

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHY



Mr. Md. Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director Innovision Consulting Private Limited and Chairperson VCB-N

Md. Rubaiyath Sarwar is a specialist in design, management and evaluation of market driven solutions to poverty challenges. His works builds on the premise that the multidimensional challenges of poverty can be tackled more sustainably through collaborative and mutually reinforcing commercial and social benefits among the private sector, NGOs and the government agencies. He is the co-founder and Managing Director of Innovision Consulting, an international consultancy with its bases in Dhaka, Bangladesh and London, United Kingdom.

Over the last 16 years, Rubaiyath has worked for major DFID, USAID, SDC, EU, GIZ, IFAD projects in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, SriLanka and

Yemen on solving growth, employment, and inclusiveness challenges in agriculture, health, industries, finance, water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition sectors.

Rubaiyath is serving as the Chairman of the Value Chain Capacity Building Network (VCB-N) for The Asia and the Pacific Region. VCB-N is founded with grant from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to build a regional resource pool of experts for value chains and market systems development projects. Rubaiyath founded Desperately Seeking Development Expert (DSDE) which is the largest platform of development professionals in Bangladesh. With over 13,000 members, DSDE plays an influential role in ideation, research, placement, discussion, dialogue and advocacy on development agenda in Bangladesh. Rubaiyath also founded D2, a data analytics company for development research and Baggitude, an online retail channel for trendy bags that are primarily made of sustainable materials. Rubaiyath is completed his BBA and MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. Rubaiyath is an Acumen fellow from Bangladesh.



Maja Rüegg is co-head of the working area Sustainable and Inclusive Economies at Helvetas

Maja Rüegg is co-head of the working area Sustainable and Inclusive Economies at Helvetas. She provides thematic support on market systems development for projects working on agricultural value chains and labour markets, including private sector and financial sector development aspects. Her advisory expertise also covers monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Previous to her current position, Maja worked in rural development projects in Tanzania and Madagascar. She has also done research in Kyrgyzstan and Bolivia on topics related to rural economy. She holds a MSc in Development Studies (LSE) and an MA in International Relations (University of Geneva) and has worked in development cooperation

since 2008.

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Miss. Elenita V. San Roque, CEO/Ex-Officio

Miss Elenita San Roque joined the Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions on February 1995 as Manager for Member Services responsible to assist ACCU member organizations in developing and improving their movement's institutional capacity.

She assumes greater responsibilities for the Asian credit union movement starting September 1, 2014 as she has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of ACCU after the retirement of the current CEO, Ranjith Hettiarachchi.

Southeast and South Asia have been the destination of Leni's travel since 1995 where she is concentrating much in helping ACCU member organizations in reaching to the poor, professionalization, quality assurance and now integration.

She is in-charge in developing programs according to the present needs of ACCU member organizations and credit unions. As ACCU is a think tank organization for credit unions, Leni's main task is developing credit union business solutions in response to credit union current and perceived challenges. ACCU now offers 21 Credit Union business solutions for members.

As a Certified Public Accountant, she was providing external auditing service, and management advisory services to both credit unions/cooperatives and private business entities from 1990 to 1994. Leni also joined the academe for one year as a CPA Reviewer before she came to work with ACCU. She completed a certificate course on Women's Executive Leadership Program at the Center for Executive Education at the University of California Berkeley in USA in July 2014.

Leni is a graduate of the 13th Australian Development Education Workshop in the year 1997. Inspired with the DE experience, ACCU and the Credit Union Foundation Australia started the Asian Development Education Program in 1999. The Asian DE has gained high approval from more than 600 leaders and professionals who are certified since 1999. Leni is serving as the DE Administrator for Asia and also received the I-CUDE (International Credit Union Development Educator) designation given by the World Council of Credit Unions.



Michael Hamp, IFAD Regional Lead Technical Specialist, Inclusive Rural Financial Services for Asia and South Pacific

Michael Hamp holds a Ph.D. in Sociology of Agricultural Economics and a Master Degree in Agricultural Engineering both from the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Bonn, Germany. In the 1980s and 1990s he worked for the Federal Ministries of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (BMELF) and of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in various departments. He became staff member of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome on 1 November 2007. The Rural Finance Unit managed by him includes two specialized sub-teams: the multi-donor

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funded Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM), merged with the Weather Risk Management team. Since 1 October 2018, he has taken the technical responsibility for Rural Finance, Markets and Enterprise Development in Asia and South Pacific. Prior to IFAD, Michael Hamp has been working with the German Technical Cooperation, GTZ (today it is GIZ). He was assigned as Principal Advisor to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion Project (1999-2003) in Namibia, before he joined the Central Bank of Indonesia as Principal Advisor for the Promotion of Small Financial Institution (ProFI) Programme until October 2007.



Mary Miller, CapPlus Consultant

Mary Miller is an experienced commercial banker, who has worked in SME banking in US and internationally, working with both downscaling banks and upscaling MFIs as well as in borrower preparation. She has also worked to develop credit sources and to structure appropriate financial instruments and procedures, particularly to enhance value chain finance and with alternative collateral, for MSMEs and for access to finance for agricultural producers and agribusiness and for target groups such as women-led SMEs. She has extensive experience in designing, using, and evaluating credit guarantees. In 2018 and 2019 she led the Access to Finance component of a USAID private sector project in Myanmar, and currently does consulting work for Capital Plus Exchange. CapPlus has been building

financial institutions' capacity to deliver small business finance for 15 years, working with over 28 African financial institutions in 13 countries.



Mark Koppejan, Programme Manager Asia, Rabo Foundation

Mark Koppejan is currently leading Rabo Foundation's team in Jakarta and managing its portfolio in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines. As the impact fund of Rabobank (a leading bank in food & agriculture) Rabo Foundation invests in the self-reliance of smallholder farmers and fishers by working with cooperatives, small and medium-sized enterprises and microfinance institutions. Rabo Foundations is active in nearly all agricultural value chains ranging from cocoa, coffee, honey, cotton, spices, nuts, peppers, fish, soya to vegetables and many more. Agribusinesses and cooperatives that have outgrown donations and microcredit but are not yet eligible for standard bank loans often have great difficulty in attracting financing. Rabo Foundation aims to plug this gap by providing working capital loans, investment loans, trade

finance in local currency. Co-financing with local financiers and collaborating with innovative AgTech and FinTech players is part of the approach. Mark has worked for the Rabobank Group for nearly 10 years in several (international) corporate banking roles before moving to Rabo Foundation in 2018.