



BRIEF RESUME of THELMA KAY

Ms Thelma Kay is the Chief of the Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) based in Bangkok. Ms Kay was educated at the National University of Singapore and the London School of Economics. Before joining the United Nations, Ms Kay was an academician, based at the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore lecturing and conducting research on socio-economic development issues

Ms Kay is currently responsible for the regional programmes of UNESCAP on social development covering population and social policy (including changing demographic structures, ageing, intergenerational policy, migration, disability, social protection and social inclusion. She is responsible for regional implementation, monitoring and review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). Her work focuses on forging inclusive development and bridging economic and social issues.

In Ms Kay's career in the United Nations she has covered a range of issues spanning population and social development, management, and technical cooperation.

She has authored papers and made presentations on socio-economic development particularly on entrepreneurship, micro-credit and self-help groups, population ageing and intergenerational support, corporate social responsibility, social agenda of the MDGs, etc. She led and coordinated ESCAP's activities on the social impact of natural disasters focusing on the Asian tsunami. As the ESCAP region is very diverse, she is familiar with the socio-economic situation and trends in the various sub-regions of the ESCAP region, namely Southeast and East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and the Pacific.

She has been the keynote speaker or panelist at conferences/seminars on ageing and older persons conducted by organizations such as International Council of Social Work, ASEAN, Economic Commission for Europe etc. She has also addressed private-sector events such as Asia Pacific Business Advisory Group, Conference on Diversity and Inclusion in Asia etc.

Ms Kay has served as an international board member of the Paris-based UNESCO International Institute of Education Planning. She is currently on the advisory board of the School of Energy, Resources and Development of the Asian Institute of Technology.