

## Speakers EFA GMR 2015 Conference

**Kees de Jong** is director of the Edukans Foundation, a Dutch development organisation, focusing on making quality education available for underprivileged children in developing countries.

**Priyadarshani Joshi** is from Nepal and joined the GMR Team as a research officer in June 2014. She has a PhD in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and her research interests are in education governance and education finance.

Her most recent work focuses on the consequences of private sector growth for the public sector, parental choice, and system wide quality and equity in developing countries. Her previous professional backgrounds include research positions at the IMF (Research Officer, Western Hemisphere Economic Outlook, Western Hemisphere Department), and consultancies at UNICEF and the World Bank.

Priya also initiated, co-designed and was part of the board of an innovative mobile library project in Nepal, one of the World Bank Development Marketplace 2003 Education Sector Project winners. She holds an undergraduate degree in Economics and Chemistry from Amherst College, and a Master's in Public Administration (Economic Policy) from Princeton University.

**Jefferson Pessi** is from Porto Alegre, Brazil, where he taught language and literature, including for children with special needs. He has worked with teachers' unions for 15 years. He collaborates with teachers from numerous countries to put the classroom reality at the centre of the debate on education policy. He coordinates education and employment programmes for Education International, the global federation of education workers' unions.

**Anusheh Bakht Aziz** is from Pakistan and member of the Youth Advocacy Group of the UN Global Education First Initiative. She is a youth advocate working for the improvement of education in Pakistan through an integration program which allows her to channelise the potentials of youth from elite schools to improve education in public schools. She is also a member of US-Pak Lahore Youth council; providing input in US government's engagements in Pakistan and advice on the practical solutions to the issues facing Pakistani youth today.

**Frits Brouwer** is Dutch Youth Representative to UNESCO at NJR.

**Jan Berkvens** works as a curriculum design and education reform specialist for the Netherlands Institute for Curriculum Development (SLO). After more than ten years of experience in secondary and higher education in the Netherlands (academic, vocational and agricultural streams), he started working as an education reform and capacity building specialist in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2006. The ministry was implementing Education for All strategies, and experienced that capacity building for all people responsible at all levels of the education system was needed. His PhD dissertation explored the influence of culture on professional development and adult learning in Cambodia.

From 2009-2012, he was assigned to the Basic Education Improvement Project (BEIP) of Suriname. In BEIP, he was the local leading adviser for the design of a curriculum for all 4-15 year olds. This immense project involved consulting stakeholders at all levels, design and develop curriculum, implement and evaluate the new curriculum in the field. Currently, he is involved in curriculum development projects in the Dutch Caribbean, Suriname and various UNESCO activities, including conceptual work on educational quality.

**Hendrien Maat** is education specialist with Edukans Foundation.

**Lia van Nieuwenhuizen** is programme manager and education specialist with Save the Children Netherlands.

**Jos Leenhouts** is advisor on public administration, education and labour market policy.

**Ruerd Ruben** is professor and coordinator of the research programs on food security, value chains and impact assessment at LEI-Wageningen University, The Netherlands. His research concerns the prospects for smallholder participation in tropical food value chains, the effectiveness of rural cooperative organizations and the impact of fair trade certification in value chains. Ruerd lived and worked for 14 years in Central America where he was engaged in programs of land reform, cooperative development and smallholder agriculture. He later coordinated multidisciplinary research and training programs at Wageningen University on food security and sustainable land use in several sub-Saharan countries and was a visiting research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, D.C. He was earlier director of the independent Policy and Operations Evaluation (IOB) department at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and professor in Development Effectiveness at the Centre for International Development Issues (CIDIN) at Radboud University Nijmegen.