UL Safety Index Summit
SPEAKER PROFILES
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Bangkok, Thailand
Miss Saree Aongsomwang is co-founder of the Foundation for Consumers (FFC), working with people, as well as policymakers, for the protection of consumer rights. Since its inception in 1994, FFC has been gathering the country's consumers into a broad and powerful network. The foundation uses print, television, radio, and more recently social media to reach the public, providing a forum for information exchange among consumers nationwide. To date, the Smart Buyer, Thailand's only publication devoted to consumer interests and protection, which is FFC’s monthly printed and online publication produced since 1994, has reached over 2 million viewers online, over 200,000 among whom, constantly shared the content.

FFC also conducts independent product research, exposes false advertising schemes used to hook customers, presents case studies that point to consumer pitfalls, and insures representation for individuals who seek reimbursement or compensation. By encouraging consumers to work with existing public agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration, FCC has pressured the government to protect citizens by implementing and enforcing industry regulations and improving existing systems of redress for violated or harmed consumers.

Saree has been a strong force behind the powerful people’s movement on consumer protection, consumer’s rights, and consumer education professional in Thailand, Southeast Asia and the ASEAN Community. She currently serves as Committee member of National Health Security Board, Chairperson, of Thailand’s sub-committee on Participatory Committee on Universal Health Care Coverage, and Secretary General of Southeast ASEAN Consumer Council. Moreover, she has received numerous awards and recognitions.
Sonya Bird is the Director - International Standards in the Global Standards Department of Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL). In this role, she leads UL’s international standards outreach and international harmonization activities, and is active in regional and international standards activities. Sonya is the USNC Vice-President Technical. In this position, she is the Chair of the USNC Technical Management Committee, and also represents the United States on the IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB).

In 2018, Sonya was awarded the Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The Elihu Thomson Electrotechnology Medal honors an individual who has contributed in an exceptional, dedicated way to the field of electrotechnology standardization, conformity assessment and related activities both at the national and international levels. In recognition of outstanding leadership of IEC TC 61 (household appliances), Sonya was awarded the IEC Thomas A. Edison award during the 2013 IEC General Meeting. She was also named a 2011 ANSI Meritorious Service Award recipient, and has been recognized by SES as an SES Fellow. Most recently she received the SES/CSA Lorne K. Wagner Memorial Award. Sonya was also named a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Underwriters Laboratories in recognition of significant and sustained contributions to the fulfillment of UL’s public safety mission.
Ruth Boumphrey is Director of Research at Lloyd’s Register Foundation, a global charity based in the UK that improves the safety of the critical infrastructure on which modern society relies through research, education and training.

Previously she was Head of Earth Observation at the UK Space Agency, leading UK efforts, with industry, government and academics from around the world, to fund and develop innovative satellite programmes delivering both cutting edge research but also supporting critical operational services benefitting millions globally.

She started her career developing environmental policy, ensuring it was built on the best scientific evidence. She then became Head of International at the Natural Environment Research Council, ensuring UK scientists are able to work across international borders, collaborate with the best in the world, and address global research challenges by pooling funding, effort and resources. She represented the UK in negotiations on EU Research Programmes and helped initiate major global programmes such as International Polar Year.

She has a PhD in Ecotoxicology and is a lay member of council at Lancaster University.
Cara Gizzi serves as the Vice President, Education and Outreach for Underwriters Laboratories, UL's not-for-profit organization. Her responsibilities are to develop UL’s global education and outreach program focused on safety, human health and sustainability.

In her role, Cara extends UL’s thought leadership in collaboration with NGO partners, government and community leaders to develop innovative interventions which result in action and behavior change. Currently, the UL education programs are deployed in 20+ countries and in 34 languages and have reached over 1 billion households in the past decade. Prior to UL, Cara worked for the Walt Disney Company for 14 years where she developed education and community programs and managed corporate partnerships for the Disney Media Division.

Cara serves on the Discover E Strategic Leadership Advisory Board, STEM Connector Advisory Council, North American Environmental Education Partner Alliance and served 2013-2015 on the EPA National Environmental Educational Council. She has completed the UL Global Leadership Program and the UL Executive Leadership & Management program with Yale University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts, Behavioral Science and Business Management from Drew University and is a member of the Drew University Athletic Department Hall of Fame. She holds a Masters of Arts, Sports Management from The Ohio State University. Cara is married with three children, ages 15, 12 and 10, and enjoys traveling, outdoor adventures, cooking, reading and sports in her limited free time.
Spencer James, MD, MPH, leads the Clinical Informatics and Global Burden of Injuries research teams at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. His current research includes estimating the burden of traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury as well as other injuries, applying clinical data to epidemiological models, and measuring rates of hospitalization for influenza and respiratory syncytial virus.

His prior work has included econometric modeling, evaluation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana maternal health intervention in India, developing novel methods in verbal autopsy cause of death classification, developing machine learning methods for predicting clinical outcomes, and building a disease surveillance network in Vietnam. He received his MD from Dartmouth and his BS and MPH from the University of Washington.
Toshiko Kaneda is a Senior Research Associate in International Programs for the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). She joined PRB in 2004. Kaneda has 20 years’ experience conducting research and demographic analysis. She has written numerous policy publications and peer-reviewed articles on topics such as noncommunicable diseases, population aging, health care access, and reproductive health and family planning. Kaneda directs data analysis for the World Population Data Sheet and provides technical guidance on demographic and statistical methods within PRB, as well as to external partners. Prior to joining PRB, she was a Bernard Berelson Fellow at the Population Council. Kaneda holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was also a predoctoral trainee at the Carolina Population Center.
Sudthida Krungkraiwond, is Senior Expert, Member of Administrative Board of Thailand Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Public Organization), Ministry of Labour. She retired from Occupational Safety and Health Bureau, Department of Labour protection and Welfare, Ministry of Labour. Her last position was the senior expert on Occupational Safety and Health. She got Bachelor of Science in Occupational Health from Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University and Master of Occupational Health from University of the Philippines by SEAMEO Scholarship.

Sumet Ongkittikul is Research Director of Transportation and Logistics Policy for the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand’s most respected economic think-tank with 30 years of policy research experiences. His primary research focus is in the fields of transport policy, transport regulation, and logistics.

Sumet has conducted extensive interviews with public transport stakeholders in the Netherlands including local authorities, bus and railway operators, manufactures, and railway infrastructure managers to develop a dynamic capability and learning model of public transport explaining the innovative capabilities of the public transport organisations directed to local authorities and transport operators.

Sumet currently serves on the sub-committee for vehicle safety under the committee of road safety directing center. He was previously a members of the working group on Logistics Operational Plan, by order of the Deputy Prime Minister and as advisor to the sub-committee on the Study of the Regulation of Telecommunication and Communication in the Committee of Science, Technology, Information Technology, and Communication for the National Legislative Assembly, Thailand.

Sumet holds a Ph.D. in Social Sciences (Transport Studies) from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, an MA in Transport Economics from the University of Leeds, Institute of Transport Studies. He also received a Master of Engineering in Transportation Engineering, as well as a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, Thailand.
Indrani Thuraisingham is Head of Asia Pacific and Middle East for Consumers International (CI) leading leading 60 members in the region to build a powerful consumer movement to help protect and empower consumers everywhere. Her responsibilities include overall management of day-to-day operations and direction setting in the KL office for the Asia Pacific region. She oversees CI's campaigning and research work in her region and also leads on programs to strengthen the members in the region by providing information and facilitating capacity building programs such as trainings, workshops and conferences as well as supporting them in their fundraising initiatives. Prior to this position, she was the Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations, an umbrella body of consumers associations in Malaysia for 13 years.

Consumers International is a membership organization for consumer groups around the world. It brings together over 200-member organizations in more than 100 countries to empower and champion the rights of consumers everywhere. It is consumers' voice in international policy-making forums and the global marketplace to ensure consumers are treated safely, fairly and honestly. Consumers International is resolutely independent, unconstrained by businesses or political parties and works in partnership and exercises influence with integrity, tenacity and passion to deliver tangible results.

Indrani has broad knowledge and is a non-technical expert on consumer policy development, general product safety, environment and sustainability, food security & safety, financial services, consumer participation in standards, e-commerce, health & nutrition, alternative dispute resolution, human rights and social justice, as well as good governance and development issues such as urban planning, water, sanitation, energy, climate change etc.
Ratanawadee Hemniti Winther has been the Chairperson of AIP Foundation Thailand since 2015. Prior to that, she was Country Director of the organization in Thailand since 2011. In her current role, she provides direction in development, implementation, and evaluation of several road safety projects and programs in Thailand which include advocacy for policy change as well as community and school-based interventions. Ratana’s work in road safety began at the Danish Ministry of Transport in Copenhagen in 2000. Throughout her career, she has worked for many years as an international consultant and program advisor for different multi-lateral and bilateral development programs in developing countries including capacity building in road safety in Vietnam. She has joined advocacy and campaign efforts at the global level and continues to work to make roads safer for all.
David S. Wroth is the Director of Data Science for Underwriters Laboratories, UL’s not-for-profit organization, identifying opportunities to address safety issues across the globe. In this capacity, he leads a team that collects and analyzes data from disparate sources and develops insights to improve safe living and working environments for people. A significant data science initiative is the UL Safety Index™, an algorithm that quantifies global safety using publicly available data. Other efforts include the use of open data to identify improvements to safety standards and employing machine learning algorithms to rapidly identify key safety lapses from text-based sources. Previously, Mr. Wroth was the director of public safety for the organization and was responsible for leading and managing key initiatives/functions of the Public Safety Office and integrating these functions with UL departments/divisions/business units. He also served as Program Manager responsible for the definition, governance and execution of a portfolio of transformation initiatives aimed at significantly changing the competitive position of the company in the global testing, certification, and inspection industry. David received a Master of Business Administration from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management and a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from Purdue University.