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As Chief of UN-Habitat Bangkok Office, Mariko serves as liaison, as part of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). Since joining UN-Habitat in 1998, she worked at the Regional Office based in Fukuoka, providing technical advice to the field projects, ranging urban governance, slum upgrading, post-disaster and post-conflict settlements recovery and rehabilitation. She was then transferred to Geneva, where she coordinated UN-Habitat's response to Human Settlements in Crisis and contributed to the IASC cluster system. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, she managed programmes for CITYNET, the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements based in Yokohama. She also worked for Akita City Mayor in Japan as well as a Japanese bank in New York City. Mariko holds an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University, focusing on development studies. She advocates the Peoples' Process in urban development and post crisis settlements recovery.