



DATA X BLUE PACIFIC

23–25 October 2024 • Sydney, Australia



SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS



Shane Rosenthal

Regional Director, Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office, Asian Development Bank

As the Regional Director of its Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO) in Sydney, Shane oversees the implementation and operations in Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

In addition to its programming, processing, and administration work in Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, ADB's Sydney office is the bank's sector hub for the development of private and finance sectors for the 14 Pacific developing member countries. PLCO's location in Sydney enables ADB to work closely with key bilateral development partners, including Australia, New Zealand, the World Bank Group, and other multilateral institutions in the region.

A national of Australia, Mr. Rosenthal holds a Master of Philosophy in economics from the University of Cambridge and a Master of arts in economics and African studies from Johns Hopkins University. He has 30 years of development experience, including 19 years with ADB where he has held several leadership positions, including extensive experience working in Armenia, Georgia, Mongolia, and Timor-Leste.



Antonio Zaballos

Director, Digital Technology for Development Division, Asian Development Bank

Antonio García Zaballos is the Director of Digital Technologies for Development at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Before joining the ADB, he was a Lead Specialist in Telecommunications for the Institutions for Development and also led the broadband initiative at the Inter-American Development Bank. Antonio has extensive experience in the telecom sector, having held various positions of responsibility. At Deloitte Spain, he led the regulation and strategy practice for Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to that, he was the Chief Economist at Telefónica's Cabinet for Economic Studies of Regulation in Spain. Before joining Telefónica, Antonio served as Deputy Director of Economic Analysis and Markets at the Spanish Telecom Regulator (CMT).

Antonio also serves as a member and expert on several committees, including the World Economic Forum and the International Telecommunication Union. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University Carlos III of Madrid and has been an associate professor of applied finance for telecommunications at the Instituto de Empresa Business School, as well as a professor of economic regulation at American University and Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of numerous publications on economic and regulatory aspects of the telecommunications sector.



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Robert Guild

Team Leader, PRIF Coordination Office

Robert is an expert on infrastructure investment for social and economic development. He holds degrees in civil engineering, public administration, urban and regional planning, and international development and began his career as an engineer in the United States prior to working extensively for bilateral and multilateral agencies in international development. He has advised governments, the private sector, and multilateral institutions in over two dozen countries in Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America.

Prior to joining PRIF, Robert was with the Asian Development Bank since 2003 where he served as Chief Sector Officer; Director for Transport for East Asia; Director for Transport, Energy, and Natural Resources for the Pacific; and Transport Specialist for the Pacific. He spent four years as the Economic Infrastructure Adviser at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Fiji and served two years as a volunteer in the Solomon Islands.



Tanya Morjanoff

Director, Infrastructure Policy and Engagement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Tanya leads DFAT's infrastructure policy and implementation through Australian infrastructure investment in the Indo-Pacific. She also leads engagement with like minded partners to lift infrastructure quality globally and provide maximum impact for partners.

Tanya has over 15 years experience in international development, economics and foreign affairs, working with DFAT, AusAID and the Productivity Commission, including overseas assignments in Solomon Islands, Indonesia and Malaysia. She holds a Master of International and Development Economics (ANU) and Bachelor of Resource Economics with first class honours (University of Sydney).



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Kim V. Tuminaro

Deputy Director, Bilateral Affairs, International Information and Communications Policy Division, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, US State Department

Ms. Tuminaro is the Deputy Director of Bilateral Affairs in the International Information and Communications Policy division of the State Department's Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP). In this capacity she supervises a 12-person office covering digital policy, standards, and emerging tech policy globally. From 2022-2023 she was the Director of Multilateral Affairs in CDP, supervising a staff managing preparations for the ITU WRC negotiations and digital/emerging tech meetings at the OECD, G7/20, APEC, and the UN. Ms. Tuminaro was a White House Leadership Development Program fellow from 2018 to 2019. She previously worked as a Senior Trade Advisor in the Europe and Eurasian Bureau at the Department of State (2011-2022), she served as U.S. secretariat for the Transatlantic Economic Council, a cabinet-level forum supporting initiatives on emerging technologies and advised U.S.-EU trade negotiations on regulations and standards.

She holds an MBA in International Finance and BA in International Relations, both from The George Washington University. She is married and has two children.



Katherine Halliburton

Lead Advisor - Digital; Pacific and Development Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand

Ms. Halliburton is the Lead Digital Adviser in the Pacific and Development Group at New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She leads digital policy and project implementation, including on NZ-supported telecommunications infrastructure, cyber security and digital transformation projects in the Pacific Islands. She previously worked in other areas of Pacific infrastructure development. Before joining MFAT, she held roles in a number of sectors, including engineering, project management and New Zealand government energy and communications policy.



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Dr. Amanda Watson

Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University

Dr. Amanda H A Watson is a Fellow at the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. Dr Watson's research focuses on digital technologies in the Pacific Islands region. Her expertise includes undersea cables and telecommunications. Dr Watson has a particular interest in mobile telephone access, uptake and use in Papua New Guinea. She has recently secured research funding to conduct research on satellite communication technologies in the Pacific region.



Steven Matainaho

Secretary, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Papua New Guinea

Mr. Steven Matainaho is the secretary for the Papua New Guinea Department of Information and Communication Technology. For the last two years, he has led the reform of Papua New Guinea's digital sector through the formulation of the Digital Transformation Policy, the Digital Government Act 2022, and the Digital Government (Medium Term) Plan 2023–2027.

Mr. Steven Matainaho holds a Master of Business Administration (2015) from Wuhan University of Technology (People's Republic of China), is certified in Cloud Infrastructure Technology, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics with Electronics and Instrumentation (2002) from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

At the age of 14, Mr. Matainaho self-taught himself as a programmer, and this eventually led to his engagement in several capacities within Papua New Guinea's higher education sector, initially as a lecturer in engineering mathematics and physics at the PNG University of Technology (2006) and later as a lecturer in physics and object-oriented programming at the Pacific Adventist University (2010).

In 2017, Mr. Matainaho led the rollout of Papua New Guinea's National Online Selection System and the National Online Application System.



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Dr. Stefan Hajkowicz

Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University

Stefan is a chief research consultant at CSIRO who bridges the gap between science and strategy. He designs and delivers presentations and strategy workshops to CSIRO clients. He wrote Australia's national AI roadmap and ethics framework. Over the past decade Stefan has delivered a large portfolio of research consultancy and advisory projects to industry and government clients on AI/digital strategy, policy and foresight. He has been appointed to professional foresight groups at the OECD and World Economic Forum. Stefan has a doctorate in geography from the University of Queensland and postgraduate qualifications in economics. His book "Global Megatrends" is a CSIRO Publishing best-seller and he has >50 peer-reviewed research publications, a h-index of 38 and >5,900 citations on Google Scholar.



Sonia Jorge

Founder and Executive Director, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership

Sonia is the Founder and Executive Director of the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP). Sonia is an experienced leader and international digital policy expert. She has successfully led global coalitions bringing together private sector, governments, and civil society actors from across the globe to deliver the policies needed to reduce the cost to connect and make universal meaningful connectivity a reality for everyone in global majority countries. As a policy advisor and gender equality advocate with experience in over 45 countries, she has led numerous digital policy and development projects in several regions and with international organizations, such as the World Bank, UNDP, UN Women, ITU, and for private sector companies and associations.

Sonia was recognized by *apolitical* as one of the World's 100 Most Influential People in Digital Government in 2019. She serves or has served as a member and expert in a number of Committees, including CGAP's Data Project, DFID's Digital Access Panel for Africa, the ITU-UN Women EQUALS Partnership, The World Economic Forum's Future of the Internet Initiative, the Broadband Commission Working Group on the Gender Digital Divide, the Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy (ACICIP) Subcommittee of the U.S. State Department on ICT4D, and the EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force. She is an Independent Board Director with KaiOS Technologies, an Advisory Board member of UNESCO's Cetic.br Regional Center and a frequent speaker at international, regional and national forums.

Sonia was the co-founder and Executive Director of the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) until September 2022. She has a Masters in Public Policy from Tufts University and degrees in Economics and Business Finance from the University of Massachusetts.



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Suzanne Bent

Suzanne Bent, Director, Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) Telecommunications Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Suzanne Bent is Director of the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) Telecommunications Unit within DFAT. AIFFP partners with governments and private sector in the Pacific and Timor-Leste, to provide grant and loan financing for high quality, transformational telecommunications, energy, water, transport and other critical infrastructure. Her prior roles with DFAT have included postings to Solomon Islands and Fiji, as well as work on DFAT's bilateral engagement in Afghanistan, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea and in the areas of Humanitarian and Emergency response and Strategic programming and Investment design. She has a passion for engagement in the Pacific.



Ivan Fong

CEO, ATH Group (Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Ltd)

Mr. Ivan Fong has vast experience in the telecommunications sector, having worked in the industry for over 28 years, with 18 years in leadership roles at Telecom Fiji Limited, ATH Group (Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Ltd), and Kacific. He served as an Executive of PITA (Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association) from 2002 and was subsequently elected President from 2010 to 2016. During his previous tenure at ATH Group, he also held the position of Chairman at Vodafone Samoa, BlueSky American Samoa, and Vodafone Vanuatu, and served as a Director at Vodafone PNG, Vodafone Cook Islands, and Vodafone Kiribati. Mr. Fong holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of New South Wales, Australia, and a Master of Business Administration from Deakin University.



Jacques-Samuel Prolon

Executive Vice President - Corporate Development, Kacific Broadband Satellites Ltd

Jacques-Samuel Prolon is highly experienced in international business within the telecommunications, space and IT sectors, having worked for Appen Butler Hill and AltranEurope. He holds an MBA from the AGSM, a Master of Telecommunications Engineering from France National Institute of Telecommunications and a Master of Medical Imaging.



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Tahani Iqbal

Digital Development Specialist, Digital Technology for Development Division, Asian Development Bank

Tahani is a public policy and regulatory affairs professional with over 15 years of experience in the digital and technology sectors within the Asia Pacific (APAC) region. Her expertise and interests include digital inclusion and development, emerging tech, infrastructure and connectivity, platform regulation, data privacy and protection, competition and trade, and telecoms regulation.

Prior to joining ADB, Tahani has held policy and regulatory positions at the World Bank, Meta (Facebook), Axiata Group Berhad, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership, Nanyang Technological University, and LIRNEasia. She has developed and led initiatives focused on infrastructure and connectivity policy and regulation, and contributed to research and analysis on technology and digitization reforms, data protection, cybersecurity, the future of work, and on issues related to gender and accessibility across the APAC region.

Tahani is a Sri Lankan national. She holds a Master in Public Policy from the National University of Singapore and a BSc in Economics and Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London.



Ashnil Prasad

Chief Investment Officer / Company Secretary, ATH Group (Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Ltd)

Mr. Ashnil was appointed as the Company Secretary for ATH on 5 July 2022. He joined ATH in November 2020 as the Head of Risk and Compliance and was the Acting Head of Mergers and Acquisition prior to his appointment as the Chief Investment Officer. Prior to joining ATH, Ashnil worked as the Manager Investment Acquisition at the Fiji National Provident Fund. Ashnil completed his Master of Applied Finance studies from Macquarie University, Sydney and is a CPA charter holder.



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James Neumann

Senior Counsel, Digital Development Global Practice, The World Bank

James Neumann is senior counsel for the Digital Development Global Practice and legal adviser for Identification for Development (ID4D), a global, multi-sectoral initiative of the World Bank Group. James leads operational teams and provides legal advisory services on World Bank lending, analytical and advisory programs globally. His work is focused on the digital economy, including legal and regulatory issues related to digital infrastructure and investment, privatizations, Public Private Partnerships, competition and investment climate policy, digital identification, data governance, data protection, cybersecurity, cybercrime, digital transactions and e-commerce.

James has an LLB from the University of Canterbury and an LLM from the University of Michigan.



Dr. Ian Opperman

Co-Founder ServiceGen; Former NSW Government Chief Data Scientist

Dr. Ian Oppermann is co-founder of ServiceGen, helping Governments accelerate digital service delivery. He is also an Industry Professor at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). From 2015 to 2023, Ian was the NSW Government's Chief Data Scientist where he led the development of the NSW AI Assurance Framework and was the CEO of the NSW Data Analytics Centre (DAC) from 2015 to 2019.

Ian has an MBA from the University of London and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mobile Telecommunications from Sydney University. Ian is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers Australia, a Fellow of the IEEE, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, is a Fellow and Past President of the Australian Computer Society, Fellow of the NSW Royal Society, and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



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Mohammad Chowdhury

Lead, Long Street Advisors

Mohammad Chowdhury leads Long Street Advisors, an advisory firm founded in 2023 focused on supporting clients in Australia and globally to enable meaningful digitisation.

Mohammad tries to understand how connected technologies such as 5G, IoT, cyber, AI, fibre, data centres and satellites impact Society, Economy, Government and Nation. He has worked in 80+ countries, advising governments, telcos, tech companies and investors, including as chief advisor in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Myanmar, and has advised on major programmes in Australia and the Pacific. Mohammad previously worked at PwC, IBM and Vodafone.

He is a Visiting Fellow at UTS, a Ministerial Programme chair at Mobile World Congress, and a Council Member of the Australian Institute for International Affairs.



Jonathan Palmer

APCICT Resource Person

Over his career of more than 40 years Jonathan served as Deputy Australian Statistician and he was the CIO for Statistics New Zealand, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the International Monetary Fund. In recent years Jonathan has assisted National Statistical System Strategy development in the Pacific and he is currently working with UNESCAP and APCICT in the areas of National Data Strategy and Data Governance capacity building.



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Said Zaidansyah

Country Director, Papua New Guinea Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank

Said Zaidansyah is the Country Director for Papua New Guinea (PNG) overseeing ADB's country partnership strategy for PNG and wider engagement in the country.

A national of Indonesia, Mr. Zaidansyah graduated with a master of laws (LLM) degree from Queen Mary College of University of London under the British Chevening scholarship, and obtained bachelor of laws (LLB) from the University of Indonesia. He joined ADB under the Young Professional Program in 2002 and spent many years in the Office of the General Counsel. Mr. Zaidansyah held most recently a senior management role as the Deputy Country Director for Indonesia.



Jung-Ho Kim

Principal Operations Coordination Specialist, Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank

Mr. Jung Ho Kim is a Principal Operations Coordination Specialist in ADB's Pacific Department, where he leads the development and management of country programs for the North Pacific Countries. With over 25 years of professional experience, Mr. Kim has successfully spearheaded municipal infrastructure projects focused on enhancing public utility services in Pakistan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan. He possess a robust background in urban infrastructure development and project implementation across both the private and public sectors. His 16 years of dedicated service at ADB underscores his expertise in the field. Furthermore, his experience in investment banking, specializing in structured finance and project financing, coupled with postgraduate law degrees from Northwestern University School of Law, equips him with a comprehensive skill set.



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Kathleen Donahue

Senior Coordinator, Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, U.S. Department of State

Kathleen (Katie) M. Donahue is the Senior Coordinator for the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP) in the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP) at the U.S. Department of State. DCCP is an interagency initiative that manages and coordinates global foreign assistance programming to promote the adoption of policies and regulatory positions that encourage an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet; secure and trusted ICT infrastructure; inclusive, rights-respecting, multi-stakeholder models of internet governance; global markets for trusted ICT goods and services; data privacy best practices; and enhanced cybersecurity around the globe. Prior to DCCP, Ms. Donahue was with the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) and the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA). With over 25 years of experience managing foreign assistance to advance policy priorities, Ms. Donahue spent significant time working in conflict and post-conflict settings in the Middle East, North Africa, Southeast Asia, the Balkans, and Central America. Prior to joining the Department of State, Ms. Donahue served with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Defense (DOD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Washington D.C. non-profit organizations and on Capitol Hill with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Her work bridges policy formulation, strategic planning, and targeted diplomatic and development interventions to advance U.S. policy priorities. Outside the Department of State Ms. Donahue is an Adjunct Professor at the Elliott School for International Relations at the George Washington University. She received a Master of Science in National Security and Resource Strategy with an industry study in Energy Security and Cybersecurity from the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington DC. Ms. Donahue also holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from the George Washington University.



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Paul Twomey

CEO Argo Pacific / PRIF Consultant

Dr. Paul Twomey is Co-Convener of the Pacific Internet Multistakeholder Forum which aims to improve multi-stakeholder contributions to the development of the Internet in Pacific countries. Paul is also the Co-Chair of the Global Initiative for Digital Governance. He is a founding figure and former CEO (and Senior President) of ICANN, from March 2003 to January 2010. Paul was the founding Chair of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee for its first four years. Paul was CEO of the Australian Government's National Office for the Information Economy and Deputy at the Australian Trade Commission. Formerly with McKinsey & Company, he was a special advisor to several Australian Ministers in the Keating and Howard Governments.

Paul is a member of the SAP Artificial Intelligence Ethics Advisory Panel. Over the last several years he has been Co-chair of the digitisation working groups of the Think20 – the research and policy advice network of the G20. He is a Commissioner on the Global Information Infrastructure Commission, and a Commissioner on the Global Commission for Internet Governance (GCIG), chaired by former Swedish Prime Minister, Carl Bildt. In Washington, he served on the Board of The Atlantic Council of the United States from 2007-2018.

Paul received his PhD from the University of Cambridge.



Bruce Tonkin

COO, auDA

Dr Bruce Tonkin is the Chief Operating Officer of auDA, where he is responsible for the operations of the .au ccTLD.

Before joining auDA, Bruce was Chief Technology Officer and Chief Strategy Officer at Melbourne IT from 1999 until 2017, where over the years he has been responsible for IT infrastructure, software development, the development of the company's strategic and operating plans, strategic initiatives with major customers and suppliers, and managing the evaluation of merger and acquisition opportunities. He gained more than 15 years of experience taking cloud-based services to global markets across the USA, Europe, and Asia for both SMBs and Enterprises. Bruce also served on the Board of ICANN (Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers) for 9 years. ICANN manages the global domain name and IP addressing system for the internet.



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Jane Smith

Chief People and Culture Officer, auDA

Jane has extensive experience in transformative direction setting, strategic planning and communications, particularly within the government, education, ICT and creative industries.

Jane is an organisational strategist, a change agent and a specialist in strengthening organisations and managing disruption, innovation and sustainability.

Jane's CEO and senior executive career spans more than 25 years.

It includes:

- Adviser to federal Cabinet Ministers
- Planning and strategy roles in Telecom Australia
- Corporate Strategist; General Manager, Corporate Planning; General Manager, International and General Manager, Radio Support at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation
- Chief Executive of the NSW Film and Television Office
- Vice-President Australia for Seed Productions, actor Hugh Jackman's production company

Jane has held board roles at organisations including Federation University, Classification Review Board, Melbourne Writers Festival, and Mobile Premium Services Code Review.

Jane established her own consultancy, the shiny shiny world, through which she worked with the Australian Institute of Architects, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M.A.D.E), the LGBTIQ+ Health Alliance and Craft Victoria.



Jordan Duffy

CIO, Pacific Labour Facility (Consultant) and Director, Buckham and Duffy Consultants

Jordan is a seasoned technology entrepreneur who founded his first company at 14 and has been innovating ever since. With a strong background in delivering custom-built-for-purpose and enterprise software projects—including solutions using customised off-the-shelf (eg Microsoft)—he has spent the past five years applying technology industry practices to international development projects, developing investment strategies that maximise impact and outcomes. Drawing on extensive leadership, implementation and advisory experience, Jordan guides organisations in crafting tech initiatives that deliver measurable results globally.



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Kristina Rao

Research Fellow and Project Manager - DPI Map , UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)

Kristina is a researcher focused on the intersection between technology and society. She has practised in the public and third sectors in India and Germany to further the responsible use of technology and digital tools, especially in the sectors of health and education. Her practice and research spread across themes of emerging technology governance, digital development and digital market competition policy. Kristina is a public policy graduate of the Hertie School, Berlin and has a background in sociology.

At IIPP, she leads the team building the DPI Map- a research and policy analysis tool to investigate the state of digital public infrastructure (DPI) across the world.

More at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/public-purpose/kristina-rao>



David Eaves

Co-Deputy Director and Associate Professor, Digital Government , UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)

Previously a lecturer at Harvard Kennedy School where he taught and wrote on digital era public administration, digital transformation and the governance of digital public infrastructure, David has co-founded Teaching Public Service in a Digital Age, which has sought to bring together faculty from around the world to co-design and share an open licensed curriculum to teach the minimum needed digital competences for future public leaders. These materials are now used by dozens of faculty members in over 20 universities around the world David has partnered with Public Digital to co-hosts an annual convening of digital government leaders from around the world. He has also taught policy analysis in the MPP core curriculum and ran a highly successful Executive Education program on Digital Transformation.

In addition to his work at HKS David co-founded and served as CEO of a civictch start up that successfully grew to serve over 400 governments across North America. He's advised on governance and collaboration strategies for open source communities such as OpenMRS, Drupal and Mozilla and provided training to almost every cohort of Code for America fellows, White House Presidential Innovation Fellows and Code for Canada fellows.

More at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/public-purpose/david-eaves>



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Ashish Narayan

Programme Coordinator in the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Ashish Narayan is Programme Coordinator in the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. His work primarily involves implementing human capacity building initiatives undertaken by ITU in the region and is presently the coordinator for the ITU Asia Pacific Centres of Excellence Network. He has been actively involved with policy, regulatory and training assignments under ITU's programs in Asia-Pacific countries.

Prior to the ITU, Mr. Narayan worked as Deputy Advisor in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. During his tenure in the TRAI, he worked on key telecom sector reform issues. He began his career with the Tata Telecom, an equipment manufacturer, before moving to the Indian Government Service. He has also worked with the Indian public service broadcaster in the area of broadcast engineering.

Mr. Narayan holds an MBA Degree in International Business and a Bachelor's Degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering.



Jeff Montgomery

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Adviser for the Pacific Community (SPC)

Jeff is the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Adviser for the Pacific Community (SPC), based in Suva and Noumea. He works across 22 Pacific countries to strengthen birth and death registration, ensuring citizens have a legal identify and can engage digitally with public and private services. This includes advocating for interoperability between CRVS and Identity systems. Previously, Jeff led the transformation and delivery of identity and civil registration services globally to all New Zealanders, including groundbreaking integrated digital services around birth of a child – www.smartstart.services.govt.nz. He played a leading role in the ongoing transformation of the New Zealand passport service, where now all applications can be made entirely online. For 10 years he held the statutory position of the Registrar-General for Births Deaths and Marriages.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeffmontgomerynz/>



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Pedro Tavares

Public Management Specialist (Digital Transformation), Digital Technology for Development Division, Asian Development Bank

With over two decades in digital development, Pedro has led cross-cutting initiatives in digital public infrastructure, government, health, cybersecurity, and digital ID. He has developed and implemented national digital strategies and transformation projects across the Asia-Pacific region, advancing digital economies and fostering digital inclusion. At UNICEF, he led digital health initiatives and supported the development of national digital health strategies. At ITU, Pedro spearheaded national digital transformation strategies for Pacific nations. At DFAT, he advised on digital governance and policy initiatives in Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea.

Before joining ADB, Pedro worked at UNICEF, ITU, and DFAT, focusing on digital health, digital transformation strategies, and governance across the Pacific and East Asia regions.

Pedro holds an Executive MBA from NUS, an MSc in Information Systems, and executive education and certifications in Digital Government, Data Law, FinTech, Cybersecurity, and project management, among others.



Mohan Baruwal Chhetri

Senior Research Scientist, Data61, CSIRO

Dr. Mohan Baruwal Chhetri is a Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO's Data61, where he leads the Human-Machine Collaboration for Cybersecurity research theme. With 19 years of R&D experience, Dr. Baruwal Chhetri is passionate about developing intelligent solutions that enhance human decision-making in complex cyber-physical-social ecosystems. His work encompasses a range of approaches, from autonomous AI decision-making to AI-augmented human expertise and collaborative human-AI problem-solving. Currently, his primary focus is on harnessing these innovative solutions to strengthen cybersecurity defences at the individual, organisational, and societal levels. Dr. Baruwal Chhetri holds a Master of Information Technology (MIT) from Monash University and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from Swinburne University of Technology. Before joining CSIRO, he served as a lecturer at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia.



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Luke Slattery

Director of Telecommunications Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Luke Slattery is Director of Telecommunications Policy at DFAT and recently finished a two-year term as the Convenor of the APEC Telecommunications Security and Trust Steering Group. Luke has extensive experience in telecommunications policy, competition, security and resilience.



Hayley Kim

Foreign Policy Officer, Pacific and Development Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand

Hayley is a Foreign Policy Officer in the Pacific and Development Group at New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). She works on digital transformation projects and manages New Zealand's Cyber Security Support to the Pacific Programme, which supports the uplift of cyber capability in the region. Prior to this role, Hayley was as a Services Trade Negotiator at MFAT, negotiating the upgrade of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability. Hayley has an academic background in global public health, and worked in public health portfolio management prior to joining MFAT.



Paolo Manunta

Senior Digital Technology Specialist (Earth Observation), Digital Technology for Development Division, Asian Development Bank

Paolo Manunta serves as a Senior Digital Technology Specialist in the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department at the Asian Development Bank. He specializes in Earth Observation (EO), online Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). In this role, Paolo leads the establishment of geospatial initiatives and has facilitated the cloud-based integration of EO, GIS, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) across various ADB Developing Member Countries, including Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Georgia, Armenia, and Mongolia among others.

Paolo joined ADB as a secondee from ESA, with his Asia experience beginning in 2014 through a transport project in Papua New Guinea. He transitioned to a full-time secondment at ADB in 2017 and became a permanent staff member in 2022. Following the completion of his PhD from University of Alberta Canada, As data analyst he worked on climate change modeling and developed adaptation pathways in the Provincial Government of Alberta in Canada. He has extensive experience in the private sector in Italy.



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Mahesh Prakash

Senior Principal Research Scientist , Data61, CSIRO

Dr. Mahesh Prakash is a Senior Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO Data61 and leads a group of Scientists, Engineers and Software Professionals who develop and apply a diverse range of modelling and analytics techniques for urban environmental applications with a key focus on emergency and disaster management. His scientific and technical interests are in urban flood modelling, geospatial big data analytics and the confluence between environmental research (including climate change and climate change related risk) and technology including how an integrated approach could be applied to resolving some of the intractable challenges associated with deploying these tools for real world applications. He works closely with the Oceans and Atmospheres and Land and Water Business Units in order to achieve much needed cohesion between the deep science and technology expertise that lies within CSIRO in this exciting area of research.



Patricia Mallam

Knowledge Broker, Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications Programme, Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Patricia is a Fijian social scientist specialising in Science Communication, Disaster Risk Reduction and Stakeholder Engagement. She is based in Apia as the Knowledge Broker for the European Union funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications Programme.

Patricia is also a PhD candidate at the University of Newcastle, Australia, where the focus of her thesis is on the climate services value chain for agriculture. She is an alumni of The Australian National University's Pacific Research Colloquium, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Knowledge Broker Support Programme, and an internationally accredited trainer.

For mental clarity, Patricia enjoys aerial silk and hoop dancing, stand up paddle boarding and photography. She is also a bodybuilder who has represented Fiji at international competitions.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/patriciamallam/>



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SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS



Bruce Howe

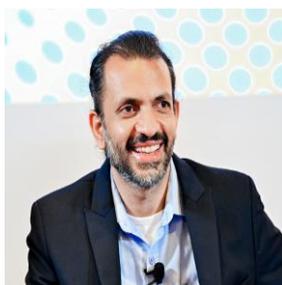
Chair, Joint Task Force (JTF) SMART Cable initiative, Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications

Dr. Howe develops ocean observing infrastructure for the provision of power, communications, and positioning throughout the ocean volume, with an emphasis on cabled and acoustic systems.

As Chair of the international Joint Task Force (JTF) SMART Cable initiative, (Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications), Dr. Howe is leading the effort to incorporate sensors into commercial trans-ocean submarine telecommunication cable systems to form a planetary scale observing system for climate, ocean circulation and sea level monitoring and tsunami and earthquake warning.

Past projects have included basin-scale acoustic thermometry, and planning, development and operation of cabled observatories. At Station ALOHA 100 km north of Oahu, Dr. Howe and his team installed and operate the ALOHA Cabled Observatory – the world’s deepest plug-and-play power and Internet node on the planet at 4728 m water depth, now with 10 years of continuous data.

After obtaining engineering and oceanography degrees at Stanford University and the University of California at San Diego, he worked at the Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington, and since 2008, at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering.



Dulip Tillekeratne

Strategic Partnerships Director, Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation

Dulip is the Strategic Partnerships Director for the Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation (M4H) programme GSMA based in Kandy, Sri Lanka. He works closely with mobile operators, technical partners, humanitarian organisations as well as public sector stakeholders on projects that contribute to accelerating the delivery and impact of digital humanitarian assistance. The strategic partnerships team continuously supports mobile operators, technical and humanitarian partners to collaborate and work towards more innovative and resilient digital solutions for communities faced with sudden onset disasters and protracted crisis.

More at https://www.gsma.com/about-us/regions/asia-pacific/gsma_people/dulip-tillekeratne/



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Sajib Azad

Digital Governance Specialist, Digital Democracy Manager, UNDP

Sajib Azad is a seasoned economist and digital transformation expert with over 20 years of experience leading initiatives at prominent organizations such as UNCDF, UNDP, World Bank, various governments, and leading global consultancies. Currently supporting UNDP Pacific's Digital Portfolio, Sajib is spearheading the Whole of Society (WOS) Digital transformation across the region.

His role involves driving the strategic shift from technocentric to WOS Digital approaches, aligning UNDP's digital initiatives with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) 2050 Strategy and the Global Digital Compact, and developing a diverse portfolio of digital projects across multiple Pacific Island nations. Sajib focuses on key areas such as Digital Identity, Digital Upskilling, Digital Government, Digital Public Goods, and leveraging infrastructure investments, while fostering regional cooperation and knowledge sharing on inclusive digital transformation.

Sajib holds an MBA from École Nationale Des Ponts et Chaussées and the University of Edinburgh. His notable achievements include implementing an advanced open-source based interoperable payment platform in Myanmar, co-leading the World Bank's \$60M Revenue Digitization Program in Bangladesh, drafting Ethiopia's National Digital Payment Strategy, and leading a \$10M risk transformation program for Santander Group's global retail banking operations.



Ali Akram

Regional Programme Manager (IDE), UNCDF

Ali has over 20 years of experience developing digital ecosystems across Asia, Africa and the Pacific. He is a Digital Finance Expert with expertise in innovative and technology-driven solutions for building inclusive economies and achieving development goals.

Ali has extensive experience collaborating with regulators and supporting the development of regulations and policies conducive to an inclusive digital economy. He has also overseen the development of regulatory technology that enables evidence-based policymaking.

Ali has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Lahore University of Management Sciences (Pakistan) and a BSc in Business Administration from Bilkent University (Turkey).



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John Jack

Deputy Chief Information Officer, Vanuatu

John Jack is Deputy Chief Information Officer in Vanuatu. He has been working at the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer since 2014, and is currently responsible for Programmes, which includes ICT Policy development, eGovernment, Cyber Security and International Affairs. In 2018, John published an article titled “E-government in Vanuatu: a whole of government approach” with the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration. John is a Board Member of the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation, and Chair of the Telecommunication Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific, which covers ICT and telecommunications policy and regulation. He holds a Master’s Degree in Information Technology & Systems from the University of Canberra, Australia.



Dalsie Green Baniala Tolang

National Project Manager, Smart Islands

Dalsie G. Baniala Tolang serves in the ICT industry and development in Vanuatu and across the region for over 15 years. As the ADB, ICT National Project Manager she is currently implementing Smart Island Project for the Vanuatu Government & the ITU. As the Telecommunications Regulatory Advisor to the Government of Palau through Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industry and Commerce (MPIIC) she has assisted to set up the Palau’s Regulatory Authority. She was also the ICT Regulatory Advisor to the Government of Nauru through the National Communications Authority (NCA) in the last three years and months. She is the former Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator for Vanuatu.

Working very closely with the community leaders in the rural and remote communities, specifically of the Smart Island area, experiencing firsthand challenges, issues and life threats through natural disasters, traveling to rural remote communities, has pushed her to do more to digitally transform mindsets for positive impacts.

In the past 22 months, she has served Vanuatu Post Office as one of its Board of Directors.



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Mitchell Dunn

*Director, Pacific Cyber Cooperation in the Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology Branch,
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia*

Mitchell Dunn is the Director, Pacific Cyber Cooperation in the Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology Branch at Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). This role includes leading DFAT's cyber relationships in the Pacific and delivering Australia's incident response, capacity building and modernisation efforts. Mitchell has focused on space, cyberspace and emerging technology across a range of roles at DFAT and Australia's Home Affairs and Infrastructure Portfolios. He has also progressed policy outcomes in areas including trade, national security and aviation. Mitchell is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is an admitted lawyer in the Australian Capital Territory. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (honours) and a Bachelor of Arts from the Australian National University



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Peter Nicholls

ICT Specialist (e-Applications), Digital Technology for Development Division, Asian Development Bank

Mr. Peter Nicholls has worked as an ICT Specialist (e-Applications) for the Digital Technology for Development Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department; and previously with the Social Sectors and Public Sector Management Division, Pacific Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) since 2020, supporting Digital Technology initiatives in regional and country-specific initiatives, including ICT policy development, FinTech, e-Education, e-Health, and social protection.

He worked for a decade with United Nations Economic Commissions, including seven years as Chief of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, responsible for delivering the ICT for Development and Knowledge Management work program for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with a focus on e-Government, ICT for Disaster Risk Management; and Digital Financial Services.

Before joining the UN, Peter worked for seven years with Queensland Health in various ICT Operations and Project roles.

Peter has a Bachelor of Science (Chemistry) (University of Queensland, UQ) and a Masters degree in Information Technology (Queensland University of Technology, QUT). He holds numerous certifications in project, program, IT service management and knowledge services and is a member of the Australian Computer Society, Australian Institute of Project Management, Australian Information Industry Association, Project Management Institute, and ISACA (formerly Information Systems Audit and Control Association).