Children’s Rights and Business Principles
Asia Regional Event
October 6, 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Speaker Biographies

Thomas Thomas, CEO, ASEAN CSR Network

Keynote

Thomas Thomas is the CEO of the ASEAN CSR Network, a network of CSR networks in ASEAN to achieve a responsible business community in ASEAN. He serves on the UN Economic and Social Council for Asia Pacific (ESCAP)’s Business Advisory Council, an initiative to consult the private sector and other relevant stakeholders on business related policy issues of importance to Asia and the Pacific. He was also the lead of the study team that did the baseline study on CSR in ASEAN Member States for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. He serves in the Eminent Person’s Group developing the Reporting and Assurance Framework Initiative (RAFI) for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

He is an Honorary Professor of Corporate Social Responsibility with the Nottingham University Business School in the United Kingdom. Thomas was the founding Executive Director of the Singapore Compact for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the national CSR society in Singapore. He was the co-chair of the National Tripartite Initiative for CSR, formed in 2004 and initiated the formation of Singapore Compact for CSR. He was the Singapore focal point for UN Global Compact.

Thomas had been active with trade unions, co-operatives, the consumer movement and social enterprises and also served as a Nominated Member of Parliament in Singapore.

Veronica Pedrosa, Independent Journalist and Presenter

Moderator

With more than 20 years experience in news reporting and presenting, Veronica Pedrosa has played a key role in the world’s most influential 24 hour newsrooms by providing crucial input into news coverage at CNN, BBC World News, BBC World Service and Al Jazeera English, responding to breaking news, shaping coverage, managing and providing leadership to multicultural teams of journalists.

Ms. Pedrosa is a communicator who is in demand to speak, host and moderate at international conferences, focusing on development, humanitarian issues, the environment and journalism. In the past, Ms. Pedrosa has worked with heads of state, high government officials, experts and philanthropists to produce informative debates to produce informative debates on complex and controversial issues.
Mohd. Shah bin Hashim, President, Global Compact Network Malaysia

Introductory Session Speaker

Mohd. Shah obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and is a Barrister & Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand. He is an Advocate & Solicitor, High Court of Malaya and is a Licensed Company Secretary and a Trade Mark and Industrial Design Agent. Currently, he is a practicing Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya. He advises members of the Board of Directors of Companies on all aspects of corporate integrity, corporate compliance and corporate governance matters.

Charlotta Sterky, Deputy Secretary General/Director Child Rights & Business, Save the Children Sweden

Introductory Session Speaker

Together with the CEO, Charlotta is leading the organization’s corporate and strategic work including change management. Charlotta has held several managerial positions in Save the Children Sweden especially within communications. She has worked with UNICEF on child rights issues in Geneva. As chair of Save the Children Child Protection Initiative Steering Group, she has been instrumental in the establishment and development of child protection as a strong programmatic area working with UN organizations, civil society, governments and the corporate sector. Charlotta has also been fundamental in building the linkages between child protection and the corporate sector where child labor is a core area. She has also been part of the establishment of the social enterprise, the Center for Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility (CCR CSR) in China. Charlotta represents Save the Children Sweden in strategic partnerships and has for many years been working with the IKEA Foundation. As Director Child Rights & Business she is setting up a new department on Child Rights & Business focusing on companies becoming actors for children’s rights. Charlotta is leading Save the Children’s expansion in this area, establishing new regional centers, developing tools and methods to help companies ensure their businesses are aligned with the Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBP), advocating governments and strengthening civil society.

Andrew Mawson, Chief of Children’s Rights and Business, UNICEF

Introductory Session Speaker

Andrew Mawson is Chief, Corporate Social Responsibility at UNICEF in Geneva, where he heads a dynamic team working on child rights and business.

He has worked for UNICEF in a variety of child rights and child protection positions, between 2000 and 2006 in UNICEF’s Sudan and Uganda Country Offices, and more recently at UNICEF’s Office of Research in Florence. In that time he has been involved in developing child protection systems in emergencies, the demobilization of child soldiers, and child safeguarding as well as research on interpersonal violence against children, ICTs and child rights, and birth registration.

He has also served as Human Rights Watch’s Deputy Programme Director, covering work on children’s rights, women’s rights, and arms control. In his earlier career, Dr Mawson worked as a researcher for Amnesty International, specializing geographically in eastern and southern Africa. He has also worked for Save the Children and the UN’s Department of Peace-Keeping Operations (DPKO).
Brendan Barrett, Research Coordinator, Global Compact Cities Programme

Session 1 Panelist

Urbanist and environmental planner, Brendan Barrett holds the position of Research Coordinator with the Global Compact Cities Programme. In this role, he coordinates the programme’s research activities and assists in the development of collaborative projects that support city participants in their advancement of the Ten Principles.

Brendan was previously employed with the United Nations University in various capacities, initially in research (1997-2002), then as Head of Online Learning (2002-2010) and finally as the Head of Communications. At the UNU, Brendan coordinated several major research and educational projects including the Iwate Environment Network, the Global Virtual University, and the Asia Pacific Initiative. He acted as the UNU’s focal point for the World Summit on the Information Society between 2003 and 2005, and was an expert reviewer for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. Brendan has written extensively on sustainability issues including three books, and also for online media including The Guardian and Al Jazeera.

Paniti Chantayasakorn, Senior Corporate Manager and Head of CSR, Sansiri

Session 1 Panelist

Paniti Chantayasakorn is the Senior Corporate Manager and Head of CSR department at Sansiri. Before joining Sansiri, she was involved in the Media Agency Industry with over 10 years of experience, and worked for companies like the Mccan Worldgroup.

After joining Sansiri, Ms. Paniti initiated the Social Change Department with the support of Mr. Srettha Thavisin, the President of Sansiri. Ms. Paniti also helped initiated the partnership between Sansiri and UNICEF Thailand. Ms. Paniti lead the Thailand private sector in an effort to make a difference in society by managing various projects like The Good Space that was developed from UNICEF’s Child Friendly Space.

Another successful project led by Ms. Paniti is the ‘Iodine Please’ campaign in partnership with UNICEF Thailand, a nationwide campaign that was so successful it resulted in Universal Salt Iodisation legislation passed by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva administration.

Ines Kaempfer, Executive Director, CCR CSR China & Hong Kong

Session 1 Panelist

Ines Kaempfer brings close to 10 years of experience in CSR supply chain management with a strong focus on China’s manufacturing industry. Her work has included development and implementation of large-scale eLearning tools, as well as overseeing innovative factory improvement programs that focus on worker impact.

As the Executive Director of CCR CSR in China and Hong Kong, Ms. Kaempfer leads strategic design and implementation of overall operations and stakeholder engagement, working closely with dozens of major multi-national clients to promote and push through CRBP-related initiatives. Ms. Kaempfer has held CRBP awareness seminars and action training sessions for senior management teams of major international brands such as Stora Enso and Nokia.

Bruce Klafter, Vice-President Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility, Flextronics

Session 1 Panelist

Bruce Klafter joined Flextronics in 2013, a socially-responsible, global leader in design, manufacturing, distribution and aftermarket services, to provide strategic direction to the Company’s social and environmental responsibility initiatives. His role includes regular consultation with senior management and the Board on sustainability and EHS matters. Flextronics was a founding member of the Electronics Industry Citizen Coalition (EICC) and Bruce currently serves as an EICC Board member and as Vice-Chair for the organization.

Previously, Bruce leveraged his unusual blend of business, environmental and legal expertise to help integrate sustainability strategy into Applied Materials’ worldwide operations. Prior to joining Applied Materials, Bruce had a distinguished legal career in public and private practice, specializing in environmental and natural resources law.
Zahidal Hassan, Communications and Partnerships Officer, UNICEF Bangladesh

Session 2 Panelist

Zahid played a key role in launching and promoting Children’s Rights and Business Principles in Bangladesh since 2012. He was also actively involved in the implementation task force of the M&S supported UNICEF urban and garment project first phase in Bangladesh and currently a member of the urban programme management team at UNICEF Bangladesh.

Zahid has been working in the fundraising and partnership area for the past 17 years, both with the private sector and development sector with specific responsibilities of managing CSR community investment projects, resource mobilisation, branding, communication and partnerships. Prior to his current role Zahid worked for Sights Saver International, ActionAid International and Nestle. He has a master’s degree in Disaster Management from the Institute of Disaster and Vulnerability Studies at Dhaka University in Bangladesh University.

Chee Keong Lai, Senior Director, Risk Assessments and Audits, EICC

Session 2 Panelist

Chee Keong is the Senior Director of Risk Assessments and Audits for the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition. He has more than 20 years of experience in sustainability programs including supplier assessments, corporate social responsibility and green supply chains. His experience also includes validation and verification of carbon emission reduction projects on behalf of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and environmental, occupational safety & health and quality management systems’ audit, training and consultancy. Chee Keong has extensive international experience and exposure in countries in Asia-Pacific and in Europe. He was based in Beijing for 6 years from 2008 to 2014. He is multi-lingual. He speaks English, Bahasa Malaysia, Mandarin, Cantonese and Japanese.

Lake Law, CSR Manager, Concord Pottery LTD., China

Session 2 Panelist

Raised and educated in California, USA, Lake Law worked in the legal field in the Los Angeles area prior to relocating to China in 2008. For the past eight years, Mr. Law has been working in the Corporate Social Responsibility field, focusing on Chinese vendors supplying for different brands such as Macy’s, Disney, Calvin Klein, and Starbucks Coffee. From 2011, Mr. Law has been the Corporate Responsibility Manager for Concord Pottery LTD, a major ceramics manufacturer supplying Starbucks Coffee.

After participating in a well-received in-factory parenting training program (conducted by CCR CSR) for employees with left-behind children, Mr. Law, together with Concord’s senior management, decided to invest in an on-site childcare facility, allowing parent workers to live with their children for the first time in the company’s history. Thanks to Mr. Law’s initiative, Concord Pottery now enjoys recognition as a CRBP best practice case and serves as an inspiration to companies considering similar programs.

Greg Priest, Head of Sustainability Policy, IKEA

Session 2 Panelist

Greg has been a key figure in the development of IKEA Group sustainability strategy, “People and Planet Positive”. He leads policy and process development to achieve IKEA’s ambitious goals in the area of sustainability. Current priorities include the integration of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and further developing the company’s approach to integrating children’s rights into IKEA’s business through the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. Greg is also responsible for IKEA’s external engagement on sustainability and for developing partnerships to support the company’s social and environmental goals.

Greg has been working in the sustainability area for the past 17 years, both with consumer topics and supply chain issues. Greg previously worked as Global IWAY Compliance Manager, developing the company’s supplier code of conduct and IKEA’s global approach to supply chain responsibility.