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Edition



**AHOTEL**  
**ASIA**   
**2026** Maldives  
the sunny side of life  
**EXHIBITION & INTERNATIONAL  
CULINARY CHALLENGE**

**WORLDCHIEFS CERTIFIED**

*Judging Panel*

ORGANIZED BY

**MECS**   
**MALDIVES EXHIBITION  
& CONFERENCE SERVICES (PVT) LIMITED**



## Alan Palmer

Chairman  
Hotel Asia International  
Culinary Challenge, Maldives

**Worldchefs Certification**  
International

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Cooking

**Total years of Industry Experience**  
63+

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	GCCM Culinary Challenge Bintulu Sarawak East Malaysia
	AAHAR Culinary Challenge, New Delhi India
	Food & Hotel Culinary Challenge HCMC Vietnam
2025	Food & Hotel China Culinary Challenge Shanghai
	Busan Marina Culinary Challenge, South Korea



## Rudolf Muller

Culinary Competition  
Committee Member,  
Competition Seminar Trainer  
Worldchefs,  
Honorary Life Member  
Switzerland/Canada

**Worldchefs Certification**  
International

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot and Cold Culinary Arts

**Total years of Industry Experience**  
50

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026 April	13 Bali Salon Culinaire 2026 Indonesia
2026 April	FHA Young Chefs Cup 2026 Singapore
2026 March	Salon Culinaire , 2026 HCMC Vietnam
2025 September	Salon Culinaire Malaysia 2025 September
2025 July	Global Culinary Challenge Malaysia



## Andreas JW Muller

Chairperson  
Worldchefs Education  
Hong Kong

**Worldchefs Certification**  
International

**Area of Specialization**  
Western Cuisine / Education

**Total years of Industry Experience**  
45

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	YCO Young Chefs Olympiad, India
2026	CAI India
2026	HotelEx Shanghai, China
2026	HotelEX Chengdu, China
2026	Seoul Food Hotel, South Korea
2026	Philippine Culinary Challenge



## Vincent Tan

Director of Culinary  
IHG Maldives  
Malaysia

**Worldchefs Certification**  
International

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot and Cold

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
30+

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
August 2025	Philippines Culinary Challenge 2025
November 2025	Food Hotel China 2025
March 2026	Vietnam Culinary Challenge 2026
March 2026	Rising Star 2026, Shanghai, China
April 2026	Bali Salon Culinaire 2026





### Aaron Tan

Executive Sous Chef & Executive Chinese Chef Fraser House, a Luxury Collection Hotel. Singapore Singapore

Worldchefs Certification International

Area of Specialization Asian, Chinese & Western

Total Years of Industry Experience 31

#### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2023	Itc (Taiwan),
2024	Itc (Taiwan), (Kuala Lumpur), ( Shanghai ), ( Guang Zhou )
2025	Wcc (Johor), Itc ( Taiwan), (Kuala Lumpur), ( Shanghai ), ( Guang Zhou )
2025	Wcc (Johor, Malaysia ), Akoc (KI Malaysia )
2026	Wcc (Johor, Malaysia ), Akoc ( KI Malaysia ), Acc ( Shanghai), Itc ( Taiwan)



### Tarek Ibrahim

Certified Master Chef Founder and Owner of Omami Restarurant Egypt

Worldchefs Certification International

Area of Specialization Hot Cooking

Total Years of Industry Experience 40+



### Yen Koh

Culinary Director Breadtalk Group Singapore

Worldchefs Certification International

Area of Specialization Hot Cooking

Total Years of Industry Experience 26

#### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2025	Philippine Culinary Cup Manila Jeju International Culinary Competition, Korea Hotel Asia International Culinary Challenge Maldives
2026	Food And Hotels Asia Singapore - Philippine Culinary Cup Manila



### Peter Tischhauser

Director/ President Australian Culinary Federation Western Australia

Worldchefs Certification International

Area of Specialization Culinary Competitions Hot, Cold and Vegan

#### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2024/2025/2026	Vietnam Culinary Challenge
2025	Fiji Culinary Challenge (Charmain Of Judges)
2025	Melbourne Culinary Challenge
2024	Ika Culinary Olympics
2022	World Cup Luxembourg





### Kenny Kong

Honorary President  
Singapore Pastry Alliance  
Hong Kong

**Worldchefs Certification**  
International

**Area of Specialization**  
Pastry

#### Judges Experience

- 2025 Philippine Culinary Cup 2025
- 2025 Battle Of Chefs Pastry and Bakery Cup, Penang
- 2025 Seoul Food & Hotel Culinary Challenge
- 2025 Hong Kong International Culinary Classic (Hkicc)
- 2025 Fha Culinary Challenge 2025



### C. Phee Lee Audee

President  
Penang Chefs Association  
Malaysia

**Worldchefs Certification**  
International

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Cooking

#### Judges Experience

- | Year | Name of the Competition                              |
|------|--|
| 2026 | FHA-Singapore – April                                |
| 2026 | Raising Star Young Chefs Shanghai-April              |
| 2025 | Food Hotel China-Shanghai-November                   |
| 2025 | Culinaire Malaysia-Kuala Lumpur Malaysia-Sept        |
| 2025 | Thailand's International Culinary Cup-Bangkok-August |



### Bharat Alagh

Vice President Culinary  
and Operations  
Orange Tiger  
Hospitality Pvt. Ltd  
India

**Worldchefs Certification**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
F & B Planning And Execution

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
29+

#### Judges Experience

- | Year | Name of the Competition   |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2025 | Culinary Art India, Delhi |
| 2024 | Battle Of Chefs, Penang   |
| 2024 | Culinary Art India, Delhi |
| 2017 | Fha Singapore             |
| 2016 | Battle Of Chefs, Penang   |



### Edwin Leow

Executive Pastry Chef  
Voco Orchard Singapore,  
By Ihg Hotel Singapore

**Worldchefs Certification**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Pastry and Bakery

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
20+

#### Judges Experience

- | Year | Name of the Competition   |
|------|---|
| 2026 | Fha 2026-Food & Hospitality Asia Singapore                      |
| 2025 | La Cuisine (The 7th) Sial Interfood 2025<br>Jakarta Indonesia   |
| 2025 | Hotel Asia International Culinary<br>Challenge In Maldives 2025 |
| 2025 | Fhi Salon Culinaire (The 14th) 2025<br>Jakarta Indonesia        |
| 2025 | Battle Of The Pastry & Bakery Chefs 2025<br>In Penang Malaysia  |





## K. Chong Heng Ho

Founder/ Director  
Casa Baku, Culinary  
Arts Center of Azerbaijan  
Azerbaijan

**Worldchefs Certification**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Education (Western/Asian)

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
30+

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	Spcc/Gccm Bintulu
2026	World Chefs Championship Johor, Malaysia
2026	Gold Shah, Baku, Azerbaijan
2025	Gccm Malaysia
2025	Fhm Malaysia



## Leslie Teong

Executive Pastry Chef  
Petit Bites Patisserie  
Malaysia

**Area of Specialization**  
Pastry

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	Bali
2026	Vietnam
2026	Singapore
2025	Maldives
2025	Penang



## Rohan Fernandopulle

President  
Bocuse D'or Sri Lanka  
Sri Lanka

**Worldchefs Certification**  
International

**Area of Specialization**  
Culinary And Hospitality

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
30+

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	Fha Singapore – Young Chef Grand Prix
2025	Philippine Culinary Cup
2025	Fha Maldives
2025	Fha Singapore
2023	Culinary Olympics Germany



## D. K. Jayasignhe

Cluster Executive Chef  
Cinnamon Grand &  
Cinnamon Lakeside  
Colombo-Sri Lanka

**Worldchefs Certification**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Kitchen

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
34+

### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2025/2026	Masterchef Sri Lanka
2025	Philippine Culinary Cup
2025	Hotel Asia International Culinary Competition - Maldives
2024	Dainties Culinary Competition Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka
2024	Southern Culinary Challenge
2022	Junior Chef Competition





**Priyal Wijesuriya**  
 Director Operations  
 Hilton Colombo  
 Residences

**Worldchefs Certification**  
 Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
 Hot Cooking

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
 30+

**Judges Experience**

Year	Name of the Competition
2022	Sri Lanka Tourism Expo
2023 & 2024	Culinary Champions, Kandy, Sri Lanka
2024	Slhga Hotel Show Colombo
2024	Tea Live Cooking
2024	National Tea Masters Cup



**S. M. M. Ekanayake**  
 Director / Senior Lecturer  
 Executive Pastry Chef  
 Ceylon International  
 Academy of Culinary Arts  
 Sri Lanka

**Worldchefs Certification**  
 Regional

**Area of Specialization**  
 Pastry & Bakery

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
 30+

**Judges Experience**

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	FHA Desserts Challenge Competition at Singapore Expo
2025	Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge, Maldives
2023	Young Chef Competition by Yara Coco Products



**W. M. A. I. Bandara**  
 Corporate Executive Chef  
 Santani Wellness Resort  
 Sri Lanka

**Worldchefs Certification**  
 Regional

**Area of Specialization**  
 Hot Cooking and Pastry

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
 26+

**Judges Experience**

Year	Name of the Competition
2025	Hotel Asia Maldives
2026	Young Chef Grand Prix 2026 Singapore



**W.A. S. Danendra**  
 Culinary Consultant  
 CBL Food Solutions  
 Sri Lanka

**Worldchefs Certification**  
 Regional

**Area of Specialization**  
 Pastry & Bakery

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
 18+

**Judges Experience**

Year	Name of the Competition
2025	FHAM Culinary Challenge
2025	SICA Culinary Olympiad & Exhibition
2025	Café 2025 Central Province
2025	Café 2025 Southern Province





### J. I. A. K. Mendis

Executive Chef  
Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts  
Ellaidhoo Maldives  
By Cinnamon Sri Lanka

**Worldchefs Certification**  
Rookie

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Cooking

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
18+

#### Judges Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	Food & Hospitality Asia (FHA), Singapore 2026: Rookie Judge
2025	Hotel Asia International Culinary Challenge, Maldives: Rookie Judge
2023 & 2024	The Culinary Champions 2023 & 2024 in Kandy by; Kandy Hoteliers Association & the cultural Triangle Hotels Association
2024	SLHGA hotel show Colombo 2024 BMICH - July 26th to 28th, 2024 - Tea Live cooking - National Tea masters cup 2024
2022	Sri Lanka Tourism Expo 2022



### M. P. Bandara

Executive Pastry Chef  
Kandima Hotel  
(Pulse Hotel & Resort)  
Sri Lanka

**Worldchefs Certification**  
Rookie

#### Area of Specialization

1. Fine Dining Plated Desserts  
Classical & Modern Pastry Techniques – Viennoiserie  
- Artisan Breads & Baked Goods - Petit Fours & Mignardies
2. Chocolate Tempering & Showpieces - Pralines,  
Bonbons & Truffles - Sugar Work (Pulled, Blown,  
Cast Sugar)

**Total Years of Industry Experience**  
18+





## Ishag Solih

Vice President  
Chefs Guild of Maldives  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Mainly Hot Food / Sustainability  
Vegan Food

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
30

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2023-25	Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge / FHAM Culinary Challenge / Guild Lanka Challenge
2022	Pakistan Culinary Competition in Lahore, Pakistan / Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge / FHAM Culinary Challenge / Cape Town South Africa / Global Vegan Chefs Challenge Finals & Alen tong in Abu Dabi / Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge / FHAM Culinary Challenge / Guild Lanka Challenge



## Abdulla Sabah

Exco Member Chefs Guild of Maldives  
Sonevafushi Resort  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Cooking

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
30+

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2025	Café lanka
2023	SICA (India), FHAM, CAFÉ Lanka
2021	FHAM



## Aminath Shaanee

Senior Culinary Instructor  
(Vocational)  
The Maldives National University  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Cooking

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
24+

### Judging Experience

2023	Alen Thong Golden Coffee Pot Challenge Sharjah UAE
2024	Hotel Asia, the International Culinary Challenge Maldives
2024	FHAM International Culinary Challenge, Maldives
2024	TICC Thailand's International Culinary Cup
2025	FHAM International Culinary Challenge, Maldives
2025	Lacuisine at Sial Interfood Exhibition 2025, organized by ACP Indonesia,



## Mohamed Abdulla

Head Pastry Chef  
Barcelo Nasadhura Male  
Chefs Guild of Maldives  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Pastry

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
34+

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2021	Fham Maldives
2022	Hotel Asia Maldives
2023	Amirate Culinuria
2023	Pakistan Culinury Chalange
2024	Pakistan Culinury Chalange





## Fathimath Umar

Senior Lecturer  
Culinary Arts and Hospitality  
Villa College  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Hospitality & Culinary Arts

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
27+

### Judging Experience

Year	Name Of The Competition
2023	Ltb-Philippines – Hot Cuisine – Culinary Arts Judge
2023	Fhm- Malaysia- Pastry Judge
2024	Fhm- Singapore- Pastry- Pastry Judge
2024	Pakistan International Culinary Competition - Pastry And Culinary Arts Hot cuisine judge
2024	Hotel Asia- Maldives- Pastry judge



## Ibrahim Nathif

Executive Sous Chef  
Kurumba Maldives  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Rookie

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Cooking

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
25+

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2024	Hotel Asia International Culinary Challenge
2024	FHAM



## Ismail Naseer

Executive Sous Chef  
Hulhule Island Hotel  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot & Cold Kitchen

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
25+

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2025	Hotel Asia Culinary Challenge
2024	FHAM
2023	HOFEX
2022	FHAM



## Ibrahim Naeem

Executive Chef  
MIC Group  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot Cooking

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
25+

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2019	Philippines Lulinary Cup
2019	Thaifex Competition
2019	Fham Maldives
2019	Hotel Asia



## Faiz Idrees

Executive Chef  
Villa Resorts / Royal Island & Spa  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Rookie

**Area of Specialization**  
Hot & Cold (Appetizer / Main dishes)

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2025	Hotel Asia International Culinary Challenge
2025	FHAM Culinary Challenge
2024	FHAM Culinary Challenge
2023	FHAM Culinary Challenge



## Mariyam Shiuna

Treasurer & Executive  
Committee Member  
Chefs Guild of Maldives  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Continental

**Area of Specialization**  
Consultant/ Cake Decoration  
Assessor / Concept validation,  
Scalable menu engineering and aligning  
culinary creativity with efficient back-of-house operations.

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
15

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2026	Indian Culture & Cuisine Program – Level 1 (IFCA, India)
2025	2nd International Culinary Championship – Uzbekistan / Hotel Asia International Culinary Challenge / SICA Culinary Olympiad & Expo 7th Edition (India) / FHAM
2024	FHAM / Hotel Asia International Culinary Challenge
2023	Indonesia International Halal Chef Competition SICA Culinary Challenge & Exhibition 6th Edition (India) / The 2023 Philippine Culinary Cup / Kerala Culinary Challenge (India) / International Chefs Cup Kazan (Russia)



## Shyhama Shafeeu

Owner/Pastry Chef  
( Restaurant & Catering)  
S. Maradhoo  
Maldives

**Worldchefs Certifications**  
Rookie

**Area of Specialization**  
Pastry

**Total Year of Industry Experience**  
15+

### Judging Experience

Year	Name of the Competition
2025	Hotel Asia International Culinary Challenge
2024	Pakistan International Culinary Championship (PICC 2024 Season 6)
2023	FHAM Culinary Challenge
2022	FHAM Culinary Challenge



# Hygiene Awards

## *Judging Panel*



**Sanjiv Manchanaike**  
Founder & Managing Director  
CeyCert Pvt Ltd



### Areas of Expertise

- Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, FSSC 22000
- Food Industry Certification & Auditing: tea, food processing, manufacturing, and exports
- Sustainability & Environmental Standards: ISO 14001, Rainforest Alliance, and related schemes
- Training & Capacity Building: equipping food industry professionals with FSMS knowledge
- Quality & Traceability in Supply Chains: ensuring safety, compliance, and consumer trust



**Prabath Samarasinghe**  
Director and Chairman  
Nexus Business  
Solutions Pvt Ltd



### Academic & Professional Qualification

- BSc Chemistry Honours Degree
- Graduate Institute of Chemistry UK/ Ceylon
- Master of Business Administration Degree
- PhD in Management
- Lead Auditor and Trainer ISO 22000 : 2018 and HACCP
- Lead Auditor and Trainer ISO 45001 : 2018
- Consulted over 100 Resorts in Sri Lanka and Maldives on International Standardisation and Compliance



**Harshi Godallage**  
International Lead Auditor  
Ceycert ( Private) Limited



### Areas of Expertise

- Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, FSSC 22000
- Food Industry Certification & Auditing: tea manufacturing, food processing, catering, hospitality, agriculture, and plantations, and exports
- Sustainability & Environmental Standards: ISO 14001, and related schemes
- Training & Capacity Building: equipping food industry professionals with FSMS knowledge
- Quality & Traceability in Supply Chains: ensuring safety, compliance, and consumer trust