

Bios of Speakers In Featured Event: Applying Science And Technology To Policy And Practice

PROF. VIRGINIA MURRAY

Head of Extreme Events and Health Protection, Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom

Prof. Virginia Murray is a health protection expert working on preparation for and management of extreme events and chemical incidents. Additionally, she is a member of the Science and Technical Committee of UNISDR. She is a Visiting Professor in Health Protection, MRC HPA Centre for Environment and Health, King's College/Imperial College London UK. In the past she has been an advisor to government and academic bodies on extreme weather events and other natural hazards, chemical incidents, toxicological issues and other public health events.

MR. SABER CHOWDHURY

Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh

Mr. Saber Chowdhury is a Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh. He chairs the Bangladesh Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change & Environment and is an active and influential Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Forests & Environment. He is also a Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union's Task Force on Climate Change and the Advisory Group of Parliamentarians for Disaster Risk Reduction. Mr. Chowdhury has tabled and promoted legislation on the Prohibition of Custodial Torture and Extra Judicial Killings, rights of slum dwellers, and changes in the Criminal Code to protect rights and civil liberties of citizens. He was also the promoter of Bangladesh Parliament's Resolution supporting UN Secretary General's 5 Point Plan on Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament.

DR. SUTOPO PURWO NUGROHO

Head of Center for Data, Information and Public Relation of the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB)

He has been since 2010. Prior to this, he was a Scientist at the Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) for 15 years.

Under his leadership, BNPB received an Award from National Radio "Elshinta" in 2011 and 2012 as an agency which is proactive providing information to public as well as easily contactable in case of emergency during disaster, and he is also awarded as the best Public Relation. He has more than 1300 contacts of international, national and local journalists in his blackberry. Dr. Nugroho has publication on disaster management more than 10 books and 87 journals.

Dr. Nugroho graduated from Bogor Agricultural Institute in Indonesia in 2008 for his doctorate degree on Hydrology and Environment.

PROF. DAVID JOHNSTON

Senior Scientist at GNS Science (New Zealand's Geological Survey) and Director of the Joint Centre for Disaster Research in the School of Psychology at Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand.

His research has developed as part of multi-disciplinary theoretical and applied research programme, involving the collaboration of physical and social scientists from several organisations and countries. His research focuses on human responses to volcano, tsunami and weather warnings, crisis decision-making and the role of public education and participation in building community resilience and recovery. He is the Chair of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Scientific Committee (IRDR), a programme co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISCC), and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster reduction (UNISDR); on New Zealand's Royal Society Social Science Advisory Panel; the Editor of The Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies; and founding Editor of the Journal of Applied Volcanology.

PROF. TAKASHI ONISHI

President of Science Council of Japan (SCJ)

With a Ph.D. degree in Engineering given by The University of Tokyo, and his fields of study on City Planning & Regional Planning, as well as on Social System Engineering & Safety System, he has been serving as a professor at The University of Tokyo and a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies of United Nations

University, having been publishing more than 1,000 scientific papers and books. He also served as a member or a chairperson of Government committees in city and regional planning as well as regional socio-economic development fields, such as deputy chair of National Land Council, member of Industrial Structure Council and so on. As President of SCJ, Professor Takashi Onishi has been dedicating himself, while taking his strong initiative in preparing and publishing statements, recommendations and others, targeting to policy makers, scientific communities and the general public, to addressing significant global issues, including those relating to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

As appointed in 2011 by Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, the Prime Minister of Japan, Professor Onishi served as the chair of the Frontier Subcommittee of the Council on National Strategy and Policy in Japan, for setting out a vision that brings about a breakthrough in the current situations for the future of Japan. Professor Takashi Onishi has been a member of the Council for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP), which was set up in the Cabinet Office for serving as the headquarters for the promotion of S&T policy; overlooks all of the nation's S&T, and formulates comprehensive and basic policies, and conducts their overall coordination.

In overseas activities, Professor Onishi worked as urban regional development expert for World Bank in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, JICA in Bangkok, Thailand, Jakarta, Indonesia, Hanoi, Vietnam, Kabul, Afghanistan, and recently was appointed a member to the Science and Technology Advisor Group of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.