

Maluhia 2023:

Promoting a Collaborative Policy Environment

April 25-27, 2023 Honolulu, Hawaii

BIOGRAPHIES

As of 24 April 2023

In alphabetical order by country/organization

AUSTRALIA

DR. PETER SAWCZAK

Dr. Peter Sawczak was appointed First Assistant Secretary, US and Indo-Pacific Strategy Division, at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in January 2023. Prior to this, he served in a number of positions at the Department of Defence including First Assistant Secretary Strategic Policy Division and First Assistant Secretary Defence Industry Policy Division. In 2019, he conducted a major review of defense policy and planning guidance that produced the 2020 Defence Strategic Update. Dr. Sawczak was the Head of Political Affairs at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague 2013-16, where he led the OPCW's diplomatic engagement and communications strategies, which included the mission to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons. Prior to his stint at the OPCW, Dr. Sawczak enjoyed a wide-ranging career at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which included postings to Washington, Brussels, and Moscow. He also served as international security adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2011-2012.

BANGLADESH

MR. KHANDKER MASUDUL ALAM

Mr. Khandker Masudul Alam is currently the Director General, North America, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, heading its North America wing. In his diplomatic career spanning 20 years, he has served at the Ministry in various wings, including in the Americas & Pacific, United Nations, Administration, Protocol, and Regional Organizations. His immediate past assignments were as the Director General of the Regional Organizations wing, and the Consul General of Bangladesh in Sydney, Australia. As the Director General of Regional Organizations, his portfolio included ASEAN, ASEM, CICA, ARF, ACD, SCO, IPU, and other regional organizations. He has also served in the Bangladesh Embassy in Stockholm and Seoul. In his current role, his main effort is on Bangladesh's overall bilateral relationship with the US, including the security partnership. Mr. Alam's main policy focus is on non-traditional security challenges such as climate change and transboundary issues.

BRUNEI

MR. HAJI ADI IHRAM BIN HAJI MAHMUD

Mr. Haji Adi is currently Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy & Strategy) at the Brunei Ministry of Defence. Prior to this, he served as Director of Defence Policy. He has also served as the Head of the Legal Affairs Unit at the Permanent Secretary's Office, Ministry of Defence. He has extensive experience working in the region and with organizations such as ASEAN.

CAMBODIA

MR. TEAN SAMNANG

No biography provided.

CANADA

MR. EPP WELDON

Mr. Weldon is currently acting Assistant Deputy Minister (Indo-Pacific) at Global Affairs Canada. Prior to his appointment, he was the Director General of the Northeast Asia and Oceania Bureau from 2019 to 2023. Previous assignments in Canadian missions abroad include director of general relations in Taiwan, political counselor in Indonesia, and Consul General in Guangzhou and Shanghai.

EUROPEAN UNION

MR. MICHAEL CURTIS

Mr. Michael Curtis has been the EU Deputy Ambassador (Deputy Chief of Mission) to the US since September 1, 2019. Immediately before joining the Delegation, he served in the team of the EU's Foreign Policy Chief, Ms. Federica Mogherini, advising her on several important foreign policy issues from 2014-2019, including transatlantic relations. Mr. Curtis also worked two stints for the European Commission's Secretariat General focusing on relations with EU Member States. In this position, his main focus was on foreign policy and trade and with relations with the European External Action Service, where he was deeply involved in its setup in 2010.

FIJI

MS. ALESI DAU

Ms. Alesi Dau is currently the Manager for the Defence Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. Prior to this, she served as an Executive Officer at the Ministry of Defence. She has also served as the Acting Administrative Officer for the Police Force. Ms. Dau has participated in several high-level meetings and workshops including the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC); BWC Universalisation Workshop for the Pacific, New Zealand, 2019; Regional meeting for Asia-Pacific States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); Defence Cooperation Talks 2022; and Shangri-La Dialogue 2022.

FRANCE

REAR ADMIRAL LUDOVIC POITOU

Rear Admiral Ludovic Poitou is the Director for International Security Affairs and the Maritime Security Coordinator for the French Ministry of Defence. He has an operational background in the French Navy, in which he assumed successive command of three different warships and a European naval task force in the Arabian Gulf. He is currently employed in the international policy directorate of the Ministry of Defence where, amongst other issues, he supervises the implementation of the French Indo-Pacific Strategy for Defence.

GERMANY

MR. MARTIN THÜMMEL

Mr. Thümmel is currently Deputy Director General for East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. Prior to this, he served as Head of the Task Force European Migration Policy. He has also served as Director of the political section at the German Embassy in Beijing. Previous assignments include working at the Permanent Mission of Germany at the United Nations in New York, the German Consulates-General in Mumbai and Shanghai, and at the European Directorate of the Foreign Office.

INDIA

MS. GEETIKA SRIVASTAVA

Ms. Geetika Srivastava is currently Joint Secretary of the Indo-Pacific Division in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of the Government of India. Prior to this, she served as the Director of the Indian Ocean Region Division of the MEA. She was posted in Beijing from 2017 to 2020. Her security focus areas are China, Indian Ocean Region, Southeast Asia, and the Indo-Pacific.

INDONESIA

MAJOR GENERAL PRIYANTO

Major General Priyanto is currently the Dean of the Defense Strategy Faculty of the Republic of Indonesia Defense University. Prior to assuming this role, he was the Head of the Civil Service Bureau of the General Bureau of the Republic of Indonesia Defense University. He has also served as the former Secretary of Research and Director of Defense Resources at the Directorate General of Defense Potential, Ministry of Defense. He has vast experience with overseas assignments in China, the United States, India, Japan, Sweden, and Myanmar. His security focus area is in teaching and conducting research.

JAPAN

MR. IIJIMA HIDETOSHI

Mr. IIjima Hidetoshi is currently the Director of the Bureau of Defense Policy's Defense Policy Division at the Japanese Ministry of Defense. Prior to this, he served as the Director of the Defense Intelligence Division, after having served for two years as a Cabinet Counsellor at the National Security Secretariat. He played a key role in formulating Japan's new National Defense Strategy. In addition to his rich and multifaceted experience in the area of defense policy, he oversaw Japan-US Defense Cooperation, which provides the general framework and policy direction for the roles and missions of the two allies. He also has experience working at the Embassy of Japan in the US and serving as an FMS liaison officer in Washington.

MALAYSIA

DR. MOHD BAKHARI BIN ISMAIL

Dr. Bakhari is currently the Deputy Secretary General (Management) at the Ministry of Defence, Malaysia. Previously he was the Deputy Director General (Management Transformation & Modernization) of the Malaysian Administrative Modernization and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) in the Prime Minister's Department. Throughout his career of over 28 years as an administrative and diplomatic officer, Dr. Bakhari had served in various ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Service Department, National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), and MAMPU. Dr. Bakhari specializes in organizational transformation, with experience in aspects of organizational development, business process reengineering, and leadership and training development. Apart from organizational transformation, Dr. Bakhari also has extensive experience in matters of finance and government procurement processes.

MALDIVES

MS. SHIUNEEN RASHEED

Shiuneen Rasheed is a career foreign service officer. She is currently the Joint Secretary of Europe, Americas, and Oceania Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Maldives. She has been working at the Department since 2015, first as Assistant Director, and then Director and Director-General. As head of the Department, she is instrumental in crafting and directing Maldives policy on relationships with European countries, the EU, the US, and countries in the Americas. Shiuneen started her professional career at the President's Office as a personnel officer, then joined the Foreign Service in August 2010, where she served as a Senior Desk Officer at the Legal and Human Rights Division. Shiuneen was also posted as the First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva in April 2014. In Geneva, Shiuneen delivered Maldives positions on human rights, and guided and executed Maldives engagement as a member of the UN Human Rights Council.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

MS. DEBORAH BARKER-MANASE

No biography provided.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

MR. BERLINO MARTIN

Mr. Berlino Martin is currently the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), heading the Division of Americas and Europe Affairs. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2009, as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Division of Americas and Europe Affairs, with an emphasis on Americas Affairs. After six years, he was dispatched to the FSM Embassy in Suva, Fiji to serve as a Minister Counselor and subsequently as a Deputy Chief of Mission which covers many aspects of the FSM Government's bilateral and multilateral engagements in the wider Pacific Region, including Australia, New Zealand, diplomatic partners, regional metropolitan partners, and regional organizations of which the FSM is a member. In his current post, as the Assistant Secretary for the Division of the Americas and Europe Affairs, Mr. Martin assists with formulating policies on issues pertaining to the FSM's relationship with the Americas and Europe.

MONGOLIA

MR. BYAMBASUREN GUNTEVSUREN

Mr. Guntevsuren is currently the Director-General of the Department of Policy and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to this, he served as Counsellor in the Department of Policy and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has also served as Counsellor (Deputy Chief of Mission) at the Embassy of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Thailand and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UNESCAP.

NEPAL

MR. DILIP KUMAR PAUDEL

Mr. Dilip Kumar Paudel is currently Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal. Prior to this, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He served as Under Secretary in the United Nations Division with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His security focus area is regional security.

NEW ZEALAND

MR. BEN KING

Mr. Ben King is Deputy Chief Executive (Policy) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), a role he commenced in April 2020. Prior to this role, Ben was Deputy Secretary of the Americas and Asia Group (2017/2019). Ben has also been New Zealand's Ambassador to Thailand (2015/2017), and the Foreign Policy Adviser at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2012/2014). Over the course of his career at MFAT, Mr. King has also led and contributed to policy work across a wide range of foreign affairs issues. Ben has also held senior negotiating roles for New Zealand on intellectual property and investment issues. In addition to his posting in Bangkok, Mr. King has also served at New Zealand missions in Washington DC (2009/2012), Riyadh (2004/2007), and Canberra (2000/2004).

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

MR. PAKI ORMSBY

Mr. Ormsby is the Director of Policy and joined the Secretariat in September 2017. In this role, he is responsible for the development and implementation of a range of international and regional, security, and social policy initiatives as directed by Forum Leaders. Prior to joining the secretariat, Paki was with the New Zealand Ministry of Health as Deputy Director of Critical Projects and played a leading role in negotiating a two-billion dollar care and support worker pay equity settlement between the Crown and Unions in April 2017. In 2016, Mr. Ormsby was an acting member of the Ministry of Health's Executive Leadership team as it went through its restructuring. Prior to his time at the Health Ministry, Mr. Ormsby served as Private Secretary to the Minister of Defence, where his role covered a range of the defense portfolio from policy advice on international deployments and security issues, to defense capability investments, to savings and change management initiatives. Earlier, during his time at the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Ormsby worked in a range of policy and project management roles. In 2007, he was seconded to the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

PALAU

MR. GUSTAV AITARO

The Honorable Gustav N. Aitaro is currently the Minister of State of the Republic of Palau. For over three decades, Minister Aitaro has dedicated his work to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Ministry of State, dealing with national, regional, and international matters for the interest of Palau and its people. Minister Aitaro has also represented Palau in various international and regional meetings, including leadership meetings and ministerial meetings. His security focus area is on security cooperation and collaboration with bilateral partners.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MR. HARI JOHN AKIPE

Mr. Hari John Akipe is currently the Secretary for Defence. Prior to this, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister's Office under Prime Minister Marape. He is the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, Chairman of Kerowagi Lutheran High School in Simbu Province, Council Member of the National Volunteer Service, and Chairman of the Angore Special Purpose Authority. Mr. Akipe graduated with a Masters in Agribusiness from the University of Queensland, Australia.

PHILIPPINES

MR. IGNACIO B. MADRIAGA

Mr. Ignacio Briones Madriaga is currently the Undersecretary for Strategic Assessment and Planning of the Department of National Defense. Prior to this, he served as the Vice President & General Manager of Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loans Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI) after retiring from military service in 2020. In 2019, he served as the Chief of the Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management (OSSSM), the AFP's think tank and center for mapping the military's strategic goals, decisions, activities, and resource allocation. His focus areas are in the fields of infantry, psychological operations, intelligence, and special operations.

SINGAPORE

MR. NG TECK HEAN

Mr. Ng Teck Hean is currently Deputy Secretary (Asia Pacific) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). He was also concurrently Deputy Secretary (Southeast Asia) from September 2019 to August 2022. Mr. Ng is currently the Senior Official of Singapore to the Arctic Council and the Asia Europe Meeting. Mr. Ng served as Singapore's Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 2012 to 2016. He received the Vietnam Order of Friendship in 2016 from His Excellency President Truong Tan Sang. Mr. Ng joined the Singapore Foreign Service in July, 1992. He has served in various appointments in the MFA including First Secretary in Washington DC (1995-1998), Special Assistant to Minister for Foreign Affairs, Professor S. Jayakumar (2001-2002), and Deputy High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur (2003-2006). He was appointed Director of the Americas Directorate (2007-2010), and Director of the Southeast Asia Directorate (2010-2012).

SOUTH KOREA

COL HYEONG-JIN YOON

Colonel Yoon, Hyeong-jin is currently serving as the Director for US Policy Division at the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense (ROK MND). His work involves a wide range of the ROK defense policy issues regarding the ROK-US Alliance. Col. Yoon's responsibilities include the Korea-US Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD), ROK-US-JAPAN Defense Trilateral Talks (DTT), and ROK-US Security Consultative Meeting (SCM). His primary responsibility also involves drafting the ROK MND's implementation plan for ROK government's Indo-Pacific Strategy that was announced in December 2022. He has extensive work experiences in the field of defense policy, strategy, and command experience in the Armor Brigade. He previously served as the Director for Policy planning at the Ministry of National Defense in 2022.

SRI LANKA

MR. HARSHA VITHANAARACHCHI

Mr. Harsha Vithanaarachchi is the Senior Assistant Secretary (Defence) and concurrently acting as the Additional Secretary (Disaster Management) at the Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka, and a Senior Civil Servant at Sri Lanka Administrative Service. He was the former Deputy Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Sweden after his tenure at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Director. He served as an Assistant Secretary to the President at the Presidential Secretariat and has held several senior positions in the Sri Lankan Public Sector. Mr. Vithanaarachchi is enthusiastic on Digital Governance and focuses on shaping the "Sri Lanka Defence Strategy-2030" policy initiative together with modernizing the Sri Lankan Military Forces to face the future challenges that may emerge in the Indian Ocean region.

TAIWAN

DR. ROY CHUN LEE

Dr. Roy Chun Lee has been the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since February 3, 2023. He served as commissioner of the International Trade Commission of the Ministry of Economic Affairs until 2023 and was the Senior Deputy Executive Director of the Taiwan WTO and RTA Center of Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (CIER) from 2021 to 2023. He was also an advisory committee member of the Mainland Affairs Council until 2020. Dr. Lee specialized in WTO, regional integration, global supply chain, and economic security policy. He has over 15 years of experience in trade policy research and regulatory consultancy for both the public and private sectors. He regularly serves as a capital-based expert for WTO and APEC meetings. He is a frequent contributor and commentator on general trade and economic policy, economic security, and supply chain reform agenda for major media outlets.

THAILAND

GEN PAIBOON VORRAVANPREECHA

Gen. Paiboon Vorravanpreecha is currently the Director-General for the Office of Policy and Planning, Ministry of Defence. Prior to holding this position, he served as the Director-General of DIEC (Defense Industry and Energy Center). He has also served as the Deputy Director-General of DIEC and the Chief of Staff, Defence Energy Department (DED). Previously he served as the Army Attaché, Royal Thai Embassy in Canberra and Acting Army Attaché, Royal Thai Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand. Gen. Vorravanpreecha is the recipient of Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant.

TONGA

MRS. ODETTE GANILAU

Mrs. Odette Ganilau is currently the Principal Assistant Secretary at the Foreign Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Kingdom of Tonga. She is also the Europe Desk Officer. Mrs. Ganilau has been employed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2005 as a protocol officer and was responsible for European affairs. In her career at the Foreign Ministry, she served on a diplomatic posting at Tonga's High Commission in Australia, Canberra as the First Secretary responsible for administration, protocol, immigration, policy, and the PALM programme. She was also posted at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations in New York as First Secretary, and was responsible for the mission's administration, protocol, military matters, as well as the First and Fourth United Nations Committees. Mrs. Ganilau's focus in terms of security is access control, confidentiality, among other issues.

UNITED KINGDOM

MR. TIM DECAMP

Mr. Decamp is Head of Indo-Pacific Strategy and Delivery in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in the UK Government. Before this he headed the Negotiation Coordination Unit for the UK EU Exit negotiations and worked at the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit before that. He is responsible for bringing together the work on UK Government's strategic approach to the Indo-Pacific, including substantial security interests.

UNITED STATES

MS. AFREEN AKHTER

Ms. Afreen Akhter is a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA) for Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives, as well as the Office of Security and Transnational Affairs. Ms. Akhter most recently served as a Senior Advisor to SCA Assistant Secretary Don Lu. Previously, Ms. Akhter was the National Security and Foreign Affairs Adviser to U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen. Other assignments include the State Department's Office of Pakistan Affairs, Political-Military Affairs Bureau, U.S. Embassy Beijing, and the National Security Council. She was a Presidential Management Fellow and a Fulbright Scholar to Kingston, Jamaica. Ms. Akhter hails from Oak Brook, IL.

MR. STANLEY L. BROWN

Mr. Brown has been serving as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS) in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM) since January 2022. He previously served as DAS of Programs and Operations and as the Director of the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the PM Bureau from July 2013 to January 2020. Before joining the Department of State, he served for 27 years in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot primarily in Special Operations units but also in assignments at the Department of State including the Director of the Office of International Security Operations, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, and Special Operations Chief in the Office of Counterterrorism.

MS. CAMILLE P. DAWSON

Camille P. Dawson is currently the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs with responsibility for public affairs, public diplomacy, and regional and security policy. Prior to this, she served briefly as the Public Diplomacy Fellow and Faculty Advisor at George Washington University. From 2019-2021, she was Director of the Office of Public Diplomacy for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP). In previous assignments, she served as Counselor for Public Affairs at the US Embassy Singapore (2016-2019), where she also held the role of Acting Deputy Chief of Mission for one year. Her security focus areas are Indo-Pacific Security, Maritime Security, and Public Diplomacy support for security posture in the region.

MR. JED ROYAL

Jedidiah P. Royal, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs. He oversees IPSA's extensive portfolio – spanning China, Taiwan, and Mongolia; East Asia; South and Southeast Asia; and Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia – and works across the national security enterprise to synchronize IPSA activities with foreign policy objectives. Before joining IPSA, Mr. Royal served as Deputy Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, where he coordinated the implementation of a diverse array of Security Cooperation programs. Prior to joining DSCA, Mr. Royal served as the Director of Defense Policy and Plans at the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization where he represented the United States to the NATO alliance on defense policy, capability, planning, deterrence, burden sharing, and partnership matters. Prior to his position at NATO, Mr. Royal served in a variety of positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, most recently as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia affairs. He was also detailed to the National Security Council at the White House as Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan from 2013-2015; served as the Director for Cooperative Threat Reduction Policy in the Office of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction from 2010-2013; and served on exchange in Canberra, Australia as the Director of Strategic Advice in the Australian Department of Defence from 2007-2010.

MAJOR GENERAL JENNIFER M. SHORT

Major General Jennifer M. Short is the Deputy Director for Strategic Planning and Policy, United States Indo-Pacific Command. She is responsible for advising CDRUSINDOPACOM on military, political, economic, and strategic policies. General Short oversees the preparation of policy and planning of pol-mil affairs within the USINDOPACOM Area of Responsibility (AOR). She develops, coordinates, and implements USINDOPACOM's Theater Strategy, Campaign Plan, Theater Posture Plan, Operational Plans/Contingency Plans/Functional Plans, and associated Time-Phased Force and Deployment Data. In addition, General Short coordinates defense-related policy, security cooperation, and military assistance programs across the Indo-Pacific AOR, integrating all military engagement in support of the United States' national objectives.

MR. RICK WATERS

Rick Waters is the China Coordinator and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for China and Taiwan. In this role, he supervises the Office of China Coordination ("China House") and the Taiwan Coordination staff and has day-to-day responsibility for our diplomatic missions in China and our relationship with the American Institute in Taipei. His previous roles at the State Department include Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of State, Director of the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, and Political Counselor positions at Embassies Beijing and Islamabad and Consulate General Jerusalem. Rick has served multiple tours in China including 1998-2001, during the accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade and the EP3 Hainan Island crisis. His department tours include Director for Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Palestinian Affairs at the National Security Council and several positions in the Bureau of Near Eastern and Political Military Affairs.

VIETNAM

DR. PHAM LAN DUNG

Dr. Pham Lan Dung is currently Acting President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)—Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam; Vice President of the Asian Society of International Law (ASIANSIL); and Vice President -Secretary General of the Vietnam Society of International Law (VSIL). Prior to this, she served as Director-General of the Foreign Service Training Center (FOSET) (2015 to 2021); Dean of International Law Faculty at DAV (2008 to 2015). Her security focus area is International Law and International Relations.