

Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP)

# Regional Journalist Workshop

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ICIMOD

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE



## **Narrative Briefs:** Organizers, Facilitators and Journalists

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## **ORGANIZERS**

### **GRID-Arendal**

GRID-Arendal, Norwegian Foundation, is a collaborating centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The mission of GRID-Arendal, which was established to support the UN in the field of environment, is to create environmental knowledge enabling positive change. This is achieved by organizing and transforming available environmental data into credible, science-based information products, delivered through innovative communication tools and capacity building services targeting relevant stakeholders. GRID-Arendal has a strong focus on the development of scientifically and politically credible assessments, capacity building activities, and innovative outreach and communication tools, methodologies, and products to enhance sustainable development, human security, and wellbeing by contributing to UNEP's programme of work. For more information, please visit [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no).

### **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Mountains are important global ecosystems facing especially rapid socioeconomic and environmental changes, particularly the impacts of climate change. Our aim is to influence policy and practices to meet the associated challenges emerging in the HKH region. To do this we bring together top researchers from the region and around the globe to generate and disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge in the physical and social sciences, including traditional knowledge, for evidence-based decision making; and we provide a neutral meeting point for transboundary research, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. Working to deliver impacts in five Regional Programmes across four Thematic Areas – Water and Air; Ecosystem Management; Livelihoods; and Geospatial Solutions – and supported by integrated knowledge management, we seek to improve the lives and livelihoods of mountain women and men, now and for the future. For more information, please visit [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org)

## **Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)**

Founded in 1986, Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) is a member-based, non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting and popularizing environmental concerns in Nepal. As an organization promoted by prominent environmental journalists and environmental activists, NEFEJ has been actively working for the protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development. The idea of this forum was rooted during the 1985 Delhi Conference, organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia (UNESCAP) with inspiration and support from the international journalists' community. Since then NEFEJ has been continuously promoting environmental and sustainable developmental journalism and performing an activist role in protecting the environment of the country. It has also been offering media-related services to concerned agencies.

In its 27 years, NEFEJ has become a valuable platform for journalists and experts to contribute to sustainable development and the environmental agenda. NEFEJ is a pioneer in South Asia and is an active member of International Union for the Conservation of the Nature (IUCN) and the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ). This organization has never followed the political ideology of a particular group, but has made strong contributions towards creating a pluralistic media landscape in the country by leading the community radio movement and promoting local community television across the country. For more information on NEFEJ, please visit [www.nefej.org](http://www.nefej.org).

## FACILITATORS

### Kieran Cooke



Kieran Cooke has been a journalist for over 25 years, the majority of the time working for the BBC (radio) and the Financial Times. His foreign postings include Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Greece. He has also worked as a press officer at the UN General Assembly in New York and as a contributing editor and columnist for a number of magazines and internet sites.

After pursuing a higher diploma in Environmental Conservation at Oxford in 2005, he has worked mainly on environmental matters, writing and broadcasting on various issues and holding teaching workshops for environmental journalists in the developing world.

He has been involved in workshops – held under the auspices of UNEP/GRID-Arendal, the BBC, and others – in the Caucasus region, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and both East and West Africa. Kieran has also taught at environmental workshops for developing world journalists held in Berlin under the auspices of GIZ. Special areas of interest include environmental risk management, water systems, and linkages between the environment and the broader economy.

Kieran has worked as a press coordinator on a number of environmental expeditions investigating water and river systems around the world: he has been on the Adriatic and Baltic seas, on the Amazon and the Mississippi, and around Greenland and the Arctic. In 2011 Kieran undertook an extended expedition in the Himalayan region, looking at river systems and plant life in the higher reaches of Yunnan Province in southwest China and on the Tibetan Plateau. He can be reached at [kieran.cooke@btopenworld.com](mailto:kieran.cooke@btopenworld.com) or <http://lightershadeofgreen.com/about.php>

### Jon Terje Hellgren Hansen



Jon Terje Hansen, photojournalist cum visual storyteller cum photo editor, has been working as a photojournalist for 20 years mainly for *Dagbladet* daily newspaper in Norway. He has completed photo, written, and video assignments on both local and international issues. He gained international experience while covering the invasion of Iraq in 2003, operations in Afghanistan 2001-03, the tsunami in 2004 and the revolution in Egypt 2011. From 2006 to 2010, he was head of the photo department and photo editor at *Dagbladet*. He regularly holds workshops on visual storytelling at the Norwegian Institute of Journalists. He can be reached at [jonterje@visualdays.no](mailto:jonterje@visualdays.no) and his portfolio is available at <http://visualdays.no>

## **Sanat K Chakraborty**



Sanat K Chakraborty is an independent journalist and researcher based in India's northeastern region. He writes for national (*The Pioneer*), regional and local newspapers, magazines and journals (*The Ecologist*). In addition to that, he has edited a magazine (*Grassroots Options*) since 1995 that focuses on critical issues and concerns arising from various development initiatives and policy interventions, affecting socioeconomic and cultural aspects of the lives of people living in the hilly region. In the course of his writing and research over the past two decades, Chakraborty has developed a keen interest in natural resource governance issues – land, forest, water, and biodiversity – and livelihood concerns of the numerous upland communities in the region. Last year, he was involved in the process documentation of an ICIMOD-piloted community-perceived vulnerability analysis and adaptation to climate change study (Adaptation Learning Highways) in the northeastern region of India. He has also worked as a consultant for IFAD, WFP, IUCN, and CRS. His works include "The Impact of Logging Ban in West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya", part of collaborative research work with Dr Dev Nathan, Asian Institute of Technology (2000) and "Participatory 3D Modelling as a Tool for Community Resource Management" (ICIMOD, 2004). He can be reached at [gosanat@gmail.com](mailto:gosanat@gmail.com).

## **Vidhu Prakash Kayastha**



Vidhu Prakash Kayastha holds a Master's degree in Mass Communication and Journalism and has extensive practical and teaching experience in the field. He has worked as a reporter in many newspapers and news magazines in Nepal and has served as copyeditor for mainstream print media outlets *The Himalayan Times* and *The Kathmandu Post*. He has also worked as senior producer and production manager for Nepal 1 and Image TV television channels. He has contributed to the development of small newspapers in western Nepal as publisher and editor of *Dainik Nepalgunj* and *Nepalgunj Post*. He has also gained experience as Communication Expert for international projects on human rights and environmental issues and was a member of a monitoring team led by the National Human Rights Commission during the Constituent Assembly elections in Nepal. A committed activist, Vidhu devotes his time to covering issues of federalism and the rights of indigenous people in Nepal. He can be reached at [vidhukayastha@gmail.com](mailto:vidhukayastha@gmail.com).

## **Ieva Rucevska**



Ieva Rucevska is an environmentalist and Programme Officer at GRID-Arendal responsible for developing UNEP's Vital Graphics series, a fundamental communication initiative that promotes interaction between science and various stages of the policy and decision-making cycle. She is also assisting Central and Eastern European countries, including Central Asia, in developing integrated environmental assessment reports and state-of-the-art environmental reports, assisting and participating in several regional assessment processes, and working to strengthen national and regional environmental information management systems. Her key qualifications include environmental expertise in collecting, processing, and analysing environmental data, and analysing environmental concerns in a broader context. In relationship to her assessment work, she organizes communication initiatives, such as journalist workshops and media tours, in different regions. She has specific thematic knowledge on water and forest ecosystems, and has participated in cross-sector analyses in different regions. Her skills include using maps and graphics as a main communication tool for regional and national analyses and developing conceptual maps and graphics through interactive communication with national experts. Her two most recent publications concern "Caspian Vital Graphics", and "Mercury: time to act". She can be reached at [ieva@grida.bi](mailto:ieva@grida.bi).

## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **CHINA**

#### **Jane Qiu**



Jane Qiu is a science writer in Beijing and regularly contributes to *Nature*, *Science* and *The Economist*. She specializes in environmental, climate change, and other geoscience topics as well as related policy issues with regional and global implications, especially in the Tibetan Plateau and surrounding mountain ranges. Jane is a recipient of many fellowships from prestigious institutions, including the European Geosciences Union, Marine Biological Laboratory, National Centre for Atmospheric Research, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, which have supported her trips to the Arctic, the Antarctic, the Himalayas, and the Rocky Mountains. Jane turned to journalism after a period of post-doctoral research and a stint as an editor at *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*. Her work has also appeared in *New Scientist*, *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *Seed*, *Lancet*, *Nature Biotechnology*, and *Chemistry World*. She can be reached at [jane@janeqiu.com](mailto:jane@janeqiu.com).

#### **Meng Si (Scully Meng)**



Meng Si is a freelance environmental journalist based in Beijing. She worked for *Chinadialogue*, an online environmental media, for three years, writing regularly on climate change and a variety of environmental issues, drawing particular attention to the green movement of civil society thanks to her close relations with several Chinese NGOs. She was also an active blogger on *Chinadialogue's* website. She reported the climate summit COP15 and COP16. Starting as a freelancer in 2012, she conducted investigations on industrial pollution, coal pollution, and the public bicycle system. She has also produced a variety of articles related to paramount environmental issues in China for media outlets and NGOs. She can be reached at [scullymeng@gmail.com](mailto:scullymeng@gmail.com).

## Zhou Yiqi



Zhou Yiqi is External Relations and Communications Manager with The Insurance Institute of China, managing the institute's relationships with government, academia, industry, NGOs, and media from China and abroad and translating risk management reports for the institute. She regularly writes for the print media, including *Environment and Life*, a magazine hosted by the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, in which she mainly covers ecological art. With a Bachelor's degree in English, she started her career as a journalist and editor with *Youth Reference*, the international weekly from *China Youth Daily* focusing on development and culture, and was selected to participate in UN journalist workshop. As a university student, she served as communication officer in student environmental associations and facilitated bilingual talk-shows on development issues with foreign guests as a university radio host. In early 2007, as Program Manager in the International Relations

Department with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 29th Olympic Games, she planned and delivered several programmes and organized many events and conferences. She can be reached at [zhouyiqi@iic.org.cn](mailto:zhouyiqi@iic.org.cn).

## INDIA

### Amarjyoti Borah



A journalist for the past six years, Amarjyoti Borah started his career as a correspondent covering environmental issues in Northeast India for *Down to Earth*, an environment and science magazine based in New Delhi. For a year, he covered regional politics and bureaucracy while associated with a national magazine *Bureaucracy*. Awarded the Youth Indian Environment Journalist of the Year 2007 by the Forum of Environment Journalists in India, Amarjyoti is a National Foundation for India (NFI) media fellow for this year. During the course of his fellowship he researched and reported on community ownership over land and resources in the tribal areas in Northeast India. As an environmental journalist, Amarjyoti has covered climate change extensively. He

has also started a research based organization called the Centre for Environment, Social and Policy Research (CESPR). He can be reached at [amarjyotiborah@gmail.com](mailto:amarjyotiborah@gmail.com).

### Usha Dewani



Usha Dewani holds a post-graduate degree in Mass Communication, and has made documentary films on diverse subjects. As part of Project Survival Media, she makes video stories on local solutions and survival in the face of climate change. She also works with the India Water Portal as a consultant based in Guwahati, Assam, covering water issues from Northeast India. She is a member of New Ways, a group that uses 'Grassroots Comics' as a communications tool. A trained painter and photographer, she has also carried out documentation tasks in different parts of India and volunteers for several groups caring for the underprivileged. She can be reached at [usha.dewani7@gmail.com](mailto:usha.dewani7@gmail.com).

## **Anshul Ojha**



Anshul Ojha is an independent media practitioner focusing on stories about socio-cultural dynamics, counter cultures, and the environment. His professional skills and experience range from ICT for development, content creation for radio and television, photography and design, and capacity building trainings. He watches and writes on cinema, society, and culture and tries to work with youth as much possible towards building their ideas and capacities so they can shape better systems for the future. Anshul believes that his sensitivity and thought process come from Gandhian models of development and economics and Neruda's humanitarian thought. A student of many subjects including language, history, international relations, diplomacy and technology, he has had opportunities to study and complete formal education in Journalism and Mass Communication, and International Law and Diplomacy. Associated with and working closely with many organizations, youth groups in India, Anshul advises and helps them with capacity building, networking, and mobilizing resources. He is also a guest lecturer at some colleges and institutes on photography and documentary filmmaking. He can be reached at [ojha.anshul@gmail.com](mailto:ojha.anshul@gmail.com).

## **Sangeetha Rosemarie Rajeesh**



Sangeetha Rosemarie Rajeesh is an independent journalist based in Chennai, India, specializing in development and environmental journalism. With print media since 1996, she has traversed from being a correspondent cum copy editor with *The Economic Times*; to taking up the challenging position as Editor of three national journals – *Vidura* (journalism academics), *Grassroots* (development journalism) and *RIND Survey* (newspaper techniques) published by the Press Institute of India (PII) and the Research Institute for Newspaper Development (RIND), where she was involved in capacity building for Indian journalists and production personnel in collaboration with international partners. A journalist by choice with the spirit to tell a story as it is, Sangeetha is drawn towards development and environmental journalism, writing on the real lives of poor women and children in Tamil Nadu and documenting stories for UNICEF, ActionAid, and Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC). Sangeetha travelled through five Indian States to capture the impact of development and rural women's empowerment in economically and socially backward tribal belts for the World Food Programme. She has been a Media Researcher with Panos South Asia and was Consultant Researcher–Chennai with ActionAid India for a scoping study on women in urban poverty. She is Fellow of Environment Reporting from the International Institute of Journalism (IJ) of GIZ and is also a recipient of a media fellowship from Indo-Global Social Service Society in India to research and write on social security schemes and food security in India. Since 2007, she has been an External Examiner for Bachelor's and Master's Journalism and Mass Communication degrees with MOP Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai. Currently, she contributes to *The New York Times*, *Rural 21* (Germany) and *Appropriate Technology* (UK) and writes for the Periscope page of *The Hindu* and the bilingual magazine *Media*. She can be reached at [sangeetharajeesh@gmail.com](mailto:sangeetharajeesh@gmail.com).

## NEPAL

### Nabin Baral



Nabin Baral is a photojournalist based in Kathmandu, Nepal, and his photographic work focuses on the environment, mountains, people, and social issues. He works at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as a Consultant Photographer and Photo Editor. Before joining ICIMOD, he worked for three years as a Photography and Documentary Film Consultant for Friends Affected and Infected Together in Hand (FAITH), a Kathmandu-based NGO working in the field of HIV/AIDS and drugs. He has also worked as part-time faculty of photojournalism in various colleges in Kathmandu and is now visiting faculty of photojournalism for different colleges in Nepal. A part-time freelance stringer photojournalist for Demotix wire service, Nabin is pursuing a Diploma in Photojournalism from the

Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, under a full scholarship grant. He can be reached at [nbaral@icimod.org](mailto:nbaral@icimod.org) or [nabinphotos@gmail.com](mailto:nabinphotos@gmail.com) and his portfolio is available at [www.nabinphotos.wordpress.com](http://www.nabinphotos.wordpress.com).

### Binod Karki



Binod Karki joined the field of digital cinematography in 2003 as a trainee and volunteer at Cineroma Nepal, Film, and Television Institute, which produced television shows including “Chahana Mann ko” broadcasted Kantipur TV. After that, he began working as a freelancer cameraman for documentaries, feature films, television commercials, and music videos.

Working for Media Plus Pvt. Ltd as a video journalist, he has help produce programmes on labor issues (‘Shram ra Shrijana’) and transgender issues (‘Pahichan’) broadcast on National Television NTV, Avenues TV, and Kantipur TV. In 2010, he also produced a documentary ‘In Search Of Education’. He is currently working as a Media Technology Tutor at Wigan and Leigh College in Kathmandu. He also volunteers with the Nepal Police Audio Video Branch, which produces ‘Prahari Anurodh’ and ‘Kirateshwor Sangitashram Kathmandu’. Working as a freelancer, he has visited different parts Nepal, developing an understanding of the complex socio-cultural issues within different communities across the country. He can be reached at [cameraaxix@yahoo.com](mailto:cameraaxix@yahoo.com).

## **Sailendra Kharel**



Sailendra Kharel is a freelance photographer specialized in editorial and documentary photography working on long-term personal projects. He worked as staff photojournalist for *The Kathmandu Post*, Nepal's leading newspaper, for seven years. In 2012, he completed his Postgraduate Diploma in Photojournalism at ACFJ, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, under full scholarship supported by World Press Photo. His work has been widely published and exhibited in Nepal and internationally in prestigious festival of photography like Chobi-Mela, Bangladesh (2009 and 2011), Angkor Photo Festival, Cambodia (2008, 2011, and 2012), and Delhi Photo Festival, India (2001). Kharel has received several local awards for his work. He is also the founder of Voice to Express, Photo: Project, a community platform which works to promote local photographers in Nepal. Some of his work can be seen at [www.lightstalkers.org/sailendra\\_kharel](http://www.lightstalkers.org/sailendra_kharel) and he can be reached at

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## **Smriti Mallapaty**



Smriti Mallapaty is a freelance journalist based in Kathmandu who writes on environment, science, and health issues in Nepal and the region. She has written for SciDev.Net, IRIN, *Environmental Health News*, *Down to Earth*, *Himal Southasian*, *The Kathmandu Post*, and *Republica*. Smriti has a Master's in Environmental Technology with a specialization in Water Management from Imperial College London. Her main interests lie in the reuse of waste and wastewater. She can be reached at [smriti.mallapaty@gmail.com](mailto:smriti.mallapaty@gmail.com)

## **Ujjwala Maharjan**



Ujjwala Maharjan is currently a freelance writer and English teacher on a mission to get students at Thames International College to start exploring issues outside of their curriculum. Most of her writing is in the form of poetry, which she usually performs at events organized by Word Warriors, a slam poetry group she coordinates.

Writing has been her way of telling people stories – be it through features or poems. Two-and-a-half years working at *The Week*, the features edition of the Nepal national daily *Republica*, exposed her to issues she wouldn't have otherwise written about, including water problems and waste management. She believes that even in writing about the most technical of issues, having real-life, human stories that stand testimony to phenomena like water shortages or disaster, stories are much more effective. She can be reached at [ujjwala.maharajan@gmail.com](mailto:ujjwala.maharajan@gmail.com).

## **Pramila Manandhar**



Pramila Manandhar is a dedicated, result-oriented radio journalist who enjoys making magazines, documentaries, features, and dramas. She joined Radio Sagarmatha seven years ago after volunteering for four years and is now co-producer in her work station. She had a brief opportunity to work with BBC Radio Cornwall, where she interviewed David Cameron, the then-Prime Minister candidate of the United Kingdom. She believes that the cross-over of media is essential for the effective dissemination of messages through the radio. She is a motivating leader and team player focused in the fields of environment, water and sanitation, tourism, and the worldwide Rotary Movement. She can be reached at [pramila\\_online@yahoo.com](mailto:pramila_online@yahoo.com).

## **Naresh Newar**



Naresh Newar is a journalist from Kathmandu working for the Inter Press Service (IPS), a global news agency. He has been a journalist for the last 16 years, with special focus on environment, gender, poverty, food security and agriculture-related issues. He is currently focusing on climate change-adaptation and the energy-water nexus with special attention to renewable energy. He received a Master's in International Journalism from the University of Westminster in London. He has written a series of climate change-related articles for *The Guardian*, IPS, and IRIN News. He also served as the editor of a radio programme at Panos South Asia in addition to making documentary films on climate change, forest management, and the conservation of medicinal plants in remote mountain areas of Nepal. He can be reached at

[nareshnewar@hotmail.com](mailto:nareshnewar@hotmail.com).

## **Nayan Pokhrel**



Nayan Pokhrel loves people, poetry, and politics. A student of international relations and economics with an interest in South Asia, he has been drawn to literature and writing, especially poetry, since he was a young kid. He was introduced to both journalism and the socio-political, cultural, and geographic realities of the region during a one-year editorial internship with *Himal Southasian* magazine between high school and college. He tried to pursue some of the issues he learned about during that time during four years of college in the United States. Having recently completed two years as the Outreach Coordinator at Ullens School, he currently divides his time between writing and reading literature, and doing freelance translations and communication consultancies. Born and raised in Teenpatan Sindhuli, he dreams of opening a writer/art residency in the small plot of land that his family still owns in the village. He can be reached at

[nayan.pokhrel@gmail.com](mailto:nayan.pokhrel@gmail.com).

## **Kishor K Sharma**



Kishor K Sharma is a freelance photographer based in Kathmandu with a keen interest in documentary photography and preparing research-based, long-term photo stories. He has been a freelance photographer since 2005, working for various news media outlets. He worked for Drik News Agency in Calcutta as a participant in a Norwegian Peace Corp project. He currently works at Photo.Circle, a collective of photographers working towards building a strong community of visual storytellers in Nepal. He is also an Associate Photographer at Majority World Photo Agency based in the UK. His work has been published in various national and international publications, and his has been commissioned by various development agencies to prepare photo features. He has also exhibited his work in various venues, including Nepal Art Council in Kathmandu, Guardian Gallery in London, Drik Gallery in Bangladesh, and Max Muller Bhawan in India and has been digitally exhibited in various venues. He can be reached at [kisor.sharma@gmail.com](mailto:kisor.sharma@gmail.com).

## PAKISTAN

### Shabbir Ahmed Mir



Shabbir Ahmed Mir is associated with *The Express Tribune*, partner of *The International Herald Tribune*, since March 2010. Based in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan, he has been covering all beats for the paper over the past three years. Last year, he won *The Express Tribune's* highest award 'Excellence in Journalism' for exclusive stories. With at least ten years of experience, he has written stories, features, and blogs for newspapers and news-agencies. He also launched *Karakoram*, the first English-medium newspaper from Gilgit-Baltistan in 2003.

Previously he worked as a Sub-Editor for *The Nation*, Staff Reporter with *The News*, and as a stringer with the Associated Press. He is also a self-proclaimed social media addict, frequently using Facebook and Twitter. He can be reached at [shabbirmir@gmail.com](mailto:shabbirmir@gmail.com).

### Dr Inayatullah Faizi



Dr Inayatullah Faizi is a leading writer, poet, research scholar, and columnist from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Topics of interest include peace and stability in Pakistan, as well as topics related to the culture and languages of his country. In August 2011, he was awarded the [Tamgha-e-Imtiaz](#) (civil category) by the President of Pakistan.

His educational background includes a degree in Humanities, a post-graduate degree in Literature, and an M. Phil and Ph.D in Area Studies (Central Asia) from the University of Peshawar. He started his career as a journalist in 1975, later switching his focus in 1982 to research on natural resource management and indigenous practices of resource conservation. He was involved as Research Associate for the Culture Area Karakoram Project (CAK) and organized in Chitral in the 1990s. From 2000 to 2003, he worked with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Chitral to develop the district's conservation strategy and with other organizations to document local methodologies in order to assess climatic changes and adaptation strategies. He has covered related issues in local and national media outlets and has arranged seminars for local teachers and journalists from his district.

## **Saleem Shaikh**



Saleem Shaikh is a climate change and development journalist. With over ten years of extensive experience in print, online and broadcast journalism, he has served at different media organizations of national and global repute.

Working for *The News*, *Dawn*, *Geo News TV*, and *DawnNews TV*, he has published hundreds of exclusive stories, many of them investigative, on issues related to development, the environment, renewable energy, agriculture, irrigation, health, water, economy, sanitation and gender. He currently works as a climate change and development correspondent in Pakistan, contributing to the climate change news portal at Reuters. He has received several fellowships for his outstanding contribution in development journalism, and is currently a media fellow at WaterAid-UK, UNFCCC, and Lead-Pakistan.

He has attended a number of national, regional, and global media trainings, conferences, and seminars to present Pakistan's case on different socioeconomic, environmental, development, climate change adaptation and mitigation-related issues. He was awarded two silver medals for his outstanding academic performance in the media studies programme at the University of Sindh, Pakistan. He can be reached at [saleemzeal@gmail.com](mailto:saleemzeal@gmail.com).

## **Ayesha Vellani**



Ayesha Vellani is one of Pakistan's few female photojournalists. She studied Visual Art and Media at De Montfort University in Leicester, graduating in 1994. After attending a training course in photojournalism in New York in 1998, she returned to Karachi, where she learnt her trade as a photojournalist with Dawn Media group and *Herald* magazine. Recognized for her ability to portray the humanity of her subjects, Vellani's most recent works have concentrated on the lives of rural agricultural workers and their families, giving a previously unseen populace the chance to be noticed within the context of modern Pakistan. Her work attempts to illustrate both the role of poverty in driving the present political instability in Pakistan and her deep belief in the essential humanity of her subjects. Her work has been shown in group exhibitions in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Iran, and Paris as well as the Whitechapel gallery in London. She can be reached at [ayesha.vellani@gmail.com](mailto:ayesha.vellani@gmail.com).