



PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE **2026**

PS 1.4

**ADVANCING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND EQUITY IN AN
UNSETTLING WORLD**

| BACKGROUND

As the world navigates complex demographic and socio-political transitions, including population ageing, youth bulges in certain regions, and increasing diversity, intergenerational solidarity and equity have become crucial pillars for sustainable and inclusive development. These shifts are unfolding amidst broader challenges: climate change, economic pressures, geopolitical tensions, and widening social divides, all of which risk straining intergenerational trust, solidarity, and a commitment to shared goals. This session will explore how societies can strengthen cooperation and mutual responsibility across generations to build resilient and inclusive communities. Drawing from global and regional experiences, including ASEAN's work through the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI), the session aims to spotlight policy innovations, grassroots initiatives, and community-led approaches that foster intergenerational fairness and dignity for all age groups.

| OBJECTIVES

- To examine how demographic transitions impact intergenerational relations and social equity.
- To identify policy frameworks that promote fairness across generations in health, education, employment, and social protection.
- To amplify perspectives of ecopolitics from the Global South, and highlight challenges and opportunities in balancing current needs with the rights of future generations, particularly around ecopolitics, climate action and resource sustainability.



Panelist

Sabu S. Padmadas

Professor of Demography and Global Health, Department of Social Statistics & Demography

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Professor Sabu Padmadas is a world-leading demographer, a global health expert, a social scientist, a thought leader, and an award winning academic, with 30 years of international experience in impact evaluation, census, population surveys, social statistics, global public health, and epidemiology. Padmadas is internationally renowned for his professional competency and skillset in strategy and innovations in research communication and impact acceleration.

Padmadas is currently a Professor of Demography and Global Health at the University of Southampton, an elected Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences, a Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy, and an honorary Senior Fellow at the China Population and Development Research Centre, a think-tank affiliated to the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China. He was awarded the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Chair Professor for Studies on National Integration by Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala. He served two terms as Associate Dean International at the inaugural Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Southampton, which included five major schools: Economics, Social and Political Sciences; Law; Business; Education and Mathematical Sciences. He is the founding Executive Director of the University India Centre and the Centre for Global Health, Population, Poverty and Policy, at Southampton. His research interests cover broader interdisciplinary fields addressing global population dynamics, global health and sustainability challenges in low-middle income and transition economies in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and high-income countries in Europe and GCC region.

A significant achievement of Padmadas' academic career is the research spanning over a decade (2003-15) evaluating three cycles of a large-scale United Nations Reproductive Health and Family Planning country programme in China, which generated high impact and policy response at the national level, replacing the historical one-child policy. Padmadas was the scientific lead to this high-profile collaborative programme led by the then National Population and Family Planning Commission with the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Population Fund. He also led the scientific evaluation of the Norway-India Health Innovations Programme and served as Scientific Advisor to China-Africa Population Development South-South Cooperation initiative, and technical advisor evaluating Rwanda's post-genocide Population and Housing Census. He led the design of a National Social Observatory in Oman and was instrumental in overseeing research as part of the National Road Safety Research Programme in Oman, for which he and his team received the 2022 National Research Award.

Padmadas has an excellent record of accomplishment of leading and co-leading over 30 successful research grants funded by the UK and International Research Councils, British Academy, UK Department for International Development, UK Royal Society, International Development Research Centre (Canada), and the World Health Organisation. He has supervised 24 doctoral research students to successful completion, published over 100 research articles in international peer-reviewed journals and 17 official reports for national and international organisations including the United Nations, World Health Organisation, and government statistical and research agencies.

Padmadas was featured in BBC Two Horizon documentary '7.7 Billion People and Counting', and interviewed by several national and international media including: New York Times, BBC World Services, BBC South Solent, Reuters, Associated Press, Times of India, The Hindu, India Today, Oman Observer and Times Higher Education. He holds an excellent record of delivering inspirational keynotes and distinguished lectures at universities, and national and international panels/conclaves such as the World Universities Summit, QS, Association of Commonwealth Universities, Worldwide Universities Network, Horasis, United Nations, WHO, Davos Worldwide, Global Leadership Conferences, and governmental agencies including the UK Office for National Statistics and Department of International Development. He has received several prestigious awards in recognition of his contributions to high-impact research, innovative teaching, and curriculum development. His honours include the 2010 Vice-Chancellor's Award for excellence in teaching and curriculum development, multiple Southampton Students' Union Teaching Awards, the 2021 Vice-Chancellor's Award for International Engagement, the 2023 Global Academic Excellence Award from Amity University, and the 2023 International Achievers Award at the Eurasian Business

Summit in the UK Parliament. Padmadas is passionate about transformative interdisciplinary research and evidence-based interventions that make a real difference to people and the planet.