

Capacity Development and Consultation Workshop on a Vanuatu National Data Governance Framework

Ramada Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu
2nd – 3rd March 2024

Speakers' biographies

OPENING SPEAKERS

Ms. Cherol Ala Ianna
Director General
Ministry of the Prime Minister, Government of Vanuatu

Bio pending

Ms. Atsuko Okuda
International Telecommunications Union Regional Director



Ms Atsuko Okuda was appointed as the Regional Director in April 2020. She leads ITU's support to the region's digital transformation and manages the Bangkok and Jakarta offices to cover 38 member countries in Asia and the Pacific. Prior to the new assignment, she was the Chief of the ICT and Development Section of the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Bangkok, Thailand from 2015 to 2020. At ESCAP, she promoted the development of regional broadband connectivity and inclusive broadband through the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative. Before joining ESCAP, Ms Okuda served the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut as the Chief of the Governance and Statebuilding Section and the Chief of the Strategic Planning and Monitoring Section which managed the ESCWA's programme and projects. Prior to it, she contributed to the Umoja project, the UN Secretariat ERP initiative, in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Management, UNHQ for 2

years. From 2002 to 2010, she was responsible for promoting a wide range of ICT for development initiatives at ESCAP and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as Senior IT Officer. She started her UN career in the area of ICT for Development at the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, the Bureau for Development Policy, and UNDP Country Office in Bhutan from 1997 to 2002. Ms Okuda obtained a BA from Kyoto University (Japan), MA from Helsinki University (Finland), and has currently been enrolled as a research fellow at the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) in the Netherlands. Her doctoral thesis is entitled “Towards e-compliance: Anti-corruption and e-governance initiatives in the case of Bhutan”, to be defended in 2021. Her academic articles on broadband, AI, and Digital Transformation were published by the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy and the Druk Journal. Among other publications and research papers, she was the author of a chapter on e-resilience in the 2018 UNDESA E-government Survey and several blogs published by ITU.

Mr. Juwang Zhu

Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government - Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations



Mr. Juwang Zhu is currently Director of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government/DESA. In that capacity he leads a team in normative, analytical and capacity-building work in promoting inclusive, effective, accountable institutions that are well equipped to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 16. This is the second time Mr. Zhu coordinated the work of the Division - he served as its Director in 2014-2015. Among his various assignments at the UN Secretariat, Mr. Zhu served as Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General/DESA (2008-2013). In that capacity he advised the Under-Secretary-General on a range of policy and management issues. During this period, Mr. Zhu also coordinated the Department’s substantive advice to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on development issues and on the restructuring of DESA’s capacity building programme. Mr. Zhu was Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and in that capacity assisted in coordinating support for the Conference. He also contributed to the departmental support for Rio+20 follow-up, including work on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (2013-2014). As Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (Jan 2016- February 2019), Mr. Zhu coordinated the Secretariat support for the High-level Political Forum, the UN Ocean Conference, and the Global Sustainable Transport Conference. Prior to his reassignment to DESA in 1993, Mr. Zhu had previously worked as a policy analyst in the secretariat of the UN World Food Council and in the UN Office in Geneva. He joined the UN Secretariat in 1985. Born in Shanghai, August 1961, Mr. Zhu graduated from the Shanghai International Studies University in 1982 and did post-graduate studies in Beijing Foreign Studies University. He has an MSC in financial economics from University of London and an MA in international relations from Webster University.

PRESENTERS

Mr. Dongyub Baek

**Principal Manager, Open Data Planning Team,
National Information Society Agency, Daegu, Republic of Korea**



Dongyub Baek is a Principal Manager at the National Information Society Agency in Korea, where he currently spearheads international cooperation initiatives in the realm of open data. He recently served as the head of the Korea-Tunisia Digital Government Cooperation Center (DGCC) from 2021 to 2023 during his posting in Tunisia.

During his tenure at DGCC, spanning three years, he played a role in fostering digital government development, engaging with the partner country's initiatives. One of the collaborative projects was intricately tied to the Open Government Partnership (OGP), involving the provision of policy consulting and the development of an Open Data Inventory Management System.

Before his assignment to DGCC, he contributed to various international cooperation projects within the ICT / Digital Government domain. Notably, his involvement in the Information Access Center (IAC) project allowed him to witness firsthand the transformative impact of ICT infrastructure. Furthermore, he has organized numerous capacity-building programs in ICT / Digital Government, focusing on open data and digital government topics in general.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from Hanyang University in Korea and a Master's in IT Business from the KAIST in Korea.

Mr. Andy Calo
Chief Government Statistician
Government of Vanuatu

Bio pending

Mr. Wilford Gibson
PhD Research Student



Wilford Gibson is a PhD Student at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, focusing on e-government services from a Service Science perspective. His research centres on developing a conceptual framework for value co-creation in e- government services, particularly in developing and small island states like Vanuatu. With a passion for interdisciplinary approaches, Wilford is also interested in effective system integration, technology progression, and the integration of AI, Blockchain, and IoT in electronic services systems, and non- human roles influencing value co-creation in e-services. He brings a wealth of practical experience to his academic pursuits,

having held several positions in the IT sector: IT Manager at the National University of Vanuatu (2022), Systems Engineer at USP Emalus Campus Vanuatu (2016 – 2021), Senior Linux System Administrator at PacLII Emalus Campus (2014 – 2016), IT Manager at the Ministry of Education and Training (2011 – 2014). Wilford holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of the South Pacific, Fiji and a master's degree in computer and information sciences from Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand.

Mr. John Jack
Deputy Chief Information Officer
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer of Vanuatu



John Jack joined the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer in 2014 as the Business & International Relations Officer.

In 2017, John was appointed the Deputy Chief Information Officer responsible for the technical operations of the Government Broadband Network.

In 2018, John published an article titled “E-government in Vanuatu: a whole of government approach” with the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration.

In 2019, John took over the portfolio of ICT Sector Development. In this capacity, John is responsible for Programmes, which includes ICT Policy development, eGovernment, Cyber Security and International Affairs. John Jack holds a Masters Degree in Information Technology & Systems from the University of Canberra, Australia.

Mr. Wai Min Kwok

Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA



Wai Min Kwok joined the United Nations Secretariat in 2008. Before that, he spent over ten years in the energy and information technology sectors as an engineer and a technopreneur. In UN DESA, he has been entrusted with a portfolio of roles, including as one of the lead authors for selected editions of the UN E-Government Survey and the World Public Sector Report. His areas of expertise span a range in sustainable development, public policy, public administration and management, digital government, digital transformation and Internet governance. For three consecutive years in 2011-2013, he was the Secretary of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. Wai Min

Kwok was formerly a Lee Ka-Shing graduate scholar and Mobil Oil scholar. He has a postgraduate master’s in public administration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and an honours degree in electrical engineering at the National University of Singapore.

Mr. Andrew Lalor

**Assistant Secretary Data Policy and Assurance
Department of Finance, Government of Australia**



Andrew is the Assistant Secretary, Data Policy and Assurance at the Australian Government Department of Finance where he leads whole of government public sector data policy, strategy and governance; cross jurisdictional data and digital ministerial engagement; implementation of the Department’s data strategy and analytics; and assurance of the Australian Government’s high-cost and high-risk projects and programs.

Previously Andrew worked at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where he oversaw whole of government public sector data policy and supported the Australian Government’s digital transformation agenda.

Andrew also worked at the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science where he led the Data Management and Analytics Taskforce. Andrew has also held senior roles relating to skills policy and programs, aviation security, broadband infrastructure and innovation policy.

Mr. Benuel Lenge

Consultant, UN DESA



Benuel Lenge spent over 20 years in the Vanuatu public service with a strong background working mostly on data collection processes across sectors in the form of national censuses, household surveys, and administrative records. He spent most of his 20 years at the Vanuatu Bureaus of Statistics (VBoS) occupying different positions including the Chief Statistician, before becoming a consultant.

He also spent a couple of years as the Registrar General at the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), now known as the Civil registry and Identity Management (CRIM). He also held a position as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) manager at the Vanuatu Skills Partnership, formerly known as the Vanuatu TVET.

All positions occupied have key roles and responsibilities to design, collect, compile, analyse, store, and disseminate data and information in various forms.

Mr. Henry Otto
Acting ICT Manager, Ministry of Education and Training
Government of Vanuatu

Bio pending

Mr. Jeffery Tila Langati Trief
Registrar General, Department of Civil Registry and Identity Management
Government of Vanuatu

Bio pending

Mr. Lauro Vives
World Health Organization's Health Information and Digital Health Advisor assisting the Vanuatu Ministry of Health
Managing Partner, Pacific Development Consulting



Lauro is co-founder and managing partner of Pacific Development. Lauro formed Pacific Development with visions of a Pacific region led by progressive leadership that provide opportunities for every Pacific Islander in a safe, equitable, inclusive, and healthy population setting.

Lauro is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and has a Bachelor of Science, Major in Computer Science from the University of Regina (Canada) and an Executive MBA from the University of Warwick (England).

He is an accomplished executive, taken on leadership roles at IBM, Gartner, and just most recently, at Accenture. He is a recognized expert, most notably in health, social protection, trade facilitation, border services, public finance, digital transformation, and information and communications technology.

Based in Port Vila, Vanuatu, he is currently the World Health Organization's Health Information and Digital Health Advisor assisting the Vanuatu Ministry of Health and other Pacific Island countries and territories.

Lauro sits on private and public boards and committees, including as Honorary Advisor for PHIN (the Pacific Health Information Network) providing guidance to leaders of 23 Pacific Island countries and territories on their digital health initiatives.