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Nairobi, 14 April 2020

Candidates Nominated for the Elections of Regional Facilitators

Pursuant to the call that was sent out to Asia Pacific Region accredited organizations to nominate candidates for elections for the Asia Pacific Region.

Serial No	Name and Organisation of nominated Candidate	Name and Organisation of the nominator	Short Bio of the Nominated Candidate (as submitted by the nominators)
1.	Ajay K Jha- Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON) k.ajay.j@gmail.com	Manju Bala Joshi, Secretary Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON) cecoedecon@gmail.com Amy V. Padilla Executive Director IBON International Foundation amypadilla@iboninternational.org	Ajay K Jha, a lawyer by education and training, is the director of CECOEDECON, a leading development organization in India working on natural resources management and conservation, food sovereignty and agriculture, sustainable development, and environmental and climate justice. CECOEDECON has worked closely with several UN agencies and processes including the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, UNHRC, UNGA, ECOSOC and ESCAP. Ajay K Jha/ CECOEDECON has been an active member of the APRCEM and its Environmental Working Group (EWG) since its beginning. He has also participated and contributed in several APFSD and Peoples Summit/s. Besides, he has engaged with UNEP process representing APRCEM and CECOEDECON in Environment Ministers and High Officials Forum/s. He has also been part of the APRCEM and EWG team, which organized GMGSF in UNEA 2017 and has also participated in UNEA, 2019.
2.	Sarojeni V Rengam	Manju Bala Joshi, Secretary	Sarojeni V. Rengam is a Malaysian, a zoologist by education and is the Executive Director of PAN Asia Pacific, a regional



	<p>IBON International Foundation</p> <p>sarojeni.rengam@panap.net</p>	<p>Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON)</p> <p>cecoedecon@gmail.com</p> <p>Amy V. Padilla Executive Director</p> <p>IBON International Foundation</p> <p>amypadilla@iboninternational.org</p>	<p>organisation working for a more sustainable farming systems including the elimination of pesticides and for agroecology; to advance food sovereignty and strengthening people’s and rural women’s movements in their assertion of rights to land, resources and livelihoods. She is also one of the initiators and committee member of the Asian Rural Women’s Coalition, the People’s Coalition for Food Sovereignty and the Chair of IBON International. PANAP is also active in engaging the UNEP, UN FAO as well as ESCAP and UNHRC. Sarojeni has been active in participating in APRCEM and its Environmental Working Group from 2017 and in the preparations for UNEA 3 and 4 as well as the Asia Pacific Environment Ministers and High Officials Forums. She was also part of the APRCEM and EWG team which organised the GMGSF in UNEA 2017 and participated in the UNEA 2019.</p>
3	<p>Dr. Sara Platto</p> <p>China Biodiversity and Green Development Foundation</p> <p>saraplatto@cbcgdf.org</p>	<p>Jinfeng Zhou, secretary general</p> <p>China Biodiversity and Green Development Foundation</p> <p>jz@cbcgdf.org</p>	<p>Dr. Sara Platto has been living in China for 13 years since 2007. Currently, she is working as the Secretary General of Biology and Science Ethics (BASE) at China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF). One of Dr. Platto main duties at CBCGDF is to develop endangered species conservation projects to assess the interaction between local/indigenous people and the animal species considered for the study. The outcomes of these projects are used to define major actions that aim to improve local economies to reduce/eliminate the impacts of humans’ activities on the protected animal species. In addition, Dr. Sara Platto is helping CBCGDF to set up a marine animal’s rescue centre in Liaoning province (China). Dr. Sara Platto is also Associate Professor for animal behavior and welfare at Jiangnan University (Wuhan) where she developed a research project to assess Chinese farmers (Platto et al, 2020), and Chinese veterinary, and animal</p>



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		<p>sciences students attitude towards animal welfare. The results of her studies will be used to develop training programs for the farmers, and improve animal welfare education in the universities in China. In 2018, she was nominated UFAW-Link (University Federation Animal Welfare) at Jiangnan University with the objective to develop an animal welfare program. As part of her scientific outreach to international scientific colleagues Dr Platto was invited to deliver a speech on “Current situation of animal welfare in Asia” at the 11th Boehringer-Ingelheim Expert forum in Sydney in 2018. Dr Platto, in collaboration with CBCGDF, organized the first seminar in Wuhan on “Animal Welfare: the link between food safety and human health” at Jiangnan University, for students and professionals. Her experience working in the field of animal welfare has given Dr. Platto the tools to understand the impact of livestock industry on the environment in China and help colleagues in Asia know that China recognizes the importance of the environment while it modernizes her agricultural industry. As a veterinarian by training, Dr. Platto has always been interested in the spread of animal borne diseases to humans, and has taken a lead in educating the general public about the severe problems caused by rabies resulting from dog bites. Beginning in Beijing in 2010, Dr Platto developed education programs for children to educate families how to mitigate contact with strange or unknown dogs, and to help them recognize dog body language to avoid accidental bites and thus increase awareness on rabies prevention. For past three years since 2017, Dr Platto has established major public outreach and campaigns for free Rabies Vaccination by involving local veterinary hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and local communities. Recently, Dr. Platto developed a collaboration between the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and CBCGDF for the specific purpose of translating into Chinese all surveillance, planning tools, and courses of this global rabies organization. This will allow us at CBCGDF to spread the information and to allow professionals (veterinarian and doctors /nurses from hospitals) from China to gain access to this critical information which is lacking in our communities now. A big part of Dr</p>
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		<p>Platto's work has been to deliver lectures and to train professionals at the Chinese CDCs (Centre Disease Control) on the use of Rabies Epidemiology Bulletin (GARC) and to develop innovative rabies surveillance system in China. Dr.Platto has expanded her interest in zoonosis (animal borne disease transmitted to humans) by taking a course organized by the University of Geneva, and Institute Pasteur on "Global health at the human-animal ecosystem interface". This course has helped her explain further to her colleagues and to stress the importance of the link between increased environment degradation and new emerging diseases such as the outbreak of COVID19, to name just the most recent. Dr. Platto has also worked in a variety of wildlife rescue centers in USA, and Europe where she experienced first hand the devastating effects of human activities on the environment. While completing her postdoctoral at the Chinese Academy of Sciences on animal communication, Dr. Platto has participated extensively in the efforts of the Academia to stop the decline of Yangtze finless porpoises population caused by the stress placed on these animals due to competition with humans for food and space while living in a damaged environment.</p> <p>The breadth and depth of her work experience in the area of animal behavior and conservation, combined with her medical knowledge of a veterinarian, has given Dr Platto a unique perspective on the complex dynamics between humans and the environment. In the recent Wuhan COVID19 outbreak, Dr. Platto decided to remain in Wuhan, the city where she lives, to support the work of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) and help deliver calm in a sea of worry. The decision to stay in Wuhan was made as a result of a personal risk assessment of the COVID19 epidemic and the knowledge and understanding that this would eventually result in a global pandemic, and thus far better to remain isolated at the initial stage of the epidemic. During this period beginning from 23rd January to the present, Dr. Platto has been at the forefront of providing balanced, fact based, and scientifically sound advice to the general public in</p>
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		<p>China. Her expertise and assistance was specifically recognized very early in the crisis by the Italian Embassy in Beijing (China). Dr Platto with the great assistance of the heroic volunteers of CBCGDF in Wuhan, were essential to the Italian Embassy during the rescue of an Italian teenager exchange student who was caught in the middle of the outbreak with no support systems, and left at Wuhan airport. Dr Platto coordinated with the volunteers of CBCGDF in Wuhan, to have the student rescued after being stranded and alone with no language skills and height of public panic and emergency and brought to the hospital and assisted during all the time of while he remained in the city after initially fearing infection by the virus¹. Throughout the crisis Dr. Platto she has been giving information on COVID19 to the public about the general guidelines to keep domestic animals safe during the outbreak, all the while expressing the need for calm and not panic while imparting the science behind outbreak on a variety of social forums and press through the CBCGDF platform, Chinese and major USA and Italian news agencies². In her press interview Dr Platto placed has placed emphasis on scientific facts and not blaming the animals for this problem, and that more needs to be done to keep humans and animals in harmony in our ever challenged environment. Working from her house, Dr Platto has continued coordinating her work with her colleagues at CBCGDF, including the preparation of suggestions for the new Wildlife Protection Law to present to the Chinese government. I do hope that this brief summary of dr. Platto professional experiences and background will help you in your decision to appoint her as a Regional Facilitator for the UN. In this position Dr. Platto would be bringing both the passion for conservation and environmental protection as well as scientific background, contacts, and the resources of the UNEP member and well respected CBCGDF to focus on issues of mutual concern with the UNEP in this very exciting field.</p> <p>¹https://www.corriere.it/cronache/20_febbraio_04/prof-sara-tian-dottor-zhounoi-angeli-ragazzo-italiano-557cafe4-4789-11ea-bec1-6ac729c309c6.html ² https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-</p>
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4	<p>Ms. Tongtong Xue</p> <p>China Biodiversity and Green Development Foundation</p> <p>dj@cbcgdf.org</p>	<p>Jinfeng Zhou, secretary general</p> <p>China Biodiversity and Green Development Foundation</p> <p>jz@cbcgdf.org</p>	<p>As the International Coordinator of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), Ms. Tongtong Xue assisted and participated the side event and conference preparation of numerous UN activities, international conferences and crucial projects, including Mainstreaming of Agricultural Biodiversity and FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) Seminar, the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14), 2019 Horasis China Meeting, 2019 New Zealand Starlight Conference, CBCGDF's "Construction of the Yellow-Bohai Sea Spotted Seals Protected Area Network" Project, 4th Meeting of the Interim Commission Council (ICC-4) of the UNDP/GEF YSLME (Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem) Phase II Project, etc. Ms Tongtong Xue accumulated relevant experience and knowledge on regional environment protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Nearly 8 years of study and work in the United States have laid a solid foundation Ms. ongtong Xue language skills and personal abilities. In 2012, she went to Pfeiffer University in the United States to work on her bachelor's degree on Communications, and she got her master's degree on Translation and Interpreting Studies at Wake Forest University. During her study in the United States, she participated in many high-end academic and cultural exchange activities planned by Confucius Institute in North Carolina, such as the activities at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, China cultural activities of the United Nations headquarters, and the Charlotte Museum activities. After graduation from Wake Forest University, she started a one-year internship in simultaneous interpreting. During her study abroad, the increasingly serious environmental problems have</p>



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			strengthened my determination to engage in relevant work after returning home. Ms Tongtong Xue enthusiasm in the field of environmental protection, and her experience in working in an international environment would bring excellent innovative and practical approaches which would be critical for the figure of Regional Facilitator.
5	Dr Mohammed Seraj ANSARI Indo-OIC Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI) mseransi786@gmail.com	Dr. Thiyagu Nagaraj Indo-OIC Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI) info@indo-oic-icci.org	Global President, India Dr. Mohammed Seraj ANSARI has distinguished an international business, education, sports & social expertise that has good infrastructure an extensive global network in all over the World. And good relationship with World sports leaders and also with governments, royal family members, public institutions and corporations, and private individuals on a worldwide basis. He maintains a wide-ranging personal network of contacts and is very well informed about current trends in globalization and major issues of the World.
6	Ms Umami Khanam Indo-OIC Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI) khanamummi@gmail.com	Dr. Thiyagu Nagaraj Indo-OIC Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI) info@indo-oic-icci.org	Executive Member, India Ms. Umami Khanam is Graduate, she is Secretary General of International Nobel Peace Prize Recommendation Forum - INPPRF, National Secretary General of Floorball Federation of India-FFI, and Chairperson of ISCC Women Super-Cricket Committee-ISCC, she has spend enormous contribution in sports administration nationally as well as internationally too, she is Director of International Student Exchange Cards India Limited, department of human Resource Development. She has visions to do the best in her life, in the fields of Sports and Education, she is also Director General of World Council for Regular & Distance Education - WCRDE.
7	Narayan Vitthalrao Solanke Universal Versatile Society nareyaan@yahoo.co.in	Pralhadsing T. Bayas (Secretary) Universal Versatile Society pralhadsinh@uv-society.org	I'm working closely with Mr. Solanke since 15 years. Being founder and President of our NGO and Editor in Chief of weekly Newspaper 'Rajput Rang', he only is the appropriate person in our region to nominate as Facilitator for Asia and the Pacific Region. Mr. Solanke is highly charismatic, and it was a real honor to witness for him. I cannot imagine a better



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			recipient of this position and enthusiastically recommend him.
8	Swati Bhagwanrao Chandel Universal Versatile Society dnyana@uvsociety.org	Pralhadsing T. Bayas (Secretary) Universal Versatile Society pralhadsinh@uvsociety.org	
9	Bhawani Shanker kusum Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) bskusum@gmail.com	Kusum Lata Jain, Secretary Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) kjgbs@rediffmail.com	Mr. Bhawani Shanker Kusum presently working as President, Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) is master's in social sciences and has been engaged in implementing environmental programs for past 30 years. He has served as NGO delegate from Asia in the CTF Committee of the World Bank and Representative of CSO of Asia in the UNCCD (2016-18). The project 'Wasteland development at Gandhivan' by him has been recognized widely and conferred with several national/international awards and appreciations including 'Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshsamitra Puraskar', Ford Environment and Conservation Award, Jamnalal Bajaj Award etc. for conservation of natural resources, forestation and constructive works in Gandhian way.
10	Shah Absus Salam Development Wheel dewsalam@gmail.com	Kusum Lata Jain, Secretary Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) kjgbs@rediffmail.com	Mr. Shah Abdus Salam, Founder and Executive Director completed his Masters in Sociology from the University of Dhaka in 1986. He has been committed livelihood security and human rights of the women and climate change. Throughout his 28 yearlong professional careers in different National and International development organizations, Mr. Salam gained



			experience in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating environment development projects.
11	<p>Dr. (Mrs)Kalpana Chaudhari</p> <p>Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)</p> <p>isdrklc@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Prof. Narendra Kumar Choudhary</p> <p>Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)</p> <p>nkchoudharymumbai@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Dr.(Mrs) Kalpana Chaudhari is an engineer by training. She has pursued the Ph.D. in Engineering and Technology from RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, India and Post Graduate Diploma in Urban and Housing Studies from Institute for Urban and Housing Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Her research work consists of interdisciplinary subjects includes e-governance and information and communication technologies and its application for socio-economic and sustainable development. She is working as Vice President of Institute for Sustainable Development and Research, ISDR, India, an organization having consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, UN-ECOSOC, UN-Habitat, UN-Environment, UNFCCC, UNCTAD, UN-Ffd, UN-WCDRR. She has 22 years experience in academic, research and training in information and communication technology and its application for sustainable development; Socio-Economic and Ecological development, internet governance and how they are empowering both, decision makers and the communities to play a proactive role in managing Ocean and Marine systems, Mountains, climate change, Disaster risk and resilience, disaster mitigation and providing more effective disaster response through risk governance along coastal regions. Dr.Kalpana is working as Assistant Professor at Shah and Anchor Kutchhi Engineering College,Mumbai,India. She is</p>



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			<p>member of the Ocean Knowledge -Action - Network Development Team (Ocean KAN DT) of the Future earth –Ocean. She is also member of Development Team of Knowledge Action Network on Extreme Events and Emergent Risks. She is Lead Author and Reviewer for the EC-DRMKC flagship report on "Science for Disaster Risk Management 2020 –Acting today, Protecting tomorrow" of Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Center, European Commission, DG Joint Research Centre – Disaster Risk Management Unit. She is also a member of the External review panel for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) of the United Nations.</p>
12	<p>Dr. Paruthumootil Jacob Philip</p> <p>Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)</p> <p>pjphilipisdr@gmail.com</p>	<p>Prof. Narendra Kumar Choudhary</p> <p>Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)</p> <p>nkchoudharymumbai@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Dr. P J Philip is Secretary of Institute for Sustainable Development and Research,ISDR, India, an organization having consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, UN-ECOSOC, UN-Habitat, UN-Environment, UNCTAD,UN-Ffd, UN-WCDRR,CFS-FAO-Mountain Forum, FAO GFAR,IPCC,IPBES,UNFCCC ,GACSA. He has experience of more than 35 years as a Dean, Head of Social Science and Humanities department and Department of Business Administration as well as Professor in Skill Development; Social science and Humanities; Finance and planning etc. at National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, India.He has a multi-disciplinary academic background with qualifications in humanities and Social science, Management and Law (MA, MBA, LLB, PhD). Dr. Philip is also associated with the several national and international</p>



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			<p>NGOs working for sustainable development and UN-ECOSOC partner organizations in Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Philip was invited for scientific and sustainable rehabilitation of marine and coastal resources during the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster in 2004. He has participated in the Regional assessment process for the IPCC, UNFCCC and COP in Asia-Pacific region. He has organized several international seminars on Marine and Ocean conservation, Biodiversity management of Marine areas organized by UNESCO-IOC, International Tsunami Partnership, The International Surface Ocean - Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS) project and Earth System Governance - a global research alliance, is the largest social science research network in the area of governance and global environmental change.</p>
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