Katja Samuel, Director, Global Security and Disaster Management Ltd, UK

Katja Samuel is the Director of Global Security and Disaster Management Limited (www.gsdm.global), a consultancy company specialising in the management of global security and disaster risk, especially man-made and technological risk, from multidisciplinary perspectives. It is developing a novel, more cohesive, approach to resilience planning which better integrates both security and disaster factors, framed around key Sendai goals, aimed at preventing and mitigating disaster impact and losses. Katja is an international lawyer by background, specialising in both security and disaster law.

Ahmad Wani Chief Executive Officer, One Concern

Mr. Ahmad Wani serves as the CEO and Co-Founder of One Concern, a Menlo Park-based benevolent artificial intelligence company, with a mission to save lives and livelihoods before, during and after natural disasters. A native of Kashmir, South Asia, Mr. Wani survived the devastation of major disasters that impacted his family and community, providing the inspiration that fuels his commitment to building global resilience. Recognizing the inadequacy of traditional disaster solutions, Mr. Wani and his team at One Concern are using artificial intelligence to revolutionize the
world’s understanding of natural phenomena sciences, thereby enabling both government and the private sector to better prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.

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**Renalto Solidum, USEC, DOST, Government of Philippines**

Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr. is the Undersecretary for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change of the Philippines Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Concurrently, he is also the Officer-In-Charge of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) where he has worked since 1984 and became its Director in 2003 up to February 2017. Dr. Solidum supervises DOST agencies in charge of monitoring and studying geophysical events, weather and climate, and leads its science, technology and innovation efforts in ensuring resiliency of communities to natural hazards and climate change. He manages PHIVOLCS, which is responsible for hazards and risk assessment, monitoring and warning, conduct of research studies, and development of awareness and preparedness tools related to various geologic hazards. Dr. Solidum is also a member of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines. He is a geologist by background.

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**Vanessa Gray, Head, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States & Emergency Telecommunications Division, International Telecommunication Union**

Ms. Vanessa Gray is the Head of the Division for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Emergency Telecommunications within the ITU’s Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). In this position, she coordinates the ITU’s work in the area of Emergency Telecommunications, to develop ICT projects and provide assistance for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Ms Gray is responsible for studying the information and communication technology needs of the most vulnerable countries in the work and for developing specific programs of assistance tailored to address the particular challenges and opportunities in these countries. She is also responsible for the BDT’s work on e-waste and climate change adaptation.

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**Richard Hoad, Chief Scientist, QinetiQ, UK**

Dr. Richard Hoad is a Chief Scientist and Managing Consultant at QinetiQ Ltd in the United Kingdom. Richard has undertaken many years of research looking at disruption to Critical Infrastructure assets, particularly for high impact low frequency events. He has helped infrastructure providers understand their risk to novel technological threats and has developed tools, techniques and products which support improved resilience. Richard is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET).
Alexander Siegmund, Heidelberg University of Education & Heidelberg University, Department of Geography - Research Group for Earth Observation; UNESCO Chair on World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve Observation and Education

Prof. Dr. Alexander Siegmund is professor of physical geography and chair holder of the “UNESCO Chair on World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve Observation and Education” at Heidelberg University of Education and honorary professor at the University of Heidelberg. He fosters the use of modern geotechnologies in environmental and sustainability research and ESD. He is a founding and board member of the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE) and member of the Baden-Württemberg Council on Sustainable Development.

Discussants

Osvaldo Moraes, National Center for Disaster Monitoring and Warning CEMADEN, Brazil

Dr Osvaldo Luiz Leal de Moraes' field of expertise is Atmospheric Physics. Currently he is head of the National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disasters, CEMADEN/Brazil. His previous leading positions have included Research & Development and Development Policy & Program for the Brazil Ministry of Science, Technology, Communication and Innovation; Head of the Center for Weather Forecast and Climatic Studies (CPTEC); Scientific Director for the Brazilian Meteorological Society, and Director of the Research Foundation.