

Engaging with Asia-Pacific on Climate Change

European Climate Diplomacy

4 June 2012

Charlemagne building, room Jean Durieux
Rue de la Loi 170, Brussels

BIOGRAPHIES

OPENING REMARKS

Connie Hedegaard



Connie Hedegaard is the European Union's first Commissioner for Climate Action. In August 2004 she was appointed as Danish Minister for the Environment. In 2007 she was in charge of setting up the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy, where one of the main tasks was to prepare the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Connie Hedegaard began her political career while a student at the University of Copenhagen. There she studied literature and history while at the same time pursuing a political career that encompassed both Danish and international politics. In 1984, at the age of 23, she was elected to the Danish Parliament as a member for the Conservative People's Party, thereby becoming the youngest Danish MP ever at that time, and in 1985 she became Chair of the Atlantic Association of Young Political Leaders. In 1989, Connie Hedegaard became first spokesperson for the Conservative People's Party, but chose to leave politics for journalism in 1990. In 1990, she began working as a journalist on the Danish national newspaper Berlingske Tidende. In 1998 she became head of the news bulletin service Radioavisen at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, after which she hosted the current affairs programme Deadline on the television channel DR2. Between 1998 and 2004 she also wrote for the Danish national daily newspaper Politiken.

Maciej Popowski



Maciej Popowski is Deputy-Secretary General of the European External Action Service.

Ambassador Popowski is a Polish diplomat with 20 years of professional experience. He was director for EU affairs at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time of Poland's accession negotiations. In 2001-2008 he was Deputy Head of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union. In 2003-2008 he was Poland's first permanent representative in the [EU's Political and Security Committee](#).

He then joined the European Commission as Director in DG Development focusing on policy coherence, aid effectiveness, financing, relations with other donors and public information. In 2009 he was seconded from the European Commission to become head of cabinet of Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament.

Jos Delbeke



Mr Delbeke is the Director-General of the European Commission's DG Climate Action since its creation in 2010. He was very involved in negotiations on the package on climate change and energy in the EU Council and Parliament. Mr Delbeke has also been a key player in developing Europe's International Climate Change strategy, its legislation on cars and fuels, the European Emissions Trading Scheme, and legislation on air quality and emissions from big industrial installations.

He joined the European Commission in 1986 and was very active on market-based instruments, on cost-benefit analysis, and on the new chemicals legislation REACH.

For several years he was the European Commission's chief negotiator at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties. He holds a PhD in economics and has lectured at the University of Louvain in Belgium. In 1985, he worked temporarily for the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

CHAIRS

Pedro Serrano



Pedro Serrano is the Director for South and South-East Asia of the EEAS.

In New York, he served as Acting Head of the EU Delegation to the UN and before that as Head of the Liaison Office of the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union to the UN.

Previously he was the Director for Civilian Crisis Management in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and Deputy Head of Cabinet of the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU.

As a Spanish Diplomat, he served as Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Spain in Cuba, Deputy Director General for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain in Madrid, Consul of Spain in Frankfurt, Secretary of Embassy at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the UN in New York and at the Embassy of Spain in United Republic of Tanzania and Director for Easter-European Affairs at the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain in Madrid.

Mr Serrano is a Spanish national. He has a degree in law from Universidad Complutense Madrid. He joined the Spanish Diplomatic Career in 1985 and is an EU official since 2003.

Artur Runge-Metzger



Mr Runge-Metzger is the Director 'International & Climate Strategy' in DG Climate Action of the European Commission. He took up his current position in October 2009 when Directorate 'Climate change & air' of then DG Environment covered issues like international climate negotiations, emissions trading, emissions from transport, energy and industry, air quality and the protection of the ozone layer. The current directorate 'International & Climate Strategy' covers international & inter-institutional relations, climate finance and deforestation, monitoring, reporting, verification and strategy and economic assessment.

Since 2003, he was Head of Unit focussing on climate strategy and international climate change negotiations. Before this, he spent two years in the EC Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. From 1997 until 2001, he worked in DG Development and DG Environment in Brussels on a wide range of environmental issues. He joined the European Commission in 1993, when he was first responsible for the bilateral co-operation covering agricultural policies, rural development and the environment in the EC Delegation in Zimbabwe in Harare. After his University education, he started his professional career at the University of Göttingen, Germany in 1985. His main scientific and lecturing topics were natural resources economics and development economics, including extensive research in rural West Africa. He holds a doctoral degree in agricultural economics.

Humberto Delgado Rosa



Humberto Delgado Rosa was appointed as Director of Directorate C 'Mainstreaming Adaptation and Low Carbon Technology' in DG Climate Action of the European Commission, since mid-January 2012.

H. Delgado Rosa has relevant experience in European and international environmental policy, particularly in climate change issues. He served as Secretary of State for the Environment of the Portuguese Government from March 2005 to June 2011 and during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU in 2007, he acted as EU lead negotiator for the UN Climate Change Conference.

In 2005 H. Delgado Rosa was elected Member of the Portuguese Parliament for the Socialist Party, having interrupted his mandate to integrate the Government. Between 1995 and 2002 he has served as advisor for environmental matters to the Prime-Minister of Portugal.

He received both his PhD in Evolutionary Biology (1995) and his undergraduate degree in Biology (1983) from the University of Lisbon (UL), where he was assistant professor at the Department of Animal Biology Department and researcher at the Environmental Biology, Faculty of Sciences.

Humberto Delgado Rosa has been a member of several professional and scientific organizations and has served on the following boards: President, European Communities Biologists Association (1989-1991); General Secretary, Portuguese Biologists Association (1987-1995); President, Portuguese Society of Natural Sciences (2002-2005); founder and Vice-President, Portuguese Society of Herpetology (1993-2005); Member of the Board, European Society for Agriculture and Food Ethics (2003-2005); founder and General Assembly Chair, Portuguese Society of Environmental Ethics (2000-2005).

Dirk Meganck



Since 1 July 2008, Dirk Meganck is Director in the European Commission within Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid. He is responsible for the cooperation with the countries of Asia, Central Asia and Pacific.

He started his career in the European Commission in 1979 in Directorate General Budget and continued successively in the Study Group of the President of the Commission (1986/1987), the Economic and Social Committee (1988/1991) and Directorate General Employment (1992/1998) before joining Directorate General Enlargement (1999/June 2008). There, he started first as Negotiator for the accession of Slovakia to the European Union and then as Director responsible for the coordination of financial instruments and regional programming. He holds a master degree in business economics of the University of Louvain.

SPEAKERS

William Hanna



William Hanna was born in Belfast and began his education at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. He then attended the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, graduating as Master of Arts in French and European Law in 1977.

Following further studies at the University of Limoges, France and the College of Europe in Belgium, William Hanna joined the Irish Foreign Service in Dublin in 1978.

In 1981 he was posted to Brussels to the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU, where for the first time he became involved in the EU's external and development policy.

In 1983 he joined the European Commission, working in the Directorate-General for Development. Between 1987 and 1994 he was posted as Economic Adviser in European Delegations in the Caribbean and in Cameroon.

Back in Head quarters from 1994 to 2000, he served first as Head of Unit for Human Resources, and later Head of Division for West Africa. From 2000 -2004 William Hanna was Ambassador and Head of Delegation in Tanzania. From 2004-2008 he served as Ambassador in Uruguay and Paraguay. Back in Brussels from 2008 to 2010 he dealt with Regional Cooperation in Asia and travelled extensively in Asia.

He was appointed Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the EU to Bangladesh in November 2010, and presented credentials to the President of Bangladesh in March 2011.

Victoria Sisante Bataclan



Her Excellency Victoria S. Bataclan is the Ambassador of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Head of the Philippine Mission to the European Union starting in October 2012.

Madam Bataclan previously served as Ambassador to Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. She also served as the Consul General in Hong Kong, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Philippine Mission to the UN Office in Vienna, Consul General in Vienna, and as a diplomat officer at the Philippine Mission to the UN Office and Other International Organization in Geneva,

Switzerland.

At the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Madam Bataclan has served as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Affairs, the Office of European Affairs, the Office of Personnel and Administrative Services, and the Office of Legal Affairs.

Ambassador Bataclan is also a lawyer, economist and journalist.

Kirit Parikh



Dr. Kirit Parikh is Chairman of Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), New Delhi.

Dr. Parikh is a Former Member of the Planning Commission of India and the Founder Director (Vice Chancellor) of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai - An Advanced Research Institute from 1986 till 2000. In 1997-98, on sabbatical leave from the IGIDR, he was Special Economic Adviser to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York. From 1980-06, he was Program Leader of the Food and Agricultural Program of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria. From 1960-80, he was Professor of Economics (and sometimes Head) of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), New Delhi.

Widely recognized as architect of India's Integrated Energy Policy Committee, he was a Member of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) of five Prime Ministers of India: Atal Behari Vajpayee, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Chandra Shekhar, V.P. Singh and Rajiv Gandhi.

Honoured with Padma Bhushan by the President of India in March 2009, he is also a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India and honorary life member of the international Association of Agricultural Economists.

Dr. Kirit S. Parikh has a Doctor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master's Degree in Economics from MIT, USA. He has been a Professor of Economics since 1967. Dr. Parikh has authored, co-authored and edited 29 books in the areas of development planning and policy concerning planning, agricultural development, poverty, energy, environment, water resource management, trade and general equilibrium modeling. He has also published numerous articles.

Julian Wilson



Julian Wilson is currently the EU's Head of Delegation to Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and ASEAN, holding this position since August 2008.

Mr. Wilson has worked for 20 years within the European Union. He joined the EU in early 1990's to work on enlargement with central and eastern European countries, specialising in environmental work with the candidate countries. In 2001, he worked in Afghanistan, running the EU's aid programme after the fall of the Taliban regime. In 2003-2005, he returned to Brussels as Head of Unit for Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka. In 2005, he was made EU Head of Delegation to

Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Prior to joining the EU, Mr. Wilson worked with The Economist group in London as an editor and journalist. A British and French national, Mr. Wilson holds a Bachelor's Degree in geography and economics from London University's School of Oriental and African Studies as well as a Master's degree in Business Administration from City London Business School.

Jake Werksman



Jacob Werksman is Principal Adviser to DG-CLIMA and joined the Commission in April 2012. He is an international lawyer, specializing in international environmental law and international economic law. For over fifteen years, he has provided legal advice to governments and taught and published widely on the international legal dimensions of climate policy, including on the design of compliance mechanisms, climate finance and on the relationship between carbon markets and international trade and investment agreements.

Prior to joining the Commission, he held posts at the World Resources Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation, United Nations Development Programme and the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) in London. He has held teaching positions at the New York University Law School, Georgetown University Law Center and at the School of Oriental and African Studies and University College at the University of London.

Raman Letchumanan



Dr. Raman Letchumanan is currently the Head of the Environment Division at the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN Secretariat), where he is overall in charge of promoting regional cooperation on a whole range of environmental and conservation issues for the benefit of ASEAN Member States. From 2002 to 2008 he was also concurrently in charge of disaster management where, among others, he was responsible for drafting and finalizing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and its implementation. In 2008 he also concurrently held the position of Head of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Division where he assisted the lesser developed ASEAN member states to narrow

their development gap.

Prior to this assignment, Dr. Raman has served the Government of Malaysia for 20 years, since 1981, in various capacities in the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. The last position he held was as Director of the Conservation and Environmental Management Division, where he was responsible for formulation and coordination of environmental and conservation policies and strategies for the country. In that capacity, he has represented the Government of Malaysia in numerous international negotiations on environmental issues, particularly the climate change and biodiversity conventions.

Dr. Raman holds a Ph.D. specializing in trade and environment from the University of Tokyo, Japan. He has a first degree majoring in Mathematics and Physics, and a Masters Degree in Science Policy. He is also qualified professionally as a Chartered Management Accountant of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, United Kingdom, and as a Chartered Accountant of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants.

Nguyen Huu Ninh



Dr. Nguyen Huu Ninh is Chairman of the Center for Environment Research, Education and Development (CERED) – Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations, and Lecturer of Vietnam National University, Hanoi.

He is Professor, Doctor (Hon.) of University of Pécs (Hungary), Doctor of Science (Hon.) of University of East Anglia (U.K.), Lead Author Member of the Fourth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): Climate Change 2007, which was awarded by Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He is a Co-Founder of International Program on Climate Change and Variability Risk Reduction based in the

Pacific Disaster Center (Hawaii, USA), and Adjunct Faculty of San Diego State University (California, USA). He is also the Honorary Member of the Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD).

He has conducted a series of projects on environment and climate change in Vietnam and a wider Southeast Asia region during 25 years, contributed to many international programmes, and published articles and books in various environmental fields. He was the author of article on Flooding in Mekong River Delta, Vietnam in UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008; co-authors of Living with Environmental Change: Social vulnerability, adaptation and resilience in Vietnam, Routledge, London, 2001 & Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in Vietnam, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2003.

His education background can be found at: <http://english.pte.hu/pdf.php?id=392&type=contents>.

Kersten-Karl Barth



Kersten is Sustainability Director at Siemens AG and responsible for the company's global sustainability program and implementation.

A particular focus of his work lies in turning sustainability into a competitive advantage for the Business Units. During his almost 20 years at Siemens, Kersten has held various positions across the company's portfolio and geographical reach, ranging from hydropower in Latin America to industrial energy efficiency in Europe and field service for power plants worldwide.

He holds a Master's degree in engineering from the University of Dortmund.

Laura Cozzi



Laura Cozzi is Deputy Head of the Office of the Chief Economist at the International Energy Agency. She is a lead author of the World Energy Outlook, the IEA's flagship publication. She is in charge of the modelling and climate teams producing the Outlook. She joined the IEA in 1999, since then contributing to several editions of the World Energy Outlook. As Deputy Head of the Office, Ms. Cozzi plays a pivotal role in coordinating and shaping the key policy messages arising from long-term energy and climate trends for the IEA senior management and IEA's member governments. Ms. Cozzi presented the World Energy Outlook at different international fora, to high-level government officials and energy-industry executives.

Prior to joining the Agency, she worked as an energy economist for the Italian oil company Eni SpA.

Ms. Cozzi is Italian. She holds a MSc in Environmental Engineering from Milan Polytechnic and a Master in Energy and Environmental Economics.

Kaveh Zahedi



Kaveh Zahedi is the Deputy Director of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Paris. He oversees the work of UNEP-DTIE covering green economy, resource efficiency, chemicals, waste and climate change. He is also the Coordinator of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition Secretariat. Prior to his current appointment, Kaveh was the UNEP Climate Change Coordinator, responsible for the organisation's climate programme and for leading the delegation and coordinating UNEP's inputs to the UN Climate Talks. As Climate coordinator he helped to set major new partnerships such as the UN-REDD Programme (with UNDP and FAO) and the Ecosystem Based Adaptation Programme (with IUCN, and UNDP).

Before taking up his assignment as climate coordinator, Kaveh was the Acting Director of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (2004-2007). Kaveh has also worked at UNEP headquarters in Kenya (1995-1999) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico (1999-2004). Before joining UNEP, he worked at a Non Governmental Organisation in the UK as project manager for development microfinance and credit projects in Latin America and the Middle East.

Kaveh holds a Masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA, and a BSc (Econ.) first class degree in Economics & Geography, from University College London in the UK.

David McCauley



David McCauley heads climate change programs at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) based in Manila, Philippines. He has worked around the world on sustainable development issues, designing regional and national environmental policies and mobilizing financing for climate change actions and environmental management. He has lectured widely and serves as ADB's chief spokesperson on climate change matters.

At ADB he is responsible for ensuring the policy and technical coherence of climate change programs, which operate at the project, country and regional levels. He also represents ADB in international and national dialogue on addressing the causes and consequences of climate change. He coordinates ADB's work with bilateral and multilateral partner agencies, private sector groups, non-governmental organizations and private foundations on environment and climate change cooperation. During 2011, he was seconded part-time to the UNFCCC Secretariat as a member of the Technical Support Unit to the Transitional Committee for Design of the Green Climate Fund.

Before joining ADB in 2004, he worked as a policy advisor to many development organizations and as staff member of the East-West Center, USAID, Ford Foundation and Harvard Institute for International Development. McCauley holds a PhD in resource economics from the University of Hawaii / East-West Center in Honolulu, with undergraduate training in environmental policy and science.

Monika Beck



Ms. Beck is a Member of the Board as well as the Investment Committee of various development funds, including the Green for Growth Fund, Southeast Europe and the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE), one of the largest microfinance investment funds worldwide. Besides her role in these Funds, Ms. Beck also serves as the head of the Financial and Private Sector Development in Southeast Europe division for KfW Entwicklungsbank.

Ms. Beck has been involved in many financial sector development programmes worldwide. She is a nationally and internationally recognised expert on small and micro enterprise (SME) promotion as well as energy efficiency loan programmes in Eastern Europe. She played an active role in developing these programmes and setting up new innovative instruments in the field of structured financial products.

Ismat Jahan



Ambassador Jahan is a career diplomat and a member of the Bangladesh Foreign Service. She is currently Bangladesh Ambassador to Belgium and is concurrently accredited to the European Union and Luxembourg. Prior to Belgium, she was Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York with concurrent accreditation as Ambassador to Peru and Chile. She has distinction of being the first woman Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN. She is specialized in multilateral diplomacy.

In 2010, Ms. Jahan was elected to the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for a four year term (2011-2014). Her first Ambassadorial appointment was to the Netherlands with concurrent accreditation to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Poland. During her long diplomatic career, Ambassador Jahan served in a number of positions both in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Missions abroad.

Ambassador Jahan holds a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Dhaka. Also she has a Master of Arts Degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston. Her other academic achievements include a certificate with distinction from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Ranieri Sabatucci



Ranieri Sabatucci is Head of Division in Asia and the Pacific Department of the EEAS, responsible for the overall coordination of EU relations with the countries and the region of the Pacific including managing EU political dialogue, relations with third countries and international institutions, programming of Development Assistance, representation and public diplomacy.

From 2005-2008, Ranieri was Assistant to the Director General of DG Development, and from 2004-2005 he was Coordinator of Relations with Pan-African Institutions and Coordinator of the Peace Facility for Africa. From 2000-2004, he was Political, Economic and Trade Officer in the Delegation of the European Commission in South Africa and prior to this he was Development Adviser with the EC Delegation in Tanzania.

Ranieri has a M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics.

Chencho Norbu



Chencho Norbu led the Delegation from Bhutan to COPs of UNCCD since its ratification. During the last 10 year period, he represented the Asia and Pacific region as the vice-chair of CST (Committee of Science and Technology) in 2006 and 2007, and the chair of CRIC (Committee for Review and Implementation of the Convention) in 2010 and 2011. CST and CRIC are the two subsidiary bodies of UNCCD. UNCCD adopted 10th Year Strategy to implement the Convention in 2008, and the current Mid-Term Evaluation of the Strategy is going on through Inter-sessional Group (IWG) formed by COP 10 decision. Chencho is nominated as the chair of IWG by the

Regional Annexes of the Convention that met in Bonn in Feb 2012.

Chencho was a member of high level delegations to UNFCCC COP 15 and COP 17. He took part in the High level Conference on the World Forum in 2010: Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change; the Delhi Ministerial Dialogue: Technology Mechanism in preparation to COP 16; the Conference on World Food Security in 2008: Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy; and the Global Water Partnership Conference in 2008 as the Chair of Bhutan Water Partnership. During the Bhutan Climate Summit 2011 held in Thimphu, Chencho was the technical team leader from Bhutan and guided the preparation of Food Security and Climate Change technical paper. He was also a member of the review team for the Second National Communication Report of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2011 to UNFCCC.

Chencho has published more than 17 technical papers on Soil and Land management areas in the local and international journals. He had travelled extensively in remote areas of Bhutan, and one of his recent technical reports published was on “*Soil and Plant Biodiversity Study along the Snow-man Trek in Bhutan*”, where one could see many glaciers and glacial lakes. He has been serving as the Director of Agriculture Department for the past 4,5 years and soon he will be heading the Department of Forest and Park services under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

Bhichit Rattakul



Dr. Bhichit Rattakul has over 20 years experience in Science and Technology Research in policy and management as well as Disaster Management, Environmental Education and Research and has been a key supporter of multi-cultural Natural Resources and Disaster Management programs. He is a key advocate and promoter of community-based disaster risk reduction activities. With a doctorate in Microbiology from USA, he taught at Faculty of Science at Chulalongkorn University during ‘80s.

His work has encompassed both academic and political arenas, and was elected three times as a Member of Parliament and served as Science and Technology Portfolio Cabinet member of Royal Thai Government. Again during the early year of 2000 he was elected as Governor of Bangkok and in 2005 was elected as senator from Bangkok in his last political assignment.

Dr. Bhichit joined Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in 2005 and served as the Executive Director until November 2011. Currently, he is the Special Advisor to ADPC.

Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia



Ali'ioaiga Feturi Elisaia is Samoa's Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the United Nations and is concurrently Ambassador to the United States of America and High Commissioner to Canada, posts he has held since September 2003.

Before his current appointment, Ambassador Elisaia was Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Corporate and Support Services, in the Samoan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade since April 2001. He was seconded from Samoa's Public Service to serve as Co-Director of the Samoa Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (a German Political Foundation), between March 1988 and March 2001, and also served as Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs from December 1984 until February 1988.

Ambassador Elisaia was First Secretary at Samoa's High Commission in New Zealand between December 1981 and March 1984. Between October 1979 and November 1981, he served first as Acting Division Head, and then as substantive Head of Economic and Aid Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served in the Samoan Mission to the United Nations in New York between June and October of 1979.

During his current tenure, Ambassador Elisaia has served as Chairman of the Pacific Islands Forum Group in New York (2004 - 2005), Representative of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on the Bureau of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (2007 - 2008), and one of the two SIDS representatives on the Transitional Committee that designed the Green Climate Fund (2011).

Ambassador Elisaia is Samoa's Global Environment Facility (GEF) Political Focal Point (2006 to present), and his Government's representative on the Bureau of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (2005 to present).

Christoph Pusch



Christoph Pusch is Lead Specialist for Disaster Risk Management, and GFDRR's Deputy-Manager with focus on Strategy, Knowledge, and Advisory Services.

Mr. Pusch has a long track record in managing a diverse portfolio of large scale emergency reconstruction projects and multi-sector risk mitigation programs. He also developed comprehensive disaster risk strategies for regions and countries. As a core member of the Bank's Global Expert Team on Disaster Risk Management he provides advisory services to Bank teams and client countries on policy, strategy, and operational issues. Mr. Pusch joined GFDRR in September 2010. Previously, as Regional Coordinator, he led the disaster risk management agenda in South Asia and

was based in India. He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Technical University of Berlin.

Maarten Van Aalst



Dr Maarten van Aalst is Director of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, the reference centre on climate risk management for the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, responsible for operational support on climate risk management; innovation, analysis and documentation of experience; and liaising with scientific and policy communities on climate change, disaster risk management and development planning.

Maarten has also worked on climate risk management with several other international organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, OECD, UNDP, DFID and DGIS.

He is Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC Special Report on Extremes and Lead Author of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, and holds an adjoint Research Scientist position at the International Research for Climate and Society at Columbia University. He has also taught climate risk management at, among others, the World Bank Institute, the IMF/World Bank/African Development Bank Joint Africa Institute, United Nations University, ITC, and Wageningen University. He received his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science from Utrecht University, where he worked with Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen.