

AJPA Bios and Photos
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Editor-in-Chief – Phua Chao Rong, Charles

Phua Chao Rong, Charles is the Editor-in-Chief of Asian Journal of Public Affairs (AJPA) and is a National University of Singapore (NUS) Lee Kong Chian Graduate Scholar and PhD candidate at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP). He holds a BSc (Hons) and MSc (Research) with Merit in International Relations from the London School of Economics (LSE), UK.

An award-winning essayist in the military, he has published 18 entries in *POINTER: Journal of the Singapore Armed Forces*, *Royal United Services Institute (UK) Journal*, *Military Review (US)*, *Institute of Policy Studies and Global-is-Asian (Singapore)*. His research interests include International Relations, Public Administration, Security Studies, Area Studies (US, Northeast and Southeast Asia), Strategy and Philosophy of Social Sciences. He is the Assistant Editor for *Comparative Public Policy Series* (Cambridge University Press) and was Chief of Ops and Planning Secretariat for the Public Policy in Asia Conference at LKYSPP, May 2014. He is named a Young Leader by Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Pacific Forum.

Charles is a practitioner. He serves as Head Research Trainer at Ministry of Defense, holding the rank of Major, whilst concurrently an honorary Aide-de-Camp to the President of the Republic of Singapore. He was deployed in Afghanistan as Deputy Team Head of Singapore's contingent in support of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). He is the only Major on the editorial board of *POINTER*, comprising mostly Colonels.

He has a consistent community leadership and service record since 2002. He is currently the Founder/President of LKYSPP-Association of Public Administration (APA), which promotes the application of Public Administration (PA) theory to solve policy problems in Singapore, and to pitch useful ideas from PA-trained active citizenry to policymakers. He is an Assessor with the national Business Excellence Awards (akin to US Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards), International Exposition on Team Excellence (IETEX) and National Innovation Quality Control Circles (NIQCC) (akin to American Society of Quality [ASQ]). He was inducted in the Global Shaper Community of World Economic Forum in 2012, and was the immediate past Deputy Chairman of National Youth Achievement Award Gold Award Holders' Alumni (NYAA GAHA), which gave him the platform to run several national level youth projects including Sing! Singapore 2010 community song album in celebration of Youth Olympic Games 2010. He also ran several charity projects in the military, raising a total of \$60,000 and was awarded 17 Letters of Appreciation, Letters of Commendation, Certificates of Appreciation from the military leadership for his additional contributions. For his community service and leadership, he was awarded several awards. Most notably: Global Sachs Global Leaders Award (2004) for academic and leadership excellence at LSE, an award presented to 100 top undergraduates from 77 renowned universities worldwide. University of London Union Honorary Life Membership from HRH Princess Anne and the HSBC Youth Excellence Award for youth leadership and community service from President S R Nathan in 2005. During his stint in London, he was active in Commonwealth Youth Affairs - organised the Commonwealth Youth Forum 5 in Malta as Head Operations and Logistics, and even sang and produced the *Goodenough Voices of the Commonwealth* youth song album.

Charles aspires to be a theoretically-informed practitioner and envisions AJPA to be a conduit to enhance theorist-practitioner collaboration and interactions by focusing on policy-relevant research. He can be contacted at [cr.phua\[at\]u.nus.edu](mailto:cr.phua[at]u.nus.edu).



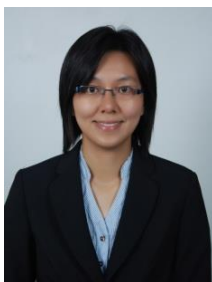
Deputy Editor-in-Chief – Lourdes O. Montenegro

Lourdes O. Montenegro is an economist with extensive experience leading teams in contract research, authoring research grant proposals and reports, budgeting and planning research projects, and delivering training and custom analysis to clients from corporate, public sector and non-government organizations in the Philippines. Her research, consulting and advocacy work covers both environmental policy and technology policy. She led a policy research project for the Environment and Economy Program for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA) which was lauded for highlighting the environmental costs of coastal reclamation in Southeast Asia and positively influencing local government plans. She actively leads in efforts to encourage technology entrepreneurship and has co-organized both the Philippines 2012 ON3 Technology Startup Pitching Competition for Silicon Valley's Plug and Play Centre as well as Startup Weekend Cebu 2013. She has recently co-authored a white paper on the role of dynamic spectrum access regulation for improving internet connectivity which was cited in a proposed law to expand public wireless internet provision in the Philippines. Lourdes read for an MPhil in Environmental Policy (Economics and International Environmental Law) at the University of Cambridge, U.K. prior to pursuing PhD research at the Lee Kuan Yew School.



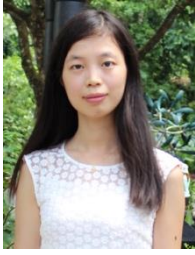
Deputy Editor-in-Chief – M. Kerem Coban

Mehmet Kerem Coban is a PhD Student at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS. His research interests include political economy of development, financial liberalisation and regulation, and development aid. Prior to his PhD studies, he interned in Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP) in UNDP Office in Geneva, where he worked on designing and editing of publications; and the General Consulate of Turkey in Geneva. He obtained his Master's Degree in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Geneva in 2013; and Bachelor's in International Relations in Kadir Has University, Istanbul in 2011. He was also engaged in community service as a member of Besiktas Rotaract in Istanbul. He can be contacted at [m.keremcoban\[at\]u.nus.edu](mailto:m.keremcoban@u.nus.edu).



Senior Editor – Tan Si Ying

Si Ying practiced as a medical social worker for three years and was involved in conducting research projects examining the needs and social well-being of people living with HIV in Malaysia and Singapore for the past six years. She is trained in qualitative research and systematic review of health and social interventions, and has specific interests in researching on social policies and interventions targeting on the marginalised populations affected by structural poverty and disease epidemic in the world.



Secretary – Li Lili

Lili Li is currently undertaking her PhD program at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Her research interests are policy response to climate change, pollution control, environmental and energy policies. She was trained in environmental science before joining the PhD program. She obtained Bachelor's Degree in Science from Jilin University (China) in 2011, and then obtained her Master Degree in Science at Peking University (China) in 2014. Her master thesis was modelling nutrients flows from land to sea and assessing nutrient pollution management policies by the agent-based modelling approach.



Senior Editor – Carolyn Law Choi Wu

Carolyn Law Choi-Wu received her L.L.B degree from Fudan University, Shanghai, China. Her research focuses on intercultural governance, international relations, civic community in East Asia. In 2013, she joined the Center of Hong Kong and Taiwan Administration at Fudan University as a research assistant, where she did extensive research on the Taiwan-China relations and the political development of Hong Kong. She also worked as a research analyst at the Hong Kong Sustainable Development Institute, where she acted as a secretariat to support the UN Asia Pacific Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (APECF) for the implementation of cultural exchange projects in the Asia-Pacific region. She is currently a senior editor at Asian Journal of Public Affairs (AJPA).



Senior Editor and Director (IT) – Jaya Jung Mahat

Jaya Jung Mahat is an editor and the IT head of AJPA. Prior to joining AJPA, he was working with a youth-led social entrepreneurship firm in Nepal. Jaya has over eight years of working experiences with over a dozen local, regional and global institutions. His major areas of expertise include stakeholders' engagement, organizational management, youths, development communication, social accountability, social marketing, networking, Social Media management and advocacy campaigning. His primary research interests are in the areas of international development, social policy, program evaluation and social innovations.



Senior Editor – Chimdessa F. Tsega

Chimdessa F. Tsega is a Public Policy Student at the LKY School. He received his LL.B (Honours) from Jimma University in Ethiopia and LL.M in International Law (cum laude) from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. He has working experience in both government and civil society sectors in Ethiopia. He was a Lecturer at the Law School of the University of Gondar with primary responsibility of teaching and researching on International Law, Federalism and Human Rights issues. He has also worked as Project Coordinator for the Access to Justice Project at the Centre for Human Rights in Ethiopia where he led the networking, legal aid and research and training activities of the Project to promote the Access to Justice with special focus on the vulnerable sections of the society. He has researched on legal and governance issues particularly focused on

decentralization and human rights. He was a Research Assistant at WaterLex-International Secretariat, an international NGO working on the promotion of good water governance through technical advice and training activities. Before joining the LKY School as an Olam International Scholar, he was a Good Governance Research Fellow at the National University of Public Services in Budapest, Hungary.



Senior Editor - Matthew Reinert

Matthew Reinert is currently studying in the MPP program. He holds a B. Sci in General Biology from the University of Washington and an International Master's in Asia Pacific Studies from National Chengchi University. (國立政治大學) His research focus is healthcare systems and healthcare systems with a particular focus on insurance and actuarially unsound health conditions. He is also interested in international relations and cross strait relations. Matthew has spent several years living in Taiwan where he worked, studied Chinese, and obtained his first master's. He is also very passionate about Chinese history during the Republic Period and systems design. He is very excited to be working as part of AJPA.



Editor - Ruijie Cheng

Ruijie Cheng is a PhD student with Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS. Her research focuses on International Trade and Finance, Development Economics, International Political Economy and Public Finance. Prior to her PhD studies, she worked as a research associate with NYU Center on US-China Relations and assisted the director with two book projects and worked on trade, FDI, ODA and technology transfers among China, US and Southeast Asia as well as on regional organizations among TPP, CICA, SCO, EAS and ARF. She had done a research internship with Human Development Report Office (HDRO), UNDP Headquarters in New York and participated in data processing, editing and translating for UNDP annual publication *Human Development Report 2014* and worked on a chapter on financial stability. She had also interned at Asia Society New York Office and supported grant proposals for global initiatives and maintained database. She had experience in planning social policy research project in rural China and was actively involved in the cause of NGO development. Ruijie obtained her Master's Degree in International Relations from New York University in 2014 and Bachelor's in Economics from Communication University of China in 2012. You can contact her contact: [ruijie_cheng\[at\]u.nus.edu](mailto:ruijie_cheng[at]u.nus.edu).



Editor – Anastasia Rogacheva

Anastasia Rogacheva is a PhD student at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, under the supervision of Professor Huang Jing. Her chief interests are political economy and security, especially how they relate to China's place in the world. Anastasia interned for the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Geneva, where she edited and co-authored numerous publications. She received a Master's in Chinese Studies from Oxford and a Bachelor's in International Relations from the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, where she was also a Research Assistant.



Editor - Nihit Goyal

Nihit is an Editor of the Asian Journal of Public Affairs (AJPA). He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP). Before joining the doctoral program, Nihit was working as a researcher at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), an Indian think tank. He is primarily interested in the areas of energy policy, information technology, and sustainable development.

Nihit holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science from the Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), a dual-degree Master of Public Affairs/Master in Public Policy from Sciences Po and the National University of Singapore (NUS), and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Cyber Laws from the NALSAR University of Law.



Editor – Namrata Ramachandran

Namrata Ramachandran is a lawyer and graduated from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore with a B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) degree in 2013. While at law school, she also served as an Editor and later the Convening Editor of the Indian Journal of International Economic Law and was also Teaching Assistant for a course on Mass Torts and Consumer Law - during which time she was also an Editor of the bi-annual consumer law magazine, March of Consumer Law. Upon graduation, she went on to work with the Mumbai office of J. Sagar Associates, one of India's leading corporate law firms. As part of the Mergers & Acquisitions team, she worked on several cross-border corporate transactions across sectors such as insurance, banking and private equity. More recently, she worked in the field of consumer law and advocacy, at the same time authoring a lecture on Comparative Constitutional Law for an open-access education initiative of the University Grants Commission of India. Presently, she is a Li-Ka Shing Foundation Scholar and candidate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Her interests lie in law and good governance, sustainable development and comparative social policy in South Asia.



Editor – Mariyam Raza Haider

Mariyam Raza Haider is currently a Li Ka Shing Scholar and Master of Public Policy candidate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. She holds a Bachelors degree in Journalism from the University of Delhi. Prior to joining LKY School, she worked as a Security Analyst with Control Risks and International SOS, a joint venture between political risk and security analysis consultancies. Her work comprised analysing corporate risks for clients and their business ventures across the globe. This included writing security reports on critical geopolitical situations affecting international business such as the Arab Spring (Egypt), Crimea (Ukrainian-Russian) crisis, or elections in South Asian countries and the Ebola situation in West African nations.

Previously, she has worked with a public policy think tank and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) dedicated to the development of women and environmental litigation. She has written research papers and co-produced/directed two documentaries as part of her undergraduate degree.

Mariyam brings with her more than two years of work experience in international media reportage and analysis. She is a William Dalrymple loyalist, avid traveller and a poet. In her spare time, she likes to explore historical sites and documents them on her blog.



Editor – Adnan P. Ahmad

Adnan P. Ahmad is currently a student at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, undertaking his Masters in Public Policy. Coming from the Philippines, his career has mainly focused in the field of development and public policy where he worked first as an economic research associate at the Asian Institute of Management-Policy Center (APC) and then as an economic researcher and advisor to a Congressman. At APC his work mainly focused on Public Finance, more specifically on the Bureau of Customs (BOC) where he was tasked to find evidence of smuggling using datasets released by the BOC. As an economic researcher and advisor, his tasks mainly included doing research and putting forward proposals on policies that would promote progress and development in the country. He also has some experience in corporate governance as he spent a portion of his career as an analyst in the corporate sector.

Adnan obtained his undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of the Philippines-Diliman in 2011.



Editor - Juan Antonio E. Arcilla

Anton is an advocate for electoral reform in the Philippines. While doing his Bachelors and Law studies, he was actively involved in local NGOs that call for honest and clean elections. After obtaining a Juris Doctor degree from the University of the Philippines, Anton worked for the Office of the Chairman of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). There he gained valuable experience as a legal researcher and writer, preparing policy recommendations and resolutions of election cases. In 2013 he spearheaded deliberations on the applicants to the Party-list system of Elections, facilitating discussions and organizing the Commission's various departments. He was also a member of COMELEC's Procurement Arm, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Anton was also a researcher for the Asian Development Bank's Office of the Legal Counsel, contributing to the report on Vietnam's Water Sector. At present, he is also a researcher in the LKYSPP's Institute of Water Policy, working on the Mekong20 project.

Anton's policy interests include environment and climate change, and good governance.



Editor – Sakshi Balani

Sakshi is an Editor and Director (Sponsorship) at the Asian Journal of Public Affairs, Lee Kuan Yew School. For the past three years, Sakshi has worked as a research analyst on Indian domestic policies on agricultural and rural development with PRS Legislative Research, a non-profit in New Delhi, India. She advised Indian legislators on her analysis of laws and policies in these sectors, and was instrumental in the enactment of the food security and land acquisition laws in India. Prior to this, Sakshi worked with the United Nations in New York, U.S.A on international policies related to indigenous rights. She looks forward to applying her policy expertise to the private sector as a consultant and work with

government and public sector agencies on issues of economic development and natural resources.



Editor, Copy Editor and Director (Strategic Planning) – Divya Titus

Divya Titus is an Editor, Copy Editor and Director (Strategic Planning) with the Asian Journal for Public Affairs. She is currently a Li Ka-shing Scholar and Master of Public Policy candidate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. She holds a B.A. in Economics from St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai and has successfully completed the Indian Leadership Exchange Program at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, NYU.

Prior to her study at the Lee Kuan Yew School, Divya was associated with the incubation centre of the Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad, as a Research Analyst with their social investment arm. During her time at the Centre, she developed and organized a series of workshops in partnership with the German developmental agency GIZ on sensitizing grassroots support organizations to the needs of social enterprises. Through the workshops, she screened and contacted over 250+ grassroots support organizations, created a curriculum for 75+ organizations and managed a network of 130+ support organizations pledging support worth more than Rs. 10 crores to social enterprises. Before her time with the Centre, Divya was part of the ICICI Fellowship which is a leadership program where Fellows spend 15 months working on grassroots development projects with NGOs. As an ICICI Fellow, she organized health camps and workshops for 600 adolescent girls across 5 villages in the state of Uttarakhand. She also supervised the formation of learning centers which provided primary education to more than 1000 out of school girl children across 30 villages in the state of Uttarakhand. Additionally, she also conducted research in the Banni Grasslands, in the state of Gujarat; the data of which was used by the Banni Breeders Association in their advocacy campaign to have titles under Forest Rights Act, 2006 granted to them.

She can be contacted at [divyatitus\[at\]nus.edu.sg](mailto:divyatitus[at]nus.edu.sg)



Editor – Ketaki Purohit

Ketaki Purohit is a lawyer registered with the Bar Council of India, and the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa. She received a B.A.LL.B (Honours) from the National University of Juridical Sciences, India in 2011. She has worked as an attorney at a premier transaction firm in India–J. Sagar Associates, Mumbai, where she was a part of several cross border Mergers and Acquisitions. She also liaised extensively with Indian regulatory organizations including the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. More recently, she served as a *Law Clerk & Research Assistant* under the Hon’ble Justice Kurian Joseph, judge, Supreme Court of India. She assisted on matters pertaining to human rights, civil liberties and criminal justice reform and policy. Presently, she is a Li Ka-shing Scholar and Master of Public Policy candidate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. She is also working as a Research Assistant under Professor Rahul Sagar at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore, on a project relating to socio-political and critical thinking in modern Indian history. Her areas of interest are law and policy, poverty and development in conflict, and international humanitarian law. She can be contacted at [ketakipurohit\[at\]nus.edu.sg](mailto:ketakipurohit[at]nus.edu.sg).



Editor – Shruti Moghe

Shruti Moghe is a trained journalist with Bachelors in Journalism from University of Delhi. She started her career with the BBC Media Action and throughout her career has worked on communication for development and on governance projects on the issues of human rights and health funded by USDS, Google Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She has worked across India on projects on Bonded Labour, HIV/AIDS, Maternal and Child Health. Shruti brings with her over 5 years of experience in media and communication for social change. She is also a published writer with articles published in national daily *Hindustan Times* and magazine *Governance Now*. She is an avid traveller and likes to read.



Editor – Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury

Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury is specialized in political governance and public policy. He has been working as a researcher with BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University prior to moving Singapore. Faiz is currently a MPP scholar at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Faiz has extensively conducted policy research with several think-tanks based in Dhaka. He has also led a number of research projects funded by IDRC, IUCN, and Christian Aid. Faiz has presented his research findings in many international conferences. His research interests include – Democracy and Good Governance, US-China Relations, and Climate Change and Environmental Governance. Some of his publications are - ‘*Participatory Environmental Governance and Climate Change Adaptation: Mainstreaming of Tidal River Management (TRM) in South-West Bangladesh*’, Chapter 14 in Ha, Huong (Ed.), *Land and Disaster Management Strategies in Asia*, Springer, 2014; ‘*The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2013: Democracy Party Politics*’, August 2014, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, Dhaka; ‘*Climate Change Finance and Governance: Bangladesh Perspectives*’, Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University, Dhaka: (2012); ‘*Democratization and External Influence: The Bangladesh Case*’, Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University, Dhaka: (2013).

Chief: Charles

Deputy: Lourdes, Kerem

Secretary: Lili

Managing editor: Libby

Senior editors: Si Ying (issue editor), Chim (assistant issue editor), Carolyn (book review/commentary editor), Jaya (IT/Design/Layout editor), Matthew (Copy-editor)

Editors: Anastasia, Nihit, Ruijie (Sem 2 onwards), Ketaki, Shruti, Sakshi, Divya, Faiz, Adnan, Antonio, Ian, Mariyam, Namrata.