



19 September 2017

Media Advisory

A Cocktail Reception

Comedy and Comics: Fighting terrorism one laugh at a time

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and UN Women, with support from the Government of Japan, are showcasing innovative approaches to preventing violent extremism such as using comedy to fight terrorism and extremist threats.

As a part of the landmark forum co-convened by CTED and UN Women, the event will bring together participants from both South Asia and Southeast Asia in an informal setting to encourage cross-regional network building. It will encourage the sharing of experiences of using new forms of media to creatively engage audiences in messages of peace and tolerance.

WHAT: A Cocktail Reception: Comedy and Comics: Fighting terrorism one laugh at a time

WHEN: 18.30 – 20.30 hrs., Tuesday 26, September 2017

WHERE: Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok

Programme:

The event will be opened by Miwa Kato, UN Women Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and Hideo Fukushima, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP.

It will be followed by a conversation with prominent activists who have used new forms of media as counter narratives to terrorist messaging, creatively engaging audiences in the region.

- Yenny Wahid, Director, The Wahid Institute, Indonesia
- Priyank Mathur, Chief Executive Officer, Mythos International, LLC, India
- Aaron Haroon, Burka Avenger, Project Manager, Unicorn Black, Pakistan

Moderator: Miwa Kato

Media Q&As

The event will be closed by Sué Takasu, Senior Legal Officer, CTED.

Note to Journalists

You or your colleagues are cordially invited to attend the cocktail reception and request exclusive interviews. You are kindly requested to register in advance by providing your name and the news organization to bkk.communications@unwomen.org

For further information about the event, please contact:

Montira Narkvichien, Regional Communications Specialist, UN Women Asia and the Pacific,
Mobile: 081 668 8900 | Email: montira.narkvichien@unwomen.org



For more information:

Please go to: bit.do/1Laugh

<http://asiapacific.unwomen.org> | @unwomenasia | #Planet5050 | #1Laugh

SPEAKER BIOS



HIDEO FUKUSHIMA

Hideo Fukushima is the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Japan in Thailand and the Permanent Representative to ESCAP. Previous to this, he served as the Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Jakarta. He has worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over 30 years in various roles.



YENNY WAHID

Yenny Wahid is an Indonesian Islamic activist and politician. She is currently the director of the Wahid Institute, an Islamic research center founded by her father, the late President of Indonesia Abdurrahman Wahid. Yenny obtained her bachelor's degree in design and visual communication from Trisakti University in Jakarta, but upon graduation she went to work as a journalist for Australian newspapers The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. As a journalist, she covered news stories from East Timor and Aceh. For her stories in post-referendum East Timor, she and her team won a Walkley Award for Journalism.



PRIYANK MATHUR

Priyank Mathur is the Chief Executive Officer of Mythos International - a production company that partners with South Asia's leading social influencers to tell stories that matter. Together with East India Comedy, he is the creator of the viral comedy sketch "I want to quit ISIS". Previously, he worked with the US Department of Homeland Security and as a contributing writer to the website The Onion.



AARON HAROON

Aaron Haroon is the creator of Burka Avenger, produced by Unicorn Black - a multi-award winning 3D animated TV series and the first ever animated superhero series made in Pakistan. The protagonist of the show is Jiya, an inspirational school teacher whose alter ego is the super-heroine Burka Avenger. Her use of books and pens as weapons is symbolic on many levels. The Burka Avenger fights for Justice, Peace and Education for all.



MIWA KATO

Miwa Kato joined the UN in 2003 and is currently the Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific. Previous to this she was the Country Director for UN Women's Office in Egypt and spent 12 years working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and the Central Asian republics. Before joining the UN, Miwa worked for the Japanese foreign service, in New York in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN covering the Security Council, and in Vienna at the Embassy covering economic relations and liaison to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, as well as in the Executive Office of the Director-General of the then-newly-set-up Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague.



SUE TAKASU

Sue Takasu serves as a Senior Legal Officer in the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which supports the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council of the United Nations since 2005. Prior to joining CTED, she served for more than 10 years in Japan as a Public Prosecutor. She worked for three years as a professor in the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute of the Treatment of Offenders and Prevention of Crime where she directed training courses and seminars for criminal justice officials from around the world. She also served as a State Attorney in the Ministry of Justice of Japan, handling extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.