



Short bios of speakers at Roundtable B:

Honourable Vita Skilling

Honorable Minister Vita Skilling was born and raised in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia.

Honorable Minister Vita Skilling graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from College in Michigan, USA; completed medical training at the University of Hawaii School of Public Health; residency in Pediatrics at the Fiji School of Medicine and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health from the University of Otago, New Zealand.

Honorable Minister Vita Skilling accepted the position of Secretary of Health and Social Affairs in December 2007 after working at Kosrae Division of Public Health and Community Health for more than 15 years.

Honorable Minister Vita Skilling is currently serving on the Pacific Islands Primary Health Care Board, Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands, Pacific Island Health Officers Association Board, and the Health Committee for the Micronesia Chief Executive Summit and the FSM Millennium Development Goals Task Force. Honorable Minister Vita Skilling is an advocate for Micronesia One Diet Fits All Today (MODFAT)-a healthy local food diet and for grass-roots community partnership in health.

Honourable Natan Teewe

Honorable Natan Teewe, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, joined in the current Government of Kiribati in 2003 as a Minister of Communication Transport & Tourism and as the Minister of Finance, Economic Development when re-elected in 2007.

Honorable Natan Teewe is a lawyer by profession having received his higher qualification at the University of the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea, Victoria and Otago University in New Zealand.

Mr. Nicolas Gagahe

Mr. Nicolas Gagahe is the Government Statistician from the Solomon Islands government. Mr. Nicolas Gagahe was born to a big family with 9 brothers and a sister in Sepi Village of Isabel province in Solomon Islands.

Mr. Nicolas Gagahe graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from University of Papua New Guinea; hold Master of Arts in Demography with Distinction and a Post Graduate Diploma in Demography from the Australian National University.

Mr. Gagahe holds the position of Government Statistician since 2004 with the Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Finance and Treasury. Prior to this, he held the positions of Deputy Government Statistician and Census Commissioner for various periods between 1999 and 2002. Mr. Nichols Gagahe was the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Population Adviser from 2002 to 2004. He has over 24 years of experience in statistical analysis and policy development.

Ms. Elisabeth Cox

Ms. Elisabeth Cox is the Regional Programme Director for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM (since 2006).\

Ms. Cox has a lifetime of experience in development work, with specialisation on Gender in the context of Rural development, Food Security, Organisations of rural Women, rural livelihoods and markets and the informal economy, Adult education, Development Communications and Documentation, Civil Society institutional strengthening and organisational Development, ending Violence Against Women up scaling and replication of lessons learnt from local/ community level good development practice, partnership and networking with Pacific Women's Organisations and Human Rights organisations, HIV & AIDS. She is the author of numerous development training manuals, tools, toolkits, facilitator of development media (audio and audio-visual) in all of the above and on strengthening rights based approaches to ending discrimination against women.

Ms. Cox holds a Masters degree in Women and Development from the Institute of Social Studies, Den Haag, Netherlands (1984). Ms. Cox also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social psychology and Social Work (1973).