



International Board Members



Mari Simonen – Chair of the Board of Trustees

An internationally recognised leader on development issues, Mari Simonen is currently deputy executive director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) where she has responsibility for external affairs, management, and United Nations affairs. She also serves as UN assistant secretary general. Having gained a doctorate degree from the University of California, Berkley, in international development education and public health, Mari has worked at the UN for over 30 years, devoting her career to international population and development issues, reproductive health and gender equality.



Grace Aguling Dalisay

Grace Aguling Dalisay is a professor at the Department of Psychology at the University of the Philippines where she has taught and published on volunteerism and social responsibility, as well as psychological perspectives on social issues. Throughout her career she has split her time between the world of academia and that of civil society, with volunteering playing a big part. In 1997 she moved into formal volunteer management with her post as director of the volunteer programme at the university at which she works. She co-founded the Volunteer Organisations Information, Coordination and Exchange (VOICE) and has previously been chair of VSO Bahaginan.



Nthobi Angel

Nthobi Angel is chair of KagisoTiso Holdings, one of South Africa's largest black-owned investment companies. She is active in nature conservation and is a director of the Open Africa Organisation. She served as a trustee of ABSA Foundation from 2004 until 2008, is a trustee of Kagiso Trust and a board member of Deloitte Chartered Accountants (South Africa). She has extensive knowledge of the African continent and is a director of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC).



Mark Astarita

Mark Astarita is director of fundraising for the British Red Cross and the chair of the UK Institute of Fundraising. His sector experience includes deputy chief executive of the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) and fundraising manager at Prisoners Abroad. He has almost 20 years experience of fundraising and communications in the voluntary sector. Mark has been responsible for raising over £750m to date and is in striking distance of being a billion pound fundraiser. He has responsibility for more than 700 staff in the UK and is considered in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as the one of their world-leading fundraising experts. Mark is a fellow of the UK's Royal Society of Arts.



John Bason – Honorary Treasurer

John Bason has been group finance director of Associated British Foods plc since 1999 and became a trustee of VSO in 2010. He previously served as finance director of Bunzl plc and McVities and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. He is a non-executive director of Compass Group plc and is deputy chairman of the UK food charity Fare Share. John is a returned VSO volunteer who taught physics in northern Ghana immediately after graduating from university.



Tom Carver

Tom Carver is director of Communications and Strategy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He previously served as senior vice president at Chlopak, Leonard & Schechter (CLS), a Washington-based strategic communications consultancy. A former award-winning journalist, Tom worked for the BBC between 1984 and 2004, spending seven years as the BBC's Washington correspondent. During that time, he covered September 11 and its aftermath, two presidential election campaigns and accompanied President Clinton, President Bush, and Vice President Cheney on numerous international trips. He also spent three years based in Africa as the BBC's correspondent. He reported from Angola, Mozambique, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, chronicled the collapse of South African apartheid and the start of the Rwandan genocide.



Rasheda Choudhury

Rasheda Choudhury has been executive director of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), a network of over 1,000 NGOs working in the basic education subsector in Bangladesh, since 1997. Prior to that, she was the CEO of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh. In 2008, she was appointed by the then interim government as a ministerial advisor with responsibility for overseeing three government ministries (Primary and Mass Education, Women and Children Affairs, and Cultural Affairs) until the handover of power to the elected government in early 2009. She is also a founder member of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty and member secretary of Education Watch, a civil society initiative that regularly reviews the status of Education for All in Bangladesh.



Sir Andrew Cubie

Sir Andrew Cubie is a former chairman and senior partner of law firm Fyfe Ireland WS, with whom he now works as a consultant. In a long and distinguished career he has been chairman of the Confederation of British Industry in Scotland and a senior advisor to the Scottish Parliament, playing a pivotal role in influencing government policy in areas including local government and student finance. He is currently chairman of the Court of Napier University, the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework, the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, and the Scottish Garden Trust. He is a trustee of the British Council and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and was awarded a knighthood in 2009.



Pamela Culpepper

Pamela Culpepper is senior vice president, Global Diversity and Inclusion, at PepsiCo, the global food and beverage giant. With net revenues of approximately \$60 billion, PepsiCo employs nearly 300,000 people worldwide and is also an acknowledged world leader in corporate social responsibility. Pamela, who assumed this role in January 2011, provides leadership in guiding PepsiCo's global Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) strategy to bring together diverse strengths, backgrounds and perspectives to achieve the company's strategic business imperatives, advance its "Performance with Purpose" goals and drive innovation. Building on PepsiCo's leadership in D&I, she helps PepsiCo ensure that D&I is ingrained in PepsiCo, and expands pathways for developing global, multicultural thinkers, doers and innovators.



Kibaya Laibuta

Kibaya Laibuta is a chartered arbitrator and an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. He is a law lecturer and legal practitioner as well as a policy development and general research consultant. He also serves as a commissioner with the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (Kenya). He has also been chair of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (Kenya) and member of the board of trustees for the National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities. He is a previous chair of VSO Jitolee and has served on the boards of national organisations of and for persons with disabilities. He holds a Master of Law degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Anjali Sen

Anjali Sen is regional director for South Asia at the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). IPPF is a global network of 151 member associations working in 173 countries and is the world's foremost voluntary, non-governmental provider and advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Prior to joining IPPF in 2004, Anjali was a senior Indian civil servant with roles including auditor general of India, deputy secretary and director of the Department of Culture, director of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and director of the Indian National Gallery of Modern Art. She has also served as a consultant for the UN mission in Kosovo.



Wayan Vota

Wayan Vota is a technology expert focused on information and communication technologies (ICT) for rural and under-served areas of the developing world. He is a senior director at Inveneo, a social enterprise that has delivered ICT solutions to more than 1.6 million people in 600 communities across 23 countries around the world, including the recent deployment of ICT to 850+ primary schools in two regions of Tanzania. Wayan is also the founder of ICTworks – an online community for ICT practitioners in the developing world and has an impressive record in developing unique, successful communities of practice through engaging, authoritative online content.