



SOUTHEAST-ASIA FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF (SEAFORB) NETWORK

Welcome to the third and fourth webinars in a series organized this fall by the Southeast Asia Freedom of Religion or Belief Network (SEAFoRB). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SEAFoRB is unable to hold our normal annual gathering, and so instead we have arranged a series of online events addressing freedom of religion or belief issues in Southeast Asia. SEAFoRB aims to bring together religious and belief communities, human rights organizations, academics, and decision-makers alike to discuss current trends and, together, promote the right to FoRB for all.

REGISTRATION: Note that the time of events and access may be different than advertised earlier. Registration (seek links below) is required to get final access information to the events. SEAFoRB assumes that information provided at registration may be retained to allow communication regarding future SEAFoRB events. Registrants are free to unsubscribe later.

WEBINAR 3 (hosted by International Center for Law and Religion Studies and the Religious Freedom Institute):

“THE PLACE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA OF ASEAN”

November 10, 2020 01.30-3.00 AM Universal Coordinated Time
08.30-10:00 AM Bangkok = 9.30-11.00 AM Kuala Lumpur

To register, click on: [REGISTRATION LINK](#) (Link for Webinar will be emailed after registration).

This webinar will explore practical ways that freedom of religion or belief helps cultivate a social and regulatory environment that allows individuals and communities to facilitate the achievement of a variety of social goods. This includes contributions to advancing sustainable development goals in fields of hunger reduction, improved public health, alleviation of poverty, and the like to make more effective contributions and to finding positive synergies for interacting with public sector institutions. Experts will also focus on how FoRB contributes to building resilient communities that can help weather the storm of uncertainties in life ahead.

Moderator: **W. Cole Durham, Jr.**,
Founding Director, International Center for Law and Religion Studies

Speakers:

- **Katherine Marshall**, Berkley Center, Georgetown University, and Head of World Faiths Development Dialogue, USA
- **Brian Grim**, President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation, USA
- **Alissa Wahid**, National Director of Gusdurian Network, Indonesia

WEBINAR 4 (hosted by International Center for Law and Religion Studies and the Religious Freedom Institute):

“THE PLACE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION, PEACE, AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN ASEAN”

November 17, 2020 8:00-9.30 AM Universal Coordinated Time
15.00-16.30 Bangkok = 16.00-17.30 Kuala Lumpur

To register, click on: [REGISTRATION LINK](#) (Link for Webinar will be emailed after registration).

This webinar will explore ways and means whereby FoRB helps create an environment in which religious actors and others can help reduce hateful extremism, religious bigotry, harassment, shame and blame that all too often falls on marginalized religious minorities in ASEAN. It will also provide a platform for addressing underlying sources of inequality and unjust treatment of targeted minorities in ASEAN such as refugees, displaced persons, or otherwise disadvantaged groups.

Moderator: Eugene Yapp, Senior Fellow, Religious Freedom Institute; Director for Religious Freedom & Liberty Partnerships; Programme Director, Gabungan Bertindak Malaysia (Plan of Action Malaysia).

Speakers:

- Azza Karam, Secretary General, Religions for Peace International
- Samira Gutoc-Tomawis, Advocate for People of Marawi, Philippines
- Kelvin Yii, Member of Parliament of Malaysia

WEBINAR 5 (hosted by BPSOS):

“THE STRUGGLE OF ORGANIZED RELIGIONS IN INHERENTLY ANTI-RELIGION REGIMES: THE CASES OF VIETNAM AND LAOS”

November 17, 2020 09.00 a.m. EST = 2 p.m. Universal Coordinated Time
21:00 Bangkok/Hanoi; 22.00 Kuala Lumpur

To Register, click on: [REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Moderator: Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD, CEO & President of BPSOS

Speakers:

- Commissioner with U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (Invited)
- Ms. Loan Vo, Member of Vietnam Buddhist Solidarity Association
- Another speaker to be invited
- Full Details Will Be Sent by Email after Registration

SEAFoRB CO-ORGANIZERS:



WEBINAR 3:

“THE PLACE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA OF ASEAN”

Moderator:



W. Cole Durham, Jr. Founding Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University. A.B., J.D., Harvard College and Harvard Law School; Note Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*; Former chair of the Comparative Law and of the Law and Religion Sections of American Association of Law Schools. Immediate Past President of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), based in Milan, Italy; Co-Editor of the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*; co-author of *Law and Religion: National, International and Comparative Perspectives* (2d ed. 2019); co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Law and Religion* (Brill 2016), and co-author of treatise, *Religious Organizations and the Law*. Currently President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association.



Katherine Marshall is a senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, where she leads the center's work on religion and global development, and a professor of the practice of development, conflict, and religion in the Walsh School of Foreign Service. She helped to create and now serves as the Executive Director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue. She is also vice president of the G20 Interfaith Forum Association. Marshall, who worked at the World Bank from 1971 to 2006, has nearly five decades of experience on a wide range of development issues in Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and the Middle East, particularly those facing the world's poorest countries. She led the World Bank's faith and ethics initiative between 2000 and 2006.



Brian J. Grim, Ph. D., is the founder and president of the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation, and a leading expert on international religious demography and the socio-economic impact of restrictions on religious freedom. Brian's recent research finds that religion contributed \$1.2 trillion to the U.S. economy annually. Brian holds a visiting professorship at St. Mary's University in London and also works closely with the United Nations "Business for Peace" platform. Brian is recent chair of the World Economic Forum's council on the role of faith. He is an associate scholar at the Religious Liberty Project at Georgetown University and an affiliated scholar at Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion & World Affairs. He is the author of numerous articles and books including *The Price of Freedom Denied* (Cambridge 2011),



Alissa Wahid is a trained Psychologist working on family resilience issues, especially for the Moslem Community of Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia's largest faith-based organization with 60+ million members. Alissa is also well known for her active work in democracy, diversity and empowerment through the Gusdurian Network Indonesia (GNI), working to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding, active citizenship, democracy and human rights. GNI is known for its work at the local level, for example the 2015 International Day for Tolerance that took place in 50 cities. She leads and is involved in many grassroots initiatives, speaking to thousands of people annually, and writing monthly for Kompas Daily. Alissa currently serves as Indonesia SDG Smbassador for the Ministry of Planning and Development.

WEBINAR 4:

“THE PLACE OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION, PEACE, AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN ASEAN”



Eugene Yapp is Senior Fellow with the Religious Freedom Institute and the Director for the Religious Freedom & Liberty Partnership, an organisation that promotes religious freedom and inter-religious harmony in Malaysia. He also serves as National Unity Programme Director for Gabungan Bertindak Malaysia (Plan of Action Malaysia), a coalition of 27 civil society organizations promoting national unity and religious diversity programmes in Malaysia. He was formerly the Secretary-General of the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship Malaysia (He currently writes on a variety of issues and challenges concerning religious freedom and inter-religious harmony in Malaysia. He co-authored the recently released Religious Freedom Institute’s Landscape Report on Malaysia.



Prof. Dr. **Azza Karam** serves as the Secretary General of Religions for Peace – the largest multi-religious leadership platform with 90 national and 6 regional Interreligious Councils. She also holds a Professorship of Religion and Development at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, in The Netherlands. She served as a Senior Advisor on Culture, at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and as Coordinator/Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development; where she coordinated engagement with members of a Global Interfaith Network with over 600 faith-based organizations.



Samira A. Gutoc-Tomawis is an advocate for the people of Marawi, an area of the Philippines that has been a regular site of conflict and violence. She is Chairperson of AKO BAKWIT, INC., a nonprofit organization that promotes and protects the right of internally displaced persons. She was a member of the expanded Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), a government committee tasked with drafting the terms of Bangsamoro autonomy. She is a former legislative representative of women in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and a member of a multi-sectoral advisory council. She has degrees in journalism, international studies, and law, and was a Chevening scholar at the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies in London.



Dr. **Kelvin Yii** is currently serving as the Member of Parliament of Malaysia representing Bandar Kuching constituency. Concurrently, he also sits on the Parliamentary Budget Select Committee and acts as the Treasurer of the Bipartisan All Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM) on Sustainable Development Goals. He holds both a Bachelor of Laws from the University of London and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Volgograd State Medical University in Volgograd, Russia. Before politics, he was actively involved in civil society activities especially in providing free medical aid to the poor and disaster stricken cities.