

## South South Collaboration on Climate Information and Services (SSCIS) Team Member Profiles



**Bjoern Surborg**

Principal Advisor and Cluster Coordinator Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Bjoern is responsible for the overall coordination of the GIZ climate change and disaster risk management portfolio in the Philippines. Prior to this, he led the climate finance governance project in Bangladesh for GIZ. Bjoern also worked for GTZ, UNDP, and other international organisations as an independent consultant on climate finance and the governance of climate change, land use planning, national and regional planning, and human development. He has contributed to various research projects in Vietnam, South Africa and Canada. He completed his Doctorate and Master's degrees in Geography at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada and was a post-doctoral fellow at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. When he's not too busy, Bjoern likes to cook and play tennis.



**Melissa Cruz**

Chief Advisor

Melissa is a policy advisor and has initiated and conducted key initiatives for government organizations in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines with more than 15 years of multisectoral experience, and has steered projects for both private multinational corporations and international development organizations. She has served as a senior advisor for GIZ for more than 7 years in the areas of climate change, infrastructure, and transport for multilateral stakeholders. When she's not working, she likes to bake bread, knit, and brew her own kombucha.



**Theresa Elizaminda Lim**

Policy and Climate Information Advisor

Theresa has more than 5 years of experience in the area of climate change having worked for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Climate Change Commission. Prior to working with GIZ, Theresa was an intern for the Green Climate Fund focusing on greening the work environment. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Communication Research from the University of the Philippines and was also recently conferred a Master's in Environmental Management at the National University of Singapore. She likes to watch horror movies and try out new restaurants during her spare time.



**Paolo Magnata**

Junior Advisor for Communications and M&E

Paolo is an experienced development professional who has a constant desire to craft research and evidence-based solutions. He has conducted technical and programmatic support in implementing projects encompassing climate change, digital economy, development finance, monitoring and evaluation, academic partnerships, and poverty eradication while working in institutions such as the UNDP, ADB, and the OML Center – Science for Climate Resilient Communities. Paolo is a double-degree graduate of Economics and Development Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University and is currently under the MA Economics program of the University of the Philippines. When he's not working or studying, he's probably on a trip to the mountainside for some hiking or is performing with his local musical theatre group. He also loves Mediterranean food.



**Denise Ann-Marie Suarez**  
Capacity Development Advisor

Di-Ann has worked mostly in the field of urban and climate resilience with over 10 years of experience both in the public and private sectors. She has been involved in development projects in the Philippines, Australia, Algeria, and Tanzania. She graduated with merit with a Master's in Environmental Management and Development and in Diplomacy as combined degrees at the Australian National University in 2013. Prior to her masteral studies, she finished her Bachelor's in Economics at the University of the Philippines, Diliman in 2007. Her fields of interest are climate change, international environmental concerns, world economy, environmental management, disaster risk reduction, diplomacy and urban and regional planning. She spends her free time enjoying music and loves to travel and watch Korean dramas.



**Meg Yandoc**  
Information and Knowledge Management Advisor

Meg is a development communications specialist with more than 15 years of experience in international development and corporate communications, with a strong background in science and research, agriculture, health, environment, infrastructure finance, smart cities, and international cooperation. Her previous work with the International Rice Research Institute, ADB, GIZ, and USAID has brought her to far-flung villages in the Philippines, Africa, and Southeast Asia to connect with stakeholders and beneficiaries on the ground; documenting their struggles, challenges and needs -- and packaging these new information, knowledge, and lessons to inspire, model, move, and promote change for good. In her not-so-secret life, she's a make-up artist, a florist, a painter, and a struggling plant parent.



**Rune Ylade**

Technical Coordinator for Climate Vulnerable Forum

Rune is a development practitioner for more than 5 years. Prior to working with GIZ, he led development policy and activities in the Philippines as the Aid Manager in the New Zealand Embassy, Manila. His portfolio involved oversight of 15 projects in agriculture, disaster risk management, gender, youth, peace and conflict, and scholarships. Rune holds a Master's degree in Political Economy with specialization in International Relations and Development from the University of Asia and the Pacific. He enjoys coffee and booze. Waking up before dawn for a sunrise hike is his usual long weekend activity.