Mentor Profile

Originally from New Zealand, now based in Hawaii (married to US retired airforce officer and JAG Keric Chin with a 16 year old son, Mitchell). Economist and diplomat by training.

Attended the University of Otago, NZ (my hometown) and then won an East-West Center scholarship to study in Hawaii. Blessed to have had a very varied international career, from the Central Bank of Iceland, the OECD in Paris to the NZ Foreign Ministry (last roles Deputy Secretary International Development and Ambassador to the United Nations Geneva), finance (Westpac Banking Corp; co-founder Global Banking Alliance for Women), international development (ran NZAID, World Bank – started the Women, Business and the Law project and first lines of credit for women entrepreneurs in Africa).

Passionate about sustainability policy and implementation and women’s empowerment. Now Executive Director Hawaii and Asia Pacific, ASU Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability which is my best role yet! We CAN save the world with ASU/GIOS I am convinced! Serve on a number of boards based in Hawaii, including the Bishop Museum (the largest Pacific collection in the world and a research museum for both oceans and land based species), Hawaii Green Growth, the Institute for Climate and Peace, East West Center, as well as the UN Women’s Empowerment Principles and microfinance organization FINCA International. Love to dance hula, swim, paddleboard and hike.

Global Sustainability

My background in international development at the World Bank, running NZAID and as Ambassador to the UN in Geneva while the UN Sustainable Development Goals were negotiated gives me a very “big picture” policy perspective of global sustainability. I have worked designing and managing practical interventions, like the first trilateral sustainability project between China, an OECD country and a developing country. Involvement in international negotiations on sustainability and now practical, local implementation provide me with good insights into a range of opportunities.

Find Me: Amanda Ellis on LinkedIn

Industry Expertise: international development, sustainable development, diplomacy, finance, women’s economic empowerment, policy, gender and growth,

Mentorship Expertise: international opportunities, especially international organizations (worked at World Bank, UN, OECD), sustainability in context, UN SDGs, public-private partnerships, finance and banking, women/diversity in the workplace,

Site Visit

Opportunities may include: Visit to Hawaii and opportunity to learn from the public-private partnerships within Hawaii Green Growth, the state’s multistakeholder initiative to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals and commitments to 100pc renewable energy, carbon neutral and the Paris Accords on climate change.