

Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit



**Advisory Group on  
Environmental Emergencies  
(AGEE)**

**2013 Participants Book**

**15-17 May 2013**

**Geneva, Switzerland**



**OCHA UNEP**

## FOREWORD



*Welcome to Geneva and to the 2013 Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) Forum!*

*Organising this event for the first time was an exciting challenge for me and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) team. The past two years have brought new, complex challenges, both in the scale of environmental emergencies and in the context in which we work. I believe that despite these challenges, we can improve preparedness, response, and the quality of our work.*

*For this reason, the 2013 AGEE Forum aims to set priorities for collective action and ensure that coordination is optimised to achieve these priorities. The format will showcase experiences and innovations in improving preparedness and response to environmental emergencies and in advocating for the integration of environmental concerns into humanitarian action.*

*We are honored to have your participation, distinguished experts and speakers. The format is designed to enable networking opportunities and foster partnerships. Your active participation will help us achieve these objectives.*

*I hope the 2013 AGEE Forum will meet your expectations and become an inspiring and memorable event for all of us.*

*A warm welcome,*

**Wendy Cue**

**Chief, Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU)**

**UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner**

*“In June 2014, the Environmental Emergencies Partnership between OCHA and UNEP will celebrate 20 years of successful collaboration. [...] Today, more than ever, the need for partnerships and cooperation is apparent if we are to achieve our common goals and visions”*



**Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos**

*“Only by working together can we improve the quality of humanitarian response and make our environment safer, cleaner and more sustainable for generations to come”*



## 2013 AGEE FORUM - AGENDA

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2013 – PALAIS DES NATIONS

**12:30 Registration and Refreshments**

**13:30 Opening Session, Salle XII**

Keynote Speech by *Dr. Vandana Shiva, Environmental Activist*

Video messages by *Valerie Amos* and *Achim Steiner*

Welcome by OCHA, *Rashid Khalikov* and UNEP, *Henrik Slotte*

Speech by *Kjell Larsson, AGEE Chairman*

**15:00 Improving Response to Environmental Emergencies, SALLE XII**

- *Chris Dijkens, Government of the Netherlands*
- *Pamela Indiaka, Kenya Red Cross*
- *Josuane Flore Tchokodeu Tene, IFRC*
- *Martin Lissarague, Government of Argentina*

**16:00 Refreshments**

**16:30 Parallel Sessions, SALLE IX AND XII**

**Parallel Session A, SALLE XII**

**Three Priorities: Coordination**

- *Carl Bruch, ELI*
- *Muralee Thummarukudy, UNEP PCDMB*
- *Orjan Karlsson, Directorate for Civil Protection, Norway*
- *Nikolay Savov, UNECE*
- *Piero Calvi-Pariseti, Institute for International Political Studies*

**Parallel Session B, SALLE IX**

**Technical Session: Assessments**

- *Leif Jönsson, MSB*
- *Loretta Hieber-Girardet, OCHA*
- *Charles Kelly, ProAct Network*
- *Jacob Sjaak Seen, Dispatch Centers Rotterdam-Rijnmond & South Holland South*
- *Elisabeth Krausmann, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission*

**18:30 Cocktail and Networking, DELEGATES RESTAURANT (8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR)**

## THURSDAY 16 MAY 2013 – PALAIS DES NATIONS

- 8:30 Refreshments, OUTSIDE SALLE XII**
- 9:00 Coordinating capacities: Are governments prepared? SALLE XII**
- *Wendy Cue, JEU*
  - *Frederick Spielberg, UNICEF*
  - *Jonathan Kertich, Ministry of Environment, Kenya*
  - *Artur Vardanyan, Ministry of Emergency Situation, Armenia*
- 10:00 Launch of the Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC), SALLE XII**
- *Wendy Cue, JEU*
- 10:30 Refreshments**
- 11:00 Regional partnerships for Environmental Emergency Preparedness**
- *Rudolph Müller, OCHA*
  - *Pierluigi Soddu, Italian Civil Protection*
  - *Raman Letchumanan, ASEAN*
  - *Ndenneh Nying, National Environment Agency, The Gambia*
- 12:45 Lunch break, sandwiches served outside SALLE XII**
- 14:00 Saving lives, livelihoods, ecosystems... SALLE XII**
- *Neil Buhne, UNDP BCPR*
  - *Manuel Bessler, Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit*
  - *Luiza Carvalho, UN, Philippines*
  - *Patricia McIlreavy, InterAction*
  - *Steve Corliss, UNHCR*
- Refreshments**
- 16:00 Parallel Sessions, SALLES VIII AND XII**
- 16:30 Parallel Session C: Technical session, SALLE VIII**
- *Blanche Renaudin, Groupe URD*
  - *Anita van Breda, WWF*
  - *Renee Christensen, JEU*
  - *Amare Gebre Egziabher Gebreselassie, UNHCR*
- Parallel Session D: Innovations, SALLE XII**
- *Einar Bjorgo, UNITAR*
  - *Andrew Bredenkamp, Acrolinx*
  - *Vincent Annoni, IMPACT Initiatives*
- 19:30 Optional Dinner, UN Beach club**

**FRIDAY 17 MAY 2013 – SALLE XVI, PALAIS DES NATIONS**

- 8:30 Refreshments, outside SALLE XVI**
- 9:00 Future Risks and Priorities, SALLE XVI**
- *Randolph Kent, King's College London*
- 10:00 Proposal for the future, SALLE XVI**
- *Kjell Larsson, MSB*
  - *Wendy Cue, JEU*
- 11:00 Refreshments, outside SALLE XVI**
- 11:30 Facilitated Networking Hour, SALLE XVI**
- 12:30 Closing session**
- 13:00 END OF AGEE FORUM**

## SPEAKERS

### ACHIM STEINER

*UNEP Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations*



Acting on the nomination of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the UN General Assembly in 2006 unanimously elected Achim Steiner as the Executive Director of UNEP for a four-year term.

The Secretary-General also appointed Mr. Steiner as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), where he served from March 2009 to May 2011.

Before joining UNEP, Mr. Steiner served as Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 2001 to 2006, and prior to that as Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams. His professional career has included assignments with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations in different parts of the world including India, Pakistan, Germany, Zimbabwe, USA, Vietnam, South Africa, Switzerland and Kenya. He worked both at grassroots level as well as at the highest levels of international policy-making to address the interface between environmental sustainability, social equity and economic development.

Mr. Steiner, a German and Brazilian national, was born in Brazil in 1961. His educational background includes a BA from the University of Oxford as well as an MA from the University of London with specialization in development economics, regional planning, and international development and environment policy. He also studied at the German Development Institute in Berlin as well as the Harvard Business School.

## **VALERIE AMOS**

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator*



Ms. Valerie Amos is the current United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator. She also acts as the central focal point for governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental relief activities.

Ms. Amos has a long-standing commitment to development, particularly on the African continent. As a Minister in the British Government, she worked with colleagues globally to tackle poverty in Africa by increasing aid flows through debt relief initiatives and promoting private-sector investment on the continent.

She has been active for over 30 years on the promotion of human rights, social justice and equality on the African continent.

Ms. Amos was the first black woman appointed to a British Cabinet and the first black Leader of the House of Lords. In the United Kingdom, she has played a central role in the Government's broader diversity and community-cohesion agenda.

She is currently Chair of the Royal African Society, a member of the Fulbright Commission and a Fellow at the Centre for Corporate Reputation, University of Oxford.

Valerie Amos began the role of OCHA's USG/ERC on 7 September 2010.



## VANDANA SHIVA

### *Environmental Activist*



Dr. Vandana Shiva is trained as a Physicist and did her Ph.D. on the subject “Hidden Variables and Non-locality in Quantum Theory” from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. She later shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy, which she carried out at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India.

In 1982, she founded an independent institute, the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehra Dun dedicated to high quality and independent research to address the most significant ecological and social issues of our times, in close partnership with local communities and social movements.

In 1991, she founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seed, the promotion of organic farming and fair trade. For the last two decades, Navdanya has worked with local communities and organizations serving more than 500,000 men and women farmers. Navdanya’s efforts have resulted in conservation of more than 3,000 rice varieties from all over the country and have established 60 seed banks in 16 states across the country. In 2004 she started Bija Vidyapeeth, an international college for sustainable living in Doon Valley in collaboration with Schumacher College, U.K.

Dr. Shiva combines the sharp intellectual enquiry with courageous activism. She is equally at ease working with peasants in rural India and teaching in Universities worldwide.

Time Magazine identified Dr. Shiva as an environmental “hero” in 2003 and Asia Week has called her one of the five most powerful communicators of Asia.

## **RASHID KHALIKOV**

*Director of OCHA Geneva*



Rashid Khalikov joined the Russian Foreign Service in 1976. He worked in New Delhi, Moscow and New York handling humanitarian, political, economic and environmental issues.

Mr. Khalikov joined the United Nations in 1993. He has worked as a Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Inter-Agency Standing Committee/Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs secretariat, and Deputy Director of OCHA Geneva.

In 2005 he became the Head of the OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, and the Area Humanitarian Coordinator in the aftermath of the South Asia earthquake. From September 2006 to April 2010, as the Director of OCHA New York, Mr. Khalikov oversaw OCHA's work on policy development, information management, external relations, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other humanitarian financing issues.

In 2009 and 2010, at the request of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Khalikov led missions to Pakistan, Yemen, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Kyrgyzstan to evaluate in-country humanitarian conditions, and to develop recommendations on the UN's humanitarian role in these crises.

In March 2010, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, appointed Mr. Khalikov as the Director of OCHA Geneva.

In March and April 2011, Mr. Khalikov was the Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya, as designated by the ERC. In August 2011, he led a UN humanitarian mission to Syria.

## HENRIK SLOTTE

*Coordinator, Sub-programme 'Disasters & Conflicts' and Chief, Post-Conflict Branch and Disaster Management Branch, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Geneva*



Henrik Slotte was part of the original team that in 1999 established the post-conflict expertise by UNEP following the Kosovo conflict. This expertise has since grown into a permanent part of the organisation and the Post-Conflict Branch and Disaster Management Branch employs currently 75 international and local staff and experts, of whom 25 are based in Geneva. Field activities are currently carried through UNEP project offices in Afghanistan, DR Congo, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan.

Following the UNEP reform and introduction of seven sub-programmes to reflect the priorities of the organisation, he was appointed coordinator for the 'Disasters and Conflicts' sub-programme.

Prior to joining the United Nations he worked for the Finnish Government as Chef de Cabinet for the Minister of Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He also worked for ten years as a journalist both in his native Finland and abroad, including several years in the 1990s as EU-correspondent for the Finnish Broadcasting Company in Brussels, Belgium.

He holds a Masters in Political Science from the University of Helsinki.

## **KJELL LARSSON**

*Senior Advisor, MSB-Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency*

### **OPENING SESSION**



Kjell Larsson is a qualified and accomplished international expert on emergency disaster response with decades of experience working with the Swedish Government, the United Nations, and non-governmental organisations.

Mr. Larsson worked in a number of senior advisory, training and international affairs roles within the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) between 1986 and 2010. As focal point, Mr. Larsson coordinated a number of humanitarian response operations for SRSA/MSB, WFP, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC/IFRC, EU/MIC, and was responsible for over 200 international SRSA operations from 1999 to 2010, with active involvement in logistics, rescue, humanitarian action, capacity building, disaster risk reduction, and mine action.

Currently working as Chairperson for a number of UN working groups and networks, including the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE), Mr. Larsson brings to these roles years of experience and skills in inter-agency management and coordination.

Mr. Larsson is also lecturing at a number of Scandinavian universities including Lund, Copenhagen University and Karlstad, Gothenburg.

## MODERATORS

### CHRIS DIJKENS

*Director International Enforcement Cooperation, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands*

#### **Improving Response to Environmental Emergencies: Panel Discussion**



Chris Dijkens works as Director International Enforcement Cooperation for the Human Environment and Transport inspectorate of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in the Netherlands. In that position he represents the Inspectorate in several international frameworks. After a career in the private industry as a researcher, in 1980, he joined the inspectorate where he worked in different positions, mostly related to industrial safety, waste management and crisis management.

In 2008 he was elected as the president of the Conference of the Parties of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and in 2010 and 2012 he was re-elected for a next term of two years. From 2009 till now he is the chair of the Steering Committee of the AGEE. Chris Dijkens and the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment in the Netherlands received the Green Star Award 2009 for their duties in connecting disaster operations and environmental impacts caused by emergencies.

Chris Dijkens is involved in EU and global networks for compliance monitoring and enforcement. He is the vice-chair of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) and he is the co-chair of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE).

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## CARL BRUCH

*Co-Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI)*

### **Parallel Session A: Three Priorities, Coordination, Coordination, Coordination**



Carl Bruch is a Senior Attorney and Co-Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute. He has more than 15 years of experience in strengthening laws, policies, and institutions governing the environment and natural resources around the world. His research focuses on making environmental law work. He has helped countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe to develop and implement laws, policies, and institutional frameworks to effectively manage water resources, biodiversity, and other natural resources. His current research areas include post-conflict peace building and natural resource management, international water management, and international environmental governance (including international frameworks governing response to environmental emergencies).

He has authored or edited six books, as well as dozens of journal articles and book chapters, including three reports for the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU): *Keeping up with the Megatrends: The Implications of Climate Change and Urbanization for Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response* (2012); *VISION 2012: Options and Opportunities for the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies* (2009); and *Strengthening International Governance Systems to Respond to Environmental Emergencies: A Baseline Review of Instruments, Institutions and Practice* (2009). In addition to working at ELI, Mr. Bruch has been an attorney with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW). He is an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University.

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## LEIF JONSSON

*Programme Officer - WASH, Environment & DRR, Operations Section, MSB - Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency*

### **Parallel Session B: Technical Session: Assessments**



Leif Jonsson holds a B.Sc. in Environment and Public Health at Umeå University. After 10 years of work with environmental management and environmental health in Swedish municipalities, Leif went into the private sector and worked for more than 15 years as a consultant for various development cooperation projects in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. His main focus has been on environmental management systems in industry, solid waste management and

sector plans for environment and natural resource management on local and regional level.

Since 2006, Mr. Jonsson works with programming and advisory for integrated work with preparedness and response to environmental emergencies at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) linking up with Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. He has also worked as Programme Manager coordinating MSB's work with Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Recovery.

Mr. Jonsson is the MSB focal point for the Environmental Emergencies Section at OCHA in Geneva and is also a member of the Steering Committee for the AGEE. He is responsible for the implementation of MSB's support project to AGEE and the JEU aiming to strengthen National Disaster Risk Management in low and middle countries for better preparedness for environmental emergencies. He has been deployed several times by MSB to second the JEU in their response to Disaster Waste Management and Rapid Environmental Assessments in Pakistan, Myanmar and Namibia. Mr. Jonsson is an active member of the UNDAC team.

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## **WENDY CUE**

*Chief, Environmental Emergency Section (EES), Emergency Services Branch (ESB), OCHA*

### **Coordinating capacities: Are governments prepared? Facilitated Group Discussion**

See biography on Page 44

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## **RUDOLPH MÜLLER**

*Deputy Director, OCHA Geneva and Chief, Emergency Services Branch, OCHA Geneva*

### **Regional partnerships for Environmental Emergency Preparedness**



Rudolf Müller became the Deputy Director OCHA Geneva and the Chief of the Emergency Services Branch in 2010. He manages OCHA's emergency tools and services, such as the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams, civil-military coordination and surge support.

From 2006 to 2008, Mr. Müller was Chief of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund secretariat before being appointed Deputy Director of OCHA's Coordination and Response Division. He has led numerous emergency missions to support Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators in various country offices.

Mr. Müller was Head of the OCHA office in Southern Sudan (2005-2006) following the establishment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in that country. He joined the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (now known as OCHA) in 1993 and worked on the use of military and civil defence assets in disaster relief for two years. He was significantly involved in the response coordination after the earthquake in Bam, Iran, in 2003, the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, as well as the Darfur crisis in 2004.

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## **NEIL BUHNE**

*Director, BCPR Geneva Liaison Office, UNDP*

### **Saving lives, livelihoods, ecosystems... and future generations**



Neil Buhne joined UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) in February 2011, as Director of the Geneva Liaison Office.

He has served with the United Nations as Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in three countries for 12 years, since joining the United Nations 25 years ago. From 2007 until February 2011, he served as Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Sri Lanka. From 2003 to 2007, he was RC/RR in Bulgaria, which at the time was the largest UNDP programme in Europe and the CIS.

He also served as UNDP Deputy Representative in Malaysia and worked in Pakistan, Bhutan and Sudan.

In Sri Lanka, Mr. Buhne worked in very close cooperation with UNDP/BCPR on a full range of issues from disaster risk reduction, early recovery, mine action and small arms to conflict sensitivity.

Prior to that he spent many years in Asia, as UNDP Deputy Representative in Malaysia (and acting RC/RR for 20 months) from 1995 to 1999, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in Pakistan from 1990 to 1995 and Programme Officer in UNDP Bhutan. In 1985 and 1986 he served with UNDP and other agencies as Junior Professional Officer in Sudan on humanitarian and recovery issues.

He helped to develop UNDP's first environment management guidelines in 1992 and then served as trainer to introduce them in a number of countries in Asia.

He holds an M.A. from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University Ottawa, Canada.

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## **RANDOLPH KENT**

*Director, Humanitarian Futures Programme, King's College London*

### **Future Risks and priorities**



Dr. Randolph Kent directs the Humanitarian Futures programme at Kings College, London. He accepted his present post after completing his assignment as UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia in April 2002. Prior to his assignment in Somalia, he served as UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Kosovo [1999], UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Rwanda [1994-1995], Chief of the UN Emergency Unit in Sudan [1989-1991] and Chief of Emergency Prevention and Preparedness in Ethiopia [1987-1989].

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## **AMY CAROLL**

*Coach, Trainer, Speaker, Carroll Communication Coaching*

*Master of Ceremonies for the 2013 AGEE Forum*



Amy brings with her over 25 years of personal experience and education. Fourteen of those years were spent working in psychiatric, managed care and educational facilities before becoming a coach, trainer and speaker.

Her understanding of the human psyche is extensive. Amy calls upon her education in psychology, improvisational theater, mediation, and neurolinguistic programming (NLP) to lead training and coaching programs for multinationals worldwide, working independently and in partnership with SkillsToSuccess Inc. Amy is a Master Practitioner of NLP, a Professional Certified Coach, member of the International Coach Federation, and has completed the coaching curriculum of CoachU, the foremost coaching institution in the world. She coaches clients to become more dynamic, powerful, and persuasive communicators, developing their ability to influence others by creating powerful partnerships. She does this with the help of the improvisational theatre philosophy to make your partner look good!

Being one of the youngest of seven children taught Amy a lot about communicating for impact! She has coached whole families, MBA students, high-ranking executives, and non-profit leaders around the world.

Her extensive client list includes blue chip multinational software and IT companies, world-wide manufacturers of household name brands, international shipping and communications companies, and leading humanitarian organisations.

She will be the MC for the 2013 AGEE Forum.

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## PANELLIST BIOS

### IMPROVING RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

#### **PAMELLAH INDIAKA**

*Head of Organisational Development, Kenya Red Cross (KRC)*



Pamellah Indiaka is the Head of Organizational Development at Kenya Red Cross. Her work entails strategy formulation, institutional development and capacity building of the Kenya Red Cross Branches and staff to ensure that they are well prepared to serve the community and to respond to any emergencies.

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#### **JOSUANE FLORE TCHOKODEU spouse TENE**

*Regional Disaster Management Coordinator, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies*



Josuane Flore Tene is a Regional Disaster Management Coordinator since 2005 with the IFRC. She coordinates Red Cross National societies' activities on disasters issues in Central Africa. She managed many disasters in Central Africa (floods, violent winds, populations' movement, environment disaster in Brazzaville).

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#### **MARTIN GOMEZ LISSARRAGUE**

*Regional Coordinator for Patagonia, Dirección Nacional de Protección Civil, Ministerio del Interior, Argentina*



Martin Gomez Lissarrague has been working since 1995 in the National Direction of Civil Protection as Coordinator Disasters Response Operations in response at different disasters and also, Planning and Coordination at National, Regional, Provincial and Municipal levels of the Civil Defense System.

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## PARALLEL SESSION A: COORDINATION

### MURALEE THUMMARUKUDY

*Senior Programme Officer, UNEP Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch (PCDMB)*



Muralee Thummarukudy is the Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction with UNEP. He has over 20 year experience in Environment and Disaster Management. As Operations Manager for UNEP PCBMB, he coordinates projects ranging from assessment to capacity building.  
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### ORJAN KARLSSON

*Head of Department of International Relations, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning*



Orjan Karlsson is the Head of Department of International Relations, in the Directorate for Civil Protection, Norway. He is an EU expert and trainer and has been deployed in missions to Indonesia (2009) and Japan (2011).  
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### NIKOLAY SAVOV

*Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment Division, UNECE*



Nikolay Savov works with the Assistance Programme within the Secretariat of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. He has 15 years of experience in the area of prevention, preparedness and response and chemicals management.  
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### PIERO CALVI-PARISETTI

*Professor of Emergencies and Humanitarian Action and Coordinator, Institute for International Political Studies, Italy*



Dr. Piero Calvi-Pariseti is Professor of Emergencies and Humanitarian Action at the Institute for International Political Studies of Milan, Italy, and a Humanitarian Policy Adviser for the UN and other international organisations.  
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## PARALLEL SESSION B: TECHNICAL SESSION: ASSESSMENTS

### LORETTA HIEBER-GIRARDET

*Chief of Coordinated Assessment Support Section, OCHA*



Loretta Hieber Girardet is the Chief of the Coordinated Assessment Section and Co-Chair of the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force. She has a long experience working in humanitarian and development contexts.  
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### CHARLES KELLY

*ProAct Network*



Charles Kelly has over 30 years of field experience in humanitarian assistance programs dealing with emergencies in developing countries. He is a member among others of the International Research Committee on Disasters and ProAct Network.  
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### JACOB SJAAK SEEN

*General Project Manager Merger Emergency, Dispatch Centers Rotterdam-Rijnmond & South Holland South*



Jacob Seen has 34 year experience in emergency management in the Netherlands. He is a member of UNDAC and the Urban Search and Rescue Team of the Netherlands (USAR.NL) and has more than 10 years International Humanitarian field experience.  
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### ELISABETH KRAUSMANN

*Scientific Officer, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission*



Elisabeth Krausmann holds a Ph.D. in Physics. Her research experience includes risk analysis of natural-hazard impact on chemical infrastructures, nuclear-reactor safety, severe-accident management and consequence analysis. Since 2006 she leads the Natech activity at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.  
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## **COORDINATING CAPACITIES: ARE GOVERNMENTS PREPARED? FACILITATED GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **FREDERICK SPIELBERG**

*Emergency Specialist, UNICEF*



Frederick Spielberg has specialised in humanitarian relief issues for the past 30 years, beginning as a UN Volunteer in Equatorial Guinea in 1984. He is currently based in Geneva, working with UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes, providing field support in contingency planning, preparedness training and early warning. [fspielberg@unicef.org](mailto:fspielberg@unicef.org)

### **ARTUR VARDANYAN**

*Head of the Crisis Management Center, Ministry of Emergency Situation, Armenia*



Artur Vardanyan worked as a Head of section and Deputy Chief at 7th fire-rescue detachment of Yerevan rescue department of the armenian rescue service until 2011. He currently serves as a Head of operative shift at the Crisis management center of the Ministry of emergency situations.

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### **JONATHAN KERTICH**

*Environmental Health Officer, National Disaster Operation Centre, Ministry of Environment, Kenya*



Jonathan Kertich has been working as a Public Health Officer in various districts and has an experience of over 27 years in service. He is working as a Public Health Desk Officer at the National Disaster Operation Centre, where his major functions are monitoring, coordinating and mobilizing resources for response to disaster.

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## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

### **PIERLUIGI SODDU**

*Manager of the Study and Research Service, Inter-Institutional Office, Italian Civil Protection (Former Executive Director, PPRD South)*



Pierluigi is the Manager of the Study and Research Service, Inter-Institutional Office at Italian Civil Protection. From 2009-2013 he was the Executive Director of the Euromed Programme on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (PPRD South).

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### **RAMAN LETCHUMANAN**

*Head of Environment, Secretariat, ASEAN*



Dr. Letchumanan is the Head of the Environment Division at the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN Secretariat), where he is in charge of promoting regional cooperation on a range of environmental and conservation issues.

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### **NDENNEH NYING**

*Regional Officer, National Environment Agency, The Gambia*



Ndenneh Nying has a background in Environmental Health sciences, and worked with the National Environment Agency, as a Senior Inspector from 1995 to 2010 and as a Regional Program Officer from 2010 to date. Mr. Nying has been an active member of UNDAC since 2009 to date, and is also the focal person for Environmental Emergency Response.

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## SAVING LIVES, LIVELIHOODS, ECOSYSTEMS... AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

### **MANUEL BESSLER**

*Ambassador, Development and Cooperation Direction, Switzerland*



Manuel Bessler is the Vice-Director, Delegate for humanitarian aid and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA). From April 2009 to 2011, he headed the OCHA Office in Pakistan. In October 2011, he took up the post of Head of the Department of Humanitarian Aid within the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. manuel.bessler@deza.admin.ch

### **LUIZA CARVALHO**

*UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Philippines*



Luiza Carvalho has served as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Philippines since 2012. Ms. Carvalho was appointed as Coordinator of the Sectoral Policies Unit in 2002. luiza.carvalho@one.un.org

### **PATRICIA MCILREAVY**

*Senior Director, Humanitarian Policy, InterAction*



Patricia McIlreavy is Senior Director, Humanitarian Policy for InterAction, an alliance of U.S.-based relief and development organizations. She is responsible for ensuring effective representation of US-based NGOs in international humanitarian policy discussions. pmcilreavy@INTERACTION.ORG

### **STEVE CORLISS**

*Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*

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## PARALLEL SESSION C: TECHNICAL SESSION: OPEN SOURCE TRAININGS

### **BLANCHE RENAUDIN**

*Groupe URD Evaluator, Researcher and Trainer*



Blanche Renaudin is an Agricultural Engineer specialised in Environmental Engineering. She is currently a Researcher, Trainer and Evaluator specialized in environmental issues for Groupe URD.

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Anita van Breda leads WWF's work supporting environmentally sustainable considerations in disaster recovery, reconstruction and risk reduction efforts. She is co-lead of the UN Emergency Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice.

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## PARALLEL SESSION D: INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENTS

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Andrew Bredenkamp, is board member of Translators without Borders and heads up the executive committee on building awareness about access to knowledge. Andrew is co-founder and CEO of Acrolinx, the world's leading provider of content quality management software. Andrew has nearly 20 years' experience in multilingual information development.

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Wendy has more than 15 years of international and UN experience. Her previous assignments include as Head of the OCHA Office in Nepal, Coordinator for the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium, Field Manager for the Pandemic Influenza Contingency and Team Leader for human rights investigations in Rwanda and Haiti.

With a degree in Engineering Sciences and a Masters in International Relations, Wendy joined the UN human rights mission to Haiti in 1992. In 1997, she monitored human rights in Rwanda during the post-genocide years. She joined OCHA in 1999, reporting on the conflict and coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau. During her time in OCHA Geneva, she has successfully coordinated the multi-city launch of the global humanitarian appeal. She has deployed with UNDAC to Sri Lanka following the tsunami and to the 2010 floods in Pakistan to coordinate initial response. From 2007, she managed the OCHA office in Nepal. Wendy was appointed Chief of the Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment Unit (JEU) in July 2012. [cue@un.org](mailto:cue@un.org)

## **RENE NIJENHUIS**

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After pursuing an environmental engineering degree and a Masters of Philosophy degree, Rene Nijenhuis undertook a number of assignments in the private sector in the field of Corporate Environmental Management. In 2000, he joined the United Nations focusing on integrating environment into economic policies and strategies at the national level in countries in transition, and undertook numerous review missions to Central Asia and Eastern Europe. In 2003/2004 Rene worked on the follow-up of the World Commission on Dams, promotion multi-stakeholder dialogues between industry, financing institutions, governments and affected communities, from Nairobi, Kenya. For the last 9 years he has served the JEU and has participated in many emergency response missions both as technical expert and as team leader/coordinator.

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Emilia joined the JEU from UNDP Kazakhstan, where she worked for three years as Programme Analyst in charge of the portfolio on natural and man-made disasters. She was also responsible for a number of regional projects and initiatives related to disaster risk reduction and international waters. Prior to joining the UN system, Emilia was working for several years in Helsinki as environmental consultant. Emilia acts as the unit's focal point for preparedness and provides support on environmental emergency response. She also works on capacity development related to integrating environment into humanitarian action.

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## **RITA DHAKAL**

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Rita joined OCHA as a National Coordination Officer in 2009 in Nepal. Rita has more than 14 years of experience mainly in the field of humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction and natural resource/environment management with NGO's, Bilateral Organization and UN. She served as Humanitarian Affairs Specialist in the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator Office in Nepal. She has worked as Environment and Forestry Programme Officer for DANIDA Natural Resource Management Programme and as a Forest Ranger in the Makalu Barun National Park in Nepal. Rita joined the JEU in late September 2012 and is contributing to the JEU's mission to integrate environmental issues into humanitarian action and to strengthen capacity to prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies.

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## **DAWIT YARED**

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Dawit joined the United Nations in 2004 with the Economics and Trade Branch of DTIE in Geneva. After two years he joined the then Post Conflict Branch (PCOB) in as junior research assistance. As branch expanded and became PCDMB, he was recruited as the project assistant to Sudan Project. Through the years he was the project assistant for the Tsunami, Nigeria, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo and Cote d'Ivoire projects.

Dawit joined the JEU on 1st September 2012 as Administrative Assistant.

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## **TANJA KOCH**

*Associate Expert*



Tanja obtained a Diploma degree in International Relations and Development studies focusing on Asia Pacific. For the past 5 years, Tanja worked in the Southeast Asian region with a regional NGO and the Regional Office for Asia Pacific of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and she has substantial experience in mainstreaming environmental considerations into UN country programmes under the Development Assistance

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She joined the JEU in April 2013 as Associate Expert for Environmental Emergencies for two years.

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## **RENEE CHRISTENSEN**

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Renee holds a Bachelor of Science (Physics), a Diploma in Experimental Particle Physics, and a Master of Education specialising in education for development and NGO-partnerships, from the University of Melbourne. Renee has been working in development, humanitarian and refugee settings since 2004. In 2010, Renee joined the UNICEF office in Geneva to work with the Global Education Cluster Unit and later undertook a lessons learned evaluation for the Education Clusters response to the drought and food crisis in the Horn of Africa in 2011/2012. Renee joined the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in April 2012 as the sections focal point for the Environmental Emergencies Centre and she is also overseeing the development and pilot testing of various tools and training platforms.

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## **SANDRA BESSON**

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Sandra obtained a degree in Political Sciences and Urban Politics in 2009 and majored in Information and Communication. From 2010 to 2012 she worked as project manager for Veolia Waste Force, a humanitarian section of the French company Veolia Environment, in charge of the management of hazardous waste in emergencies. Besides, since 2008, she works as a journalist for a web newspaper on the environment and writes on daily basis news articles mostly about climate change, ecology, energy, natural disasters and pollution.

Sandra joined the JEU in October 2012 as a consultant and is especially coordinating the Green Star Awards.

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## **Erin JONES**

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Erin holds a bachelors degree in political science and anthropology and a masters degree in international security studies. She worked with Interpol in 2008 in the anti-corruption sub-directorate. From there she went on to work for UNITAR, in the Peacekeeping Training Programme, designing and delivering Training of Trainers programmes and eLearning courses.

Erin joined the JEU in October 2011 as the technical developer for the eLearning course Beyond Response. She then took on the task of designing and developing four more eLearning courses. She is also developing training manuals for the face-to-face components of some of the eLearning courses.

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## **Ashley BEVENSEE**

*Intern*



Ashley Bevenssee is a student from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA. She attends Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa., acquiring a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Russian language. Ashley entered her undergraduate studies after living a year abroad in the Kharkov, Ukraine through the Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program. She served as a student ambassador in Ukraine to bridge cultural gaps and build multinational relationships. She started as an intern in JEU from 2 May 2013.

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## NEXT WEEK



### Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Fourth session, Geneva, Switzerland  
19-23 May 2013

### Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow: Resilient People - Resilient Planet

The official programme for the Fourth Session of the Global Platform 19-23 May 2013 in Geneva is available online: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/>

There will be three events of interest regarding environmental emergencies:

- Side Event: “Reducing disaster risk of environmental emergencies”  
Co-organized by GCI, OCHA, UNEP, UNECE, sponsored by SDC  
Thursday, May 23, 2013 - 14:00
- IGNITE Stage: Local preparedness for environmental emergencies  
Thursday, May 23, 2013 – 10:45
- IGNITE Stage: UNEP/OCHA present the Environmental Emergencies Centre  
Thursday, May 23, 2013 – 11:45

**Venue:** Centre International de Conférence de Genève (CICG), Geneva

**Visit also the Marketplace**

**Tuesday to Wednesday: 08:00 – 18:00 / Thursday: 09:00-14:30**

## NOTES

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[www.eecentre.org](http://www.eecentre.org)



OCHA UNEP