



Speakers and Panelists Asia Policy Forum on Poverty, Inequality and Social Protection

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Bambang Widianto is the Deputy for Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation/Executive Secretary of the National Team for The Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), Office of The Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia. He has a PhD in Economic Policy from Northeastern University Boston, MA – USA. He is also an appointed Commissioner on PT. Pos Indonesia. He is also a lecturer for the Graduate Program of Public Policy at the University of Indonesia.

Bambang Widianto has made significant contributions to an extensive range of poverty reduction and social protection publications and working papers, ranging from “The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Industry Performance” in 1999 (Paper presented at the World Bank Conference on Asian Corporate Recovery); to “Employment Friendly Policies: Problems and Future Directions in 2002 (Paper presented at the PEG-Bappenas Technical Seminar on Employment Labor Policies for Economic Recovery)”; and “Social Protection Responses to the Three Waves of Crisis: Finance, Food & Fuel” for the World Bank South-South Learning Forum in 2009, and more recently “The political Economy of Social Protection Reforms in Indonesia (Paper presented at The International Conference “Reforming Social Protection System in Indonesia Developing Countries”, October 2011, Institute of Development Research and Development Policy, RUHR-Universitat, Bochum, Germany)”. He is most recently the author of the paper “The Political Economy of Social Protection Reforms in Indonesia”, recently published in the book *Social Protection in Developing Countries: Reforming Systems* (2013).

Asep Suryahadi is the Director of the SMERU Research Institute in Jakarta, Indonesia. He holds a PhD in economics from the Australian National University. His research interests cover the areas of poverty and vulnerability, social protection, labor, education, health, and economic development in general. His current research topics include the impact of television penetration on fertility, the consequences of ill health and informal coping mechanisms, and the implications of poverty dynamics for targeting the poor. His latest publications include articles in *Journal of Development Economics*, *Food Policy*, *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*, and the *Journal of International Development*.

Mukul Asher is Professorial Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, and a Councilor at Takshashila Institution. He specializes in public finance and budgeting, social security reforms, and India's geo-economics challenges. He has published extensively in national and international journals and has authored or edited more than ten books. He has been a consultant to many governments and multilateral institutions including ADB, the International Monetary Fund, ILO, International Social Security Association, the World Bank, and World Health Organization (WHO).

Bob Baulch is Associate Professor of Economics at RMIT University Vietnam. He holds a PhD in agricultural and development economics from Stanford University and has worked on long and short-term assignment in more than twenty developing countries. He has published more than 30 articles and book chapters focusing on food price analysis and poverty dynamics, and is well known for his research on Vietnam. His latest book is *Why Poverty Persists: Poverty Dynamics in Asia and Africa* (Edward Elgar, 2011).

Douglas Broderick is UN Resident Coordinator, UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Indonesia. He had previously served as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Cambodia and has 30 years' international development experience working as a senior manager with the UN in Bangladesh, China, North Korea, Armenia, (former) Yugoslavia, Eritrea, Rwanda, and Djibouti. He has also worked with Catholic Relief Services in Iraq, the United States of America, Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, Egypt and Thailand. Mr Broderick was educated at the University of California, Berkeley USA and Universities in Spain and Mexico. He completed the Senior Managers Program at Harvard University.

Michael Buehler (Ph.D., The London School of Economics and Political Science) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and a Faculty Associate at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University. Specializing in Comparative Politics, his teaching and research interests evolve around state-society relations under conditions of democratization and decentralization. He is particularly interested in state-civil society relations, the relationship between party systems and social movements as well as state-religion relations. In 2008, he was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden, The Netherlands. Between 2008 and 2010 he was the Postdoctoral Fellow in Modern Southeast Asian Studies at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University in New York City, USA. Between 2013 and 2014, he is a Research Fellow at the Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) program at Northwestern University in Chicago, USA. Buehler has been an Associate Research Fellow at the Asia Society in New York City, USA since 2011.

Simone Cecchini is an economist with the Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), based in Santiago, Chile. There he performs research and provides technical assistance to countries in the region on poverty reduction, social protection and social indicators. His latest publications are "Inclusive Social Protection: A Comprehensive, Rights-based Approach" (with R. Martinez, 2012) and "Conditional



Cash Transfer Programs: The Recent Experience in Latin America and the Caribbean” (with A. Madariaga, 2011).

Sarah Cook is Director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Her research has focused on economic and social change in China. Current work focuses on social policy and protection particularly in Asia, and on the social dimensions of sustainable development. Sarah previously worked at the Institute of Development Studies, and for the Ford Foundation’s Beijing Office. Recent publications include *Social Protection as Development Policy - Asian Perspectives* (edited with Naila Kabeer, 2010) and ‘Harsh Choices: Chinese Women’s Paid Work and Unpaid Care Responsibilities under Economic Reform’ (with Xiao-yuan Dong), *Development and Change* (2012).

Jacqui De Lacy is currently the Head of AusAID in Indonesia. She has worked in development for more than 20 years. She has significant experience working on Australia’s aid programs to Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. She also represented AusAID at Australia’s mission to the UN where she was Vice-President of the UNICEF Executive Board. She has been in Indonesia since March 2010. Jacqui De Lacy gained post-graduate qualifications in economics from the University of Queensland and was born in Goroka PNG. She is married with two children.

Stefan G. Koeberle is the World Bank Country Director in Indonesia. He came to Jakarta in 2010 following his previous position as Director, Strategy and Operations in the Latin America and Caribbean Region of the World Bank. Since joining the World Bank in 1993, he has worked in a variety of countries and regions, including assignments in Thailand, Vietnam and Lao PDR. In the Operations Policy and Country Services Vice Presidency of the World Bank, he was responsible for the Policy and Review unit overseeing policy-based lending and country assistance strategies. He holds a Ph.D in economics from Cambridge University and worked as a postgraduate fellow at the German Development Institute in Berlin. He has published a number of articles and several books on competitiveness, conditionality and budget support.

Li Shi is Professor of Economics in the School of Economics and Business and Acting Director of the Institute for Income Distribution at Beijing Normal University. He was a professor and senior research fellow at the Institute of Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences from 1996 to 2005 and a research fellow at the University of Oxford in 2001 and professor at Hitotsubashi University, Japan in 2002. His current studies focus on income distribution, poverty and rural migration in China. He has published in journals such as the *Journal of Population Economics*, the *Review of Income and Wealth*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, the *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Oxford Development Studies*, *Journal of Development Economics* and the *Asian Economic Journal*. His publications include several edited volumes such as *China’s Retreat from Equality* (2001, with R. Zhao and C. Riskin), *Unemployment, Inequality and Poverty in Urban China* (2006, with H. Sato), *Income Inequality and Public Policy in China* (2008, with B. Gustafsson and T. Sicular) and *Rising Inequality in China* (2013, with H. Sato and T. Sicular).



Neil McCulloch is an economist specializing in the analysis of poverty in developing countries and the linkages between poverty and both global and local economic reform. Dr McCulloch currently works as AusAID's lead country economist in Indonesia. He has previously led research on the Rural Investment Climate in Indonesia and has worked on the relationship between growth and poverty reduction in that country. In addition, he has written a systematic review of the evidence on financial transaction taxes, and has co-written a book 'Trade Liberalization and Poverty: A Handbook' for the UK DFID which provides a comprehensive analysis of the evidence linking trade liberalization and poverty and guidelines for how policymakers can ensure that policies of economic integration are pro-poor. Dr McCulloch has published academic papers on the causes of movements into and out of poverty and the effectiveness of different anti-poverty policies using data from China, Pakistan and Zambia. He also has experience of working as a long-term advisor within a developing country government and managing capacity building projects in that context. He also has considerable experience in teaching and training and the management of research activities.

Andrew MacIntyre is Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Australian National University's College of Asia and the Pacific. He is also Director of the new Research School of Asia and the Pacific. His current research projects include a multi-author study of Asian regional institutions and an assessment of the trajectory for democracy in Southeast Asia. Recent past projects include an edited book on the political economy of East Asia 10 years after the financial crisis (Cornell University Press 2008); a review of the state of knowledge on the rule of law and development (*Annual Review Political Science*, 2008); and a policy paper on current developments in Indonesia and their implications for Australia (Australian Strategic Policy Institute 2008). He is a regular contributor of opinion to the ANU's East Asia Forum.

He was previously Director of the Crawford School of Economics and Government. Prior to his joining the ANU he was a professor at the University of California, San Diego. Professor MacIntyre was the founder of the Australia-Indonesia Governance Research Partnership, sits on the Board of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Asia Foundation – Australia, Honorary ACT President of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), and a member of the Board of the ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. He is also a member of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He is the recipient of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for contributions to the promotion of relations between Japan and Australia (2006) and the Presidential Friends of Indonesia award (2010). He has served as a consultant to government institutions and companies in Australia, the United States and China as well as international agencies such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Marivic Raquiza is a campaigner for policies and political action to combat poverty and inequality, and for women's rights, at the national, regional and global levels. She has served as an NGO representative in a number of official country delegations to various UN conferences as well as government-CSO bodies. She has managed and supervised the implementation of an integrated rural development program in one of the Philippines' poorest provinces (North Cotabato, Mindanao), the components of which include community organizing, sustainable agriculture,



enterprise development, micro-credit, health and environmental sanitation, and gender mainstreaming. She has published and spoken extensively on poverty and social development, women's rights, and official development assistance (ODA) and teaches courses on poverty and social development, public policy, economic development and the voluntary sector. She has a Masters of Arts in Development Studies, specializing in Poverty Studies and Policy Analysis from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, Netherlands and she is currently pursuing PhD studies at the City University of Hong Kong.

M. Ramesh is Professor at the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He has previously held teaching positions at the Honk Kong Institute of Education, University of Hong Kong, University of Sydney, University of New England and Victoria University of Wellington. Specializing in public policy and governance in Asia, Professor Ramesh has authored and edited many books, including *Public Policy Primer* (2010), *Studying Public Policy* (3rd edn. 2009), *Transforming Asian Governance* (2009), *Deregulation and Its Discontents* (2006), *Social Policy in East and Southeast Asia* (2004), *Welfare Capitalism in Southeast Asia* (2000), and *The Political Economy of Canada* (1999). He has also published extensively in reputed international journals. He is the Co-Editor of *Policy and Society* as well as *World Political Science Review*.

Steve Rhee works on securing access for rural communities to land and forest resources from the Ford Foundation's Jakarta office. His grant making supports efforts to increase the well-being of poor Indonesians in fragile rural areas. His work promotes policies that give poor and marginalized groups more control over natural resources. Before joining the Ford Foundation in 2009, Steve's development work focused on international natural resource management. He has held research and policy posts at several institutions, including the Center for International Forestry Research and the U.S. Department of State. In these roles, he collaborated with a range of stakeholders from villagers in Indonesian Borneo to senior government officials in Washington, D.C. He has lived in Indonesia since 1996, working on community-based natural resource management issues. He has also worked in mainland Southeast Asia, Timor-Leste and Nepal. Steve has had several transformational learning opportunities, including service in the Peace Corps, the Fulbright-Hays Research Abroad Program and the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Science & Technology Policy Fellowship. He received his Ph.D. and master's degree from Yale University, where his training focused on governance, institutions and trade related to sustainable development.

Keetie Roelen is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in Brighton, UK in the Vulnerability and Poverty Reduction team and a member of the Centre for Social Protection (CSP). She is a development economist by training with current research interests including the dynamics of (child) poverty, social protection and the linkages between child protection and social protection. Keetie has worked with many international organizations and NGOs such as UNICEF, World Bank, Concern Worldwide and Family for Every Child, performing research and policy advice work in South East Asia, Southern and Eastern Africa and Central and Eastern Europe.



Jay Rosengard, Lecturer in Public Policy, has 35 years of international experience designing, implementing, and evaluating development policies in: public finance and fiscal strategy, tax and budget reform, municipal finance and management, intergovernmental fiscal relations, banking and financial institutions development, microfinance, SME finance, and public administration. He has worked for a wide variety of multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as directly for host governments and private sector clients. Rosengard is Director of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government's Financial Sector Program, which focuses on the development of bank and nonbank financial institutions and alternative financing instruments. This includes microfinance (small-scale lending and local savings mobilization), mainstream commercial banking (general and special-purpose banks), and wholesale financial intermediation (municipal development funds, venture capital funds, pooled financing, secondary mortgage facilities, and securitization). In addition, Rosengard is a Faculty Affiliate of both the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation and the Center for International Development. He also serves as Faculty Chair of four executive programs: FIPED (Financial Institutions for Private Enterprise Development), which focuses on sustainable and effective microfinance and SME (small and medium enterprise) finance; COMTAX (Comparative Tax Policy and Administration), which addresses key strategic and tactical issues in tax design and implementation; VELP (Vietnam Executive Leadership Program), which is an innovative policy dialogue with senior Vietnamese leadership; and Transformasi (Leadership Transformation in Indonesia), which is designed to assist Indonesia in its decentralization initiatives. He is also Faculty Chair of HKSIP (Harvard Kennedy School Indonesia Program).

Michael Samson is Director of Research of the Economic Policy Research Institute in Cape Town, South Africa. He has 27 years of experience working in social protection, and specializes in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programs and policies, and his project experience in these areas includes work in 32 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific as well as many related publications. Michael co-ordinated and co-led the team implementing the South African government's first integrated qualitative-quantitative impact assessment of the Child Support Grant, and he has implemented both impact assessments and ex ante evaluations of social protection programs in other countries in Asia and Africa. He was the lead author of the policy guide *Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programs*, he wrote the OECD's policy guidance on social protection, and he convenes courses in South Africa, Thailand and Kenya on this topic. Michael lectures at policy conferences and training workshops around the world. He is also on the economics faculty at the Williams College Center for Development Economics in the United States, and he has a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.

Rachel Slater is an ODI Research Fellow and the Head of ODI's Social Protection Program. She specializes in social protection, food security and rural and agricultural development. She has particular expertise in sub Saharan Africa (especially Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia) and South Asia. Her most recent work includes policy analysis and providing advisory support to social protection policy-makers and implementers, and the development of innovative social protection instruments and implementation mechanisms (including the design of targeting tools for social protection programs, and a toolbox for maximizing linkages between growth and



social protection). Rachel is also the Research Director of the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (www.securelivelihoods.org)

Sri Wening Handayani is a Principal Social Development Specialist of the Asian Development Bank. She is the focal point for social analysis for ADB's projects; provides awareness and training on social analysis; promotes knowledge about and management of social dimensions; facilitates sharing of information on social dimensions and social protection; and supports external relations and coordination with development partners on social development, social protection, and labor issues. She has been instrumental in numerous publications including the recently published *Social Protection for Older Persons: Social Pensions in Asia* (2012); *The Revised Social Protection Index: Methodology and Handbook* (2011); *Social Assistance and Conditional Cash Transfers: Proceedings of the Regional Workshop* (2010); *Enhancing Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific: Proceedings of the Regional Workshop* (2010); and *Handbook on Social Analysis*. Prior to joining ADB, she was a consultant practitioner in social development. She has a PhD in sociology from the University of Missouri.

Suahasil Nazara is Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia, and Policy Group Coordinator at the Secretariat of the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia. He is also a member of the National Economic Committee (KEN), an advisory body providing policy inputs to the President of the Republic of Indonesia. Earning his PhD degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, Dr Suahasil was formerly the Director of the Demographic Institute, University of Indonesia, and was also a steering committee member of Indonesian Vision 2030 set out Indonesian future economic pathways toward a developed country. Dr Suahasil is active in publication, including the most recently "Survey of Recent Developments" for the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies (2012). In his current capacity as the Policy Group Coordinator at the Secretariat of the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr Suahasil oversees a group of think tank providing policy reforms recommendations on various poverty alleviation programs in Indonesia. One of the most pivotal activities of the Policy Group is setting up the Indonesian targeting system, where for the first time since 2012 several targeted poverty alleviation programs in Indonesia extract their potential targets from a single national registry.

Sudarno Sumarto is a senior research fellow at the SMERU Research Institute and Policy Adviser of the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K), Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia. He has a PhD and an MA from Vanderbilt University and a BSc from Satya Wacana Christian University (Salatiga), all in economics. He was formerly a visiting fellow at Shorenstein APARC Stanford University for 2009–10 and for almost ten years served as the director of SMERU, an independent institute for research and public policy studies. He was also a lecturer at Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB), Bogor, Indonesia. In addition to research and writing more than sixty co-authored articles, chapters, reports, and working papers, including "Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction in Indonesia," in *Beyond Food Production* (2007); "Reducing Unemployment in Indonesia," (2007), and "The Effects of Location and Sectoral Components of Economic Growth on



Poverty: Evidence from Indonesia,” in *Journal of Development Economics*, (2009), Sudarno has for a number of years worked closely with the Indonesian government, giving advice on poverty issues and government poverty alleviation programs.

Thaveporn Vasavakul is Lead Specialist at Governance Support Facility Initiatives (GoSFI) in Cupertino, California. Since 2002, she has worked as a governance researcher and consultant with emphasis on public administration reform, local governance, and anti-corruption. She received her Ph.D in Government from Cornell University and her B.A in International Relations from Chulalongkorn University. She was a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Political and Social Change, Australian National University (1994 to 1997). She taught courses on comparative politics and Southeast Asia politics at various universities in the United States and Australia in the in her capacity as visiting professor between 1994 and 2006.

Vedi Hadiz is Professor of Asian Societies and Politics at Murdoch University and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. He received his PhD at Murdoch University in 1996 where he was Research Fellow until he went to the National University of Singapore in 2000. At NUS, he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology until he returned to Murdoch in 2010. He is currently conducting research on State, Class and Islamic Populism. Professor Hadiz's research interests revolve around issues of social, economic and political change in Indonesia and Southeast Asia as well as broader political economy and political sociology questions. His most recent book is *Localizing Power in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia: A Southeast Asia Perspective* (Stanford University Press 2010). He is the author of *Workers and the State in New Order Indonesia* (Routledge 1997) and (with Richard Robison) *Reorganizing Power in Indonesia: The Politics of Oligarchy in an Age of Markets* (RoutledgeCurzon 2004,) as well as editor or co-editor of several books, including *Empire and Neoliberalism in Asia*(Routledge 2006). His articles have appeared in journals such as *Development and Change*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Pacific Review*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Democratization*, *Critical Asian Studies*,

Fabio Veras Soares is the research coordinator of the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC – former International Poverty Centre), a UNDP thematic centre. He is seconded to IPC from the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea), Brasilia, Brazil. His principal research interest is the comparative analysis of cash transfer programs and social protection systems in developing countries. He has also worked in impact evaluation of cash transfers and other social programs in countries such as Brazil, Paraguay, Mozambique and, currently, in Yemen. He has published his impact evaluation work in the *Journal of Development Effectiveness* and *Latin American Research Review* and has written and has authored book chapters on the comparative analysis of cash transfer programs.

Vivi Alatas is Senior Economist and Poverty Team Leader at World Bank Office Jakarta where she has been working for the last 13 years after finishing her Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University. She is leading a team of 16 core staff and consultants to support the Government of Indonesia in strengthening evidence based policy making. She is the task team leader for several major World Bank reports such as “Protecting Poor and Vulnerable Households in Indonesia” and “Targeting Poor



and Vulnerable Households in Indonesia.” She is currently leading the team in updating the Indonesia Jobs Report, a comprehensive review of Indonesia’s labor market over the past two decades. In the past year, she led the team in completing innovative randomized experiments aimed at identifying the most promising approaches to targeting social assistance programs, conducted in partnership with MIT’s Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab. Lesson learned from the targeting experiments was also published in the *American Economic Review*. She has written several papers and book chapters on targeting, minimum wages, labor, dynamics of income distribution, corruption, gender, social capital, poverty measurements, and poverty program evaluations.

Vivi Yulaswati currently is the Director for Social Protection and Welfare under Deputy for Poverty, Labor, and SMEs, Indonesia’s Ministry of National Planning and Development/BAPPENAS. She graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, University of Indonesia in 1991 and began her career as a planner in 1992. She earned a master degree in in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a doctorate in Planning and Development from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA. She has participated in several other courses including the International Program for Development Evaluation Training at Carlton University, Canada and Change Management at the London School of Economics, UK. In Bappenas, she has worked in a range of fields including regional development, natural resources, and poverty alleviation. She was involved in the creation of several national poverty reduction programs, such as the Family of Hope Program/PKH (Indonesia’s Conditional Cash Transfer), the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM), and Pro-Poor Planning and Budgeting, the Empowering Indonesian Women for Poverty Reduction Program, and some Social Safety Net packages. She was also involved in the preparation of the new government policy for the National Social Security System that includes creating regulations, developing a road map for Universal Health Coverage, and conducting some related studies.

Matthew Wai-Poi is an Economist at the World Bank in Indonesia. He leads the analytical workstream on poverty, vulnerability and inequality, as well as the technical assistance to the government on the targeting of social assistance. Matthew has a PhD in Economics from Columbia University, a Master of Development Economics from Australian National University, and degrees in law and business from the University of Auckland. He previously worked in management consulting across a range of countries and industries.

Herman Waibel is Professor of Agricultural Economics and is the Director of the Institute of Development and Agricultural Economics, at the School of Economics and Management at the Leibniz University of Hannover in Germany. Professor Waibel has some 30 years’ experience in research and development in South East Asia. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Hohenheim. He has served on numerous national and international and committees including the Science Council of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Governing Council of the FAO-UNEP-World Bank Global IPM Facility at FAO Rome and the Steering Committee International Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology Research (ICABR) on



the Future of Biotechnology. His current research focus is on vulnerability to poverty and rural development in Asia. He is the Director of a Research Consortium of four German Universities on “Impact of Risks and Shocks on Rural Households in Emerging Market Economies in South East Asia”. He has published widely on topics of agriculture and natural resources management in developing countries. Together with Stephan Klasen he has recently published a book entitled *Vulnerability to Poverty: Theory, Measurement and Determinants, With Case Studies from Thailand and Vietnam*.

Robert Wrobel is a Social Development Specialist with over ten years of experience applying community-driven development approaches to support large-scale multi-sector reconstruction and development projects in areas emerging from conflict, and to increase utilization of basic services in rural, remote settings in South and Southeast Asia. In Indonesia, Mr. Wrobel serves as Task Team Leader for the Government of Indonesia’s Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Generasi Sehat dan Cerdas (National Community Empowerment Program Healthy and Smart Generation--PNPM Generasi). PNPM Generasi is an innovative program that targets three lagging Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): achievement of universal basic education, reduced child mortality, and improved maternal health. It is the first program of its kind to combine performance-based elements of condition cash transfer programs with a community-driven development approach. Mr. Wrobel has overseen the expansion of PNPM Generasi from its pilot coverage of 1,800 villages in 2009 to its current coverage of 4,000 villages in eight provinces. Over the period 2010-2014, PNPM Generasi will provide around US\$215 million in incentivized block grant to poor, rural villages. Previously, Mr. Wrobel coordinated the World Bank Social Development Unit’s \$100 million portfolio of projects in support of post-conflict development and peacebuilding in Aceh designed around the Government of Indonesia’s Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat Perdesaan (PNPM-Rural) program. In Afghanistan he held senior management positions with the National Solidarity Program (NSP), the largest development operation in the country worth US\$400 million at the time. During his tenure, Mr. Wrobel oversaw the operations of 39 regional and provincial offices responsible for disbursing upwards of US\$20 million per month in community block grants financing local health, education, and infrastructure investments. He led the program’s strategic response to the growing insurgency: the "High Risk Areas Strategy," which was adopted by NSP in 2008 and scaled up in late 2009. In the Philippines, Mr. Wrobel managed a portfolio of analytical and pilot operational activities aimed at developing a large-scale CDD program tailored to the local contexts of areas affected by conflict in the Philippines. Mr Wrobel’s technical interests and expertise include designing, overseeing and adapting large-scale CDD operations in complex environments, and analyzing the policy and operational implications of decentralized service delivery in areas of high inequality.

