

MS. ZO RANDRIAMARO

Zo Randriamaro is a human rights and feminist activist from Madagascar. She is a development sociologist by training and has authored several published papers on the gender dimensions of economic, trade and global governance issues. She has been involved in global advocacy around these issues for more than a decade. She has served as an expert for international organizations as well as in United Nations agencies. She is currently the Training Coordinator for DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era).

PROFESSOR FRANCIS LOH KOK WAH

Francis Loh Kok Wah is Professor of Politics in Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang. A Penangite, he studied in St Xavier's Institution and received his PhD (Politics and Southeast Asian Studies) from Cornell University. His latest publications include *Southeast Asian Responses to Globalization: Restructuring Governance and Deepening Democracy (co-editor, 2004)*, *Politik Baru di Malaysia (2005)*, *Old vs New Politics in Malaysia (2009)* and *Building Bridges, Crossing Boundaries: Everyday Forms of Inter-Ethnic Peace Building in Malaysia (editor, 2010)*. He is the Secretary of Aliran, a multi-ethnic Malaysian NGO advocating human rights and justice for all, and a member of the editorial collective of its Aliran Monthly. He served as an MPPP Councillor in 2008.

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PUBLIC SEMINAR ON SOCIAL INEQUALITIES & DEMOCRATISATION

23 AUGUST 2011

2:00 PM – 4:35 PM

**DEWAN PERSIDANGAN UNIVERSITI (DPU),
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA (USM), PENANG**

Jointly Organised By:

**Women's Development Research Centre (KANITA),
Universiti Sains Malaysia**

&

**Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era
(DAWN)**

PUBLIC SEMINAR ON SOCIAL INEQUALITIES & DEMOCRATISATION

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Welcome Remarks by
Prof. Rashidah Shuib for KANITA and
Prof. Josefa "Gigi" Francisco (via video) for DAWN

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Gender Inequality: Navigating through Social Inequalities and Multiple Discriminations

Moderator: Prof. Rashidah Shuib, KANITA, USM

Speakers:

Dr. Lin Mui Kiang, UNDP Malaysia Country Office
Prof. Gita Sen, Center for Public Policy, IIMB and DAWN (India)

In this session, speakers will interrogate inequality and its various forms and expressions. Interest is placed on the relationship between gender-based inequalities with income as well as other social inequalities. The wide variety of approaches taken in the long Malaysian and Indian histories of grappling with inequalities has been as contentious as the presence of inequalities themselves. Both speakers will present continuing dilemmas on reducing the gaps and eradicating discriminations.

3:15 pm to 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Gendered Challenges of Democratization and the Politics of Power and Accumulation

Moderator: Dr. Cecilia Ng Choon Sim, KANITA, USM

Speakers:

Prof. Francis Loh Kok Wah, School of Social Sciences, USM (Malaysia)
Ms. Zo Randriamaro, DAWN (Madagascar)

In this session, the post-colonial histories of Malaysia and Madagascar show diverse and perverse paths of democratization. Party politics and social movements have in their own way opened up space for new forms of deliberative norms to take root but these spaces are fragile and threatened by processes of primitive accumulation at national and global level. Both speakers will discuss how the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment finds itself squeezed in between competitive actions of party elites, diluted in populist demands and marginalised in social movements, against the background of the globalisation of struggles over resources.

4:30 pm - 4:35 pm

Closing remarks by Dr. Marina Durano for DAWN

Speakers' Biographies

PROFESSOR GITA SEN

Gita Sen is Professor of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India, and Adjunct Professor of Global Health and Population at the Harvard School of Public Health. She combines a distinguished academic career with policy advocacy and NGO activism. Her national and international work has helped to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and human rights through a variety of positions and with a number of partners – governments, multilateral and bilateral organizations, and civil society. Her work includes global and national policy advocacy fuelled by ground level work to enhance gender equality and equity in poor communities. She is the author, co-author or co-editor of several books on gender-related issues. She is a founding member of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era), a network of feminist scholars, researchers and activists from the economic South working for economic and gender justice and sustainable and democratic development. She has strong links to many organizations in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific and Asia, and her organizational skill has been drawn upon to build networks and partnerships across different regions. Among the many honours she received are the Volvo Environment Prize in 1994, and honorary doctorates from the University of East Anglia in the UK in 1998, from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden in 2003, and from the Open University in the UK in 2009.

DR. LIN MUI KIANG

Lin Mui Kiang is the United Nations Coordination Specialist for Malaysia. She supports the UN Country Team in policy and strategic planning and joint programmes. Prior to her work with the UN, she worked for the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington DC and specialized in needs assessment, identifying, designing and transferring best development practices in Asia and Latin American countries. She is the founder of Worldview Foundation, which specializes in media and education for sustainable development. She has won international awards for her work. She also has vast experience in development planning, having served for ten years in the Planning & Development Division of the Ministry of Agriculture; and twelve years in the Economic Planning Unit, Prime Ministers Department, Malaysia, working in Agriculture, Infrastructure, Regional Development, and Environment and Sustainable Development sectors. She has represented Malaysia in many international forums in forwarding development agenda in various fields.