

Speakers Biography



Masanori Kusunoki (Japan) is the Director General of the Digital Agency and is responsible for building a common government infrastructure, including shared services for central and local government, identity management, and trust infrastructure. Prior to joining the Digital Agency, he was an executive advisor to the government CIO on the sidelines, building information infrastructure to support the social security and tax number system, COVID-19 exposure notification application, and vaccination record systems.



Meerjady Sabrina Flora (Bangladesh) is a Bangladeshi physician, professor of epidemiology and public health specialist. Since 2020, she serves as the additional director general of Directorate General of Health Services (planning and development). Prior to that, she was appointed as the Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), the apex center for conducting disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, disease control, epidemic prevention and research in Bangladesh. She also worked at the Bangladesh Medical Research Council for three years as the Assistant Director and served as a Professor of National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine. She holds PhD degree from the University of Cambridge.



Dr Posikai Samuel Tapo (Vanuatu) attended the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Papua New Guinea, where he completed a Bachelor of Dental Surgery. After working as a dentist in PNG, he undertook a Master of International Public Health at the University of Sydney.

Dr Posikai moved to Vanuatu in 2015 and worked with the United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of Climate Change on the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project, where he was responsible for coordinating the Early Warning System. In 2018, he assumed the

role of Director of Corporate Services, Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Health. Dr Posikai's directorate is responsible for providing policy, coordination, advice and support services to enable a fair, equitable and accessible health system that is delivered efficiently and effectively. He has a keen interest in building the capacity of the Ministry to ensure sustainable development in line with The People's Plan.

Dr Posikai is an avid fan of rugby league and football, and follows the English Premier League as a Chelsea fan.



Anit Mukherjee is a Policy Fellow at the Center for Global development. His research and policy analysis focuses on technology platforms for digital service delivery in areas such as identification systems, digital financial services, health and social protection. Previously, he was an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in New Delhi specializing in public financial management and development financing. Anit holds a PhD in policy and planning sciences from the University of Tsukuba, Japan and has consulted widely for several international organizations including the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF and the Commonwealth Secretariat.



Sarah Lister is UNDP's Head of Governance and oversees policy and programme support to its governance portfolio globally, which includes electoral cycle support, parliamentary development, anti-corruption, legal identity, youth empowerment and disability inclusion. She has more than 25 years' experience working on democratic governance, including civic engagement, media and communication, social accountability, public administration reform

and governance measurement. From 2015-2019 she was the Director of UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre where she led the team bridging research, policy and practice on governance and peacebuilding in transitional contexts, with a particular focus on SDG16. She worked previously for UNDP, BBC Media Action, the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit in Kabul and the Institute of Development Studies, UK. She has also consulted for multilaterals, bilaterals, think-tanks and NGOs. She has lived and worked in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Sarah holds a PhD and MSc in Social Policy from the London School of Economics, and a BA in History from Cambridge University, UK.



Risa Arai is UNDP's Programme Specialist on Legal Identity, based at UNDP HQ in New York. In this position, she coordinates 'UN Legal Identity Agenda Task Force' where more than 12 UN agencies work together and support Member States to build holistic, country-owned, sustainable civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems in a coherent manner. She also functions as a project manager and provides technical and operational support to UNDP Country Offices, contributes to the development of the UN's policy and UNDP's guideline on civil registration, national identity schemes, privacy, and data protection, and promotes engagement with private sector.