

IFNIA 2021

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON NEW INCLUSIVE ASIA 2021



Poverty Alleviation in China
LESSONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

September 9, 2021

ONLINE
VIA ZOOM

IFNIA 2021

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON NEW INCLUSIVE ASIA 2021

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IFNIA 2021

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON NEW INCLUSIVE ASIA 2021

About IFNIA

Poverty Alleviation in China LESSONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

According to the World Bank, since China began to open and reform its economy in 1978, more than 800 million people have been lifted out of poverty. "This is one of the great stories in human history", said former World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, and there are lessons to be learned from this Chinese experience.

China is also the first country to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1, ten years earlier than UN's target date.

China's success story in poverty alleviation provides valuable and useful lessons for the developing countries, and this is the theme of IFNIA 2021. A panel of 12 distinguished scholars, corporate leaders and senior government officials from China, ASEAN and South Asian countries have been invited to share their experience, perspective and expertise in poverty alleviation. The Forum consists of three sessions:

- Poverty Alleviation - China's Success Story
- Poverty Alleviation and 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Poverty Alleviation in Developing Countries and Lessons from China

IFNIA 2021 is co-organised by the Center for New Inclusive Asia (CNIA), China Reform Forum and China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University, China, and is supported by China Securities Jiaotong Fund and Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce.

September 9, 2021

Agenda

13:30 – 13:45

Welcome Address

Tan Sri Ong Tee Keat

Chairman, Centre for New Inclusive Asia, Malaysia

Dr Wang Haifeng

Director, Department of Trade & Investment Research, Institute for International Economic Research, National Development and Reform Commission, China

Prof. Wang Yuzhu

Dean, China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University, China

13:45 – 14:00

Keynote Speech

Minister Tang Rui

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia

YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy), Malaysia

14:00 – 15:00

Session I: Poverty Alleviation – China's Success Story

Moderator: Mr Xu Qinduo

Host of Dialogue Weekend, CGTN, Senior Fellow at Pangoal Institution

How a Market Oriented Fund Can Help Government in Poverty Alleviation

Mr Xu Weihong

Chief Advisor, Jiaotong Fund Management Co. Ltd.

Effectiveness of China's Poverty Alleviation Approaches

Datuk Tan Yew Sing

President, Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce

Towards Common Prosperity: Zhejiang's Experiences and China's Concept

Prof. Dr Liu Tao

Professor at School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University, China

China's Digital Village Plans and Rural Revitalisation

Asso. Prof. Meng Lanjuan

Associate Professor at School of International Studies, Communication University of China

Q&A

15:00 - 16:00

Session II: Poverty Alleviation and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Moderator: Dr Eugene Pek Chuen Khee

*Research Director, Centre for New Inclusive Asia, Malaysia
Dean, Faculty of Business and Management, UCSI University*

China's International Development Cooperation Can Contribute to Global Poverty Reduction Process

Mr Tian Lin

Director General, Department of International Cooperation, China International Development Cooperation Agency

Sustainable Development Goals – Lessons from China

Prof. Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Senior Advisor, Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia

Reconciling Poverty Alleviation and Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Protection

Dr Zhang Shiqiu

Professor at College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Institute of Environment and Economy, Peking University, China

Tracking Poverty in a VUCA World: A Whole-Systems Approach

Dr Mathew Mavaak

Consultant, National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap, Malaysia

Q&A

16:00 - 17:00

Session III: Poverty Alleviation in Developing Countries and Lessons from China

Moderator: Asso. Prof. Luo Chuanyu

Deputy Dean, China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University, China

Poverty Eradication Strategies for Developing Countries

Prof. Dr Kriengsak Chareonwongsak

Chairman, Nation-Building Institute, Thailand

Combating Poverty through Rural Development and Bayanihan

Mr Noel K. Felongco

Secretary and Lead Convenor, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Philippines

China's Poverty Governance in Rural Areas: Lessons for Bangladesh

Dr Md. Safiqul Islam

Professor at Department of Political Science, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh

China's Poverty Alleviation: Lessons and Inspiration for Pakistan

Mr Muhammad Asif Noor

Director, Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Pakistan

Founder, Friends of BRI Forum, Pakistan

Q&A

17:00 - 17:10

Closing Remarks

Koh King Kee

President, Centre for New Inclusive Asia, Malaysia



The Independent Voice of Inclusive Asia

CNIA is a non-government Malaysian think tank focusing on the studies of the new dynamics of Asia brought about by the rise of China and other Asian powers, in particular, ASEAN and South Asian countries. It is a Global Partner of Belt and Road Studies Network (BRSN), an official alliance of international think tanks with research interest in Belt and Road Initiative, launched by China at the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in 2019. It is also a founding member of the International Academic Network for a Community with Shared Future.

The rise of China is considered by many as the most important phenomenon of the 21st century. The world needs to understand China as much as China must know the rules of the game in engaging with the world. Malaysia is uniquely the confluence of Asia's three great civilisations, namely, Chinese, Indian and Islamic. As a member of the British Commonwealth, Malaysia is also well exposed to Western political and economic philosophies and cultural values.

CNIA intends to exploit this distinct advantage by serving as a bridge to promote better understanding inter and intra-Asia, as well as between the New Asia and the World.

CNIA was co-founded by Tan Sri Ong Tee Keat and Mr Koh King Kee.

Tan Sri Ong Tee Keat, Chairman of CNIA, is the former Federal Transport Minister and former Deputy Parliament Speaker of Malaysia. He is currently the President of The Malaysia-China Silk Route Business Chamber, and has been active in promoting Malaysia-China relations. He is a well-known figure in the Chinese language literary circle for his creative writing as well as his social critique and political commentaries.

Mr Koh King Kee, President of CNIA, is currently the Director of China Belt and Road Desk, Baker Tilly MH Advisory Malaysia. He is the Director of ASEAN Research Center for a Community with Shared Future and Joint Vice Chairman of the International Council of Advisors of the National Academy of Belt and Road Green Development, China. Mr Koh has long been a keen observer of the political and economic developments in China. He is a columnist of China Focus and Nanyang Daily. He regularly delivers talks on BRI and has been widely interviewed by Malaysian and Chinese media on BRI and China matters.

CNIA has signed strategic cooperation agreements with several well-known think tanks in China and jointly hosted forums, seminars and webinars with Guangxi University, Tsinghua University, Nanjing University, Renmin University, and Jinan University, China.

**CRF**

改革开放论坛
CHINA REFORM FORUM

China Reform Forum

China Reform Forum (CRF) is an academic research institution subordinating to the Party School of the Central Committee of CPC (National Academy of Governance). It is committed to providing a platform for prominent local and overseas experts and scholars for studies and exchanges about current topics and difficulties faced in the process of China's reform and opening-up, and providing policy recommendations for relevant government departments from the perspective of national strategy.

Founded in 1994, the Forum has conducted series of studies for more than 20 years focusing on China's reform and opening-up and the path for peaceful development. It has established dialogue mechanisms with research institutions in over 20 countries such as America, France, Britain, Germany, Russia, India, South Korea and Singapore. With exchanges in multiple forms such as joint studies, international seminars, organization cooperation and personnel visits, mutual understanding has been enhanced and contributions made to China's reform and opening-up cause.

The Forum has a senior advisory committee and councilors committee, composed of eminent experts, scholars, former officials and corporate elites from China's strategic circle, academic field, policy research departments and enterprises. In 2014, Mr He Yiting, Executive Vice President of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, was appointed as Chairman of the Forum. Mr Li Jingtian, former Executive Vice President of the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, is the Director of the Forum's senior advisory committee.



中国-东盟研究院

China-ASEAN Research Institute

China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University

The China-ASEAN Research Institute (CARI) was formed in January 2005, focusing on research in China-ASEAN relations and the economics, laws, cultures, ethnicity and other areas of Southeast Asian countries.

Between 2011 and 2013, to adapt to the rapid development of China-ASEAN relations, and with the aim to further refining the research fields and strengthening the depth of research, CARI restructured its organization structure by setting up sub-institutes. These include the establishment of 10 country-based sub-institutes, each focusing on studies on the respective ASEAN member countries, and 10 professional research institutions such as the Lancang-Mekong River Economic Belt Research Center, China-Malaysia Industrial Park Development Research Institute and China-ASEAN Strategic Studies Institute. Meanwhile, CARI started the construction of international online discussion platform for China-ASEAN research and China-ASEAN holographic data research, and a consulting center to strengthen the infrastructure development for scientific research.

On June 1, 2013, Mr Peng Qinghua, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, who was also the Secretary of Guangxi Communist Party Committee and Director of Guangxi People's Congress Standing Committee, spoke highly of CARI's exceptional position in China-ASEAN research due to its wide dimensionality and situational advantages.

In recent years, CARI has attached importance to "Cheung Kong Scholars" and "Ba Gui Scholars" as the key targets for bringing in distinguished experts from local and foreign universities and research institutions, to form an interdisciplinary research team. Through its development over time, CARI has become one of the institutions in China with the largest number of researchers engaged in ASEAN studies.

Due to Guangxi's geographical and regional advantages, CARI has been engaged in China-ASEAN bilateral trade, major theory, policy and practical issues of CAFTA construction, which has a major impact on China and ASEAN countries, especially in "China-ASEAN Relations Strategy, Cooperation Mechanisms and Rules", "China-ASEAN Trade and Economic Cooperation and Regional Economic Integration", and "China-ASEAN Industrial Cooperation, Comprehensive Utilization of Resources and Ecological Protection".



中证焦桐

China Securities Jiaotong Fund

Jiaotong Fund Management Co. Ltd. (Jiaotong) was founded in late 2016, with a registered capital of 200 million Yuan (CNY). Headquartered in Beijing, Jiaotong aims to better implement the poverty alleviation policies of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, that is, on the "Decision of Winning the War on Poverty" and the core values of the Central Anti-poverty Conferences.

The operations of Jiaotong are market-oriented, with social responsibility to expand, innovate, and create a system of financial poverty alleviation for the Chinese capital market, maximizing the advantages and capability in resource-accessing and mobilizing public-listed companies, financial institutions, academics, and think tanks to participate in the War on Poverty



Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1990, the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) is a non-government, non-profit, multi-ethnic and independent business association.

MCCC aims at promoting interaction, cooperation and development in trade, investment and other industrial and commercial fields between Malaysia and China as well as protecting the interests of its members.

MCCC has 10 branches in different states - Melaka, Perak, Johor, Penang, Terengganu, Sabah, Sarawak, Kelantan, Pahang and Kedah-Perlis. Currently, MCCC has over 1,800 corporate members covering trade, manufacturing, finance, agriculture, real estate, tourism, education, consultation, services and other industries.

HOSTS AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Minister Tang Rui

Deputy Chief of Mission,
Embassy of the People's
Republic of China in Malaysia



YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed

Minister in the
Prime Minister's Department
(Economy), Malaysia



Tan Sri Ong Tee Keat

Chairman, Centre for
New Inclusive Asia, Malaysia



Dr Wang Haifeng

Director, Department of Trade &
Investment Research,
Institute for International Economic
Research, National Development
and Reform Commission, China



Prof. Wang Yuzhu

Dean, China-ASEAN
Research Institute of
Guangxi University, China



Mr Koh King Kee

President, Centre for
New Inclusive Asia, Malaysia



Dr Eugene Pek Chuen Khee

Research Director

Centre for New Inclusive Asia, Malaysia

Dean

*Faculty of Business and Management,
UCSI University*

Dr Eugene Pek Chuen Khee is the Research Director of the Centre for New Inclusive Asia and ASEAN Research Center for a Community with Shared Future.

He is currently an Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Business and Management, UCSI University. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of UCSI Poll Research Centre and Head of Research for Economics, Trade and Regional Integration of Tan Sri Omar Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Centre, UCSI University located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Mr Xu Qindao

Host

Dialogue Weekend, CGTN

Senior Fellow

Pangoal Institution

Mr Xu Qindao hosts Dialogue Weekend at CGTN, a talk show with in-depth look on current affairs. He also works as a producer of the TODAY show at China Radio International. As a political analyst who follows Chinese foreign policy closely, Mr Xu frequently contributes to international media outlets such as The New York Times, Press TV,

Mr Xu majored in both English and international studies. His focus of research has been on China's rise and its interactions with the rest of the world. Mr Xu spent four years in the US as chief correspondent of CRI and one year in Australia as a visiting scholar to University of Melbourne. He is a Senior Fellow at the Pangoal Institution and an Adjunct Professor at Renmin University of China.



Asso. Prof. Luo Chuanyu

Deputy Dean

*China-ASEAN Research Institute of
Guangxi University, China*

Dr Luo Chuanyu, Associate Professor, is Deputy Dean of the China-ASEAN Research Institute (CARI) of Guangxi University. He was a senior visiting scholar (2019-2020), and now an Associate Fellow (2021-Present) of the Institute of China Studies (ICS) of University of Malaya.

Currently, Dr Luo's main research interests are China-ASEAN relations, China's bilateral relationship with ASEAN countries, the BRI cooperation between China and ASEAN countries, and the sub-regional cooperation between China and BIMF-EAGA countries.



Mr Xu Weihong

Chief Advisor

Jiaotong Fund Management Co. Ltd.

How a Market Oriented Fund Can Help Government in Poverty Alleviation

Mr Xu Weihong is the Chief Advisor of Jiaotong Fund Management Co. Ltd., Vice President of Yongxing Securities, Global Research Partner of Anbound Think-tank and a Member of the OBOR100 experts committee.

Mr Xu is an active financial commentator, often interviewed by CCTV, Phoenix TV and China Radio International, etc. He is also a financial columnist for China Securities Journal, New Finance Economics, Global Times and Hexun.com.

During his two decades of financial career, Mr Xu has worked with Reuters Group, CDC IXIS Paris (France MOF investment arm, later known as Natixis), Southwest Securities, AVIC Securities, etc. He specializes in global asset pricing and allocation, international macroeconomics, continental financial power of Belt and Road, local government mixed ownership reform (PPP), financial strategy for local government on poverty alleviation and Islamic finance, etc.



Datuk Tan Yew Sing

President

Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce

Effectiveness of China's Poverty Alleviation Approaches

Datuk Tan Yew Sing graduated with a BSc in Civil Engineering from University of Leeds, UK in 1979 and obtained an MBA from City University, London in 1982. He was conferred the honorary DBA by the Coventry University, UK in 2002 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to international education.

Datuk Tan is the founder of INTI Education Group which started operation in 1986, and is currently the Chairman of INTI Education Holdings which has six campuses in the country including INTI International University, with a total enrolment of 17,000 students.

Besides being a pioneer in the education industry and a successful entrepreneur, Datuk Tan is also involved in community services and social organizations. In 2010, he was invited by the Government of the People's Republic of China as a Malaysian representative to attend the "2010 China National Consultative Assembly". He was also conferred the title Datuk by Yang di-Pertuan Agong on February 19, 2019.

Datuk Tan has held leadership positions in various social organisations including:

- President – Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce
- Joint Chairman – Malaysia Tan Kah Kee Foundation
- Deputy President – The United Chinese School Committees' Association of Malaysia
- Chairman – Overseas Chinese Charity Foundation of China Tan Kah Kee Education Charity Foundation
- President – Inisiatif Pengislahan Pendidikan Nasional (IPPN)



Prof. Dr Liu Tao

Professor

*School of Public Affairs,
Zhejiang University, China*

Towards Common Prosperity: Zhejiang's Experiences and China's Concept

Liu Tao is a professor and doctoral supervisor at the School of Public Affairs of Zhejiang University, and has been chosen as a 'Leading Talent' in Liberal Arts of Zhejiang University since 2020. He is the chief expert of the Academy of Social Governance and a research fellow at the Institute for Common Prosperity and Development (ICPD), Zhejiang University. He is also a part-time research fellow at the Department of Social Sciences and a member of the board of the Institute of East Asian Studies (In-East), at University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. He is a guest professor at the Ingolstadt School of Management at Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Germany, and an external expert of the cooperative research project 'Global Dynamics of Social Policy' of University of Bremen in Germany.

From 1998 to 2010, he completed his pre-master, master and doctoral studies at the Department of Sociology, University of Bielefeld, Germany. From 2009 to February 2020, he worked in the Department of Sociology of Bielefeld University, SOCIUM of Bremen University (Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy), and the Department of Social Sciences at University of Duisburg-Essen. Since 2016, he has been a member of the Association of German Professors with Chinese origin, and was a professor for sociology at University of Duisburg-Essen between 2016-2020 in Germany.

Prof. Dr Liu's main research areas include social protection, welfare system, social policy, public policy, and social governance. His current main research interests are aging and long-term care protection, child welfare, medical insurance and social governance, social policy in the digital age, ecological transformation of the welfare state, China's rise and international relationship, etc. He has long been engaged in comparative research on social protection between Germany and China.



Asso. Prof. Meng Lanjuan

Associate Professor

*School of International Studies,
Communication University of China*

China's Digital Village Plans and Rural Revitalisation

Ms Meng Lanjuan is an Associate Professor at the School of International Studies, and a researcher at BRICs Research Center, Communication University of China (CUC) in Beijing. She obtained a M.A. in Applied Linguistics in China, and a M.A. in Communication and Culture in Canada, and has researched on comparative journalism theories and practices in China and the West, international communication, intercultural education, etc.

She has authored and edited two books, and published a dozen journal articles and book chapters. The most recent one is “Constructive Journalism and Poverty Reduction in China: The Targeted Poverty Alleviation Campaign” in Borden (Ed.), Routledge Companion to Media and Society, New York: Routledge. Her op-ed piece “How Digital Village Plans Transform Rural Life in China” on cgtn.com is part of the research results for “Narrative Strategies of China's Targeted Poverty Alleviation Reports” research project funded by CUC Asia Media Research Center.

**Mr Tian Lin****Director General**

*Department of International Cooperation,
China International Development Cooperation Agency*

China's International Development Cooperation Can Contribute to Global Poverty Reduction Process

Mr Tian Lin is the Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation (DIC) and Spokesperson of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). He graduated from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature of Anhui University in 1995, and earned his master's degree in International Relations from the School of International Studies of Peking University in 2007.

Mr Tian joined foreign service in 1995 and served in the Department of African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of China and the Chinese Embassy in Nigeria. He was the Counsellor of the Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Alternate Representative of China to the UN Security Council from 2011 to 2013, the Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya from 2013 to 2015, the Counsellor of the Department of International Organisations and Conferences of MFA of China from 2015 to 2018. He assumed the current position in 2018.



Prof. Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Senior Advisor

Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia

Sustainable Development Goals – Lessons from China

Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram is Senior Advisor at the Khazanah Research Institute. He is also a Visiting Fellow at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, and Adjunct Professor at International Islamic University in Malaysia.

He was a member of the Economic Action Council, chaired by the seventh Malaysian Prime Minister, and the 5-member Council of Eminent Persons appointed by him, Professor at University of Malaya (1986-2004), Founder-Chair of International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs), UN Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development (2005-2012), Research Coordinator for the G-24 Intergovernmental Group on International Monetary Affairs and Development (2006-2012), Assistant Director General for Economic and Social Development, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (2012-2015), and third Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia (2016-2017).

He received the 2007 Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.

**Dr Zhang Shiqiu****Professor of Environmental Economics**

College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, China

Reconciling Poverty Alleviation and Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Protection

Dr Zhang Shiqiu is a Professor of Environmental Economics at Peking University. She has been teaching environmental economics and environmental management, and has been conducting various research projects related to environment and development issues which cover environmental economics and policy, global environmental treaties, and sustainable development.

Dr Zhang is a Senior Expert Member of UNEP Technology and Economic Assessment Panel for implementing the Montreal Protocol (1997-), Co-chair of the Task Force for Replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for Implementing the Montreal Protocol (UNEP) (2002-), and member of the Scientific Advisory Panel for UNEP Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) (2013-2019). She also served as President of the Asian Association on Environment and Resource Economics (AAERE) (2017-2019).

**Dr Mathew Mavaak****Consultant**

*National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap,
Malaysia*

Tracking Poverty in a VUCA World: A Whole-Systems Approach

Dr Mathew Maavak is currently a Consultant of National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap, Malaysia

His eclectic field(s) of expertise lies within the cusp of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); Horizon Scanning and Foresight (i.e. triangulating the future); Public Policy and Governance Systems; Global Risks; Big Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Geostrategy (e.g. behaviour of nation-states).

He is a prolific commentator on high-impact global issues, including China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). His Op-Eds and interviews have appeared in CCTV, CGTN and China Daily; RT and Sputnik News (Russia); and Business Standard (India), amongst others.

His contributions to the Malaysian government included consultancy for the National Technology Foresight 2010 (NTF 2010) program; National Nanotechnology Roadmap and Blueprint (2012-13); and the National Artificial Intelligence Roadmap (Dec 2020 – May 2021).

Dr Maavak's cross-sectoral insights are primarily formulated via the lens of the Strategic Foresight Model (SFM) which he had developed during his doctoral study. The SFM enables the user to detect and forecast high-impact developments across the global Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal and Technological spectrums.

Dr Maavak is currently focused on gaming out global scenarios for the 2022-2030 period.



Prof. Dr Kriengsak Chareonwongsak

Chairman

Nation-Building Institute, Thailand

Poverty Eradication Strategies for Developing Countries

Professor Dr Kriengsak Chareonwongsak graduated with first class honors and obtained a PhD in Economics in 1981 from Monash University, Australia. He obtained a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University, USA and a Master's Degree from Judge Business School, Cambridge University, and also studied D Phil (Doctor of Philosophy in Management) and Post-Doctoral Studies (Public Policy and Management) at University of Oxford, UK.

Presently, he is the Chairman of the Nation-Building Institute (NBI), President of the Institute of Future Studies for Development (IFD) in Thailand, and Professor of Management and Economics at Othman Yeop Abdullah Graduate School of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). He is a Senior Fellow at Harvard University. He has also been a Research Professor at Regent University, USA, and an Adjunct Professor at many universities both in Thailand and overseas.

He was advisor to a Prime Minister and an elected Member of Parliament, 22nd House of Assembly. He was also the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Economic Development in the House of Representatives. He has been an Associate at the Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs at Harvard. Besides, he has been a Visiting Fellow of the Oxford Internet Institute and a Fellow of the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University's Said Business School.

As a businessman, he is a Director of Singapore's Public Listed Company ASTI Holdings and Chairman of the Board Risk Management Committee, Krungthai-AXA Life Insurance Public Company Limited, Thailand.

He teaches business, finance, and economics at the graduate level at several universities. He has published more than 200 books and numerous articles, presented over 500 academic papers and 6,000 newspaper and magazine articles. He has presented his viewpoints to government and non-government organizations, academic institutions and community groups in over 2,200 lectures in seventy countries.



Mr Noel K. Felongco

Secretary & Lead Convenor

*National Anti-Poverty Commission,
Philippines*

Combating Poverty through Rural Development and Bayanihan

Atty. Noel Kinazo Felongco is a Mindanaoan, a member of Panay Bukidnon - an Indigenous People of Capiz, Visayas, and a humble son of a farmer who had seen, felt and lived in the realities of poverty. He was born in Davao City and grew up in Norala, South Cotabato and Cotabato City. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and completed his Bachelor of Laws in Cotabato City at Notre Dame University.

Atty. Noel Felongco has served as president of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Laban ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) Central Visayas Chapter. He served as a Councilor, for two terms of Cotabato City from 1998 to 2004. He also served in the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) during the term of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from 2008 to 2010 as one of the Commissioners.

He was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte as Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Prior to his current portfolio, Atty. Noel Felongco served as the Chairman/CEO of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) from February 2018 – October 2018, where he was able to craft the five-year development Plan of PCUP and the Manual of Operations of the Agency in his short but effective stint as the Chairman. He was appointed by President Duterte as the Secretary and Lead Convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission in November 2018.



Dr. Md. Safiqul Islam

Professor

*Department of Political Science,
University of Chittagong, Bangladesh*

China's Poverty Governance in Rural Areas: Lessons for Bangladesh

Dr Md. Safiqul Islam is a Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. He conducts courses at the university on Political System of China, Asian Model of Development (special focus on Political Economy of China, Japan and India), and Politics of South Asia. Dr Islam received his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Global Studies from the School of Liberal Arts, Shanghai University, China and Master of Science degree in Development Studies from Lund University, Sweden. The title of his Ph.D Dissertation is "The Building of BCIM Economic Corridor: Implications for China-Bangladesh Relations".

He also obtained his Master and Bachelor of Social Sciences in Political Science from University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr Islam has worked as a visiting scholar in the China-ASEAN Research Institute at Guangxi University for three months in 2018. He has published a book chapter and a good number of research articles in local and international journals. He has also presented several research papers in international conferences/seminars held in China, Bangladesh, Denmark, Sweden, India, Pakistan and Nepal. His research areas are China-South Asia Relations, Connectivity and BCIM Economic Corridor, Maritime Security Governance and Geopolitics in the Bay of Bengal region. He serves as a Research and Publication Secretary of the Association of Bangladesh-China Alumni, Vice-President of Bhola Development Forum and as an advisor of BADHAN (a Voluntary Blood Donors' Organization).



Mr Muhammad Asif Noor

Director

Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Pakistan

Founder

Friends of BRI Forum, Pakistan

China's Poverty Alleviation: Lessons and Inspiration for Pakistan

Mr Muhammad Asif Noor is a two-decade strong business and media evangelist with experience in building networks amongst diplomats, business groups, political and civil society leaders based in Pakistan and across the globe. He is CEO of The Diplomatic Insight Group with four prominent Public Diplomacy, Research and Business entities including leading trading and consultancy company Belt and Road Consultants Pte. Ltd, Multilingual News Agency, Global News Pakistan, Public Diplomacy Magazine, The Diplomatic Insight and Think Tank, and Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies.

To promote ideals of China's global peaceful rise and building a community with shared future, Mr Asif has established Friends of BRI Forum, a unique podium for business, media and academic groups from BRI countries to join together at one platform.

Mr Asif is a regular contributor to newspapers and magazines in Pakistan and across the world including China Daily, China Economic Net, Gwadar Pro, and China Focus to discuss foreign policy dynamics of China and the globe. Mr Asif leads The Diplomatic Insight Group's partnership with universities, government and non-government organizations to have win-win partnerships at the national and global levels. Mr Asif is an activist with experience in governance, a diplomatic relations professional, an author and dynamic leader with a vision to transform the future. He has recently been given the status "Good Will Ambassador" of Vehari Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Punjab, Pakistan. Mr Asif is co-author of several books like "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Relations: Challenges and Opportunities", "Knowing Brazil" in English and Urdu languages, "Pakistan-Kazakhstan Relations", and several other publications on China and its foreign policy.

A dark blue background featuring a faint, stylized map of Asia. The map is composed of various shades of blue, with a red slash through the letter 'A' in the 'IFNIA' part of the logo below. Numerous small white stars are scattered across the background, giving it a starry or night sky appearance.

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