

# Speaker bios

## FutureBoards Cross Border Dialogue - Women on Boards

### Singapore // Digital 28 September 2020



H. E. Anita Nergaard  
Norway's Ambassador to Singapore

A career diplomat, she joined the Norwegian Foreign Service in 1995 and has had various postings since. She was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director of Russia, Eurasia and Regional Cooperation in the High North and Arctic from 2010, and Director of Security Policy, Crisis Management, Global Security Affairs and the US and Canada from 2005. Prior to her arrival in Singapore in August 2017, Ms Nergaard served as Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to NATO in Brussels. An economist by training, Ms Nergaard started her professional career in the Central Bank of Norway in 1993. She holds a PhD Study Programme degree and a Master's degree in Economics from the Norwegian School of Economics.



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Turid Elisabeth Solvang  
Founder and CEO FutureBoards

**Turid Elisabeth Solvang** is an international corporate governance expert, working with investors, board directors and top managers, as well as academics, politicians and regulators in the Nordics, in Europe, Middle East and North Africa and in the South-East Asia region. Ms Solvang is founder and CEO of [FutureBoards AS](#), a project-driven company and a global network of corporate governance experts and practitioners.

Ms. Solvang co-founded the Norwegian Institute of Directors ([www.styreinstitutt.no](http://www.styreinstitutt.no)) in 2009, and she headed the organisation until October 2016. She has also held the position as chair of the European Confederation of Directors' Associations ([www.ecoda.org](http://www.ecoda.org)), which represents 55,000 board directors from 20 European countries. As Chair, she represented ecoDa on the board of the Global Network of Director Institutes ([www.gndi.org](http://www.gndi.org)).

Ms. Solvang co-founded and is currently a member of the Advisory Board of European Women on Boards ([www.europeanwomenonboards.eu](http://www.europeanwomenonboards.eu)), where she served as vice co-chair until April 2017.

With a background in corporate communication, she previously headed up Burson-Marsteller Oslo's corporate communication practice, and the marketing division of Fearnley Data. Ms. Solvang holds an MSc in General Business from BI Norwegian Business School, and she has held non-executive directorships in the financial and service sectors and membership organizations. Ms Solvang is a seasoned international speaker and writer on corporate governance topics, including women on boards.



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Jacqueline Poh  
Deputy Secretary  
Prime Minister's Office Strategy Group

Jacqueline Poh Deputy Secretary in Prime Minister's Office Strategy Group, which leads and organises the Public Service to develop and implement the strategic priorities of the Government. These include economic strategies, social strategies, marriage and parenthood policy, urban development and liveability strategies as well as technology and security. She also oversees the National Population and Talent Division and the Centre for Strategic Futures.

She was previously founding Chief Executive of the Government Technology Agency of Singapore, with key competencies in infocomm technology and engineering. As the Chief Executive of GovTech from October 2016 to May 2018, Jacqueline set the strategic direction for GovTech as the key implementing agency of Singapore's Smart Nation.

Jacqueline was previously Managing Director of the Infocommunications Development Authority, GovTech's predecessor organisation, and has held key positions in the Ministry of Manpower, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Defence.

She currently sits on the Boards of SingHealth and St Luke's Eldercare.



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Doris Sohmen-Pao  
CEO Human Capital Leadership  
Institute

Doris is Chief Executive Officer of the Human Capital Leadership Institute (HCLI). Doris joins HCLI from the Singapore Public Service Division where she was the Director for External Outreach, with a focus on developing relationships and synergies between the public and private sector.

Before joining the Singapore Civil Service, Doris was one of the founding leaders of Yale-NUS College. Her first role at the College was the EVP of administration where she set up and oversaw the admissions, finance, human resources, public affairs and grounds and building departments. Her last posting at Yale-NUS was as the EVP for Institutional Projects - a role which covered public affairs, institutional research, alumni affairs and external outreach.

Doris' experience spans industries and geographies. She was the Director of Human Capital at Bain & Company, and before that, the Director of the MBA Program at INSEAD and then at Singapore Management University, where she created and launched the MBA program. She was also briefly at Ngee Ann Polytechnic as a Visiting Lecturer. Her experience also extends to working in multiple media ventures, including an internet start-up, Time Inc. International, Hearst New Media and Price Waterhouse LLP in their telecom and media division. Over the years, she has worked in Hong Kong, London, New York, France and Singapore.

Doris graduated with a B.A. in Politics and Environmental Studies from Princeton University and an MBA from Harvard University. She has experience working on a number of boards of educational institutions including Princeton University, United World College (SEA), and the INSEAD Advisory Committee of Southeast Asia. Currently, she serves on the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, and Singapore National Gallery Boards. She is also an EXCO member of the International Women's Forum Singapore. She is Korean-American, married to Andreas who is Austrian/Chinese and has two sons, Alex and Leon.



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Nishita Shah  
Owner and board member  
Precious Shipping

Nishita Shah is currently the largest individual shareholder and director of [Precious Shipping](#), one of Thailand's large dry-bulk shipping companies. She is also the managing director of GP Group, a 145-year-old, privately-held conglomerate with three listed companies and more than 40 private enterprises which cover a range of sectors – from aviation, healthcare and shipping to software, hospitality and construction.

Following on her father's clear entrepreneurial vision which has defined the company for the past one and a half centuries Nishita's father, Kirit, founded the group in 1989 and took it public in 1993. Her family emigrated from [India](#) to Burma to Thailand many years ago.

Nishita also owned a clothing company called Burn Baby and has launched her own fashion label "-Nsha-" in three continents.



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Leong Soo Yee  
Executive Director, Markets  
ACCA

Leong Soo Yee is the Executive Director of ACCA – the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. She joined ACCA in 2012 as Head of its Singapore office where she was responsible for day-to-day operations and strategy as well as for partnerships with employers, government agencies and policy makers. She joined at a time of exciting development for Singapore’s accounting sector as the country aims toward becoming a global accountancy hub by 2020.

In May 2015, Soo Yee assumed the role of Asia Pacific Director where she was responsible for supporting the development of the accountancy profession in the region and for building ACCA’s profile across Australia and New Zealand, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

With the increasing significance of the ASEAN region, Soo Yee was appointed Director of ASEAN & ANZ in April 2016. In this role, she oversees the development of the profession via ACCA’s contributions to the strategic and fast-growing markets of ASEAN and ANZ.

In May 2019, Soo Yee was appointed Lead Market Director. In this role, she continues to lead the development of the profession across the region. In April 2020, Soo Yee assumed the role as an Executive Director, Markets.

Soo Yee graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Business Administration. She is a strong advocate and supporter for the promotion of women for diversity in the workforce and in leadership positions.



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Ms Junie Foo Group  
Executive Director at Methodist  
Welfare Services

**Ms Junie Foo** is Group Executive Director at MWS (Methodist Welfare Services). A champion of women advancing into senior leadership roles, she views a focus on gender diversity within organisations to be both a recipe for business success and a socially responsible measure.

A Co-Founder and Immediate past Chair of BoardAgender, Ms Foo is a former President of Financial Women's Association and has held senior management positions in international banks.

She is President of SCWO and an audit committee member of the SIM board. She also sits on the board of the Singapore Art Museum and on the advisory council of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.



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