Asia Public Policy Forum:
Disaster Management in Asia, May 13 – 15, 2012

Speaker Biographies

Rebecca Barber, Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Advisor with Save the Children International, has worked in the humanitarian relief and development sector for the past ten years. Prior to joining Save the Children, Rebecca worked with Oxfam Great Britain as a Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Advisor, with deployments to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and South Sudan. Rebecca has also worked with World Vision Australia, the Norwegian Refugee Council (managing legal assistance services in Pakistan following the 2005 earthquake and the 2007 floods), the International Rescue Committee (managing a protection and rule of law program in Darfur and humanitarian relief programs in Aceh after the 2005 tsunami), and the Judicial Systems Monitoring Program in Timor Leste. Rebecca has Master’s degrees in international development and international law and has written on international human rights and humanitarian law and protection for a range of international law journals including the International Review of the Red Cross and the Journal of Conflict and Security Law.

Caroline Brassard is Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Earlier in her career, she worked as an economist for the Government of Ontario in Canada and then undertook research and long term consultancy work on poverty reduction strategies for several international non-governmental organizations in developing countries, including the United Nations Children's Fund in Madagascar, CARE in Bangladesh, and Save the Children in Vietnam. She then went on to undertake a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of London, where she taught empirical analysis for economics and management for two years, prior to joining the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Caroline continues to consult with various international organizations, including the United Nations Development Program, and she teaches on aid governance, research methods, economic development policy, poverty alleviation strategies, and empirical analysis for public policy. Her current research focuses on aid governance in Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia, and Vietnam, comparing policies to alleviate poverty and reduce inequalities. She also conducts research on the development policy lessons from the post-tsunami reconstruction in Aceh, Indonesia and recently co-edited a Special Issue of the Asian Journal of Social Science on “Post Disaster Societies.”

Gerry Brownlee is the Member of Parliament for the Christchurch constituency of Ilam, a seat he has held since 1996. He has been Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery since soon after a devastating 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Christchurch on September 4, 2010. His role expanded following the 22nd of February 2011 when a 6.3 magnitude quake hit the city, killing 185 people and resulting in widespread residential and commercial property destruction. The earthquakes, and the subsequent rebuilding of New Zealand’s second largest city, together constitute New Zealand’s costliest event. Minister Brownlee is also Leader of the House, managing the Government’s legislative program; Minister of Transport; and Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission. During his political career, he has served as Junior Whip and Deputy Leader of the National Party, Minister for Economic Development, Minister of Energy and Resources, and Associate Minister for the Rugby World Cup. He is ranked third in the Cabinet.
Sokha Chrin is the Deputy Director General, General Directorate of Technical Affairs at Cambodia’s Ministry of Environment (MOE). He has held this position since 2005 and has served in the MOE since 1993. His expertise lies in environmental quality control and management, solid and hazardous waste management, environmental impact assessments, hydropower, water safety and emergency response, water quality, flooding, climate change, and general environmental policy. Dr. Chrin is also a member of several working groups on the Cambodian National Mekong Committee, including the Mekong River Commission and groups involved with the promotion of green growth initiatives. While working for the MOE, he earned his Doctoral Diploma of Science in Management of Engineering and Technology in 2005.

Chu Songyan is Professor of Political Science at the Chinese Academy of Governance. Dr. Chu’s research interests cover governance innovation, public participation, and emergency management. She has been in charge of two youth projects funded by the China National Social Science Foundation and two projects funded by China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs and the National Disaster Reduction Committee. Professor Chu is also an International Scholar in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University and a member of the Council of Social Organizations to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. She has published three monographs and more than 60 papers, among which *The Development of Citizenship Rights and Political Participation in China* won the First Prize of the first Excellent Research Achievement Awards from the Chinese Academy of Governance in 2009.

Steve Clarke is the Chief Executive of the Centre for Advanced Engineering (CAE), a not for profit organization set up 24 years ago to celebrate 100 years of teaching of engineering at a tertiary level in New Zealand. With the objective of enhancing New Zealand’s prosperity through shared knowledge, CAE has a strong history of work in the areas of risk and resilience. Application of this work has reduced the impacts of the recent Christchurch quake sequences on lifelines utilities with associated community and economic benefits. Steve has a general management background in the finance and insurance sectors and has a particular interest in the relationship among risk identification, infrastructure resilience, and mitigation strategies as well as how they impact funding and risk transfer mechanisms.

Patrick Daly is a Senior Fellow at the University Scholars Programme, National University of Singapore. He completed a Ph.D. at the University of Oxford in 2003 and held post-doctoral and research appointments at Cambridge University and the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. Employing a combination of anthropological and environmental archaeological methods, his research focuses on human responses to changing environmental conditions and long-term sequences of human-environmental interactions. Additionally, he has worked in Indonesia, Palestine, and Cambodia on the reconstitution of communities in post-conflict and post-disaster situations. He has spent the past seven years working on community level recovery following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, publishing a number of articles and book chapters and editing *Mapping the Acehnese Past* (2011 KITLV Press) and *From the Ground Up: Perspectives on Post-Conflict and Post-Tsunami Aceh* (2012 ISEAS Press). He is currently working on *Rebuilding Asia: Approaches to Post-Disaster Reconstruction in the Asia-Pacific Region* and *Zero Hour: Re-Thinking Reconstruction and Recovery*. 
Bill Durodié is a Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. In June, he will become a professor in the School of Peace and Conflict Management of Royal Roads University - Canada's University for Working Professionals - based in Victoria, British Columbia. He has a significant international profile and reputation in the fields of risk analysis and communication, and his publications appear in top-rated journals as well as on the reading lists of some of the world’s leading universities. He is an Associate Fellow of the prestigious Chatham House think tank in London and an Adjunct Professor at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong, the top Chinese civil service and leadership education academy. Educated at Imperial College, the London School of Economics, and the University of Oxford, he completed his Ph.D. at the Center for Decision Analysis and Risk Management of Middlesex University in the United Kingdom.

Said Faisal is the Executive Director of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (the AHA Centre). Previously, he worked for the Indonesian President’s Delivery Unit for Development, Monitoring, and Oversight where he assisted with establishing the AHA center. Following the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004, Mr. Faisal was appointed the Deputy Head of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR) for Aceh and Nias and held that position until 2009. Before helping to lead BRR, he worked at the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank in Jakarta where he was responsible for the Business Enabling Environment program covering access to finance for rural banks, microfinance institutions, and women entrepreneurs. Said Faisal started his career in 1999 at Phoenix Home Life, a financial services company in Chicago. Upon returning to Indonesia, he joined the Jakarta Initiative Task Force and served as Senior Manager until 2003. Said Faisal received his Bachelor’s degree in Economics/Management from Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, Indonesia and has a Master’s degree in Insurance/Finance from the University of Hartford in the United States.

Lilianne Fan is a Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), in the United Kingdom. Her research interests include governance and institutional transformation in crisis and transition contexts; post-crisis livelihood recovery and land use; and civil-military coordination in disaster contexts. Prior to joining ODI she had served as Housing, Land and Property Coordinator for the IASC Cluster System in Haiti, as Advisor to the ASEAN Special Envoy on Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar, as a member of the advisory team of the Governor of Aceh on sustainable development, and as Senior Policy Coordinator for Oxfam International in Aceh and Nias. She has also supported and advised Acehnese humanitarian, human rights, and refugee organisations since 1999. Lilianne holds a Master of Arts on Anthropology from Columbia University.

Nathaniel Forbes is a past board member of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) www.iaem.com.sg. He is an MBCI and a CBCP. His Calamity Prevention blog and Twitter feed @NathanielForbes are entertaining sources of insight and opinion about organizational and community resilience in Asia. His WCDM 2010 presentation, Water & Emergencies: The Impact of Thirst was one of WCDM’s highest-rated presentations. He is preparing a sequel, Food & Emergencies: The Impact of Hunger, for WCDM 2012. Since 1996, Forbes Calamity Prevention has advised Sony Electronics, Fidelity Investments, AXA Insurance, Siemens, BP, Ashok Leyland, Singapore Exchange, and other multinational companies with offices in Asia.
David Giles is the Assistant Director of the Program on Crisis Leadership at Harvard Kennedy School. In addition to playing a leadership role in the administration of the program, he conducts research and writes on issues relating to crisis events and high-risk hazards. He co-edited with Arnold Howitt and Dutch Leonard the textbook Managing Crises: Responses to Large-Scale Emergencies (CQ Press, 2009) and is the author of numerous Harvard Kennedy School case studies, including one that explores the management of post-tsunami recovery in Aceh Province, Indonesia. He also serves as a teaching fellow for two Harvard courses: Crisis Management and Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief and Recovery. Previous to coming to Harvard, Mr. Giles was a staff researcher at the Institute of Medicine, a division of the National Academies in Washington, DC. He received his M.A. from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University.

Madhukar Gupta is Divisional Commissioner for the Government of Rajasthan, India. He holds engineering, business, and law degrees from Delhi University and was selected as a Mason Fellow by Harvard for a Master’s degree in Public Administration. The Government of India also sent him to Syracuse University’s Maxwell School for a Master’s degree in Public Policy. Last year, he received a Ph.D. in Disaster Mitigation and Risk Reduction. He has worked in the Indian Government, provincial governments of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, United Nations Development Program, non-profit sector, and as Vice Chancellor of a state university. Dr. Gupta has also spent thirteen years as a practitioner as Divisional Commissioner in four divisions (regions), District Magistrate in three districts, and Sub-Divisional Magistrate in two places. He has received awards from the National Productivity Council and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. He has traveled to four dozen countries for work and published several papers.

Sajedul Hasan is Director of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Thailand and has worked in the emergency and development sector for more than twenty years. He has extensive experience in strategic leadership, policy formulation, and management in the fields of emergency preparedness and response, food and livelihood security, community health, and conflict management. He has worked with CARE International in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Jordan, and Georgia. He has also worked with Save the Children in Bangladesh and the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh. He is an expert in community based disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and development programs, emergency response, partnership programming with governments and NGOs, training and capacity building, and participatory planning. Mr. Hasan earned his Master's degree in Social Science from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh in 1981.

Haruo Hayashi is a Professor at the Kyoto University Graduate School of Informatics. He also belongs to the Research Center for Disaster Reduction Systems at Kyoto University’s Disaster Prevention Research Institute where he has taught since 1994. He received both his Bachelor’s and Master's degrees from Waseda University and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles. The general focus of Dr. Hayashi's work is on societal and human reactions to disasters, risk communication and education, information systems for disaster management, standardization of emergency operations, and multi-hazard risk assessment. Dr. Hayashi has published widely on disaster-related topics, and major publications include “Saigai Ethnography,” ISBN:9784140814055, (2009), Japan Broadcast Publishing Co., Ltd; “Shinayakana Shakai no Sozo,” ISBN: 9784861304255, (2009), Nikkei BP Consulting, Inc; “Soshiki no Kiki Kanri Nyumon,” ISBN:4621079514, (2008), Maruzen Co., Ltd; and “Inochi wo Mamoru Jishin Bosaigaku,” ISBN:4000050486, (2003), Iwanami Shoten.
Arnold M. Howitt is Executive Director of the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is also Faculty Co-Director of the Program on Crisis Leadership, which conducts research, executive education programs, and action projects. Dr. Howitt has worked extensively on emergency preparedness and crisis management issues in the US and abroad. He is currently researching emergency evacuation systems in the US, advising the City of Los Angeles on disaster recovery, and serving as an adviser and trainer-of-trainers for China’s National Institute of Emergency Management. Among other writing, Dr. Howitt is co-author/editor of *Public Health Preparedness* (forthcoming), *Managing Crises: Responses to Large-Scale Emergencies* (2009), and *Countering Terrorism: Dimensions of Preparedness* (2003). A Harvard faculty member and administrator since 1976, Dr. Howitt received his B.A. degree from Columbia University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Harvard University.

Tavida Kamolvej is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate Study at the School of Political Science at Thammasat University in Thailand. Her primary research interests are disaster management and public policy analysis. In addition to her academic work, Professor Kamolvej has served as an advisor to a number of domestic and international disaster management efforts, including Thailand’s Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System Workshop, Thailand’s National Disaster Warning Center, the Thai delegation to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the U.S. State Department’s Senior Crisis Management Program in collaboration with American University in Washington, D.C. Professor Kamolvej holds a doctorate in Philosophy, Public Administration, and Public Policy from the University of Pittsburgh where she wrote her dissertation about the integration of intergovernmental coordination and information management in Thailand’s emergency management system.

Yoshiaki Kawata is Director and Professor, Faculty of Safety Science at Kansai University. He is currently the President of the Japan Society of Disaster Information and previously headed the Japan Society for Natural Disaster Science. He also directed the Disaster Prevention Research Institute at Kyoto University from 2005 to 2007 and became the founding Director of the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution at Kobe University in 2002. Dr. Kawata has published more than 700 technical papers and 50 books on disaster management, and he has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field. These include the 1993 Japan Society of Civil Engineers Award, the 1994 Japan Society for Natural Disaster Science Award, the 2009 Prime Minister’s Distinguished Services Commendation in the field of disaster management, and the 2007 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction (for which he was a laureate). Professor Kawata graduated from Kyoto University’s Department of Civil Engineering in 1969 and obtained his Ph.D. from Kyoto University in 1976.

Kenji Koshiyama is an Associate Professor on the Faculty of Safety Science at Kansai University in Japan. Previously, he served as a Senior Researcher at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution in Hyogo, Japan from 2002 to 2009 and an Associate Researcher at Kobe University in Japan from 1998 to 2002. He received his Ph.D. from Kobe University in 2002. He completed his B.S. degree in environmental planning in 1995 and his M.S. degree in architecture and urban planning in 1997, also at Kobe University. His research focuses on disaster mitigation and recovery planning and how organizations respond to disasters. He has published widely on urban reconstruction and planning, post-disaster housing programs, and the Japanese Government’s system for responding to earthquakes.
Oliver Lacey-Hall heads the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). He has 25 years of experience in humanitarian work, with an initial focus on refugee issues followed by coordination and communications work, mixed with project and program management. Prior to taking his current post in March 2011, he was Deputy Director of OCHA’s Communications and Information Services Branch in New York. Previous experience includes humanitarian coordination and response issues in China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Iraq, Croatia, Armenia, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Development Program, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Commission. He has also managed the UN’s Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team for Asia Pacific (2002 to 2005), was responsible for OCHA’s information management team, and spearheaded development of OCHA’s surge capacity mechanisms.

Herman B. “Dutch” Leonard is George F. Baker, Jr. Professor of Public Management at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and Faculty Co-Director of the Kennedy School’s Program on Crisis Leadership, and Eliot I. Snider and Family Professor of Business Administration and Co-Chair of the Social Enterprise Initiative at Harvard Business School. His current research concentrates on crisis management, corporate social responsibility, and performance management. He is the faculty co-chair of the Kennedy School’s Leadership in Crises executive program and of the joint Kennedy School and Harvard Graduate School of Education executive program on crisis management for higher education institutions. He is the co-director of the Kennedy School’s Project on Acting in Time for Landscape Scale Disasters and principal investigator for the Kennedy School’s Project on Advance Recovery. He was a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on the Mitigation of Natural Disasters and is now a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Catastrophic Risk. He has advised numerous international, national, state, provincial, local, nonprofit, and private organizations and executives about crisis leadership and preparation and about crisis recovery. Among other writing, he is the co-editor and co-author of Managing Crises: Responses to Large Scale Emergencies.

Gary Littlewood retired from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service in January 2012 after serving the organization for 43 years. Most recently, he was the Executive Manager for Special Operations. During his career, he led numerous relief operations, such as Queensland’s relief efforts after the 1997 Thredbo Disaster, Australia’s response to the 1999 Taiwan earthquake, and the Australian USAR response to the 2009 Samoa Tsunami. Mr. Littlewood also has extensive crisis management teaching experience. Specifically, he has worked as an instructor in all levels of technical rescue and developed training courses for urban search and rescue, vertical rescue, confined space rescue, and trench rescue. While with the Fire and Rescue Service, Mr. Littlewood was responsible for numerous reforms to Queensland’s emergency response system, including designing and building the USAR cache to have a capability for state, national, and international response and introducing paramedics to the Queensland TF/1 Team.

Saiful Mahdi is a faculty member in Statistics within the Mathematics Department of the College of Science at the Syiah Kuala University (www.unsyiah.ac.id) in Banda Aceh. He is a Fulbright Scholar with a Master’s degree in Statistics from the University of Vermont in Burlington and a Ph.D. in Regional Science, specializing in Applied Econometrics, from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Dr. Mahdi is the co-founder and first Executive Director of The Aceh Institute, the first Banda Aceh-based think-tank. He is now the Executive Director of and a researcher at the International Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies (ICAIOS), based in Banda Aceh (www.acehresearch.org). He has also been a consultant for local government in Aceh and several national and international institutions. His research interests include discourses in social capital, demography, regional economics and planning, applied econometrics, and the use of quantitative methods in social sciences and policy analysis.
Lilian Mercado Carreon is the Advisor to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Partnership and Resource Mobilisation for the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management & Emergency Response (AADMER). She developed the implementation plan for AADMER and supports the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs Division of the ASEAN Secretariat. Ms. Mercado is seconded to the ASEAN Secretariat by Oxfam Great Britain. She is also the head of the Management Team for the APG Programme, a consortium of NGOs that facilitates the people-centered implementation of AADMER. She supports APG country leads in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam. From 2001-2010, she was the Oxfam Country Director for the Philippines. She also served as the interim Regional Program Manager of Oxfam for East Asia and South Asia and the Senior Program Manager in Aceh during Oxfam’s response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Working with the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, Kerry O’Neill led strategic planning for the rebuilding of communities most impacted by the devastating 2009 "Black Saturday" bushfires in Australia. Her work focused on engagement with local communities to identify priorities for recovery, long term planning and the design and scoping of catalyst projects for rebuilding the communities of Marysville and Kinglake Ranges. For her work, she received the Premier’s departmental award for consultation, collaboration, and implementation. Kerry previously worked as Director for Strategic Initiatives with the Victorian Government’s sustainable development agency. She has extensive experience as a senior executive in government agencies, local government, and the community sector. Kerry has a Master's degree in urban policy and planning and her expertise includes integrated urban planning, community engagement, and sustainable urban development. Kerry currently provides consulting services in community engagement and strategic planning.

Takahiro Ono is a Senior Researcher at the Asian Disaster Reduction Center's (ADRC) Certified Business Continuity Institute based in Kobe, Japan. Recently, he conducted a study entitled, “Business Continuity Planning (BCP) Status of the Private Sector in the APEC Region 2011.” Before working at ADRC, he was a Chief Consultant in the Business Resilience Department at Tokio Marine Nichido Risk Consulting Co. Ltd. In that capacity, he assisted public and private organizations in creating risk management and business continuity management (BCM) plans. Previously, he worked as a secretary in the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee set at the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. Mr. Ono began his career in 1991 at Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance where he assisted various enterprises in creating risk management by providing risk financial solutions with BCM.

Dicky Pelupessy is an academic and practitioner, defining himself as a reflective practitioner in the fields of disaster and disaster risk reduction. He was the coordinator in Aceh for the Pulih Foundation, a national NGO working on trauma recovery and psychosocial interventions. He is a lecturer in the Faculty of Psychology at the University of Indonesia and now directs the Crisis Center of the Faculty of Psychology. He is also the chair of the executive committee of the Indonesian Network of Psychosocial and Mental Health in Disaster Response and vice chair of the Indonesian National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Recently, he contributed a chapter on Indonesia to the book, Community Resilience in Natural Disasters, edited by Anouk Ride and Diane Bretherton (2011, Palgrave Macmillan).
Emma Porio is a Professor of Sociology and Chairperson of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ateneo de Manila University. She has headed several social science organizations, including the Philippine Sociological Society, the Philippine Social Science Council, and Commission on Higher Education Technical Panel for Sociology and Anthropology. A member of the Board of the International Sociological Association (ISA), she represents ISA on the Board of Directors of the Global Development Network. She also is a research advisor to several civil society organizations specializing in urban/local governance, housing, children, poverty, and gender. She is a recipient of several fellowships, including Innovative Programs on Local Governance Fellowship at the Ash Institute at the Harvard Kennedy School in 2004. She has written several books, including *Partnership with the Poor, Pathways to Decentralization,* and *Urban Governance and Poverty Alleviation in Southeast Asia,* but her research in recent years has focused on cities and climate change adaptation.

William Sabandar is the Chief Operating Officer of the Indonesian Task Force for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and Special Assistant to the Head of the President’s Delivery Unit (UKP4), 2011-2012. He was appointed as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of ASEAN for Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar and the Head of the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force Operation from 2009 to 2010. Between 2005 and 2009, he was the Head of Nias Recovery at the Indonesian Agency for Post-Tsunami Reconstruction of Aceh and Nias (BRR Aceh-Nias). In that role, he was responsible for coordinating and implementing the post-tsunami and earthquake reconstruction of the Nias Islands. He completed his Ph.D. in 2004 at the University of Canterbury New Zealand, and his research thesis was on transport development and its link to the rural economy. From 1991 to 2001, he worked under the Ministry of Public Works and was assigned as project manager for various transport projects in Indonesia.

As Director General for the Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Khalid Sherdil worked on the province’s and Pakistan’s largest ever disaster: the super floods of 2010. Khalid has worked on six major disasters, including the Turkish Earthquake, Lahore Dengue Epidemic, and Sialkot Tornado. He is a member of Pakistan’s Core Committee for Environment and Climate Change and represented the country at the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in Cancun (COP 16). He was also the Project Director of the $20 million Model Villages Project in which 22 villages equipped with schools, technical training centers, dispensaries, parks, solar electricity, and bio-gas were constructed all over Punjab’s flooded areas. He also led the project for disbursement of flood-damage compensation ($325 million) in debit card form to over 1 million flood-affected families of Punjab. Khalid has served as Administrator of Murree Hills and Lahore Cantonment. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Environmental Sciences at Canada’s Western University. He has twelve research publications.

Adam D. Switzer is a Singapore National Research Foundation Fellow, Nanyang Assistant Professor, and Principal Investigator at the Earth Observatory of Singapore in Nanyang Technological University. Dr Switzer’s research group focuses on making coastal living safer through an increased knowledge of risk obtained from recreating past prehistoric events. He and his research team currently have ongoing research projects in Australia, China, Thailand, Taiwan, India, Vietnam, Philippines, Lebanon, Tibet, Indonesia, Italy, and Malaysia. Dr. Switzer previously held the position of Centenary Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at The University of Hong Kong. He obtained a BSc degree in Geosciences and a Ph.D. in Sedimentology and Geohazards from the University of Wollongong in Australia.
James Terry is a Professor at the National University of Singapore and previously headed the Geography Department at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. A British national, Terry serves on the Council of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society and chairs the International Council for Science’s Steering Group on Natural Hazards. He specializes in tropical geoscience and natural hazards, with over 20 years of research and consulting experience on fluvial and coastal responses to large events, climatic variability and change, water resources issues, and adaptation to natural hazards. He has authored numerous articles and co-edited several books, including: Natural Hazards in the Asia–Pacific Region. Recent Advances and Emerging Concepts (2012, Geological Society of London: UK); Tropical Cyclones: Climatology and Impacts in the South Pacific (2007, Springer: New York); and The Marshall Islands – Environment, History and Society in the Atolls (2008, University of the South Pacific: Fiji).

Dodo Thampapillai is an economist at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. He also holds a Personal Chair in Environmental Economics at Macquarie University. He held an Adjunct Professorship in the same field at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences at Uppsala until 2009. In 2005, he was included in the list of Eminent Environmental Economists by UNESCAP and was previously a member of the UNEP Expert Group in Environmental Economics. He has over 100 publications, including seven books and nine refereed monographs. He was also awarded the DFG Professorship (University of Kiel, Germany 1999/2000) and SLU visiting Professorship (Sweden-1999/2000). He has also consulted with The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Program, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the International Labor Organization, and the Australian Government. Professor Thampapillai’s current research focuses are Macroeconomics and the Environment and the revised edition of his text Environmental Economics: Concepts Methods and Policies (Oxford University Press 2002, 2006).

Shoji Tsuchida is a Professor and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Safety Science at Kansai University in Japan. Previously, he was a Professor of Social Psychology at Kansai University, a Lecturer and Associate Professor of Informatics at Meiji University, and a Sociology Professor at Osaka University. During his career, Tsuchida has engaged in extensive research on risk perception and risk communication, especially psychological aspects of the public acceptance and rejection of science and technologies, cult activities, and HIV. Presently, he is interested in the psychology of emergency responses. He has served as the President of the Society for Risk Analysis in Japan and is also a member of the Japanese Psychological Association and the Atomic Energy Society of Japan. Dr. Tsuchida received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Tokyo.

Astrid S. Tuminez is the Vice Dean for Research of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Previously, she co-led the US State Department-funded Philippine Facilitation Project of the U.S. Institute of Peace (working on negotiations between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front). Astrid has been Senior Adviser to the Salzburg Global Seminar and Director of Research for alternative investments at American International Group Global Investment Corp. In the early 1990s, she ran the Moscow office of the Harvard Project on Strengthening Democratic Institutions. She was also a program officer at the Carnegie Corporation of New York, worked with the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict, and has been a consultant to The World Bank and an institutional sales/research professional at Brunswick Warburg, Inc. Astrid is a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations and holds a Master’s degree from Harvard and a Ph.D. from MIT.
Venkatachalam Thiruppugazh is a Senior Officer of the Indian Administrative Service. After joining the Civil Service in 1991, he served in various district assignments before he was posted in 2001 as the Joint Chief Executive Officer of the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority which was set up as the nodal agency for reconstruction following the Gujarat earthquake. In addition to his contribution to Gujarat earthquake reconstruction, he also has handled responses to floods, cyclones, and droughts. He recently completed his Ph.D. in disaster management from the Australian National University in Canberra. He is currently the Commissioner of Information and Broadcasting in the Government of Gujarat, and he also serves as the Additional Chief Executive Officer of the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority.

Kenji Watanabe is a Professor at the Graduate School of Engineering and also head of Disaster and Safety Management at the Nagoya Institute of Technology. He has over 17 years of business experience at the Mizuho Bank and PricewaterhouseCoopers in structured finance, business process reengineering, disaster recovery, risk management, business continuity management, and information systems development. He is the convener of a working group on ISO TC223 (Societal Security) and chairs governmental committees in Japan on business continuity and critical infrastructure protection in the Cabinet Secretariat; the Cabinet Office; and the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. Professor Watanabe holds a BS in Forestry (Erosion Control) from Kyoto University, an MBA from Southern Methodist University, and a Ph.D. in Information, Production, and Systems from Waseda University.

Stavros Yiannouka joined the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, in June 2005 to head up Executive Education, Student Recruitment, and the School’s Strategic Alliances. His areas of interest include leadership, European and Middle Eastern history, and current affairs. Prior to joining the School, Stavros was a senior consultant with McKinsey & Company. Based in Singapore, he served major public sector clients across a range of sectors from financial services to healthcare and higher education. Before joining McKinsey & Company, Stavros practiced corporate and commercial law in the City of London, and he is still a member of the Law Society of England and Wales. He also currently serves on the Board of the Institute of System Science at NUS.

Zhong Kaibin is an Associate Professor of Public Management at the National Institute of Emergency Management at The Chinese Academy of Governance. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Management from Tsinghua University. He is the author of Risk Governance and Process Optimization of Government Emergency Management (Beijing: Peking University Press, 2011) and Crisis Decision-Making: Explaining the SARS Crisis (Beijing: The Chinese Academy of Governance Press, 2009). He also co-authored Crisis Management in China: The Challenge of Transition (Beijing: Tsinghua University Press, 2003) and has published extensively in international journals, including the International Review of Administrative Science and China Security among others. He was a visiting researcher at The National Center for Crisis Management Research and Training at the Swedish National Defence College where he worked on a project about SARS crisis management from December 2005 to February 2006. His research interests include crisis decision-making, risk communication, and social regulation.