



*"The UNITAR Hiroshima Fellowship for Afghanistan — An Anthology"*

Book Launch & Roundtable, Hiroshima UNITAR Office, June 29, 2023

Participants (in alphabetical order)

**Roundtable moderators**

**Nassrine AZIMI**

Nassrine Azimi is co-founder and coordinator of the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative (GLH), a global campaign to disseminate and plant worldwide seeds and saplings of trees that survived the 1945 atomic bombing. She was chief of UNITAR's New York Office, the founding director and later senior advisor of the UNITAR Hiroshima Office till April 2023. She is chair of the EDEN (Emerging and Developing Economies Network) Seminars and teaches international peace and security at Doshisha Women's College.

**Humaira KHAN-KAMAL**

Humaira Khan-Kamal, a former UNITAR New York Office staff, was team leader for the Afghanistan Fellowship Programme, the design and implementation of which she spearheaded. She also led the research and development of several training programs in international trade, public-private partnerships for sustainable development, and policy issues in information and communication technologies. She is currently the CEO of a healthcare company in the United States

**Roundtable speakers**

**Fawad AKBARI**

Dr. Fawad Akbari is an expert in pediatric medicine, global health, and humanitarian response. As the Director, Humanitarian Innovation at Grand Challenges Canada, he leads initiatives to fund and nurture health, WASH, life-saving information, and alternative energy innovations in conflict-affected countries. Fawad has held leadership positions in various organizations, including Aga Khan Foundation in Afghanistan, Canada, the USA. He has medical and public health degrees from Kabul Medical University and the University of Liverpool, respectively, and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa's School of Epidemiology and Public Health. He has been a fellow, coach, mentor, and instructor with UNITAR fellowship programs for Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Egypt since 2009. Fawad's research interests include health governance, community health, gender equality, and conflict and health.

**Yuko BABA**

Yuko is a staff of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government. She was seconded to the



UNITAR Hiroshima Office from 2019 to 2022. As the focal point of the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative secretariat, she was in charge of communication with partners and botanical gardens, and also helping organize various committees and working group meetings. She participated in the development of AFLP/BGNet initiative from the start.

### Monte CASSIM

Monte Cassim is President of Akita International University and co-founder of EDEN (Emerging and Developing Economies Network) Seminars. From 2004 to 2013, he was Vice-Chancellor of Ritsumeikan Trust and concurrently President of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) from 2004 to 2010. In 2018, he was appointed as the first President of Shizenkan University and professor (Science & Technology Innovation) at its Graduate School of Leadership and Innovation, in Tokyo. Prof. Cassim is a member of the AFLP/BGNet international advisory panel.

### Phillip DOUGLAS

Phillip Douglas is director of horticulture at Denver Botanic Gardens, managing a team of horticulturists overseeing one of the world's most diverse plant collections. He began his career in horticulture working for the historical Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum in Cincinnati, Ohio, and more recently as the director of plant collections for the Chicago Botanic Garden. He serves as the chair of the Plant Collecting Collaborative, a group of public gardens dedicated to plant conservation through exploration expeditions around the globe. He is a member of the AFLP/BGNet international advisory panel.

### David J. EATON

David J. Eaton is the Bess Harris Jones Centennial Professor of Natural Resource Policy Studies at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin (UT/A). He has been a Visiting Professor at the Graduate School for International Development and Economic Cooperation of Hiroshima University. Prior to joining UT/A, Eaton served on the staff of the US Agency for International Development, the US President's Science Advisor's Office, and the US President's Council on Environment Quality. He was long a lead Resource Person for the Afghanistan Fellowship.

### Michael A. FORS

Michael A. Fors is the Executive Leader of the corporate division and business unit development at Boeing. His team works to transform the business and develop workforces systematically as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution. Before Boeing, he was an Executive Leader at Microsoft, digitally transforming Microsoft divisions. Dr. Fors is Chair of the Board for UNITAR's Division for Prosperity, leading programs for post-conflict and developing nations, and for many years led the curriculum design and training workshops for the UNITAR Hiroshima Fellowship for Afghanistan. He is a member of the AFLP/BGNet international advisory panel.



### **Jennifer FOX**

Jennifer Fox currently serves as an advisor with the US Treasury Office of Technical Assistance (OTA). In this capacity she has helped countries across the globe enhance their budgeting and oversight processes. Jennifer also supports a US State Department/USAID fiscal transparency project in Lesotho. Prior to her career at OTA, she worked for the Texas Legislature as a budget and policy analyst. Jennifer served as a mentor in the UNITAR Afghanistan Fellowship from 2009 to 2018 and has served as an adjunct professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University since 2018.

### **Nigel GAN**

Nigel Gan is currently with UNAIDS where he is responsible for the Learning and Development of staff located in 70+ country offices around the world. Previously at UNITAR he was the Leadership and Empowerment Training Portfolio Manager, which included the Afghan Fellowship. Prior to joining UNITAR in 2014, he worked as a Digital Media Consultant at the British Embassy, Tokyo; and as an information management adviser for the Department of Justice, Victoria, Australia. He is a Certified Professional in Talent Development (CPTD), and an accredited Career Coach, Master Trainer and Master Instructional Designer.

### **Mariam GHAZNAVI**

Mariam Ghaznavi currently works at Pfizer. Prior to this, she worked at the Ministry of Finance for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and at OXUS Consulting Group. She received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Bakhtar University and her master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology. She was a volunteer coach for the UNITAR Afghanistan Fellowship and a resource person for the Women Leadership Program for Afghanistan.

### **Lorne JAQUES**

Lorne Jaques has led teams of academics and development professionals in various development projects and was directly involved in both grass roots as well as multilateral projects in Latin America, South Asia, and Eastern Europe, most notably in the health, social and education sectors. Dr. Jaques was Chief of UNITAR's New York Office from 2002 to 2004 and was thereafter Professor and Senior Director of the International Development and Research International Centre at the University of Calgary.

### **Mohammad Sohail KAAKAR**

Mohammad Sohail KAAKAR was a senior strategic adviser to the National Procurement Authority of the Office of the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, with 12 years of work experience with numerous government and non-government organizations, including international NGOs. Prior to joining the Administrative Office of the President, he used to serve as the spokesperson of the Ministry of Public Works and the program director of the Public Work Corps. He was a



member of the UNITAR Afghanistan Fellowship.

### **Sharapiya KAKIMOVA**

Sharapiya Kakimova works with the National Agency for Research and Development in Chile. She graduated as a system engineer in the Republic of Kazakhstan before working in various governmental institutions of Kazakhstan for six years. She then went to Japan, where she obtained her Ph.D at Hiroshima University, before joining the UNITAR Hiroshima Office for many years as part of the leadership team for the Afghanistan Fellowship Program.

### **Rama KANNAN**

Rama Kannan is an Executive and Leadership Coach and has been coaching leaders in Corporates and the Social sector for over 10 years, including UN leaders globally through UNSSC. She also teaches Social Entrepreneurship and is on the Board of two Impact funds. Previously she was a senior Strategy and Marketing professional for multinational companies in India and Asia Pacific for over 16 years. She was a Mentor from 2010 in the UNITAR Afghanistan Fellowship Programme, which was a catalyst to her becoming a Coach.

### **Mihoko KUMAMOTO**

Mihoko Kumamoto is director of the Division for Prosperity, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). She has over 20 years of professional experience in the development cooperation field. She has led the expansion of the Afghanistan Fellowship Program and its applications to other post-conflict training programmes of UNITAR. She is a member of the AFLP/BGNet international advisory panel.

### **Ari NOVY**

Ari Novy is President and CEO of the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas, California. He is a plant biologist with a wide range of expertise in plant science and education, and formerly the Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. Dr. Novy is chair of the international advisory panel of AFLP's Botanic Garden Network (BGNet) which he helped spearhead and supported since 2020.

### **Najib Rahman SABORY**

Najib Rahman Sabory works with a Japanese corporation on energy and sustainable energy issues. He was Associate Professor and Head of the Energy Department of the Engineering School at Kabul University and former Chairman of the Afghanistan Renewable Energy Union (AREU). Dr. Sabory participated in the UNITAR Afghanistan Fellowship Program in 2007 in various capacities, and is a core member of the AFLP/BGNet team.



### **Nikhil SETH**

Nikhil Seth is UN Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR. Prior to this, he served as the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the UN Secretariat in New York. Mr. Seth has served as Special Assistant and Chief of Office to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and was Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch in the Division for ECOSOC. He joined the Indian Diplomatic service in 1980 and prior to that, he was a lecturer at St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.

### **Sabahuddin SOKOUT**

Sabahuddin Sokout is the UNITAR Focal Point in Afghanistan. Prior to UNITAR, he was Administration and Finance Officer at the Baz Construction Unit for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (BCURA) and Liaison Officer of Foreign Affairs in the Academy of Science of Afghanistan. Sokout joined the UNITAR Hiroshima Fellowship for Afghanistan as a Fellow in 2005, as a Coach in 2006 and 2007, and as an Afghan Resource Person in 2008. He is a core member of the AFLP team.

### **Yuji UESUGI**

Yuji Uesugi is a professor of peace and conflict studies at Waseda University. He has a Ph.D. in International Conflict Analysis from the University of Kent and has researched the role of intermediaries, like the UN, in peace processes. He has also worked as a conflict resolution practitioner in various regions (Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Aceh, Bangsamoro, Afghanistan, and Okinawa). His academic focus is on field-based, policy-oriented research for peace. He has published in English and Japanese on topics such as peacebuilding, security sector governance, state-building, peace operations, and civil-military coordination.

### **Tomoko WATANABE**

Born in Hiroshima, Tomoko Watanabe's parents are atomic bomb survivors. She is Executive Director of ANT-Hiroshima, which she established in 1989. She has been conducting peace activities based in Hiroshima since then. She co-founded GLH and served as a co-coordinator for the Initiative until 2017. Through education about peace, she would like to continue with activities that communicate the dangers of nuclear weapons, and the existence and significance of the A-Bombed trees to people both in Japan and abroad.

## **Roundtable coordination Team**

### **Riko AKAI**

Riko Akai holds a Bachelor of Law from Hiroshima University in international relations, and a master's degree from Hiroshima University in conflict resolution and int'l politics. Her research focused on conflict resolution in Jammu & Kashmir, in Northern India. Riko was an intern at UNITAR Hiroshima from 2021 to 2023, as well



as an intern at ANT-Hiroshima from 2020 to 2023. Alongside, she has worked with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

### **Benjamin ECHIKSON**

Benjamin Echikson was born in Brussels, Belgium. He joined the GLH team as the Oberlin Shansi Fellow to Hiroshima, where he divides his time between GLH, UNITAR, and ANT-Hiroshima. Benjamin assists in various functions of GLH from overseeing the website to corresponding with partners and organizing GLH events. He hopes to help spread awareness of GLH and its message of peace to more people throughout the world.

### **Jenny Xin LUAN**

Born and raised in Beijing, China, Jenny Xin Luan is currently in graduate studies at Harvard University. She joined the UNITAR Hiroshima Office in 2018 after graduating from Oberlin College in the US and was part of the Green Legacy Hiroshima Secretariat Team, she was mainly responsible for the GLH website and outreach.

### **Taiga NISHIMURA**

Taiga Nishimura is a Program Coordinator at Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC) that is commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to conduct the Global Human Resource Development Program for Peacebuilding and Development. Taiga obtained a Master of Science degree in International Development with Conflict and Humanitarian Action from University of Bath, the UK, and his undergraduate degree from Hiroshima Shudo University, Japan. He has been a Research Assistant at AFLP since the early stages of the projects.

### **Saeeda RAZICK**

Saeeda Razick was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. She was a UNITAR trainee and recently joined the GLH Secretariat Team. She mainly handles the Partners in Profile series and outreach. She hopes to share the GLH's message of peace, especially with youth.

### **Haruka YASUDA**

Haruka Yasuda is a staff of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government and has been seconded to the UNITAR Hiroshima Office since April 2022. As the focal point of the Green Legacy Hiroshima Secretariat, she oversees all communication with partners and botanical gardens, domestically and internationally, as well as helps organize the campaign's committee and working group meetings. She hopes that the prayer for peace will spread all over the world through the activities of Green Legacy Hiroshima.