



Short bios of speakers in Plenary 1

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer

Dr. Heyzer was appointed Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2007. She is the first woman to occupy this position, leading the organization at the level of Under-Secretary-General.

Since taking office, Dr. Heyzer has positioned ESCAP, the regional arm of the United Nations, as a powerful comprehensive platform for promoting regional co-operation among member states to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. She has promoted energy, food and water security as well as green growth in the Asia Pacific region.

In response to the global economic crisis, Dr. Heyzer has worked with key decision makers from member States to develop a more coordinated, integrated regional response. This includes her five-point agenda for regional connectivity, presented to 16 Head of States during the 4th East Asian Summit, and the Dhaka outcome for accelerated growth and poverty reduction in LDCs. In this regard, she has championed building the foundations for social protection and has promoted increased intra-regional trade and investments in sustainable and inclusive development.

His Excellency, President Anote Tong

Anote Tong is serving his second term as President of Kiribati, after being re-elected in October last year. He also holds the cabinet portfolio of Foreign Affairs and Immigration. Before entering politics in 1994, President Tong worked in: the Kiribati government sector, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; and as Director of the Atoll Research and Development Unit at the University of the South Pacific.

President Tong is a leader in environmental and sustainability discussions, drawing attention to the rising sea levels and salination provoked by climate change, and the devastating effects this will have on the people of Kiribati.

Dame Carol Kidu

Lady Kidu is the Minister for Community Development in Papua New Guinea. She entered politics in 1997 and, in 2002, and is the only female MP at present in Papua New Guinea.

Lady Kidu's efforts towards poverty alleviation, against domestic violence and child abuse, against HIV and AIDS and in favour of women's empowerment have been widely recognized. In February 2009, she became the first citizen of Papua New Guinea to be made a knight of the French Légion d'honneur for her commitment to fighting discrimination and her dedication to helping women, children and people with disabilities.

Mr. Larry Greenwood

Mr. Greenwood is Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank. He is responsible for the full range of ADB's operations in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. His mandate includes establishing strategic and operational priorities, and producing investment and technical assistance operations amounting to approximately US\$5.6 billion.

Mr. Greenwood, a career diplomat for nearly 30 years, has extensive experience in Asia, international finance, development, trade, and investment. He helped coordinate donor activities in a number of post-conflict and post-disaster situations, including in Iraq, Haiti, and Pakistan. He also helped launch of a dialogue on structural reform between China's National Development and Reform Commission and the US Department of State.

Dr. Jimmie Rodgers

Dr. Rodgers is the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Prior to joining SPC as the Deputy Director General and then Director General, Dr. Rodgers has many years of experience in public health, having spent much of his career as a senior medical officer and specialist in anesthesia in the Solomon Islands.

As a member of the Reflection Group for Pacific Island Leaders, Dr Rodgers has played a key role in the development of the Pacific Plan and shaping the regional agenda for the Pacific. Furthermore, he continues to champion the implementation of Leaders' decisions, particularly in ensuring that regional service delivery to the Pacific Island members is effective, efficient and focuses on the needs of the island nations.

Dr Rodgers has shaped the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to be an organization that is responsive to the additional challenges faced by the Pacific emanating from climate change and the global economic crisis. Working with Pacific Governments and communities and focusing on their needs to ensure preparedness, responsiveness and sustainability, has become his mantra.

