

## 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Stakeholder Forum Opening Cermony

## Moderators & Speakers Biographies



**Co-Moderator:** Elizabeth Petheo Asia Pacific Regional Representative & Principal Miyamoto International, Inc.

Elizabeth Petheo is based in Bangkok, Thailand, where she is the Regional Representative for Miyamoto International, Inc., a structural engineering and disaster risk-reduction firm, playing a key leadership role in the development and implementation of projects and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region. She was part of Miyamoto's disaster response and recovery programs following the Ecuador and Mexico earthquakes. Throughout her career, Elizabeth has worked with U.S. government agencies, foreign country governments, the private sector, multilateral donors and international

& local organizations, such as the World Bank in Washington, D.C. She successfully led complex multimillion-dollar field response operations in post-earthquake Haiti and a post-Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami humanitarian assistance program during active civil war in Sri Lanka.



**Co-Moderator:** Adessou Kossivi Director of Africa Regional Office, GNDR

Specialist of International Environmental Law (IEL), he has developed expertise in Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management. He applies his hands-on experience to lead and coordinate civil society organizations and networks in Africa. Kossivi is an advocate of shifting power from the international system to community-led capacities, preparedness and response facilitated by the local organizations. As the global lead of Climate Change at GNDR, Kossivi contributes with several partners to making Loss and Damage a standalone and key topic to promote solidarity, responsibility and social justice toward community victims of climate related events. He is the newly elected co-chair

of the Global Board of Climate Action Network International (CAN-I). He has worked in Togo, Mozambique, and Senegal covering climate change Adaptation and DRM and development topics.



**Speaker:** Mami Mizutori Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN DRR

Mami Mizutori is the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDDR). Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Mizutori was Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, University of East Anglia, UK from 2011. Ms. Mizutori served for twenty-seven years in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in various capacities, including: Budget Director; Director of the Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) at the Embassy of Japan in London; Director of the National Security Policy Division, Director of the United Nations Policy Division; Director of the Status of US Forces Agreement Division; and Deputy Director of the Personnel Division.



**Speaker:** Inia Batikoto Seruiratu Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Fiji

Inia Batikoto Seruiratu is the Minister for Rural, Maritime
Development and Disaster Management and Minister for
Defense, National Security and Policing. As a minister in the
FijiFirst Government, Mr. Seruiratu has led efforts to better
prepare communities and enhance their resilience to the impacts
of natural disasters, which are occurring with greater intensity due
to climate change. Mr. Seruiratu joined the Native Land

Development Corporation in 1984 before joining the Republic of Fiji Military Forces in 1987 as a Commissioned Officer. His career in the civil service began in 2007 when he was appointed the Commissioner of Fiji's Northern Division. In 2011, he was appointed as the Permanent Secretary and soon after the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management.



**Speaker**:Carlos Kaiser Mansilla Executive Director, ONG Inclusiva

Carlos Kaiser is an Executive Director of ONG Inclusiva, Chile, and a former Representative of the Network for Inclusive Disability Disaster Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean. He is the Global Focal Point for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disability, member of the Advisor Committee Inclusive Climate Action and Research Program on Disability, promoted by the Law School of the prestigious Mcgill University of

Canada, honorary member of the Mexican Professional Association of Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection. Carlos Kaiser is the creator of the world special team COVID-19 and disability. His work in DRR has been recognized through multiple awards, as he is the winner of the Risk Award 2014, winner of Ramazzini Carvalhoy Award 2021, winner of Camiseteado Award Emergency and Disaster Category, and he was nominated for the Sasakawa award 2015-2019.



**Speaker:** Sonika Poudel
Program Director, Youth For Environment Education and
Development

Sonika Poudel is a Program Director at the Youth For Environment Education and Development (YFEED) Foundation. Coming from Nepal, she is the Asia Pacific Regional Focal point for Sendai Stakeholders at the UN MGCY and a UN ESCAP Youth Voice for Climate Action (YV4CA) advocate. She also works as an administrative associate with the SAARC Youth Platform. She has worked

as the Vice President of the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences and Secretary of the Agriculture Students Liaison Forum. Since 2018, Sonia worked on a number of climate and human welfare projects, involving participatory rural appraisal and capacity building, awareness campaigns, clean energy integration, capturing the voices of children and youth in disaster risk management and climate crisis, relief distribution during the Covid-19 crisis, and national and regional forums.



**Speaker:** Chandra Tripura Executive Council, Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network

Chandra Tripura is the youth representative to the Executive Counsel of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and she is the coordinator at the Tripura Indigenous People of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh. She is one of the co-founders of Bangladesh Indigenous Cultural Forum. She is the founder of Hill Resource Center a multi-purpose initiative to contribute towards promotion of indigenous culture and community

Development that provides financial support to two local primary schools. Chandra represents the Bangladesh youth at the country focal of Asia Indigenous Youth Platform.

During COVID-19 pandemic, she along with some dedicated

youth activists established an online platform Jonno Jumma Tarunner Valobasha (Love of Indigenous Youths for IPs) that has provided cash support and food ration to about 600 families in CHT. She is also involved with Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, Shikkha Unnoyon Songstha, and Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council.



**Speaker:** Kurt Kunz Ambassador of Switzerland to Indonesia, Timor-Leste and ASEAN

Kurt Kunz joined the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1987 and completed his diplomatic training in Bern, Ottawa and Geneva. On 8 October 2018, Mr. Kunz handed over his Letter of Presentation to the Secretary General of ASEAN, Dato Lim Jock Hoi, and on 8 November 2018, he presented his Letters of Credence to President Joko Widodo accrediting him as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Switzerland to the Republic of Indonesia.

On 28 February 2019, he presented his Letters of Credence to President Francisco Guterres Lú Olo, accrediting him as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Switzerland to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. In 2014-2018, Kurt Kunz From served as Ambassador of Switzerland to Colombia. He has been part of the Swiss diplomatic delegations to Brazil, Austria, Spain, NATO, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and others. In 2010-2014, He was an Assistant Director General and Head of the Department for Cooperation with Eastern Europe at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Bern.