

## Expert Bios

**H.E Keovisouk SOLAPHOM, Deputy Minister of Technology and Communications (MTC) - 7 minutes (10 min)**



H.E. Keovisouk Solaphom is an advisor of Digital Government Center, since 2022 to present and he has more than 27 years experiences in field of telecom and ICT. Prior to this position, in 1992-1996 he got bachelor degree in Telecommunication from Khonkaen University, Thailand. In 1998-2001 worked at Lao Telecom company was a head of Administration Unit and got master degree in electronic communication from University of South Australia. In 2001-2003 was a Chief of Secretariat Division. In 2007-2008 got master degree in business administration from Hitotsubashi University of Japan and worked at Lao Telecom company until 2012. In 2012-2014 he was a Deputy Director General of Lao National Internet Center, Ministry of Technology and

Communications (MTC). In 2014-2022 was a Director General of Lao National Internet Center, MTC. In 2022 – present is Deputy Minister of Technology and Communications (MTC).

### **Mr. Juwang Zhu**

**Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government - Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations**



Mr. Juwang Zhu is currently Director of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government/DESA. Among his various assignments at the UN Secretariat, Mr. Zhu served as Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General/DESA (2008-2013). In that capacity he advised the Under-Secretary-General on a range of policy and management issues. Mr. Zhu was Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), including work on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (2013-2014). As Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (Jan 2016- February 2019), Mr. Zhu coordinated the Secretariat support for the High-level Political Forum, the UN Ocean Conference, and the Global Sustainable Transport Conference. Prior to his reassignment to DESA in 1993,

Mr. Zhu had previously worked in the secretariat of the UN World Food Council and in the UN Office in Geneva. He joined the UN Secretariat in 1985. Born in Shanghai, August 1961, Mr. Zhu graduated from the Shanghai International Studies University in 1982 and did post-graduate studies in Beijing Foreign Studies University. He has an MSC in financial economics from University of London and an MA in international relations from Webster University.

**Ms. Sara Sekkenes, United Nations Resident Coordinator (5 minutes)**



With 22 years of experience within international humanitarian and development cooperation, Sara Sekkenes was appointed the UN Resident Coordinator in the People's Democratic Republic of Lao on 1 May 2019. Prior to this, Sara has worked with the United Nations for 14 years, serving in duty stations at the headquarters in New York and in Geneva. Sara recently served at UNDP in Geneva as Adviser on Partnerships and Conflict Prevention (2015-2019) and as Team Leader, Conflict Prevention and Recovery (2011-2014), engaging in human rights, violence prevention, arms control and mine action work. Previously she served as UNDP Adviser and Team Leader, Armed Violence Prevention, Mine Action and Small Arms (2006-2011).

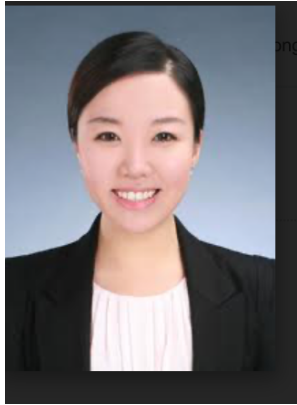
Before joining the United Nations, Sara worked with the non-governmental organization Norwegian People's Aid as Country Director in Mozambique, managing a 350-staff humanitarian mine action programme (2004-2005), as Policy Adviser at their headquarter in Oslo, Norway, (2001-2004) as Programme Adviser, in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia and in Kosovo\* (2001), and Programme Manager in Angola (1998-2000). A national of Norway, Sara holds a Master from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden in the field of Human and Physical Geography and additional university degrees in Development Studies and Political Geography. She speaks English, French and Portuguese in addition to her mother tongues, Norwegian and Swedish.

**Mr. Wai Min Kwok**

**Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**



Wai Min Kwok has over 25 years of experience, with expertise spanning a range in sustainable development, public policy, public administration, digital government, digital transformation and Internet governance. Prior to joining the United Nations Secretariat in 2008, he spent over ten years in the energy and information technology sectors as an engineer and a technopreneur. In UN DESA, he has been entrusted with a portfolio of roles, including as a lead author for selected editions of the UN E-Government Survey and the World Public Sector Report. For three consecutive years in 2011-2013, he was the Secretary of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. Wai Min Kwok was formerly a Lee Ka-Shing graduate scholar and Mobil Oil scholar. He has a postgraduate master's in public administration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and an honours degree in electrical engineering at the National University of Singapore.



**Hyejeong Lim**

Principal Manager, National Information Society Agency. Hyejeong Lim is a senior manager in the National Information Society Agency in the Republic of Korea. She has been working in an open data center for 8 years and responsible for developing the national open data master plan and pan-government open data evaluation. Her expertise is in open data, data mining, ICT policies, Ms. Lim holds an international business bachelor degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Ms Anju Mangal has 20 years of experience in leading a team, project management, donor reporting, telecommunication sector, ICT policy, broadband policies and strategy development, government, digital connectivity, digital transformation, cybersecurity, digital skills and digital economy in Asia and Pacific. She has a Master of Governance and a Bachelor of Science Degree. She was awarded the Obama Foundation leadership fellowship and the U.S. State Department International Leadership Programme on Digital Economy and Cybersecurity. Ms Anju Mangal is an International Expert on Data Management Frameworks. She also works on a part-time basis as the Regional Head of Asia and Pacific at the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership, an organisation based in

Washington DC. She was the Head of Asia Pacific in the Alliance for Affordable Internet and the World Wide Web Foundation. She has extensive experience with international and regional partners that support digital tech, policy and inclusion in Asia, Pacific, Caribbean, Latin America and Africa and has managed and implemented projects funded by Sweden's Government Agency for Development Cooperation (Sida), USAID, UN DESA, ITU, Meta, Google, Bill Gates Foundation, UNESCAP, APCICT, World Bank, ADB and other development partners and donors.



Ms. Karen Kee, Deputy Director, International and Community Development, Government Technology Agency, Singapore - Karen heads the international relations and community engagement efforts at the Government Technology Agency of Singapore. Through her mission in international relations, she has represented Singapore at global forums and organize GovTech's annual meeting of over 15 of global government CIOs since 2015. She is passionate about engaging the tech community and eco-system to foster partnership with GovTech to develop world class products. As an organizer of the bi-annual STACK Developer Conference and monthly meetups to engage the tech companies and community. Karen formed and grew the Singapore Government's developer community, STACK, to a vibrant community with over 13,000 members in just over 3 years. Karen is also the product lead for

the Singapore Government Developer Portal, a one-stop resource hub for developers to discover government digital product and services. She has taken on several roles in GovTech in the areas of product management, governance, and strategic planning. Karen is a board member and Singapore's Deputy National Representative at the International Council for CIOs in Gov Administration since 2018. Prior to GovTech, she developed government-wide systems in Accenture and SingTel's billing system. She graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems.



**Dr. Thavisak MANODHAM**

**Director General of Digital Government Center,  
Ministry of Technology and Communications**

Dr. Thavisak MANODHAM is now working on Digital Government, ICT policy and regulation development. He has been in the Telecommunications and ICT industry for more than 26 years. Prior to his current role, he has held various technology development positions including DG of ICT Department, and CTO of the Enterprise of Telecommunication Lao (ETL) who leading and managing many ICT projects. He received a Chief Security Officers ASEAN Award in 2012 and Young Researcher's Encouragement Award from IEEE in 2005.

Dr. Thavisak got his Ph.D and Master Degree in Information Technology from the University of Electro-Communications (Japan) and a BSc Degree in Communication Engineering with Honor Award from KMITNB (Thailand)



**Vannapha Phommahansy**

**Deputy Director General, Digital Government Center**

Vannapha has been with the Ministry of Technology and Communications since 2014, and she is currently Deputy Director General of the Digital government Center, where she oversees digital government policy, standards, coordination, and management. Her current project focuses on the formalization of the Digital Government Master Plan, Lao digital transformation, and serving as the Lao focal point for the ASEAN Digital Data Governance Working Group. Prior to this position, in 2009 she worked as a core network manager for Millicom Laos (Tigo) and as a part-time volunteer lecturer at the national university of Lao - Engineering Faculty. In 2014, she began working with the department of telecommunications (MPT) on WTO lao entry ( on telecoms). She was appointed as the national focal person for the ASEAN Digital Minister Sectoral Body (Director of ASEAN and Regional Cooperation) in 2016 and serves in that capacity until 2022. On education profile : Vannapha is a Fulbright scholar who completed her postgraduate studies in 2013 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, with MSc. Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Mr. Amphonesak THEPPHOUMY, Head of Policy and Standard Division

Digital Government Center, MTC



Mr. Amphonesak THEPPHOUMY is a Policy maker with over 15 years of experience in telecom/ICT field.

He has started his career since 2008 as freshly officer at Telecom and ICT Department under the National of Post and Telecommunication Authority. He has joined many teams and communities to study, draft and propose a lot of Law, decree and other regulations related to telecom/ICT and e-commerce of Laos. Since 2022 he moved to Digital

Government Center as head of division and he was leader author for drafting the decree on digital government and now he is key person in team for studying and drafting the first digital government masterplan of Laos. Amphonesak THPPHOUMY hold a Bachelor degree of Telecommunication from Post and Telecommunication Institute of Vietnam, and has continued his master of MBA at Lao-Japan Institute under National University of Laos

Master of Ceremony - **Ms. Viengkham Phetsikham**, Staff, MTC



Viengkham Phetsikham has been working at Digital Government Center for more than 10 years. Her responsibility is to coordinate and cooperate with local organizations such as each government organization in both central and provincial. Also, she is a planner of planning in the field of digital government transformation in regional areas.

**Anoloth Phanvongsa**

**Partner, Vongphit Consulting Co., Ltd**



Anoloth has over 20 years of experience in the Banking, Telecommunication, and Technology sector with solid knowledge in data governance. In his early years, he headed Internal audit, Sarbanes–Oxley implementations, and revenue assurance department. Currently, Vice president at BSH Insurance and co-founder of LaoKYC, he is directly overseeing how companies handle personal data. Prior to joining the Vongphit Consulting as partner, Anoloth has assisted the Lao government in a wide range of projects on legal and technical advisory roles including Internet exchange, top domain name registry, Simcard Registrations, and Digital Signature. He was local consultant for Worldbank assisting MTC on WTO's telecom regulatory related issues and recently digital transformations. Anoloth hold MBA from International University of Japan, under Japan Development Scholarship and Bachelor Degree in Management Information System from Swinburne University of Technology, under Australian Development Scholarship.