Secretariat, where she closely liaises and coordinates monitoring and evaluation activities of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint projects. Her previous role was as a Senior Policy Analyst of Tourism and Creative Economy at the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime and Investment Affairs in Indonesia, where she analyzed, evaluated, and provided improvement recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of current policies and nationwide programs in the tourism and creative economy sectors, aligning them with the country's long-term and short-term goals and targets. Rima was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at Boston University, USA in 2021-2022 concentrated in Economic Development. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia, a Master's degree in Development Studies from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, as well as certifications in project monitoring and evaluation from the University of Bern, Switzerland.



Phongsavanh Phomkong

Lao PDR

Humphrey Fellow

Boston University, 2006-2007

Phong has worked at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Lao PDR since 2008, started with business environment advisory program before moving to investment stream, then transferred to country management role. He has served as Head of Office for IFC Lao PDR since 2014. Prior to IFC, Phong worked with several international institutions overseas and within Lao PDR in the fields of finance and private sector development. Phong obtained a Bachelor's degree of Pharmacy from National University of Laos, Master's degree of Innovation and Entrepreneurship from ESCP-EAP in Paris, Master's degree of Business Administration (MBA) from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand, and a post Graduate Diploma's degree in Banking and Financial Services from Boston University, USA. Phong is a Laotian, he speaks Thai, English and French.



Rensie Xhira Bado
Papua New Guinea

*Humphrey Fellow
University of California - Davis, 2014-2015*

Rensie, a graduate in Business Management with a focus on Public Policy Management from the University of Papua New Guinea, has devoted over 13 years to public service, with nearly 12 of those years concentrated on international Climate Change and Environment Sustainability negotiations for PNG. Internationally, she has served on boards like the UNREDD and World Bank FCPF between 2012 and 2013, and has been associated with organizations such as the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and REDD+ Partnership. Ms. Panda has not only spent a decade in international negotiations but also led PNG delegations for six years at the Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings under the UNFCCC. Notably, she was one of the mere three from PNG who had a direct hand in crafting the historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change from 2012 to 2015. Currently, Ms. Panda is the Manager Community Outreach at the National Energy Authority's Policy and Planning Division and chairs the Energy Sub-Technical Committee, guiding PNG's energy security discussions under the Forum of Response Measures.



Floro Balato, Jr.
Philippines

*Humphrey Fellow
University of Minnesota, 2016-2017*

Floro is a lawyer with 20 years' work experience in the government and private sector. Affectionately known as YB, he hails from the province of Eastern Samar, that faces the expansive Pacific Ocean—a region notorious for incubating and bearing the brunt of the fiercest typhoons, thus significantly affected by the consequences of climate change. He used to serve as its Provincial Administrator overseeing disaster response and mitigation efforts.

During YB's Humphrey year, he finished courses on Public Safety Leadership, Policy, Planning and Management. He has a Master's degree in Public Management from the Ateneo School of Government, Ateneo de Manila University; a Juris Doctor degree from the Univ. of Santo Tomas; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences major in Psychology from the University of the Philippines, Tacloban.



Litia Gaunavou-Tuberi

Fiji

Humphrey Fellow

University of California - Davis, 2017-2018

Litia holds the role of Geospatial (GIS) Technical Officer at the Pacific Community (SPC). Her responsibilities focus on curating authoritative maritime boundaries datasets from SPC member, as well as providing technical support to the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). She specializes in the pre-processing of high-resolution satellite data and her work has revolved around the exploration of sustainable natural resource development. During her Humphrey Fellowship, she provided assistance at the Center for Spatial Technologies and Remote Sensing (CSTARS). Litia is the driving force behind the establishment of the Pacific Geospatial Women Network, which seeks to empower women and girls in this field through mentorship and collaborative learning. Presently, Litia serves as a United Nations Nippon Fellow, conducting research on Maritime Boundaries in the Pacific and charting a path forward at the esteemed World Maritime University in Sweden.



Ronnie Amorado

Philippines

Humphrey Fellow

Syracuse University, 2009-2010

Ronnie is an accomplished researcher, author, and academic with a diverse background. He has held multiple roles in the academic world, including professor, director, and academic vice president. Notably, he was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow in the US, where he conducted research on leadership and citizenship. His authored and co-authored books span various genres, including leadership, citizenship, corruption, practical research, and biography. His achievements are extensive: he received awards such as the Outstanding Book Award from the National Academy of Science & Technology and recognition from the International Association of Multidisciplinary Research. In 2019, he was honored with the Leaders and Achievers of Davao Award for leadership development. In 2023, he received the Outstanding Individual in the Field of Writing award from the Instabright Global Excellence Award. Dr. Amorado's wealth of knowledge from his Humphrey Fellowship has led him to be a sought-after lecturer on topics like leadership development and ethical integrity.



Khamlar Phonsavat

Lao PDR

*Humphrey Fellow
Cornell University, 2013-2014*

Khamlar is GGGI Lao PDR's Senior Officer, Climate and Carbon and leads the country office's Climate Unit. Prior to joining GGGI, she was Deputy Managing Director of Nam Ngiep 1 Power Company in Lao PDR responsible for environmental and social management. Before that, she worked as Climate Change Specialist at the World Bank Lao PDR where she was engaged on climate change, carbon finance and disaster risk reduction portfolios in Lao PDR and Cambodia. Khamlar holds a Master's in Environment from the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Management from Flinders University, Australia. Khamlar loves gardening and has travelled to over 50 countries.

MODERATORS



Katryn Cadiente

Philippines

*Humphrey Fellow
American University Washington College of Law,
2011-2012*

Kat is a lawyer who is currently the Director for the Basic Education Committee of the Senate of the Philippines. She shepherds the drafting and passage of bills and resolutions referred to the committee, supervises the conduct of public hearings, presides over technical working group meetings, assists during plenary debates, presides over pre-bicameral conference committee meetings, and supervises the holding of bicameral conference committee meetings. She used to be the Director for the Economic Affairs Committee where key roles involved developing legislations concerning the economy, taxation, trade, banks, labor, and finance. Prior to her stint at the Senate, she worked as a law clerk for fourteen years at the Supreme Court of the Philippines where she has served two Chief Justices. She was then designated by the Court as member of its management committees on procurement and judicial reform. She likewise served as a member of the Editorial Staff of the Court Systems Journal. Kat, a teacher at heart, also served as professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines Manila.



Amy A. Avellano

Philippines

Humphrey Fellow

University of Minnesota, 2008-2009

Amy is a family court judge and serves as the executive judge in her designated territorial jurisdiction. Concurrently, she lectures at the Philippine Judicial Academy and is a proud founding member of HUKOM, Inc., an organization dedicated to upholding judicial integrity, independence, and professionalism among Filipino trial court judges.

Some of Amy's expertise center in family law, gender rights, juvenile justice, and gender-sensitive case adjudication, with a focus on restorative justice and harm reduction. Educationally, Amy holds degrees in BA Mass Communications from St. Theresa's College, a Law degree from the University of San Carlos, and a Master of Laws from the University of Minnesota Law School. Further, she pursued a post-graduate diploma in Children, Youth, and Development from the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, in The Netherlands.



Rommel Miranda

Philippines

Humphrey Fellow

University of Minnesota, 2010-2011

This alumnus has put up a media production company and a martial arts dojo, on top of some consultancy work. While his main areas of interest are law enforcement and human rights, he transitioned to the vibrant, colorful world of media production that allowed him to work on producing TV shows, documentaries, commercials, and other media/TV-related projects. He has been busy in social organizations. He was Vice President and now Press Relations Officer/Board Member of Humphrey Alumni Philippines; President of his high school alma matter since 2018; Secretary General of a martial arts National Sports Association (Kurash Sports Federation of the Philippines, Inc.) since 2019; and Secretary General of Pinoy Judo Association, Inc., a national association of Judokas and Judo clubs in the Philippines focused in the grassroot development of the martial art and sport Judo in the country.



Marie Tanya Z. Recalde
Philippines

*Humphrey Fellow
Boston University, 2019-2020*

Tanya is a lawyer, economist, and central banker with a strong background in financial regulation and policy, financial inclusion, international relations, and trade negotiation. As a lawyer trained in three jurisdictions, she is knowledgeable about relevant Philippine, United Kingdom, and American laws and regulations on banking and finance. During her Fellowship year, she focused on learning about banking regulations in the US as well as the latest fintech innovations and how they are regulated. When the COVID-19 pandemic started, just when recession and financial loss were imminent, she seized the opportunity to co-author a law book on “Credit, Secured Transactions and Insolvency,” which became the first (and only) law book in the Philippines which discusses the various laws on credit, secured transactions and insolvency in one easily readable, comprehensive, and updated book. She is a Deputy Director in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) where she heads the Research and Technical Studies Group of the Payments and Settlements Department.



Supranee Kampongsun
Thailand

*Humphrey Fellow
Cornell University, 2020-2021*

Pern is the Head of Office at IUCN Thailand Programme. At the present, she oversees the overall management of the country program and fund raising for conservation priorities in Thailand. She has more than ten years of experience in community engagement on natural resources and environmental management. Pern holds a master’s degree in environmental security and governance. Her professional concentration is on community based natural resources management, community resilience building and nature-based solutions.

Currently, she is facilitating the coordination of the World Heritage nomination between the Thai government and the IUCN official advisory team on nature under the World Heritage Convention. Pern’s professional passion led her to pursue a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University focusing on Natural resource, Environmental policy, and Climate Change in 2020-2021.

PHILIPPINE ORGANIZING TEAM

- 1. Benedicto Bacani**
- 2. Arnel Bañas**
- 3. Suh Candao**
- 4. Marie Tanya Recalde**
- 5. Darlene Pajarito**
- 6. Aubrey Bahala**
- 7. Rommel Miranda**
- 8. Floro Balato, Jr.**
- 9. Nicolas Pichay**
- 10. Aleem Guiapal**
- 11. James Sy**

SECRETARIAT:

- 1. Mayette Bustamante**
- 2. Sherrilyn Faustino**
- 3. Zam Samanodi**
- 4. Irene Fernandez**
- 5. Rufo Tayrus**



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2023

EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC

HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE: DIVERSIFYING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY