Science and Policy Forum

SESSION 2 - Science and Policy dialogue: The case for better data

14:00-15:30, 13th May
Assembly Hall, Palais des Nations

Chair

Andrew Collins

Andrew Collins is Professor of Disaster and Development at Northumbria University, UK. He entered academia following voluntary sector roles and for 25 years since has been furthering theoretical, methodological and policy applications for people centric disaster reduction. He is elected Chair of Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI), Co-Chair of UK Alliance of Disaster Research (UKADR), a Board Director of International Society for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRiM), Leader of the Disaster and Development Network (DDN) and chaired the group steering Enhanced Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA). He currently leads the Data Working Group of UNISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG).

Panelists

Muhammad Dimyati

Dr. Muhammad Dimyati is the Director General for the Strengthening of Research and Development at the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education, Republic of Indonesia. He started working at the current position since 2015. The working unit under his leadership is responsible for the formulation, coordination, and synchronisation of policy implementation in the field of research and development (R&D).
For the past few years, a number of main R&D policies, regulations and laws in Indonesia were enacted under Dr. Dimyati’s supervision, such as Presidential Decree Number 38/2018 on Indonesia’s National Research Master Plan 2017–2045 and the implementation of Indonesia’s Science and Technology Index (SINTA). Currently, Dr. Dimyati, and another Director General, are mandated by the Minister of Research, Technology, and Higher Education to guide the revision of Law Number 18/2002 on National System of Science and Technology, which is the main legal framework for research and development activities in Indonesia.

Dr. Dimyati was previously the Deputy for Science and Technology Resources at the Ministry of Research and Technology from 2014 to 2015. Prior to that, he served the Ministry of Public Housing from 2001 to 2014, with latest position as Deputy Director for Organization and Budget Planning. Before that, he built his career at the Ministry of Public Works from 2001 to 2010. He joined the public service in 1984. Born in Solo, Central Java, Dr. Dimyati completed his Bachelor degree in 1982 from Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He obtained his doctoral and master degree on Agriculture in 1997 and 1990 respectively from Kyoto University, Japan. In the middle of his activities as a top-level bureaucrat at one of the busiest Ministry in Indonesia, Dr. Dimyati is still active teaching and researching. He is currently a senior faculty member of Department of Geology at University of Indonesia. His publications can also be found in the reputable journals at national and international levels.

Lisa Robinson, BBC Media Action

Lisa Robinson is the Senior Advisor on Resilience and Humanitarian Response at BBC Media Action, where she advises on how media and communication can influence people’s behaviour and the environments around them. Internally, Lisa leads BBC Media Action’s strategy for the theme and supports staff to develop and deliver effective projects which reach over 200 million people a year globally. Externally, Lisa collaborates with partners to improve the use of media and communication for positive change, with a focus on disaster risk reduction. Lisa co-founded the Communication with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) Network and teaches as Adjunct Professor for the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication.

Jadranka Mihaljevic, E-STAG

Jadranka Mihaljevic is Head of the Engineering Seismology Department in the Institute of Hydrometeorology and Seismology of Montenegro, a member of the National DRR Committee and Secretary general of the Montenegrin Association of Earthquake Engineering. She took an active role in regional projects in the Western Balkans, Co-Directed a project on probabilistic seismic hazard assessment and is involved in IPA Disaster Risk and Mapping Project – IPADRAM. She is a member of European Science and Technology Advisory Group.
Daniel Karlson, Deputy Director, Office of International Affairs

Daniel (Dann) Karlson is the Deputy Director of the Office of International Affairs for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In this position, he helps oversee a broad portfolio of international activities that span across NOAA’s diverse mission. He serves as a senior advisor to NOAA leadership on international policy matters and is as representative on a number of interagency and international bodies. This includes serving as NOAA’s focal point for international DRR engagement and as the U.S. representative to the UNDRR Global Science and Technology Advisory Group.

Shanna McClain, PhD, AAAS Science Technology & Policy Fellow, Earth Science Division NASA

Dr. Shanna N. McClain is the Program Lead for Risk Reduction and Resilience with NASA’s Earth Sciences Division. Her work is focused on developing resilience-based programs in fragile and crisis-affected contexts, and identifying opportunities to integrate Earth observation data into community-level decision making for improved understanding and management of risk. Dr. McClain has previously worked with the Joint UN OCHA / UN Environment Section on the integration of environmental considerations into humanitarian affairs, and continues to hold a Visiting Policy Analyst position with the Environmental Law Institute on issues related to environmental peacebuilding and environmental migration.

Reinhard Mechler, Risk and Resilience Program, IIASA

Reinhard Mechler has close to 20 years of experience on socio-economic aspects related to disaster risk and resilience, and climate change. He currently is deputy director of the ‘Risk & Resilience’ research program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). He is a co-founder of the Loss & Damage Network, a partnership by scientists and practitioners from around the globe and is leading the research contribution to the Flood Resilience Alliance. He acted as a lead author on IPCC’s special report on adaptation to extreme events (SREX), the 5th assessment report and the report on 1.5°C global warming, and is currently a lead author on IPCC’s 6th assessment.

Ailsa Holloway, Director, Research Alliance for Disaster and Risk Reduction, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch

Ailsa Holloway holds positions at both Stellenbosch University, South Africa and the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. She has more than 35 years programme management and public health experience with UNHCR, UNDP, WHO and the IFRC in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Since 1998, she has introduced disaster risk-related post-graduate programmes at the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University, provided technical support to South Africa’s disaster management legislative reform process and helped to coordinate the African university consortium, Periperi U. In 2019, Ailsa joined the Emergency and Disaster Management academic team at Auckland University of Technology and is a member of the Global Science and Technology Advisory Group for DRR.