



**CTED**  
Counter-Terrorism Committee  
Executive Directorate



From  
the People of Japan



**COMEDY AND COMICS:  
FIGHTING TERRORISM ONE LAUGH AT A TIME**

Cocktail Reception  
Tuesday, 26 September, 18:30-20:30  
Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok

**Background**

From 25-29 September, UN Women and CTED will be hosting two regional workshops for South Asia and South-East Asia to share experiences and good practices in identifying terrorist narratives and countering incitement and violent extremism, with an emphasis on community-based approaches and strategies in both on-line and off-line spaces.

**Cocktail Reception**

On the evening of Tuesday 26 September, a cocktail reception will be held in Dusit Thani Hotel, bringing together participants from both South Asia and South-East Asia in an informal setting to encourage cross-regional network building.

**Format**

The event will be opened by the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Japan in Thailand. 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.

Programme		
Time	Description	Speakers
18:30-19:00	Guests arrive	
19:00-19:05	Welcome	<b>Miwa Kato</b> , Regional Director for UN Women
19:05-19:10	Opening	<b>Hideo Fukushima</b> , Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
19:10-19:30	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yenny Wahid</b>, Director, The Wahid Institute, Indonesia</li> <li>• <b>Priyank Mathur</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Mythos International, LLC, India</li> <li>• <b>Aaron Haroon</b>, Burka Avenger, Project Manager, Unicorn Black, Pakistan</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Miwa Kato</b>, Regional Director for UN Women</p>
19:30-19:45	Q&A	

**Participants**

This is a closed event by invitation only. Approximately 100 participants are expected including government officials, representatives from embassies, civil society, international experts, and media.

## Biographies



**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 Italy. He has worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over 30 years in various roles.



**Yenny Wahid** is an Indonesian Islamic activist and politician. She is currently the direction 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** 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 has 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** 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 (UNODC) 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 (OPEC), 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.