



# National Prosperity through Modern Rural Policy

Competitiveness and well-being in rural regions

10th OECD Rural Development Conference

19-21 May 2015  
Memphis, Tennessee,  
United States

## Who's who?

[www.oecd.org/regional/](http://www.oecd.org/regional/)



OECD Public Governance and Territorial  
Development Directorate

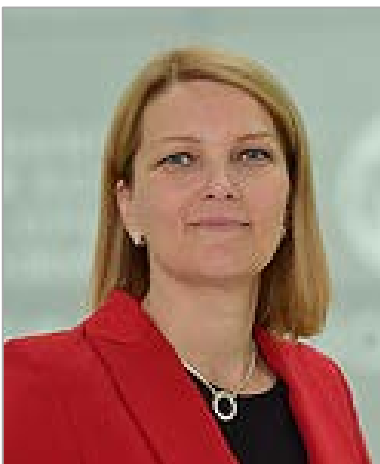
## WHO'S WHO

### Conference hosts



**Thomas J. Vilsack**  
Secretary of Agriculture  
*United States*

Tom Vilsack was appointed by President Barack Obama as the 30th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and sworn into office on January 21, 2009. As Secretary of Agriculture, Vilsack is working hard to strengthen the American agricultural economy, to revitalize rural communities, to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to provide a safe, sufficient and nutritious food supply for the American people. Because USDA's work affects every American every day, we are proud to be the 'Every Way, Every Day' USDA. As Agriculture Secretary, Vilsack has worked to implement President Obama's ambitious agenda to turn around the economy and put Americans back to work. USDA has supported struggling farmers and ranchers, provided food aid to 1 in 4 Americans, and worked to create jobs and build a foundation for future economic growth – especially in rural America.



**Mari Kiviniemi**  
Deputy Secretary-General  
*OECD*

Mari Kiviniemi took up her duties as OECD Deputy Secretary-General on 25 August 2014. Her role consists of sharing her extensive experience to help increase the impact and relevance of OECD work and to contribute to the public policy challenges of promoting inclusive growth, jobs, equality and trust. She is responsible for the strategic oversight of the OECD's work on Efficient and Effective Governance; Territorial Development; Trade and Agriculture, as well as Statistics. She is also responsible for advancing the better Life Initiative. Ms. Kiviniemi was Finland's Prime Minister from 2010 to 2011. Previously, she was Special Advisor on Economic Policy to the Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Minister for European Affairs and Minister of Public Administration and Local Government. Elected for the first time at the age of 26, she was a Member of Parliament from 1995 to 2014, chairing and participating in a vast number of committees. She also held a variety of leadership positions in her political party, the Finnish Centre Party. An economist by training, she studied political science at the University of Helsinki and holds a Master's Degree in Social Sciences. Born in 1968, she is married and has two children.

## Conference Partners



**Brenda LePage**

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Western Economic Diversification

*Canada*

Brenda LePage was born in Brandon, Manitoba and completed her secondary school education in Saskatoon. Brenda obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Saskatchewan majoring in Psychology with a Political Science Minor. She joined the Public Service in 1984 as a Living Unit Officer in the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). Ms. LePage enjoyed a 29+ year career with the CSC and was fortunate to be able to be part of a number of significant change initiatives including the implementation of the Creating Choices Task Force which eventually created 5 new regional prisons for women and a Women's Healing Lodge. From 1996-2007 Brenda was the Deputy Warden and Warden of Saskatchewan Penitentiary and Riverbend Institution in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. In 2009 Brenda was appointed as Regional Deputy Commissioner (ADM) for the CSC's Prairie Region where she was responsible for overseeing federal corrections and parole services in the provinces of Northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the North West Territories. In November 2013 Ms. LePage was thrilled to be appointed as the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Region of Western Economic Diversification. Ms. LePage has been active in her community volunteering as both a coach and manager for various sporting teams, board member for a number of non-profit and non-governmental organizations and coordinator for the Terry Fox Run. Brenda believes it is important to give back to our communities in whatever way possible. Ms. LePage is married and the mother of 3 sons. She enjoys spending time with family, camping, fishing, boating and gardening.



**Jesús Murillo Karam**

Secretary  
Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and  
Urban Development (SEDATU)

*Mexico*

Minister Murillo Karam holds a law degree from the Autonomous University of Hidalgo. He served as Governor of Hidalgo from 1993 to 1998. Afterwards he became Secretary of Public Security and later Under-Secretary of the Government of the Interior Ministry. Throughout his career he has been three times Secretary General of the PRI. He was elected Senator for a second time- in 2006 for the LX Legislature (2006-09). He was elected federal deputy for the third time in 2012, in addition to being named President of the Chamber of Deputies. He also served as Coordinator of Legal Affairs for the transition team of President Enrique Peña Nieto the same year. He is recognized as the author of recent initiatives to amend the Constitution Act regarding pursuant to collective actions, the federal law of justice for adolescents and the initiative of federal law on access to information and protection of personal data; promotes the initiative related to the general law on kidnapping. During his mandate as governor of the state of Hidalgo, the UN- through UNESCO - awarded him the NOMA Award for his work in education. He received the medal to the legislative merit by CANACINTRA. Since December 2012 he was ratified by the Senate as Attorney General of the Republic and on February 2015 he was named as the Minister of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU).

## High-level participants



**Phil Hogan**

Commissioner for Agriculture  
*European Commission*

Phil Hogan served as Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government from March 2011 until July 2014, when he was nominated as Ireland's candidate for the next European Commission. Hogan is considered to be a political heavy hitter and close ally of Taoiseach (PM) Enda Kenny. Hogan (54) was first elected to the Dáil (Lower House of Parliament) in 1989 and regained his seat at each subsequent General Election. Between 1987 and 1989, he was a member of Seanad Éireann (Upper House of Parliament). He briefly served as Minister of State for the Department of Finance with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works between December 1994 and February 1995. He has held a number of spokesperson positions for his party, including on the Food Industry (1989-1991), Consumer Affairs (1991-1993), Regional Affairs & European Development (1993-1994), Enterprise, Trade & Employment (2002 onwards), Environment, Heritage & Local Government (2007-2011). He was Chairman of the Fine Gael (EPP) parliamentary party between 1995 and 2001. Hogan graduated from University College Cork (UCC). He is separated with one adult son.



**Mihail Dumitriu**

Deputy Director General  
Directorate general Agriculture and  
Rural development  
*European Commission*

Of Romanian nationality, Mihail Dumitriu is an agriculture economist specialised in agrifood economics and rural development. He carried out postgraduate studies in France and Greece at the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies. PhD in economics. After graduation from the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Romania he worked three years in a large state owned farm in South Romania. After the farm experience he moved into economic research carrying out research studies in agricultural economics and rural economics at the Institute of Agricultural Economics a constituent institute of Romanian Academy where he was head of a research department. In 1995 he joined the Delegation of the European Commission in Bucharest where he followed the whole process of Romania's accession to the EU. In the last years prior to accession he headed the section of the Delegation in Charge of Agriculture and Internal market. In 2006 he joined DG AGRI where he was in charge of negotiation of the first rural development programme of Romania financed by EAFRD. Minister of Agriculture and Rural development of Romania in 2010, he re-joined the European Commission in early 2011 where he took over a directorate in charge of Rural development programmes. In February 2014 he became Deputy Director General responsible for rural development and research.



**Hisao Harihara**

Vice-Minister for International Affairs  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries

*Japan*

Mr Harihara hold a Degree in Law from Tokyo University In 1980 he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries becoming Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 1996. He became Director for the Administration Division, Administration Department of the Food Agency in 1997 and the following year became Director of the International Economic Affairs Division, International Affairs Department, Economic Affairs Bureau. In 2001 he took on the role of Director of the Planning Division, Marketing Department of the, Food Agency and then Director of the Policy Division in the Administration Department of the Food Agency. Mr Harihara joined the Cabinet Secretariat as a Counsellor in 2003 and became Director of the Budget Division in the Minister's Secretariat in 2006. In 2007 he was Director-General of the Private Forest Department at the Forestry Agency and then Director-General of Forest Policy Planning Department, Forestry Agency in 2008. In 2009 Mr Harihara became Director-General for Policy Coordination in the Minister's Secretariat. In 2011 he was director-General, General Food Policy Bureau followed by Director-General, Food Industry Affairs Bureau later that year. He has been Vice-Minister for International Affairs since July 2013.



**Lee Seung Ho**

Deputy Minister for Land  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and  
Transport

*Republic of Korea*

Lee, Seung-ho was appointed as Deputy Minister for Land in the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in June 2014. He is a land, urban and regional development policy expert who played a critical role in setting up plans for effective territorial management and regional development while serving as Administrator of Daejeon Regional Construction Management Administration from 2011 to 2012. While he was working as Director General for Railway Policy at the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs from 2008 to 2011, he focused on connecting railway development with territorial and regional development to provide more efficient and convenient railway services in all areas across the nation and greatly contributed to balanced regional development. Deputy Minister Lee passed the 29th National Higher Civil Service Examination. He earned the degree in English in Hankook University of Foreign Studies in Korea in 1984 and the M.A. degree in urban planning from Graduate School of Oregon University, the U.S. in 1993.



**Arturo Nahle García**

Deputy Minister of Agrarian  
Development  
SEDATU

*Mexico*

Arturo Nahle studied law in the Nacional Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He specialized in Oral Trials as a Master degree from the University of Durango, México. He has a vast experience in the public sector since 1988. His experience covers:

- Second General Controller of the Ministry of the Agrarian Reform (1991-1992);
- Legal Coordinator of the Government of the State of Hidalgo (1993-1995);
- Undersecretary of the Governor of Hidalgo (1995-1998);
- Secretary of Interior of the State of Zacatecas (2000-2003);
- Congressman for the State of Zacatecas in the in the House of Representatives (2003-2006);
- Advisor of the General Counsel of the Federal Institute of Elections (Instituto Federal Electoral, IFE) (2009-2010); and
- General Attorney of the State of Zacatecas (2010-2015).



**Marceli Niezgoda**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry for Infrastructure and  
Development  
*Poland*

On 28 November 2013, Marcell Niezgoda was appointed Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development. From 24 January 2011 to 27 November 2013, he was the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Regional Development. He graduated from the former Agricultural University of Lublin. He also finished post-graduate studies in the field of Structural Funds management and the European Union law. Before taking the position in the Ministry he has worked as the deputy Director in the Department of Strategy and Regional Development in the Office of the Marshall in Lublin where he was responsible for the implementation of the Regional Operational Programme of Lubelskie Voivodeship. He co-authored the most important programme documents of the voivodeship and supervised the calls for proposals and their assessment process.



**Chris Masingill**  
Federal Co-Chairman  
Delta Regional Authority  
*United States*

Christopher A. Masingill was appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2010 to serve as the Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority. In his five years with the Delta Regional Authority, Masingill has made it his hallmark to develop strategic connections between the public and private sectors to achieve economic and community development results on the local, state, and national levels. Prior to leading the Delta Regional Authority, Masingill served the state of Arkansas as Governor Mike Beebe's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and during that time was the Arkansas Recovery Implementation Director for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Chairman Masingill believes in the natural, economic, and human assets of Delta communities and thus the opportunities they create for the region. While at the Delta Regional Authority, he has placed a strong emphasis on supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs as well as investing in workforce development and training efforts, recognizing these efforts as the greatest opportunities for the Delta region's economy. Chris and his wife, Melissa, have two daughters, Mia and Ava, and live in Little Rock.



**Lisa Mensah**

Under Secretary for Rural Development  
United States Department of Agriculture  
*United States*

Lisa Afua Serwah Mensah was nominated by President Obama for the position of Under Secretary of USDA Rural Development and she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in November of 2014. Ms. Mensah provides leadership for three USDA agencies charged with improving the economic wellbeing of rural America: the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Utilities Service and the Rural Business-Cooperative Service. Together, these agencies provide critical infrastructure investments in the form of loans and grants for rural housing, high-speed broadband access, telephone, electric and water utilities, renewable energy generation and conservation, local and regional food systems, community facilities, and small business development in rural America. An expert in using financial tools to improve the economic security of the working poor, Ms. Mensah has experience in the private financial sector and has worked extensively on small and micro business development, housing, financial and savings policy. Prior to joining USDA, she was the founding Executive Director of the Initiative on Financial Security at the Aspen Institute. In that role she led a national bi-partisan effort with leaders of financial institutions, non-profit executives and experts to promote solutions to the complex problems of helping more Americans save money, buy homes, and finance retirement. Ms. Mensah began her career in commercial banking at Citibank before joining the Ford Foundation where she was responsible for the country's largest philanthropic grant and loan portfolio of investments in rural America. Ms. Mensah holds an M.A. from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. from Harvard University. Born and raised in Oregon, she is the daughter of an immigrant from Ghana and of a former Iowa farm girl. She resides in Maryland with her husband and two children.



**Doug O'Brien**

Senior Policy Advisor for Rural Affairs  
White House Domestic Policy Council  
and Chair of the OECD Working Party  
on Rural Policy  
*United States*

Doug O'Brien has served as the Senior Advisor for Rural Affairs for the White House Domestic Policy Council since January 2015. Before that time and since March of 2009, O'Brien served in a number of leadership capacities at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including as the Acting Under Secretary for the Rural Development Mission Area. At the White House, he helps lead the work of the White House Rural Council, which President Obama created in 2011 to encourage interagency cooperation and improve the effectiveness of federal programs in rural areas. Recently, the Council announced Rural Impact, an effort focused on rural child poverty. This work builds on O'Brien's leadership in rural community economic development that has focused on both emerging opportunities and in impoverished areas. Prior to serving in the Obama Administration, he worked for two State governors, the Senate Agricultural Committee, the U.S. House of Representatives, and in legal academia as a professor and author. O'Brien has degrees from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, the University of Iowa Law School, and a Masters in Law from the University of Arkansas. He was raised on a diversified farm in Iowa and dedicated his career to food and rural policy.



**Rolf Alter**

Director  
Directorate for Public Governance  
and Territorial Development

*OECD*

Mr. Rolf Alter is Director for Public Governance and Territorial Development of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He leads a team of 150 staff to support governments in improving their public sector performance for the well-being of citizens and the competitiveness of their economies. Key areas include institutional reform, innovation, transparency and integrity in the public sector, results-oriented budgeting, regulatory reform, and the economics of regions and cities. Under his leadership, the Directorate pursues a rich programme of co-operation with non-member countries and international institutions to advance the research on empirical evidence and good policy practices of public sector economics and governance. Previously, Mr. Alter was Chief of Staff of OECD Secretary-General Mr. Angel Gurría. He joined the OECD in 1991. Throughout his career with OECD he held different positions in the Economics Department and the Department of Financial, Fiscal and Enterprise Affairs. Between 1996 and 1998, Mr. Alter was an advisor to the Executive Director of the OECD, Mr Jean-Jacques Noreau. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr. Alter was an economist in the International Monetary Fund, in Washington D.C. He started his professional career in 1981 in the German Ministry of Economy in Bonn. He is currently a member of the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum. Mr. Alter holds a doctorate degree from the University of Goettingen, Germany, following post-graduate work in Germany and the United States.

## Speakers



**Alessandro Alasia**

Head of Special Projects  
Centre for Special Business Projects  
Statistics Canada

*Canada*

Alessandro Alasia is the Unit Head of Special Projects, Centre for Special Business Projects, Statistics Canada, where he leads a team of analysts dedicated to special studies on business and territorial performance indicators, economic impact studies, and other innovative applications of traditional and alternative data sources in support of decision making of federal and provincial departments. Since 2011, he has been first a delegate to and then Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators at the OECD; he also contributed to the OECD Territorial Review of Colombia and is currently working on the OECD Territorial Review of Peru. Before joining Statistics Canada full-time in 2007, he led several research projects with the Agriculture Division of Statistics Canada and the Rural and Cooperatives Secretariat (AAFC) as a consultant and as a post-doctoral fellow. He also consulted for several agriculture and rural development research projects, mainly in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia, with international organizations and national cooperation agencies. Alessandro has taught at the graduate and undergraduate level at the University of Bologna (Italy), the Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique), and the International Comparative Rural Policies Studies program. He graduated in Economics from the University of Torino (Italy), earned a MSc from the School of Specialization in Agriculture Economics and Business of the Catholic University (Italy), and a PhD in Agricultural Economics with specialization in Rural Studies from the University of Guelph.





**Christel Alvergne**

Deputy Director  
Local Development Finance Department  
*UNCDF*

Christel is Deputy Director of the Local Development Finance Department of UNCDF – United Nations Capital Development Fund. Before that, she worked five years for UNCDF in West and Central Africa, where she served as LDFP Team Leader and o-i-c for the Regional Office. Christel spent ten years as researcher and university teacher, working in various organizations and universities on Urban and Regional Planning: Montreal (INRS) as researcher, University L. Senghor in Alexandria and the French university of Bordeaux. Then she worked for the Municipal Development Program for West Africa providing advice and guidance to local governments associations. She also served as *Chargée de mission* and Special Advisor to the *Délégué Général* for Territorial Planning and Regional Development (DATAR, Prime minister’s Office, France). Ms. Alvergne holds PhD in Economics (Geographical economics) and a Graduate in Political Science from Aix-en-Provence.



**John E. Anderson**

Visiting Fellow  
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy,  
Cambridge, MA  
*United States*

Dr. John Anderson is an economist and an advisor to public policymakers in the field of public finance, fiscal reform, and tax policy. His academic research and policy advising has been published in more than one hundred journal articles, books, book chapters, and government reports. A new edition of his textbook, *Public Finance: Theory and Policy*, used by students around the world, was published by Cengage Learning in 2012. Dr. Anderson served as a senior economist with the President’s Council of Economic Advisers in Washington, DC, in 2005-06. He has also advised state governors and legislatures, and numerous state agencies in the United States. He is currently a Visiting Fellow with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA, conducting research on property taxation. Internationally, Dr. Anderson has served as a technical advisor on fiscal reform projects and local government reform projects in Moldova, Montenegro, and Macedonia. He has taught and provided educational reform and curriculum advising to universities in Bulgaria, China, Russia, Mongolia, and Tajikistan. In recent years he has been a Visiting Scholar at the Peking University—Lincoln Institute Center in Beijing, conducting research on Chinese municipalities and their public finances. Dr. Anderson earned his B.A. in mathematics and economics at Western Michigan University and his Ph.D. in economics at Claremont Graduate University in California.



**Anna Marie Argilagos**

Senior Advisor  
Ford Foundation

*United States*

Ana Marie Argilagos is senior advisor to the foundation's *Just Cities* initiative. Her work focuses on urban development strategies to reduce poverty, expand economic opportunity, and advance sustainability in cities and regions across the world. Ana Marie is also currently an adjunct professor of international urban planning at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. Before joining the foundation in 2014, Ana Marie served as deputy chief of staff and deputy assistant secretary at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There, she created the Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation (IPI) to deepen and scale collaboration between the public and philanthropic sectors. The IPI model of sourcing innovation and leveraging partnerships from broad global networks is now being successfully replicated at other federal cabinet agencies and cities across the US. Earlier, Ana Marie spent eight years as a senior program officer at the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, where she spearheaded the foundation's work in rural areas, indigenous communities, and in the US-Mexico border region. With experience in both the public and non-profit sectors—serving as educational programs manager at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists; director of the New Workplace for Women Project at the National Council of La Raza; and deputy director of AYUDA, a community-based legal clinic serving immigrants in Washington, DC—Ana Marie has proven to be an entrepreneurial thinker who bridges diverse agendas and achieves results. Ana Marie earned her bachelor's degree in international relations from The American University, and a master's in public administration from Harvard University.



**Cristell Åström**

Senior Specialist  
Regional Department  
Ministry of Employment  
and the Economy

*Finland*

Christell Åström is currently working as a senior specialist at the Regional Department at Ministry of Employment and the Economy. She is also the Secretary General of the Rural Policy Committee. The Rural Policy Committee is a cooperation body which aims to promote the well-being of the rural areas in various ways. The primary objective of rural policy is to improve the preconditions for living in the countryside. The Rural Policy Committee is appointed by the Finnish Government. More than 500 persons from several ministries and other organizations participate in its work. She studied in the faculty of Agriculture and – forestry in Helsinki University and got a masters' degree in 1997. She has been working with rural development on a local and regional level in many NGOs. Before she started to work at the ministry she was working with rural policy and development and small municipalities as a senior adviser in the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities.



**Julio Berdegué**

Principal Researcher  
Rimisp-Latin American Center  
for Rural Development

*Chile*

Dr. Julio A. Berdegué is Principal Researcher at Rimisp-Latin American Center for Rural Development, Santiago, Chile. He holds a PhD. in Social Science from Wageningen University, Netherlands. Currently, he coordinates the Collaborative Program on Territorial Cohesion for Development. Dr. Berdegué has published extensively on different aspects of rural development, including on territorial development, rural non-farm employment, the role of small and medium cities in rural development, and the changing structures of agri-food and rural markets and their impact on small and medium rural producers and enterprises. Dr. Berdegué has advised national and sub-national governments in several Latin American countries, most recently in Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. His work on territorial development has received the generous support of IDRC (International Development Research Centre, Canada), as well as additional grants from IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), the Ford Foundation, and others. Dr Berdegué has been a member of the boards of several international organizations, including the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) that he chaired between 2008 and 2011, and the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED).



**Cornelius Blanding**

Executive Director of the Federation  
of Southern Cooperatives

*United States*

Cornelius Blanding began his career in development work as an economic development intern for the City of Miami Beach and since then has gained a broad experience base including rural, international and cooperative economic development. His experiences include business and project development, management and marketing. He has worked as a small business development & management consultant, manager of a multi-million dollar revolving loan fund, domestic and international project director, Director of Field Operations & Special Projects, Deputy Director and is now presently serving as the Executive Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. Cornelius has also served and continues to serve on various boards and committees, including the National Cooperative Business Association, Agricultural Safety & Health Council of America, Southeast Climate Consortium and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People.



**Betty-Ann Bryce**

Policy Advisor  
Office of the Under Secretary  
USDA – Rural Development

*United States*

Betty-Ann Bryce is a policy advisor in the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture. Before joining the USDA in 2014, she was an administrator with the Rural and Regional Development Unit within the Regional Development Policy Division of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD. She has contributed to several OECD Publications including: *Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet* (2014), *Linking Renewable Energy to Rural Development* (2012), and the *Rural Policy Reviews of the Netherlands* (2008), *Finland* (2008) and *Scotland, UK* (2008). She coordinated and co-authored *Innovation and Modernising the Rural Economy* (2013), *Rural-Urban Partnerships: An Integrated Approach to Economic Development* (2013), the *Rural Review of England, UK* (2011), *Strategies to improve Rural Service Delivery* (2010), and the *Rural Policy Review of Italy* (2009). In addition to a Juris Doctorate, she holds a Masters in Economic and Territorial Development from the L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) de Paris (Sciences-Po), and a Masters in Economic and Political Development from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).



**John M. Bryden**

Research Professor, NILF, Norway  
Emeritus Professor  
University of Aberdeen  
*Scotland, United Kingdom*

John Bryden is part-time Professor in the “Grounded and Inclusive Innovation” research group at the Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute (NILF) in Oslo, and Emeritus Professor at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He is a recognised expert on rural policy who has worked in UK, Norway, US, Canada, Chile, the Caribbean, Africa and India. He has been a Ministerial advisor on land reform and rural policy, and Secretary of a cross-party group on rural policy. He was a founder of the International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute. He was European Director of the joint EU-North America exchange programme on Rural Policy in the 1980’s. He has co-ordinated four major transnational research programmes on economic and social dynamics in rural regions. He has been an expert advisor to the OECD on rural services, service to industry, rural policies, rural innovation, and for the preparation of the New Rural Paradigm (2006). He contributed to the OECD project on Renewable Energy as a Rural Development Policy, and also worked for the UNEP REN-21 Policy Network on a Renewable Energy update in the North Africa and Middle East region in 2012-13. He has just completed a book with colleagues from Scotland, England, Finland and Norway on *Northern Neighbours: Scotland and Norway since 1800*. John studied Political Economy, Tropical Agricultural Economics, and Development Economics in the Universities of Glasgow, the West Indies and East Anglia respectively, and has been visiting scholar at several universities worldwide. John was also Programme Director of the Arkleton Trust from 1981 to 2006. He has been a keynote speaker or panellist at the major EU rural policy conferences as well as many OECD Territorial Rural Policy conferences and other conferences across the globe.



**Teresa Capece Geleota**

Public Investment Evaluation Unit  
(UVAL) of the Italian Department for  
Development and Cohesion Policy  
*Italy*

Teresa Capece Galeota is a public officer at the Public Investment Evaluation Unit (UVAL) of the Italian Department for Development and Cohesion Policy. Since 2012 her work is mainly focused on “Inner Areas” and on the activities of the National Committee where she’s in charge of assisting the Coordinator in such activities as public and institutional relations, launching and promotion of the National Strategy for Inner Areas, information and communication activities, preliminary analysis on data. Before joining the Evaluation Unit she worked for the Italian Institute for Industrial Promotion (an Agency of the Ministry of Economic Development), where she gained an over ten years’ experience in the field of State aid, EU Structural Funds, policy measures and incentive systems to promote private investment. She was appointed Italian delegate at the European Commission WES Network (the European network to promote women's entrepreneurship) on behalf of the Ministry for Economic Development. She holds a degree in Political Sciences from LUISS University of Rome and a Master in Competition and regulatory practice within Transport and Energy sectors from Tor Vergata University of Rome.



**Vito Cistulli**

Senior Policy Officer  
Department of Economic and Social  
Development

*FAO*

Vito Cistulli is a Senior Policy Officer at the FAO Department of Economic and Social Development. He is an agricultural economist with more than 30 years of experience in agriculture, natural resources and rural development as a free-lance or staff member with research institutes, international organizations including the World Bank, the Indian Ocean Commission, UNEP / MAP and the private sector (ENI Group). He joined FAO in 2003 as a senior policy officer in charge of supporting the member countries in the design and implementation of agricultural and rural development strategies. He is currently coordinating the social protection work of FAO and is responsible for the initiative on territorial approach to rural poverty reduction and food security and nutrition policies.



**Richard Cormier**

*ACOA*

*Canada*

Richard Cormier is the Director of Strategic Policy Development at the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), one of Canada's federal agencies responsible for regional economic development. Mr. Cormier joined ACOA in 2005 as a Senior Policy Analyst. His work at the Agency involves directing policy research and analysis related to regional economic development, multi-lateral engagement with the four Atlantic provincial governments, and advising senior officials and the Minister in regional development issues. Mr. Cormier has also been part of Canada's delegation to the OECD's Regional Development Policy Committee since 2008, and was elected Vice-Chair of the OECD's Working Party on Rural Policy in 2013. Prior to joining ACOA, Mr. Cormier was Senior Policy Advisor with the federal office responsible for the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Initiative, a \$1.5 billion, federal-provincial-municipal investment. Mr. Cormier was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, where he lives and works.



**Jaime de la Mora**

Director  
Consulting Group  
for Agricultural Markets

*Mexico*

Jaime Federico de la Mora studied Hydraulic, Irrigation and Civil Engineering. He was the Director of Administration and Finance of the Financial Agricultural Society and has worked in diverse private national and international consultancies in relation to the rural production. In 1995 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Rural Development. De la Mora Gomez was in charge of the design and implementation of the program for a structural change and modernization of the National Rural Bank for Credit in Mexico (*Banrural, Banco Nacional de Crédito Rural*) and has worked in programming budget in a national scale from the federal government. Currently he is a member of the Technical Advisory Council of the National Peasant Confederation (CNC, *Confederación Nacional Campesina*) of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI, *Partido Revolucionario Institucional*), member of the Mexican Society of Engineers of the National Confederation of Popular Organizations (CNOP, *Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones Populares*) of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI, *Partido Revolucionario Institucional*), member of the College of Civil Engineers of Mexico (CICM, *Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles de México*) and participates in the Water Committee of the College.



**Richard W. England**  
Professor  
University of New Hampshire  
*United States*

Dr. Richard W. England is a professor of economics and natural resources at the University of New Hampshire (USA) and a visiting fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (USA). His research focuses on land and property taxation, real estate markets and land development. His most recent book, co-authored with Prof. John E. Anderson, is *Use-Value Assessment of Rural Land in the United States* (2014).



**Matt S. Erskine**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of  
Commerce for Economic  
Development and Chief Operating  
Officer for the Economic  
Development Administration  
*United States*

Matt S. Erskine was appointed by President Obama to serve as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer of the Economic Development Administration in September 2011. Mr. Erskine brings more than 20 years of leadership and management experience in business, public sector, and public-private partnerships. Prior to joining the Obama Administration and the Department of Commerce, he led the private-public partnership driving economic development and foreign direct investment for the 5th largest metropolitan region in the U.S. and worked in senior roles at global business consulting firms.



**Margarita Flores de la Vega**

Academic Secretary  
University Program on Development  
Studies  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de  
México (UNAM)  
*Mexico*

Margarita Flores de la Vega is an Academic Secretary at the University Program on Development Studies, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and Part-time Professor of The International Social Agenda and Cooperation for Development at the Post-graduate Division of the Faculty of Economics, UNAM. She is also member of the Experts Committee for the Cruzada Nacional contra el Hambre. Before joining UNAM, Dr. Flores served the United Nations for 24 years. From 1986 to 2002 at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and from 2002 to 2010 at the UN Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO). From 2007 through the beginning of 2010, she was FAO Representative in Chile and FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. Between 2002 and 2007, she was the Director of the FAO Food Security Analysis Service in Rome, as well as Secretary of the World Food Security Committee. Development and food security projects were developed in various countries in Africa Central America, the Caribbean and South Asia. Prior to FAO, she served as Deputy Director of the ECLAC Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean –Non English speaking countries. For more than a year she was director officer in charge. From 1986 to 1993 she was Economist officer and then (1994-1998) chief at the Agricultural Unit at ECLAC. Dr. Flores has participated in UN electoral as well as peacekeeping operations in Central America and the Caribbean (Nicaragua 1988-89, El Salvador 1991-1993 and Haiti), 1990. Her experience is mainly associated to rural development and food security. It includes the Mexican public administration, and NGOs work with peasant organisations.



**Charles W. Fluharty**

President Emeritus  
and Vice President for Policy Programs  
RUPRI  
*United States*

Charles W. Fluharty is the founder, President, and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), the only U.S. national policy institute solely dedicated to assessing the rural impacts of public policies. Since RUPRI's founding in 1990, over 300 scholars representing 16 different disciplines in 100 universities, all U.S. states and 30 other nations have participated in RUPRI projects, which address the full range of policy and program dynamics affecting rural people and places. Collaborations with the OECD, the EU, the German Marshall Fund, the Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Committee, and other international organizations have framed RUPRI's comparative rural policy foci. A Clinical Professor in the University of Iowa College of Public Health and a graduate of Yale Divinity School, he was also a German Marshall Fund Transatlantic Fellow from 2007 to 2011. Chuck is the author of numerous policy studies and journal articles, has presented dozens of Congressional testimonies and briefings, and is also a frequent speaker before national and international audiences, having delivered major public policy speeches in over a dozen nations. He has also provided senior policy consultation to most federal departments, state and local governments, associations of government, planning and development organizations, and many foundations.



**David Freshwater**

Professor  
Department of Agricultural  
Economics  
University of Kentucky  
*United States*

David Freshwater is a professor at the University of Kentucky, with appointments in the Department of Agricultural Economics and in the Martin School of Public Administration and Public Policy. He is also an adjunct professor in the Geography Department of Memorial University in Newfoundland. During 2009 he was Head of the Rural Policy Programme at the OECD in Paris. His main research areas are rural and agricultural policy in North America and Europe. His academic research focuses on: evaluation of the impacts of rural development policies, analysis of labour market conditions in rural areas, and the role of off-farm income in agricultural risk management. From 1994 to 2001 he was the Program Manager for TVA Rural Studies, a rural development research centre that was created through a cooperative agreement between the Tennessee Valley Authority and the University of Kentucky. Prior to joining the University of Kentucky he was a senior economist on the Staff of the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress and before that a member of the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. He has also been a visiting scholar at USDA, a member of the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Manitoba, and a consultant on agricultural and rural policy for various domestic and international government agencies. He holds a B.A. in Economics from Brock University, an M.A. in Economics from McMaster University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University.



**Jorge Galo Medina Torres**

Director General  
Rural Development Capacities and  
Extensionism, SAGARPA  
*Mexico*

Dr Galo has been a research professor for over 38 years and has participated in teaching, research and development projects as well as in the university administration of several institutions of higher education in Mexico. He is also president of the International Society of Pasture Management (Mexico section) and of the SOMMAP.



**Enrique Garcilazo**

Head, Rural and Regional Programme  
Public Governance and Territorial  
Development Directorate  
*OECD*

Jose Enrique Garcilazo is the Head of Unit for the Rural and Regional Development Programme within the Regional Development Policy Division at the OECD. His work has mainly focused in the areas of regional competitiveness, measuring the performance of regions and understating the key factors for growth at the regional level and their impact to aggregate performance. He obtained a doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.





**Salin Geevarghese**

Deputy Assistant Secretary  
International and Philanthropic  
Innovation  
Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
*United States*

Salin Geevarghese has been appointed by Secretary Shaun Donovan as HUD's Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of International and Philanthropic Innovation (IPI) within the Office of Policy Development and Research. In this role, Salin leads an innovation team that is charged with engaging philanthropic and other cross-sector partners (both internationally and domestically) to harness and apply best practices, programs and policies for the benefit of our communities and aligning our common efforts. Prior to this appointment, Sec. Donovan appointed Salin as Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. In that role, he was responsible for advancing housing and communities that increase affordability, cost savings, efficiency, and quality of life, while also expanding regional economic growth and opportunity. He provided technical and policy support for energy, green building, and integrated housing, transportation and economic development programs at HUD and around the nation. Salin came to the Obama Administration as a Senior Advisor and as part of the founding leadership of HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. Before coming to HUD as an appointee of President Obama, Salin worked as a Senior Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation where he focused on urban redevelopment issues, anchor institutions, regional equity and opportunity, and community and economic development policy. He was in the senior management of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, focused on building the civic and change capacity of public, private, and non-profit leaders and organizations and in communities like Flint, MI, Orange County, FL, Newark, NJ, and throughout the state of Ohio. Salin was previously a corporate manager with the BellSouth Corporation where he worked with their corporate philanthropy on education reform and student achievement, community change and public engagement, and technology. He co-led the corporate practice of the national management consultancy TCC Group where he assisted CEOs, foundation executives, and non-profit leaders on strategic planning, organizational development and redesign, and evaluation projects. A recognized expert and leader, Salin has consulted, spoken, and written widely on open records laws and transparency, public education issues, civil rights and equity issues, community and economic development, and civic innovation and engagement efforts.



**Earl Gohl**

Federal Co-chair  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
*United States*

Earl F. Gohl was unanimously confirmed as federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 2010. He is the eleventh federal co-chair to be appointed since the Commission was established by an act of Congress in 1965. Gohl came to ARC with 20 years of experience in Pennsylvania state and local government. From 1975 to 1995, he held positions including executive assistant to the mayor of Harrisburg; elected member of the Harrisburg City Council; deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs; and director of the Pennsylvania governor's Washington office. As deputy secretary, Gohl awarded and administered \$100 million annually in housing and community development programs benefiting communities within the Appalachian Region. He also managed several initiatives to strengthen the capacity of rural local governments to meet economic challenges. From 1996 to 2001, Gohl served as a special assistant, and then as an associate assistant secretary, at the U.S. Department of Labor. There he was responsible for the development and implementation of legislative strategy in the areas of immigration policy, employment standards, affirmative action and federal workers' compensation programs, and international affairs, including child labor and core labor standards. From 2001 to 2009, Gohl was the director of government relations/deputy director for the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, where he formulated legislative and executive branch initiatives related to taxes, economic security, health care, education, nutrition, environment, homeland security, labor, housing, and transportation. In his Senate confirmation hearing, Gohl stated that his objective as ARC federal co-chair would be to ensure that each federal dollar expended by the Commission was "an investment in the economic future of Appalachian families that will generate a return for American taxpayers." Gohl holds a bachelor of arts degree from Rider College (now Rider University) in New Jersey and a master of public administration degree from Pennsylvania State University.



**John Grieve**

Director  
Rural Development Company  
*Scotland*

John Grieve is a director of the Rural Development Company, a specialist economic development practice based in rural Scotland. A former farms manager John qualified as a professional training manager working for a number of years with the UK Agricultural Training Board. John moved into wider rural development in 1993 initiating an area based initiative in the Angus Glens before managing a portfolio of domestic and EU funded projects and the Upland Tayside Leader II Programme. Moving into consultancy in 1999 his work includes substantial experience in the rural and fisheries sectors throughout the UK and elsewhere in Europe from the community grass roots to the European policy level. He is involved on a near continuous basis in managing or contributing in a senior role to programme, policy development, evaluation and networking projects and activities in the UK, overseas and at an EU level. As a trainer, development practitioner and evaluator putting learning into practice is his major driver, contributing to the development of guidance and implementation of good practice in the field of Community Led Local Development (CLLD) and in particular LEADER. He currently plays a senior role in the European Network for Rural Development as Policy Coordinator for the Contact Point. For the past six years has also been a core team member of FARNET, the European Fisheries Areas Network supporting the implementation of the CLLD approach in fisheries communities.



**Carol Guthrie**

Head of the Washington Centre

*OECD*

Carol Guthrie is the Head of the OECD Washington Center, where she works to better connect the OECD's unique research and best practices perspectives with policymakers and stakeholders in the United States and Canada. Before joining the OECD, Guthrie was most recently the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Public and Media Affairs in the Administration of President Barack Obama. Prior, she was the Communications Director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, covering a wide range of issues including, domestic and international tax policy, trade, health care, and entitlement programs. Ms Guthrie has also served as the Communications Director and speechwriter for U.S. Senator Ron Wyden. Before her service in government, Guthrie spent seven years as a television news producer for multiple network affiliate outlets in Washington DC, Baltimore, and Birmingham. AL



**Roman Haken**

Director of the Centre for Community  
Organizing Central Moravia

*Czech Republic*

Member of the EESC – European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels. Rapporteur for the opinion on Community Led Local Development. Czech expert on local development and public participation in decision making processes. External lecturer in Charles University, Prague. Co-founder of the NGO Center for Community Organizing. Member of the Czech Government Council for NGOs.



**Greg Halseth**

Professor  
University of Northern British Columbia

*Canada*

Greg Halseth is a Professor in the Geography Program at the University of Northern British Columbia, where he is also the Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies and Co-Director of UNBC's Community Development Institute. His research examines rural and small town community development, and community strategies for coping with social and economic change. Greg has served on the governing council of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Advisory Committee on Rural Issues for the Federal Secretary of State for Rural Development, and various other Provincial Government advisory committees. Greg's books include "Building Community in an Instant Town" and "Building for Success", as well as an edited volume on the "Next Rural Economies" which includes contributions from 12 OECD countries. His most recent book is "Investing in Place: Economic Renewal in Northern British Columbia" which is published by UBC press.



**Raúl Hernández Garciadiego**

General Director  
Alternativas y Procesos de Participación  
Social A.C.  
*Mexico*

Raúl Hernández graduated with degree in Philosophy, Universidad Iberoamericana; title of thesis: “Additional Principles Required in the Theory of Justice as Fairness”; Doctor Honoris Causa in Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidad Iberoamericana-Puebla. General Director of *Alternativas y Procesos de Participación Social A.C.*, a civil development organization. Together with his wife, Gisela Herrerías Guerra, since 1980 he has promoted a process of sustainable regional development that benefits the poorest families and towns in the semi-arid region of the Mixteca, with the support of an interdisciplinary team of approximately 200 people. His principal projects are: 1) “Water forever”, ecological regeneration of watersheds to obtain water and enrich soil; 2) “Quali-Cooperative Group”, made up of 88 cooperative organizations that operate an agroindustrial chain of nutritive food products elaborated with organic amaranth, in which some 1,100 peasant and indigenous families participate; 3) “Development Finance”; and 4) “Development of Social Enterprises”. In three and a half decades, the levels of hydric, alimentary, economic and ecological security of the families located in towns in one of the poorest regions of Mexico have been raised. The work of his team has been recognized through its reception of several prestigious awards:



**Stephen Hockins**

Project Manager  
New Choctaw Health Center  
Construction Project  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw  
*United States*

Stephen Hockins has been working with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, as a contractor or employee, since 2004. He works for the Tribe as an employee in the Tribal Planning Department as a Health Systems Planner, and Project Manager. In this capacity, Mr. Hockins has guided the development of a new Choctaw Health Center to provide comprehensive Inpatient and Outpatient direct care services for the approximately 10,800 Tribal members residing on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in East Central Mississippi. Through the efforts of both the Regional and Mississippi State USDA Offices, the Tribe was able to develop a partnership with the USDA Rural Development, Community Facilities Division to successfully negotiate a combined Direct and Guaranteed Loan to improve healthcare delivery to all Tribal members. After years of trying to replace a Health Center designed and built in 1976 for a population of 4,000, the Tribe and USDA successfully paved the way for improved health status with the construction of a state of the art facility capable of meeting the expected health care demand of the expanding population. Mr. Hockins holds a Master’s Degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Colorado. His 40 year career in healthcare includes Executive Hospital Administrative operational experience, Health Care Capital Program Management, as well as extensive experience in the area of Health Systems Planning.



**William Hohenstein**

Director  
Climate Change Program Office  
Office of the Chief Economist &  
Acting Director, Office of Environmental  
Markets, Office of the Chief Economist  
USDA

*United States*

William Hohenstein is the Director of USDA’s Climate Change Program Office, within the Office of the Chief Economist. The Climate Change Program Office provides coordination and policy development support for the Department’s climate change program. It serves as the focal point for all support to the Secretary of Agriculture on the causes and consequences of climate change, as well as strategies for addressing them. Mr. Hohenstein is also currently serving as the Acting Director of the USDA Office of Environmental Markets, also within the Office of the Chief Economist. The Office of Environmental Markets (OEM) was established in direct response to provision of the 2008 Farm Bill. OEM’s central mission is to facilitate the participation of farmers, ranchers, and forest land owners in emerging environmental markets. Before arriving at USDA, Mr. Hohenstein served as a Division Director in EPA’s National Center for Environmental Economics. Mr. Hohenstein has a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Cook College, Rutgers University and a M.E.M. in Resource Economics from Duke University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



**Emilia Istrate**

Research Director  
National Association of Counties

*United States*

Before joining NACo, Ms. Istrate was with the Brookings Institution - a prominent Washington think-tank — where she was an associate fellow and a senior research associate. She holds a doctorate in public policy from George Mason University, focusing in regional economic development. She has also studied at the University of Vienna and Johns Hopkins University from which she earned master’s degrees in international studies.



**Diana Jedig**

Secretary/Treasurer  
Community Futures Network

*Canada*

Diana Jedig has served as a volunteer on the Board of the Community Futures Network of Canada since its inception in 2002. She has been involved with the Community Futures Program for more than 27 years, first as a manager of a local Community Futures Organization and for the past 21 years as the Executive Director of the Provincial Association representing the 61 Community Futures Organizations in Ontario. During this tenure, Diana has been an outspoken proponent of the value of community based decision-making, particularly on rural development issues. In her role with the provincial association, she has administered both a \$15 M Community Development Fund for the Federal Agriculture Department and a \$15 M Community Economic Development grant program for the Provincial Rural Affairs Ministry. Over the years, Diana has nurtured relationships with many community organizations across Canada and is currently the President of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network. She was recognized in 2003 for her contributions to rural CED as the co-winner of the Mary Robertson Rural Distinction Award. She has an undergraduate Honours Bachelor of Commerce Degree ('82) from McMaster University, a Masters in Business Administration ('84) from the Richard Ivey School of Business at Western University, and is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), an internationally recognized professional designation.



**Phil Karsting**  
Administrator  
USDA  
*United States*

Phil Karsting was appointed administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in May 2013. He previously served more than 22 years on Capitol Hill, most recently as Chief of Staff to Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), then-chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies. Karsting's previous Capitol Hill assignments included serving as senior analyst on the staff of the Senate Budget Committee where he handled issues relating to agriculture, rural development, housing, telecommunications, energy and the environment. He also served as legislative assistant to the late Senator Jim Exon (D-Neb.) and as a member on the Senate Bi-partisan Chiefs of Staff steering committee. In 2013, Karsting travelled to Liberia on behalf of the National Democratic Institute to lead training seminars for Liberian congressional staff. Concurrent with his duties as FAS administrator, Karsting serves as vice president of the Commodity Creditor Corporation (CCC), chair of USDA's Interagency Coordinating Committee on International Agriculture, and as an advisor to USDA's Task Force on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Karsting began his association with American agriculture working in his family's farm supply business in rural Nebraska. He received a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is also a graduate of the International Culinary Center in New York.



**Taebyung Kim**  
Director for Regional Policy Division  
Ministry of Land Infrastructure  
and Transport  
*Republic of Korea*

Kim, Taebyung received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Seoul National University. In 1998, He received a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the same school. He also obtained a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Studies from the University of Birmingham in the USA. Ever since being appointed as Director at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, he has played pivotal roles in various fields within the Ministry, including general services, creative administration, and metropolitan transport. Through strenuous endeavours aimed at achieving balanced regional growth in Korea, he has contributed significantly to the goals of balancing urban and rural development and creating new towns in key regions. Currently, he is serving as Director of Regional Policy Division, and continues to make efforts to develop rural areas in his relevant expertise areas.



**Rhonda Koster**  
Director  
School of Outdoor Recreation Parks  
and Tourism  
*Canada*

Dr. Koster is currently the Director of the School of Outdoor Recreation Parks and Tourism. Her research focuses on the contribution of tourism towards rural sustainability in resource-based regions, with expertise in the areas of determinants of success in rural tourism planning; building capacity for tourism development with First Nations communities; experiential tourism development; the role of Appreciative Inquiry in tourism development; gateway communities and protected areas; rural tourism in the Canadian urban fringe; and, frameworks for evaluating tourism as a community economic development endeavour.



**Patrice A. Kunesh**

Deputy Under Secretary  
of Rural Development, USDA

*United States*

On May 22, 2013, Patrice H. Kunesh began her tenure at USDA as the Deputy Under Secretary of Rural Development. Among Patrice's responsibilities are overseeing Operations & Management and the Office of Civil Rights and working with the State Directors. Prior to joining USDA, Patrice, of Standing Rock Lakota descent, served as the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she supervised the work of the Solicitor's Office on a breadth of matters concerning American Indian tribes and individual Indians, Indian lands, and Indian gaming. Before joining DOI, Patrice was a member of the faculty of the University of South Dakota School of Law where she taught in the areas of Federal Indian Law, Legislation, Property Law, and Children & the Law, and also directed the University's Institute of American Indian Studies. Patrice began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund as a Skadden Public Interest Fellow and then as a Staff Attorney, where she litigated cases involving tribal sovereignty and natural resources and provided legal and policy advice to tribes on a wide variety of Indian law and tribal governance issues. In 1995, she became in-house counsel to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut, where she continued her legal and policy work in the areas of tribal law and governance and economic development. Patrice received a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a law degree from the University of Colorado School of Law, where she was an editor of the Colorado Law Review.



**Ibrahim Kuzu**

Director  
Local and Rural Development  
Ministry of Development

*Turkey*

Ibrahim Kuzu is the Director of Local and Rural Development at the Turkish Ministry of Development since 2011. His unit designs national rural development policies and allocates the investment budget for rural development, mainly infrastructure, including village roads, drinking water networks, village renewals and resettlements. His duties also include supervision of Regional Development Agencies and several local development and social policy initiatives. Ibrahim started his career as a Customs Officer and later joined the Ministry of Development as a Junior Specialist. He was later promoted to Senior Specialist, left the Ministry to study abroad, worked for UNICEF as a Social Policy Specialist and served as advisor to the Minister of Family and Social Affairs. He returned back to his home organization as Director. Ibrahim continues his Ph.D. in Social Policy at the Yildirim Beyazit University in Ankara. He holds a Master of Public Policy from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, where he was also the Vice President for Finance of the Student Government, an M.S. in Social Policy and a B.S. in International Relations from Middle East Technical University in Ankara.



**Julia Latta**

Project Manager  
Scottish Enterprise

**United Kingdom**

Julia is a Project Manager with Scottish Enterprise and has a range of business, economic and rural skills spanning a 20 year career which include project management, leadership development, business coaching, rural innovation, stakeholder/relationship management, event management and PA/office management. She has developed international linkages to share knowledge, best practice on rural leadership development with America, Canada, Australia, Sweden and Finland. During 2013/14 Julia was a visiting Researcher at Edinburgh University undertaking research on rural collaboration and rural entrepreneurship. Julia is a member of the International Association of Programmes for Agricultural and Rural Leadership and various other networking groups relating to rural economic development.



**Frederic Laurin**

Professor  
Université du Québec

*Canada*

Frédéric Laurin is a professor in economics at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. His primary interests focus on the analysis of international trade, economic integration, regional economic development, European economics and affairs, and economics of wine distribution. He is also a member of the Research Institute for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which focuses on the advancement of knowledge for these types of enterprises to contribute to their development.



**Juan Antonio Leos-Rodríguez**

Head of Graduate Studies.  
CIESTAAM/Chapingo

*Mexico*

Undergraduate on Agriculture from National School of Agriculture, 1969. Chapingo, México. Master of Science on Agriculture and Resource Economics. 1977. University of California at Berkeley. Ph.D on Agriculture and Resource Economics. 1980. University of California at Berkeley. Faculty member of University Chapingo since 1973, teaching Macroeconomics, Economics Development, Economics of Natural Resources, and International Trade and Food Safety. Research topics related to evaluation and design of agricultural policies for rural development. Member of the National Researchers System (CONACyT), 2014-2017. Head of Graduate Studies. CIESTAAM/Chapingo, 2014-2017.





**Karen Maguire**

Counsellor  
Regional Development Policy Division  
*OECD*

Ms. Maguire is a Counsellor in the OECD's Regional Development Policy Division and Project Manager for Regional Development and Innovation. In addition to research on a wide range of regional development issues, she has a particular focus on policies to promote regional economic development, innovation systems and clusters. She co-ordinates the biennial *OECD Regional Outlook* and is the main author of several other OECD publications, including *Regions and Innovation: Collaborating Across Borders*; *Regions and Innovation Policy* and *Competitive Regional Clusters: National Policy Approaches*. She manages the series of OECD Regional Innovation Reviews conducted in numerous OECD regions. Prior to joining the OECD, Ms. Maguire worked as an investment banker for UBS in New York, an international consultant in economic development and a research analyst for the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. She holds a Bachelor's degree in economics and sociology from the University of Chicago and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



**Francesco Mantino**

Senior Researcher  
National Institute of Agricultural  
Economics (INEA)  
*Italy*

Francesco MANTINO is senior researcher at the National Institute of Agricultural Economics (INEA). He has worked on research projects in the broad field of rural and regional development: structural changes, policy design and delivery, local development strategies and plans, lagging regions and development of mountain areas, evaluation of EU programmes, etc. He has carried out research funded by several international organisations including the European Commission, OCDE, FAO and IFAD. At national level he has led the INEA's work on the reform of the EU Rural Development Policy and its implementation in Italy since 1994. He was responsible of the team of the Italian Networks for Leader II and Leader+. He has worked as consultant of a broad range of Italian institutions: the Ministries for Agricultural and Forestry Policies, Budget and Economic Planning, Department of Tourism, and finally many Regional Authorities. He is currently leading several research projects in the field of rural development policies, both at national and European level, in particular in fields as rural governance, development of mountain areas, territorial competitiveness of rural areas, competitiveness of food chains, etc. He is author of many scientific publications.



**Mal McGhee**

Poarch Band of Creek Indians

*United States*

Mal McGhee earned a bachelor's degree in aviation maintenance technology at Alabama Aviation and Technical College and at 19 was the youngest to serve as a Tribal Council member. He served on the board of directors and was president and CEO for tribally owned manufacturing company Muskogee Technology. His influence helped the company's growth and improved business relationships. McGhee worked to get customers to his business. His first success was The Boeing Co., and soon others followed, including Lockheed Martin Corp., BAE Systems, Siemens, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army, among others. McGhee recently spearheaded the effort to gain a partnership with GKN Aerospace, another international company. Today, Muskogee Technology, through McGhee's leadership, manufactures all parts for GKN aircrafts and GKN's customers. This also has allowed the company to expand into carbon composite and heavy metal fabrication and also open a new facility in Atmore, Ala. McGhee's passion is evident, and he's not done yet. To him, this is only the beginning. He currently is the director of marketing for Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority — the economic arm of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians — and he is also director of marketing for Muskogee Technology. McGhee has been with Muskogee Technology for 23 years and was the first employee of the company. Muskogee Technology successfully completed Mentor Protégé Program under Boeing and through McGhee's determination, the company also has won a vast amount of business awards, including the 2014 GKN Lean & Innovation Award, the 2013 Boeing Performance Excellence Award, the 2012 Lockheed Martin Top Supplier Award among many others. McGhee also was recognized in Minority Business Entrepreneur Magazine, highlighting his accomplishments and influence to make a difference.



**Diego Mora García**

Political Scientist  
University of Los Andes

*Colombia*

Political Scientist from University of Los Andes with studies in economics and with master degree in development, social policies and poverty of the Institute of Social Studies at the University of Rotterdam. Deputy Director of Rural Development of the National Planning Department of Colombia, with 10 years of experience in the public sector on rural development, public policy and implementation of development programs.



**Andres Moran**

Manager

Public Affairs Antofagasta Minerals S.A.

*Chile*

Andres Moran is a journalist by training. He has made public affairs and community engagement his main areas of expertise: He worked in the Presidential Communications Office under Chilean President Lagos. He was in charge of community relations for one of the country's leading forest companies before becoming Corporate Affairs Manager for Xstrata Copper Chile. He joined Antofagasta Minerals in 2012 as the Public Affairs Manager for Los Pelambres, from where he pushed for a new approach to community engagement. In September 2014 he became the Corporate Public Affairs Manager.



**Fildelma Mullane**

Board Member  
Heritage Council

*Ireland*

Dr. Fildelma Mullane is a geographer with a Masters Degree in Geography on the topic vernacular building (National University of Ireland, Galway). She was awarded an Advanced Masters Degree in Rural Landscapes and Planning (Paris-Sorbonne) and a PhD (also from Paris-Sorbonne) on the culture, context and representation of local building practices and traditional environmental knowledge. Living in France for over ten years, she worked on many rural projects there, as well as working at the National Museum of Traditional Arts and Culture. An advocate for a better understanding of Rural Culture, she currently advises on Public Policy, teaches and researches as a university lecturer, and acts as project advisor to state agencies, government departments and local development companies with a rural development brief. She also works in private practice on the documentation, study and conservation of historic rural buildings, and on the promotion of a culturally appropriate contemporary rural architecture. In 2012, she was appointed by the Minster for Arts and Heritage to serve as a Board Member of the Heritage Council, the national state agency for the promotion and protection of Ireland's heritage.



**Tom Murphy**

Director  
Marcellus Center for Outreach  
and Research  
Pennsylvania State University

*United States*

Tom Murphy is Director of Penn State's Marcellus Center of Outreach and Research with 29 years of experience working with public officials, researchers, industry, government agencies, and landowners during his tenure at the University. His work has centred on educational consultation in natural resource development, with an emphasis specifically in natural gas exploration and related topics for the last nine years. He lectures globally on natural gas development from shale, the economics driving the process, and its broad impacts including landowner and surface issues, environmental aspects, evolving drilling technologies, critical infrastructure, workforce assessment and training, local business expansion, resource utilization, and financial considerations. In his role with MCOR, Tom provides leadership to a range of Penn State's related Marcellus research activities and events. Mr. Murphy is a graduate of Penn State University.



**Peter Nelson**

Chairman and CEO  
Agricultural Innovation  
Development Group

*United States*

Pete is the cofounder and CEO of Ag Innovation Development Group a diverse and dynamic organization which is commercializing university and government research to improve the efficiency and sustainability of agriculture. He likes to be engaged on the farm level, is a prolific networker and a tireless advocate for new approaches and ideas within the agriculture industry. Pete began experimenting with alternative crops on a small farm in Tennessee in 1997 and has been involved in the formation of numerous startups and initiatives involving innovative farmers and strategic partnerships across the value chain. Pete's startup experience includes companies that are producing alternative rotation crops within traditional row crop systems, specialty crops, biobased products, and technologies such as precision agriculture and biological-based crop protection. He has been involved in the development of incubators, accelerators, and other strategies to assist in growing new agricultural-based startups. Pete is a consultant with Memphis Bioworks Foundation where he has led efforts in developing a 5 state economic development strategy for agriculture, developed venture funding options for agritech companies, and is currently leading the effort to position Tennessee as a leading innovation site for agritech through the AgLaunch initiative. His work at Bioworks has also included implementing an entrepreneurial farm group and the development of a world class acceleration model for agriculture. Pete is a participant on numerous boards and advisory groups. He is currently the Chairman of the Agricultural Innovation Committee of Life Science Tennessee, a statewide membership organization dedicated to growing the life sciences industry in the state. He is a member of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Advisory Council for the Tennessee Department of Education, offering input on curriculum and course standards for career track education. Pete serves on the Ag, Food & Bioenergy Selection Committee for Invest Midwest Venture Forum to help bring the best agritech companies in front of leading investors on an annual basis. He is a member of the Program Committee for the Biotechnology Industry Organization World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology an annual conference to be held in 2015 in Quebec. He serves as a director or advisory board member on several startup companies related to agri-tech and value-added agriculture.



**Joaquim Oliveira Martins**

Head  
Regional Development Policy Division

*OECD*

Joaquim Oliveira Martins is the Head of the OECD Regional Development Policy Division. Current projects cover regional growth, urban development, regional governance issues, and the determinants of health expenditures. He was former Head of the Structural Economic Statistics Division, focusing on Trade & Globalisation indicators, Productivity measurement and Business statistics. Previously, he was Senior Economist at the Economics Department heading projects on the Economics of Education, Ageing and Growth, and Health Systems. He was also Head of Desk for emerging markets, where he was in charge of the first Economic Surveys of Brazil, Chile and several transition countries. Other OECD monographs focused on Competition, Regulation and Performance and Policy Response to the Threat of Global Warming. He was also Research Fellow at the CEPPII (Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales, Paris). He is Associate Professor at the University of Paris-Dauphine. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Paris-I, Panthéon-Sorbonne.



**Julian Pace**

Director of Rural Operations  
Scottish Enterprise

*Scotland, United Kingdom*

A graduate of Essex, Cranfield and Stirling Universities his PhD looked at the strategic planning practices of Scottish SME's. Julian has been with Scottish Enterprise and its predecessor, the Scottish Development Agency for 25 years and is currently responsible for leading SE's approach to rural economic development, the delivery of its rural initiatives and business leadership development. Julian chairs the Scottish Enterprise Rural Group and works with a number of private and public sector partners across Rural Scotland and beyond. He is currently on the

- Scottish Government's Scottish Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee;
- BBC Scotland's Agriculture and Rural Advisory Committee;
- The Rural Advisory Committee of the Scottish Rural University College; and
- The International Association of Agricultural & Rural Programmes for Leadership

He has worked with the Rural Development Team of the OECD on its reviews of Scotland and Southern Sweden. Was a member of the Scottish Land Fund Committee from 2001 until 2006 and as Chairman of the Borders LEADER II Local Action Group has been involved in the design and delivery of LEADER. Julian is married with a son and daughter and enjoys cricket, fencing and fly fishing.



**Risto Poutiainen**

Director  
Regional development Regional Council  
of North Karelia

*Finland*

Mr. Poutiainen has graduated from the Helsinki University of Technology with a degree in Engineering (Master of Science) in 1984. Mr. Poutiainen has a long work experience at the regional level in Northern Ostrobothnia and North Karelia (Finland). Mr Poutiainen has had the responsibility for regional strategies and international activities in the Regional Council of North Karelia since 1994. He has worked with EU-affairs since 1995 (when Finland became the member of the European Union) with structural fund programmes and rural funds. He is also Deputy Region Mayor.



**Lori Ries**

President  
Community Futures Network

*Canada*

Lori Ries is the current president of the Community Futures Network of Canada, a network of non-for-profit organizations which foster economic development. Ms. Ries resides in Eston, Saskatchewan and has been involved in all levels of the Community Futures Organization, starting in 2003 at the local and provincial level. Her experience working with and aiding in the development of entrepreneurs and small and medium sized enterprises in rural Saskatchewan and Canada gives her a unique perspective on the rural economy.



**José Antonio Rojo García de Alba**

Federal deputy for the Tula, Hidalgo.  
President of the Committee on  
Agriculture and Irrigation System of the  
Congress  
*Mexico*

José Antonio Rojo García de Alba is Federal deputy for the Tula, Hidalgo. President of the Committee on Agriculture and Irrigation System of the Congress. Technical Secretary of the National Political Council and Rural Development of the National Peasant Confederation (CNC, Confederación Nacional Campesina) Jose Antonio Rojo García de Alba studied law in the Autonomous University of Hidalgo. With a vast experience in regional development, Mr. Rojo worked as a General Coordinator of Regional Development and General Coordinator of the Planning Committee for the Development of the State of Hidalgo. In 1994 he was the Minister of Regional Development in the State of Hidalgo and in 1999 he was appointed Minister of State also in the State of Hidalgo. In congress he has not only been a federal deputy but also a Local Deputy and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Congress of the State of Hidalgo. In the National Peasant Confederation (CNC, Confederación Nacional Campesina) he was the Secretary of Labor and Organizational Planning from 1995 to 1998 and Organising Secretary of CNC from 2011 to 2014.



**David Shabazian**

Rural-Urban Connections Strategy  
Program Manager  
Sacramento Area Council  
of Governments  
*United States*

David Shabazian was raised on a small farm in the Central Valley of California where his family grew hay and grain, and operated a small fruit and vegetable plot that supported a family farm stand. That farm helped pay for David's bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from UC Davis, which he received in 1989. He then spent three years as a land use planner for the City of Davis and lived in Japan three years teaching English before returning to UC Davis in 1996 to earn a master's degree in Transportation Technology and Policy. His thesis focused on linking land use and transportation plans. While at UC Davis, he also built UPlan, a software-based urban growth model used throughout California. Fifteen years ago, David joined the Sacramento Area Council of Governments as key staff for the pivotal Blueprint: Transportation/Land Use Study. In 2007, SACOG launched its next major initiative, the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy, and named David as the Program Manager. This unprecedented program strives to enhance rural economic viability and environmental sustainability through strategies that expand the region's food system and ecosystem services. David is also SACOG's lead on flood and water resource issues. His work was recognized by Harvard University's Ash Center as a "Top 25" program in the 2015 Innovations in American Government Awards competition. David serves on the boards of the Center for Land-Based Learning and the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. He is a former member of the Delta Vision Stakeholders Coordination Group, the California Healthy Food Financing Initiative Advisory Group, and the External Advisory Committee to select the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Science at UC Davis. David is also an alumnus of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.



**Mikitaro Shobayashi**

Professor  
Gakushuin Women's College

*Japan*

Dr. Shobayashi, with his 25-year working experiences in working for a wide range of public organizations including Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, the World Bank, and OECD before he joined Gakushuin Women's College in 2007, is interested in contributing to policy making on efficient allocation of natural and agricultural resources as well as rural development. His professional interests range from multifunctionality of agriculture and its policy and trade implications, agri-environmental policies, agricultural water resources policies, global warming and agriculture, agriculture in emission trading, rural development policy, and agricultural policy system. He was the main author of OECD's reports on multifunctionality of agriculture and its policy implications. After quitting from MAFF in 2007, he has been a member of several governmental committees, including the Planning Committee for Rebuilding the Area Affected by the Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011, which was established by the Prime Minister. He graduated from University of Tokyo, and obtained his master's degrees from both University of Tokyo and the Johns Hopkins University. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from University of Tokyo.



**Reginald Shumaker**

Director Public Works and Roads  
MBC

*United States*

Reginald (Reggie) Shumaker works for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, where he serves as the Director of the Tribe's Office of Engineering Services & Utilities Management. In this capacity, Mr. Shumaker is responsible for oversight of the tribe's potable water and wastewater utility operations. He has been and continues to be involved in numerous USDA/RUS-funded infrastructure projects located throughout the tribe's reservation lands. Mr. Shumaker has seen firsthand the critical role that USDA/RUS has played in providing funding for much-needed water and wastewater infrastructure serving tribal members living in some of the most rural areas of Mississippi. He holds a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University and has more than twenty-three years of experience in the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Mississippi. Prior to employment with the tribe, he was a consulting civil engineer in a private firm.



**Alvin Simms**

Memorial University of Newfoundland

*Canada*

Alvin Simms is a Geographer who utilises spatial modelling and regional analytic methods to develop decision support systems (DSS) that can be used for regional economic impact analysis and planning. His undergraduate studies were completed in quantitative Economic Geography at Memorial University. Graduate studies, with a focus on Quantitative Geography and GIS/Spatial Analysis, were completed at the University of Calgary.



**José Ramón Sobrón Perea**

Managing director  
Kaleidos.red

*Spain*

Kaleidos.red is an open network of city councils that undertake R&D+i in the proximity policies, facilities and services for the citizens regarding the development and positioning of the city. There are three key aspects of this network: action-research action; knowledge transfer and experience; integration of responsible politicians, technical directors and specialised consultants. From the point of view of their subject matter, they tackle proximity policies and civic participation; ethics and transparency as management tools; public/private collaboration as a strategy for the positioning and development of the city; and local government as the driving force behind social innovation.



**Thom Stubbs**

President  
Headwater Group

*Canada*

Thom Stubbs has spent 30 years working with people, industry, communities and governments around natural resource management questions, 15 years inside government as a senior official and Deputy Minister. Thom currently operates the Headwater Strategy Group, a Calgary based consultancy focusing on environmental, social and economic management of natural resource projects. Thom has extensive northern Canadian rural development experience and was appointed as the lead socio-economic and aboriginal expert on the eight country Arctic Council Strategic Oil and Gas Assessment and provided advice on the Arctic Shipping Assessment. He has also worked in Asia and Eastern Europe. Thom is formally trained as a land use planner and mediator and holds a Masters of Regional Planning degree from the University of British Columbia and is a Registered Professional Planner provincially and nationally. He is based in Calgary, Alberta with his family.



**Raffaele Trapasso**

Economist, Co-ordinator Open  
Government at Local Level  
Regional Development Policy Division

*OECD*

Raffaele Trapasso is an economist and international civil servant concerned about with public governance and territorial development. He is currently working at the OECD, where he provides technical leadership to on national territorial reviews and contributes to the OECD rural development programme. Trapasso has over ten years' experience in the field of regional development policy. In particular, he has served as a policy advisor to national and local governments with a focus on both urban and rural areas. He has published in peer-reviewed journals and co-authored several OECD reports including the Territorial Review of Colombia, "Linking Renewable Energy to Rural Development", the rural policy reviews of Italy and Québec, Canada, and the Urban policy Policy Reviews of Milan, Madrid and Cape Town. He also contributed to OECD works assessing urban-rural linkages and Open Government functioning in MENA countries. He holds a Ph.D. in economic policy from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan, and a degree in economics from the University Federico II of Naples. A native of Catanzaro, Calabria, Raffaele is married and based in Paris.





**Maria José Uribe**

Advisor  
Department for Social Prosperity  
*Colombia*

Maria José Uribe is an advisor for the direction of the Department for Social Prosperity – DPS from Colombian government. Currently she is a member of the team for public policy, which holds the responsibility of reviewing, designing, evaluating and coordinate the strategy of the entity. In particular, she is in charge of rural development and poverty. She has also worked at the National Agency for Overcoming Extreme Poverty – ANSPE, as advisor on the orientation of public services to extreme poverty. Before that, she was a consultant and academic researcher at Fedesarrollo, ECON ESTUDIO and at CEDE - Universidad de los Andes. She has worked in evaluation and design of public policies, oriented to development in the areas of: financial inclusion, microfinance, global production networks, foreign investment, security, policies against illicit drugs, and health. Maria José has a degree in Economics, and also has MA in Economy from Universidad de los Andes.



**Jay Wesley**

Cultural Director  
Chata Immi Program  
MBC  
*United States*

Jay Wesley is a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and he is also the Director for the Department of Chahta Immi which entails the following programs: the Choctaw Tribal Language Program, the Cultural Affairs Program, the Special Projects/ Media Program, and the Chahta Immi Cultural Center. Jay graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 1993. After graduation, Jay enlisted into the United States Marine Corps for 8 years. He has traveled extensively around the world due to his military service. This experience has allowed him to be immersed in different languages and cultures in such places as Japan, Mexico, and Hawaii. He has been the manager of training operations for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense at different Marine Bases for over 6 years. After his military service, he received an A.A. degree in General Studies, an A.A.S. degree in Advanced Water Treatment from the Arizona Western College, a B.S. degree in Human Services from the University of Phoenix – Yuma Campus, and currently working on his Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Belhaven College. As a cultural tradition bearer, Jay has had the privilege of representing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians around the Southeastern Region and also at an International Folk Festival in Confolens, France in 2012 as a part of a performance group.



**Tim Wojan**

Regional Economist  
Rural Economy Branch  
Resource and Rural Economics Division  
USDA  
*United States*

Tim Wojan joined USDA’s Economic Research Service in 1999 and is currently a regional economist in the Rural Economy Branch, Resource and Rural Economics Division. His current research focuses on rural innovation, industrial and human resource development in rural areas, location and impact of the "rural creative class," the impacts of globalization on rural development, and assessing place-based alternatives to rural and agricultural development policy. His research has been published in the Journal of Economic Geography, Regional Studies, Industrial Relations, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* and *Growth and Change* and presented at venues such as the Harvard Business School and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. During a two-year appointment to the OECD (2000 - 2002), Tim coordinated reviews of regional development policy in member countries. Tim received a PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin and a BA from Oberlin College.



**Katsuhiko Yamauchi**

Deputy Director-General  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry &  
Fisheries  
*Japan*

Most Mr Yamauchi's career has been made through the works related to agricultural/irrigation development projects, which include policy making/budget allocation at MAFF headquarter, project planning and coordination with local governments/beneficiaries at Regional Offices, and implementation of individual projects at National Project Offices. As to the international experience, he was in charge of OECD related works at International Economic Affairs Division, particularly those related to Committee for Agriculture and its subsidiary working groups, including the preparation of Agricultural Ministerial Meeting in 1998, development of analytical tools such as Producer Subsidy Equivalent (PSE), Environmental Indicators for Agriculture, etc. At the embassy of Japan in the Philippines, he was in charge of economic affairs as well as Japanese ODA projects in agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector. At the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, he participated in research activities related to climate change, agriculture and irrigation in the lower Mekong Basin in cooperation with four MRC member countries.



**Aleksandra Zakrzewska**

Head of Unit for Cohesion Policy  
and European Affairs Department  
for Co-ordination of Development  
Strategies and Policies  
Ministry of Infrastructure and  
Development  
*Poland*

Aleksandra Zakrzewska is a Head of Unit for Cohesion Policy and European Affairs in the Department for Coordination of Development Strategies and Policies at the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure and Development. She has been employed at the Ministry since 2003. She graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics, where she defended the PhD thesis in 2009. She also completed postgraduate studies in the field of European Affairs (College of Europe) and regional development. In her daily duties Aleksandra Zakrzewska is involved in the EU cohesion policy planning and management as well as regional development policy agenda. As a Polish delegate she contributes to the works of OECD Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) and its Working Parties for rural and urban policies.