



Biographies

Mr. Kari Tapiola has been with the ILO since 1996. Before joining the Organization, he was a member of the Governing Body, representing the Nordic Workers, for five years. In the Conferences 1991-96 he was Workers' Vice-President of the Resolutions Committee. Mr Tapiola worked in Finland as a journalist (1966-72) and as the Political Secretary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1972. He was International Secretary of the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK) (1972-76); Special Assistant to the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations (New York) (1976-78); and General Secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD (Paris) (1978-85). In 1985 he became Information Director of SAK in Finland, moving on to International Affairs Director in 1988 up to the beginning of his assignment with the ILO. In his professional life, he has above all concentrated on questions of multinational enterprises, globalization and labour standards, technological change and industrial relations, and the social problems of countries in transition.

Ms. Charlotte (Charlie) M. Ponticelli was appointed Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau in May 2007. Previously, Mrs. Ponticelli served for almost four years as the State Department's Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues, followed by an additional year at State as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration. She has previously served at the White House, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Ms. Ponticelli is the recipient of various Superior Honor Awards from the State Department. She received the Veritas Award from Albertus Magnus College in 1996. In 1984, she was given the Outstanding Young Alumna Award at her Alma mater, Hood College, in Maryland. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) from Hood College, a Master of Arts degree in Spanish literature through NYU's program in Madrid and studied in the doctoral program in Spanish at the Catholic University of America.

Ms. Mércia Consolação Silva is a sociologist and has been a researcher for the Social Observatory Institute for 7 years, where she coordinates the Gender and Race Department. The Institute is an organization that analyses and assesses the behaviour of multinational, national and state enterprises regarding the fundamental principals and rights of workers. She has been awarded with the Hubert H, Humphrey Fellowship Program from Fulbright where she has spend 1 year in Washington DC studying and establishing long-lasting productive partnerships and relationships with U.S. citizens. From 2002 until 2006 she was a researcher for the Research Center on Labor Relations and Inequality (CEERT). Silva has been greatly involved with the Black Movement (Afro Brazilians), for over 8 years. She primarily conducts projects that attempt to improve citizens' access to the legal system, guarantee the right to racial equality, ensure freedom of religion or beliefs, and to promote public policies in education, health and labor relations. She has a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of São Paulo (USP).

Mr. Colin Fenwick has more than fifteen years of experience in the field of labor relations law in Australia, the United States and Switzerland. Among other things, Colin has worked for the International Labor Organization, both as an official and as an external consultant. He has also advised both the international trade union movement and the United States government on international labor standards issues. In Australia, Colin has worked as a barrister, and as a prosecutor of workplace health and safety crimes. He is engaged in two major research projects in the area of international and comparative labor law. Colin is also an Editor of the Australian Journal of Labor Law and a graduate of the University of Melbourne and of the University of Virginia.

Ms. Ros Harvey is the Global Program Manager for *Better Work*, a program developed by the International Finance Corporation and the International Labor Organization. Ros Harvey assumed her current position after three years as the manager of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Better Factories Cambodia project. She has worked for 25 years on labor, development and social justice issues. Prior to joining the ILO, Harvey established her own firm, Outcome Partners, which provided consultancy services in the Asia-Pacific region for a range of clients including the ILO and the Australian aid agency, AUSAid.

Ms. Helga Ying is Director of Worldwide Government Affairs and Public Policy at Levi Strauss & Co. (LS&CO). Her responsibilities include international trade and labor, corporate citizenship and human rights, brand protection (intellectual property rights), and other issues that promote LS&CO.'s business success and social responsibility. Helga serves as an advisor for LS&CO for various different governmental and international organizations. She is also a member of the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Business Council. Prior to joining LS&CO., she served for four years as Program Manager and then Director of Member Services at Business for Social Responsibility (BSR). Helga holds an M.A. in International Relations and Economics from The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. from Macalester College. She was also a Fulbright Scholar in Germany, studying business management and labor relations in 1989-1990.