



**Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education**

Learning Beyond Boundaries

29 January 2020

To the Election Committee of the ICAE WA 2020,

It is with great honour and humility that I accept the nomination of the ASPBAE Executive Council to be a candidate for President of ICAE.

I am fully aware of the challenges faced by ICAE at the present time having served as Vice-President for Asia-Pacific since 2011. It is important to remind ourselves that it was during this period when we experienced the success of actively engaging in the post-2015 processes that helped to secure a single education goal, SDG4 that enshrined a clear commitment to lifelong learning. We believe that SDG4 will open opportunities for us, as ICAE, to advocate for the value of adult learning and education (ALE) as an integral part of achieving the goal of lifelong learning for all. It is now up to us, as a movement, to make the most of these opportunities.

While we had a major setback of losing a key funding partner towards the end of this same period, we have continued to make our presence as ICAE felt in key global platforms. We made a strong contribution to the Education 2030 Incheon Conference, we actively collaborated to shape the agenda during the mid-CONFINTEA 6 conference in Suwon, South Korea, and most recently, we were very visible during the 2019 UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the SDGs in New York. So how do we sustain these efforts in an era of diminishing resources for adult learning and education at the global level?

It is important to remind ourselves that through these challenging times, we as ICAE, have continued to remain active, mainly through the generous support of our regional and national members. It is this strong support from ICAE members that I draw strength and confidence from in accepting this nomination, fully recognizing that it is these very regional and national members who will no doubt remain ICAE's most formidable source of energy and commitment as a movement in the coming period.

My extensive experience in adult, community and popular education, particularly in the fields of education for sustainable development, environmental education and global citizenship education, have allowed me to confidently lead and engage with the core challenges that we currently face as individual adult educators and as a movement. These challenges include the urgency to learn how best to respond to the climate emergency, the need to develop learning for resilience in the face of not just multiple but more destructive disasters, the call to address the growth of nationalistic citizenship movements, the need to engage our youth in shaping the new economy and the emergence of artificial intelligence, and of course the realities of having to address the learning needs of our aging population. All these are achievable, only through engaging with the different key players who have been working on these issues for much longer and advocating to and with them, the valuable role that adult learning plays in advancing our shared transformation agenda.

Nani  
Zulminarni Hidjazi Arsyad  
President

Maria Lourdes A. Khan  
Secretary General

**Executive Council**

Meenu Vadera

Ehsanur Rahman

Eri Yamamoto

Batjargal Batkhuyag

Nguyen Thi Kim Anh

Thein Lwin

Kilala Devette-Chee

Peter  
Clinton Isaac Foasese

Nasiba Mirpochoeva

Agnes H. Maranan  
Corporate Secretary &  
Legal Counsel

**A S P B A E**

ASPBAE Secretariat: Unit 106 Sterten Place Condominium, 116 Maginhawa Street, Teachers Village East, Diliman,  
Quezon City 1101, Philippines. Tel/Fax: +63 2 8441 4594  
Email: [aspbae@gmail.com](mailto:aspbae@gmail.com), Website: <http://www.aspbae.org>



I also have a strong passion for participatory, creative and experiential learning methodologies that underpins my well-honed and extensive facilitation skills. This will come in handy not just in workshops and meetings but in engaging with the wide range of institutions that we need to reach out to.

My decades-long engagement in ASPBAE, in 1991 during the First General Assembly, in 1996-2000 as a member of its Executive Council and then from 2009-2017 as ASPBAE President developed in me, a deep understanding of how membership-based civil society networks operate and thrive. Lessons I have learned on inclusion, dealing with diversity, broad-based accountability, transparency and good governance will serve well, my efforts to steer this long standing global civil society voice for ALE.

As an Associate Professor of International Development at RMIT University, I have had the opportunity to not just apply adult learning principles in my teaching but develop my research interest and commitment to the area of learning partnerships. This commitment has allowed me to productively engage with a wide range of players from local and international non-governmental organisations, government departments, regional research centres, academic institutions, and UN agencies.

Evidence of the application of these skills and commitment can be seen from my most recently completed international education project, the Training of Master Trainers based on Curriculum globALE (Global Adult Learning and Education Curriculum) for the Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR with the support of the DVV-International (German Adult Education Association), ASPBAE, UNESCO and the Australian Volunteers International (AVI). This project was awarded the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) Gruntvig Award in 2018 on the theme of partnerships.

Furthermore, my contributions to the field of adult learning have been recognised by my induction into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in October 2012 and through receiving a CONFINTEA Research Scholarship from the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in 2016.

As a nominee of ASPBAE, I will enjoy the organisational support ASPBAE accords its representatives in leadership bodies including access to staff assistance, ASPBAE analysis and information that can be helpful to my role (e.g. relevant material and insight from ASPBAE's engagement in several education policy spaces in the region and globally, perspectives from the wide membership base of ASPBAE representing the region's rich and deep experience in transformative ALE), engagement in ASPBAE programmes and work that can reinforce and complement ICAE's own efforts.

I look forward to being of service to our diverse membership and commit to be a voice that will advocate for the role of adult learning and education in achieving our vision of a more sustainable future for all.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robbie', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jose Roberto 'Robbie' Guevara, PhD  
Associate Professor  
International Development, RMIT  
and former ASPBAE President