

# OPENING REMARKS

## Mr. Amson Sibanda

Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch  
Division for Sustainable Development Goals  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations



Mr. Amson Sibanda is Chief of the National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). He has over 15 years of progressively responsible experience in a broad range of sustainable development issues at the global, regional and national levels, including the various intergovernmental processes that underpin this work. He provides policy advice to the Under-Secretary-General and senior officials on capacity development related to the follow up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Rio+20 and World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Samoa Pathway and related UN activities.

He leads and manages the activities aimed at developing capacities of developing countries to translate internationally agreed policy frameworks and programmes at country-level. In particular, he leads a team that provides advisory services and tailored support to developing countries focusing on integrating the 2030 Agenda into national development plans and strategies, preparations of Voluntary National Reviews, and the identification of gaps and challenges with national implementation. He also oversees the work of the DESA's two project offices, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) in the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Japan. The offices carry out capacity development activities to support developing countries in planning and implementing sustainable development strategies and promoting sustainable regional development and awareness of environmental issues.

Mr. Sibanda holds a Doctorate and an M.A. in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania, an MSc in Population Studies and B.A. in Geography (Honors) from the University of Zimbabwe.

# VIDEO ADDRESS



**USEC Blesila Lantayona**  
Regional Operations Group  
Department of Trade & Industry  
The Philippines

Prior to her appointment as Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, Usec. Blesila A. Lantayona was the Assistant Secretary of DTI-Regional Operations Group, in-charge of Kapatid Mentor ME, Shared Service facilities, Industry Cluster Enhancement Project, Great Women Project 2, among others.

She holds an MBA Degree in International Business from Ecole Européenne des Affaires (European School of Management) in Paris, France.

Her career in the civil service started in NEDA Region XI then moved to DTI in various technical positions at first, then as Provincial Director of DTI-Davao del Sur, as Assistant Regional Director of DTI-Region XI and was later appointed as Regional Director of DTI-Region III (Central Luzon).

In September 2019, she was appointed as the Supervising Undersecretary of the DTI-Regional Operations Group in-charge of the 16 Regional Offices, 81 Provincial Offices and the Bureau of Small Micro Enterprise Development.

## Mr. Gil “Butch” Carungay

National Consultant, DESA

Senior Product Development Specialist, DTI



Gil Zaire “Butch” Carungay is a creative entrepreneur, design advocate and community crusader who is passionate about the possibilities and intrinsic talent in his hometown of Cebu. He is also the Chief Creative Officer of ZAI Design Hive – the latest incarnation of the country’s pioneering fashion jewelry exporter which has since expanded to other disciplines and Chief Reinvention Officer of district 32 at mactan|cebu – the leading operator of commercial concessions at the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

He was the private sector lead in attaining Cebu’s UNESCO Creative City of Design designation and is the current Chair of the MATIC Hub, Affiliate Events Chair of Cebu Design Week 2020 and the Blue Mango Awards 2020. He is a past Chair of the Business Council of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, was Creative Director of the first Cebu Design Week and was an ex-President of FAME Foundation Philippines

A graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Marketing and Finance, Butch worked in Strategic Planning at McCann-Ericson and Corporate Strategy at American Express – both in New York –before returning to the Philippines.



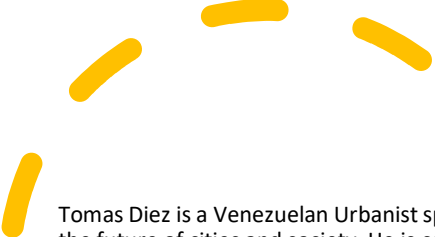


**Mr Jacks Yeo**  
Deputy Executive Director  
DesignSingapore Council, Singapore



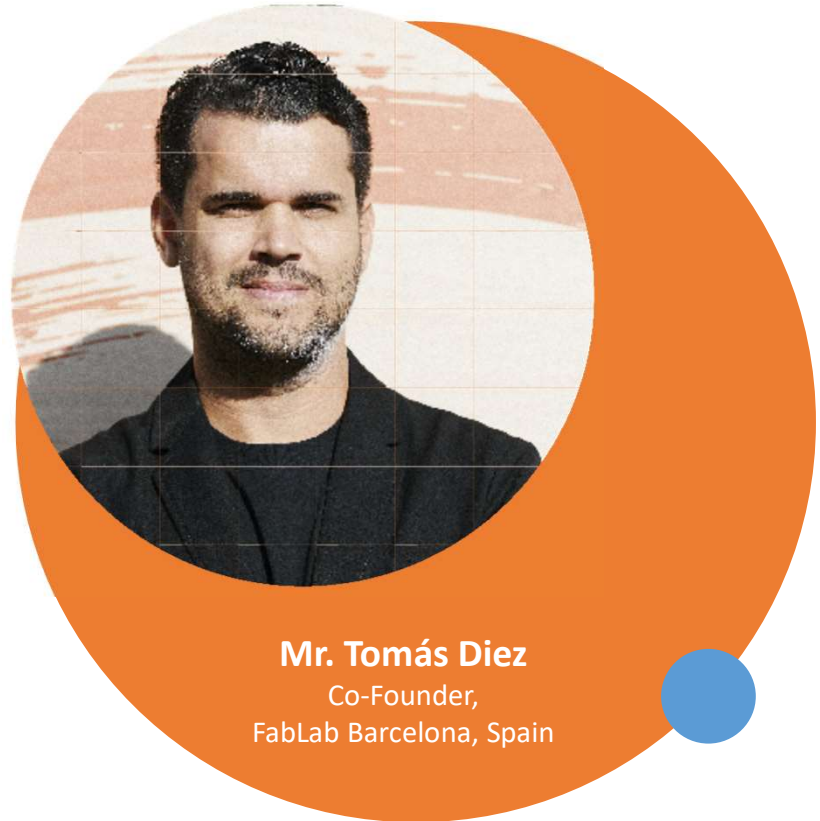
Jacks was trained as an architect and he graduated with a “Master of Architecture” from the School of Architecture, National University of Singapore. Subsequently, he practised architecture for seven years in Singapore, Hong Kong and London.

In 2004, Jacks joined the founding team of the DesignSingapore Council and helped chart the agency’s vision and mission. Currently, as the Deputy Executive Director, he is responsible for the development of new initiatives to drive adoption of design for innovation and strategy development in enterprises and the public sector; and to grow the Design Sector in Singapore. He works with a team of dedicated “design advocates” to garner buy-in from public and private sector stakeholders in nurturing a vibrant and sustainable design community that can support other enterprises in their design innovation journeys. He also manages the Strategy and Governance team to keep the Council on track and moving stronger in one unified direction.



Tomas Diez is a Venezuelan Urbanist specialized in digital fabrication and its implications in the future of cities and society. He is co-founder of [Fab Lab Barcelona](#) at the [Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia \(IAAC\)](#), the director of the Fab City Research Laboratory, and director of the [Master in Design for Emergent Futures](#). He leads the [Fab City Global Initiative](#) in collaboration with an international team of thinkers and makers, and the European project manager for the [Fab Foundation](#). Tomas holds a Bachelor degree in Urban Planning and Sociology by the University Simon Bolivar (Caracas - Venezuela), a Diploma in social work at the University of La Havana (Cuba), a Master in Advanced Architecture by IAAC, and a Diploma in Digital Fabrication from a pilot program to kickstart the [Fab Academy](#) by completing the class “How to Make Almost Anything”, offered by MIT’s Center for Bits and Atoms in 2008. He works as a close collaborator in the development of the Fab Lab Network together with MIT and the Fab Foundation.

Tomas co-founded the Exploring Emergent Futures platform in the Design Products department at the Royal College of Arts in London, and is co-founder of initiatives such as: the crowdsensing platform [Smart Citizen](#), the social network [FabLabs.io](#), and the artist residency [StudioP52](#); he has been the organiser and co-chair of the [FAB10 Barcelona](#), the 10th international fab lab conference and annual meeting hosted by Fab Lab Barcelona (IAAC) in 2014. Tomas has been appointed by The Guardian and Nesta as one of the top 10 digital social innovators to watch in 2013, and has been awarded by the Catalan ICT association as the entrepreneur of the year in 2014. His research interests relate to the use of digital fabrication tools to transform reality, and how the use of new technologies can change the way people consume, produce and relate with each other in cities.



**Mr. Tomás Diez**  
Co-Founder,  
FabLab Barcelona, Spain



**Kae Batiquin**  
Manager, Holistic  
Coalition of the Willing (HoliCOW)

Kae grew up familiar with the furniture industry and creative entrepreneurial atmosphere of Cebu, and her background in communications and literature provided a dynamic “Third Perspective” towards value-adding and storytelling in what used to be an industry known only for manufacturing. HoliCOW wants to foster and encourage sustainable creative entrepreneurship through authenticity, community, and the Filipino identity.

# CLOSING REMARKS

ASEC Aster Caberte has been called DTI's own renewable energy and the wind behind the successes of the Department of Trade and Industry Central Visayas having held the reigns of directorship for 20 years.

Coming from the ranks, she became regional director of DTI in August 1999. She brought to her position the experience she had gained from a professional life steeped in the intensely challenging field of government service, a career spanning three decades. And efficiency in government services.

In 2013, she bagged the Employee of the Year (executive level) Award under the System on Performance, Rewards and Incentives of the DTI. Her leadership has enabled DTI Region 7 to be among the department's outstanding regional agencies from 2014-2018 and among the best performing agencies in the country today.



**ASEC Asteria Caberte**  
Regional Operations Group  
Department of Trade and Industry  
The Philippines