



Decent work and just transition to address climate change Towards a successful COP21

Monday 12 October 2015, 10:30-12:00
ILO, Room V, R3 South

Biographies

Senator Dr. The Hon. Esther R. BYER SUCKOO, Barbados

Senator Dr. the Honourable Esther R. Byer Suckoo holds the title of Minister of Labour and Social Security of Barbados and was re-appointed to this portfolio on 28 February 2013, with the addition of Human Resource Development.

She was born in Barbados in 1968 and attended Queen's College, where she not only succeeded academically, but was also a well-rounded student, eventually becoming the Deputy Head Girl.

She won a Government Exhibition in 1987 and proceeded to the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, where she pursued medical studies. She qualified as a medical doctor in 1993. Dr. Byer Suckoo returned to Barbados and worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the island's premier medical institution, for the next three years.

In 1997, she established the Ellerton Medical Centre in her hometown, where she was the sole operator, until she was elected as the Member of Parliament for the St. George South constituency in 2008, general elections.

She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP). She served the latter as General Secretary and Vice President. Dr. Byer Suckoo is the mother of three boys.

H.E. Cecilia B. REBONG, Philippines

H.E. Cecilia B. Rebong assumed her position as Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations on 10 December 2013. A career diplomat, she brings thirty years of professional diplomatic experience to her post.



Before her appointment, Ambassador Rebong served as Chief Coordinator at the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2013, a position which she also held from 2000 to 2001.

Ambassador Rebong was the Philippine Consul General in New York from 2004 to 2010 with jurisdiction over ten northeastern states of the United States of America. From 2001 to 2003, she served as Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs and Chief of Presidential Protocol at the Office of the President of the Philippines.

Ambassador Rebong served twice at the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York (as Third Secretary from 1982 to 1989 and as Minister Counselor from 1995 to 1997) where she handled political, social and humanitarian issues, human rights, economic and sustainable development issues, as well as operational activities of the United Nations development agencies.

She also held various positions at the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations and Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, she served as First Secretary and Consul at the Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Rebong is a recipient of two awards from the President of the Philippines namely, the Gawad Mabini, Rank of Dakilang Kamanong, and the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Grand Officer (Rangong Marangal na Pinuno).

Ambassador Rebong graduated with Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila. She had attended numerous training programs for the Philippine Diplomats. She is married with two children.

Vicente Paolo B. YU, South Centre

Vicente Paolo B. Yu III is currently the Programme Coordinator of the South Centre's Global Governance for Development Programme and concurrently serves as Head of Administration. His substantive policy work includes overseeing the policy research and analysis and the provision of technical and legal advice by the South Centre to developing country delegations on global political, economic, social and environmental issues, including on trade, environment, development, and climate change.

Vicente obtained his political science (with honours) and law degrees from the University of the Philippines, and his master of laws degree (with honours, specializing in international trade law and international environmental law) from Georgetown University where he was a Fulbright Scholar. Prior to joining the South Centre, he worked for Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) and was a Staff Attorney and head for Research and Policy Development of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC) in the Philippines.



Vicente has also served as a negotiator for the Philippines and for Bolivia in climate change negotiations. He has been a law professor (at the University of the Philippines College of Law and the University of Tulsa College of Law) and as trade policy course director for the Geneva Summer Programme of Duke University's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy. He has published papers and articles on issues relating to trade and environment, sustainable development, environmental policy, climate change policy, and indigenous peoples' rights.

H.E. Luis Enrique CHAVEZ BASAGOITIA, Peru

H.E. Luis Enrique Chavez Basagoitia, the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations Office at Geneva, served as Director General for Multilateral and Global Affairs at the Peruvian Foreign Ministry in 2012. In 2011, he was Director General of Protocol and Ceremony of the State. He was Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations in New York from 2006 to 2010 and was Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1996 to 2001. He has represented Peru in various international and United Nations conferences.

Ambassador Chavez Basagoitia is a career diplomat. In 2005 and 2006, he served as Consul General of Peru in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He also served as Second Secretary at the Embassy of Peru in Colombia from 1991 to 1993, and Third Secretary at the Embassy of Peru in Venezuela from 1987 to 1991. He has held numerous posts at the Foreign Ministry in Lima after joining the Foreign Service in 1985.

Ambassador Chavez Basagoitia has taught international negotiation and diplomacy to post graduate students at the University San Martin de Porres in Peru and has taught diplomacy and diplomatic communication at the Diplomatic Academy of Peru. He holds a degree in international relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Peru and has followed studies at the Law Faculty of the Buenos Aires University in Argentina and the Faculty of Law at the University San Martin de Porres in Lima, Peru. He also holds degrees from the International Institute of Public Administration in Paris and the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Paris 1. He has born in Lima, Peru on 17 August 1961 and is married with three children.

H.E. Elisabeth LAURIN, France

H.E. Elisabeth Laurin is the French Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva and to other international organizations in Switzerland.

Born in 1952, Ambassador Laurin studied economics and did her graduate studies at the Institute for oriental studies and languages, specializing in Japanese and Chinese. She has held multiple titles and distinctions since then.



Some of her previous roles include the Head of Directorate for Asia and Oceania for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of France to the Republic of Korea, and Deputy Head of Directorate for Asia and Oceania for the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, just to name a few.

Ambassador Laurin was also awarded two distinctions: The Knight of the Order of the Legion of honour in 2005, and the Knight of the National Order of Merit in 2001.

Steven STONE, UNEP

Steven Stone is the Chief of UNEP's Geneva-based Economics and Trade Branch (ETB). He holds a PhD in Resource Economics from Cornell University and has more than 20 years of professional experience in environmental and natural resource management.

Steven Stone is the Chief of the Economics and Trade Branch, part of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a post he has held since 2010, where he directs a team dedicated to furthering the knowledge base and outreach and support to countries on environmental and resource economics as key components of economic and trade policy. Some of the key flagships under his leadership include the Green Economy Initiative, the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), among others.

Prior to joining UNEP, Steven worked at the Inter-American Development Bank, serving in a number of capacities from Resource Economist in Washington to Environmental Specialist in the Bank's offices in both Jamaica and Ecuador to Country Representative in Honduras. Before joining IDB, Steven led field research in Brazil as part of the team at the Instituto do Homem e Meio Ambiente in Belem, Para for a number of years. He has also worked at the World Bank on resource and agricultural economics with Uma Lele, among others.

Steven earned an M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Resource Economics from Cornell University, following his B.A. with Honors from Swarthmore College. He has authored and co-authored numerous journal articles and blogs in the field of environmental and resource economics, and in addition to his ongoing responsibilities at UNEP also serves on the Advisory Board of the Center for International Environmental Studies at the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

Peter POSCHEN, ILO

Peter Poschen works for the International Labor Organization (ILO) as the Director of Job Creation and Enterprise Development. He is the main author of the latest Green Jobs Report, Working Towards Sustainable Development. In his



view, not only is the shift to green jobs necessary, but it could also contribute to youth job creation in a context of global recession.

Peter has over 25 years of experience on four continents in sustainable development with a focus on the social dimensions of the use of natural resources. He is currently Director of the Enterprises Department of the ILO in Geneva, where he continues to be responsible for the coordination of the ILO Global Green Jobs Programme.

Born in 1955, Peter holds a PhD in sciences from the University of Freiburg in Germany (1987), an MSc in forestry (1980) and a Diploma in 'Modeling and accounting for sustainable development' from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague (2006). After joining the ILO in 1986, Peter has served in various capacities: providing technical support to the infrastructure field programmes in Africa (1988-90), forestry and wood industries specialist in the Sectoral Activities Department (1991-94), coordinator of the Environment and World of Work Country Programme, based in Santiago, Chile (1994/95), team leader in the Sectoral Activities Department (1996-2002), coordinator of the Decent Work Pilot Programmes in the Policy Integration Department (2002-2005) and Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development (2006-2009).

Before joining the ILO, Peter served as a volunteer in Ethiopia (1981-84) and worked as a researcher at the University of Freiburg.

Moustapha Kamal GUEYE, ILO

Moustapha Kamal Gueye is Policy Specialist - Green Jobs, at the International Labour Organization, working to promote positive employment outcomes of policies on climate change, green economy and sustainable development. Previously, Kamal served as Head, Green Economy Advisory Services at United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Senior Programme Manager-Environment at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva.

Earlier, Kamal spent twelve years across Asia, managing policy research projects on renewable energy, environment and sustainable development at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan. He is a member of the Management Committee of the Global Social Observatory and participates in the World Economic Forum-ICTSD Expert Group on "Measures to Address Climate Change and the Trade System".

A citizen of Senegal, Kamal holds a Ph.D. and Master degrees from Nagoya University, Japan; DEA and LL.M from Dakar University; and Executive Certificates from the World Bank Institute, Washington; Columbia University, NY; Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Japan; and Integrated Research and Action for Development, India. He is a visiting lecturer at the University of Tokyo and the Graduate Institute of International and



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Development Studies in Geneva. Kamal speaks Wolof, French, English and Japanese.

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