

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Renee Tan (Director for Research, Institute for Adult Learning Singapore (IAL))



As the Director of the Research Division, Renee leads IAL's research efforts to inform policy and practice in the CET sector. In her previous role as the Director of the Centre for Innovation and Development at IAL, Renee was responsible for the planning and strategising of programmes and initiatives to facilitate the rollout of IN.LEARN 2020, and encouraged the taking root and adoption of learning innovations. Renee holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of Bristol, Master and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English Literature from the National University of Singapore, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the National Institute of Education.

Prof. Azirah Hashim (Principal coordinator, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Asia-Europe Institute (AEI))



Azirah Hashim is Professor at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics and the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya. She was former Executive Director, Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) and Founding Director of the Centre for ASEAN Regionalism at the university. Currently, she is a FRIAS Senior Fellow and Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg. Her research interests include Language Contact in Southeast Asia, English in ASEAN and Higher Education in ASEAN. Her recent publications include *English in Southeast Asia and ASEAN: Transformation of Language Habitats*, Routledge co-authored with Gerhard Leitner (2020) and *Malaysian Perspectives on ASEAN Regionalism*, University of Malaya edited with Anthony Milner (2019). She is project leader of an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project, 'Building research capacity in higher education institutions in Malaysia and Laos' (2017-2021). Also heading the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence project on ASEAN and EU in Dialogue (2017-2021) at AEI, she is very much involved in ASEAN-EU research, seminars and outreach activities. Azirah is Vice-President of the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA).



Séamus Ó Tuama (ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Chair and Director of ACE (Adult Continuing Education) at University College Cork)

Dr Séamus Ó Tuama is the Chair of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub and Director of ACE (Adult Continuing Education) at University College Cork, Ireland's oldest University centre for the delivery of adult and continuing education. He also has a senior lectureship in political science at the Department of Government, UCC. He previously managed the Centre for European Social Research, at the time the largest non-governmental social research centre in Ireland. His current research is focused on applying theories of respect, recognition, dignity and rights in the field of adult education. His other research interests include democracy and the social contexts of science and technology and the law. He is a professionally trained journalist and was formerly a professional youth and community worker.



Nur Sahara Sadik (Assistant Director, Institute for Adult Learning Singapore (IAL))

Sahara is a member of IAL's Centre for Research in Work & Learning. She holds a Masters in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics & Political Science in 2012. Her research interests pertain to the employability of workers amidst the changing nature of work. She has worked on a comprehensive study of the learning and development of non-permanent workers in Singapore, and is currently working on a comparative research study on the understanding of talent in a rising Asia. Prior to joining IAL in 2014, Sahara worked in a number of government agencies, including the Ministry of Education, and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research where she served in a range of portfolios that included corporate communications, and policy planning.



Georgios Zisimos (Senior Expert on EU Policies on Education and Training, ETF)

Georgios Zisimos is working since March 2014 at the European Training Foundation (ETF) in Turin holding a senior's officer position on EU Education and Training Policies. On February 2010, he was appointed in Brussels member of the Cabinet of the EU Commissioner responsible for education, culture, multilingualism, youth and sport. He was in charge of the education portfolio within the cabinet. In the ETF he focuses on the role of the EU policies in Education and Training to the partner countries. He is currently in charge of the team on Centres of Vocational Excellence.



**Shanti Jagannathan Principal Education Specialist,
Sustainable Development and Climate Change
Department, Asian Development Bank)**

Shanti works on ADB education sector policies and strategies and provides technical advice and support to ADB's lending and non-lending education operations. She leads some of the knowledge initiatives and regional technical assistance programs in the education sector. Shanti has worked on policy research studies such as skills for greening economies and Asia's knowledge-based economies and innovation. She has helped to establish the annual ADB International Skills Development Forum series. Shanti has also led the design of education sector projects for ADB funding in school education, skills development and post-quake school reconstruction in Nepal and Bhutan, and has supported education sector projects in Bangladesh and India. She has over a dozen publications arising from work in ADB. Prior to joining the ADB, Shanti worked with the European Union on development cooperation in South Asia, and with an economic research think tank in India.



**Olga Oleynikova (Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor,
Director of Centre for VET Studies, Coordinator of Erasmus+
programme in Russia)**

Dr. Oleynikova has been involved in international education both as practitioner and researcher since 1990. She is currently engaged in improving the quality and efficiency of Russian vocational education as well as fostering international partnerships in that area.

Dr. Oleynikova has published more than 200 articles dedicated to the Copenhagen and Torino Processes, VET development in EU and Russia, comparative studies, lifelong learning strategies, social partnership, quality assurance, occupational standards development, qualification framework and internationalisation of education.

Dr. Olga Oleynikova is:

- laureate of the Russian Federation Government Prize in the field of education (2010),
- member of the Comparative and International Education Society,
- member of the European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET),
- ex - president of the International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA),
- director of the UNESCO-UNEVOC center (Moscow office).
- member of the Editorial board of the European Training Foundation.