Biographies of Speakers

Innovative Disaster Risk Reduction Investments Modalities

Panelists

The Honourable Kris Faafoi, Minister of Civil Defence, New Zealand.

Hon Kris Faafoi was elected as the Member of Parliament for Mana in November 2010 following more than a decade working as a journalist. Following the 2017 General Election, he was appointed Minister of Civil Defence, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (which includes responsibility for insurance issues) and the Associate Immigration Minister. In September 2018, he was appointed Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media and soon after Minister of Customs. New Zealand faces some of the greatest natural hazard risks of any country in the world. Increasingly New Zealand is also facing a range of hazards and risks from other sources, from plant and animal diseases, to human health, to technological disruptions and security threats. Significant global and local events, such as the Christchurch Mosque attacks of 15 March 2019, have changed the way that we think about emergency management. Mr Faafoi has a strong vision for ensuring that both government and communities are well prepared for, taken care of, and supported in any emergency or disaster, wherever and whenever it happens. Mr Faafoi is currently leading a multi-year work programme in response to a review of New Zealand’s civil defence arrangements initiated following the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake and 2017 Port Hills fires. Mr Faafoi is leading changes to New Zealand’s emergency management system to ensure it works when New Zealanders need it to. This includes; putting the safety and wellbeing of people at the heart of the emergency response system, strengthening national leadership, building the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce, improving the information and intelligence system that supports decision-making in emergencies, and making it clear who is responsible for what, nationally and locally. In April 2019, Mr Faafoi released New Zealand’s National Disaster Resilience Strategy. The Strategy reflects New Zealand’s increased understanding of national risks. It sets out goals and objectives for civil defence emergency management for the next ten years and it considers the type of resilience needed to protect and grow the New Zealand’s wellbeing.

Prof. Paolo Garonna

Paolo Garonna is the Secretary General of the Italian Banking, Insurance and Finance Federation (FeBAF) since October 2012. Professor of Political Economy at the LUISS Guido Carli University of Rome, he was Director General of the Association of Italian Insurers (ANIA) and Chief Economist of Confindustria (the main industrial employers organization in Italy). Professor Garonna was Director General of the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) from 1992 to 1999, and, from 1989 to 1992, Deputy Director for Labour, Social Affairs and Education at the Organisation for Economic Co-
operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. From 1999 to 2009 he was Deputy Executive Secretary, and Executive Secretary ad interim, of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva. He carried out research in America as Fulbright scholar, and in Cambridge, Great Britain, and taught in several Universities in Italy and abroad. He has published a considerable number of books and essays in Applied Economics, Statistics and Finance.

Mr. Jorge Nuño Lara, Head of the Investment Unit of the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit

Mr. Jorge Nuño holds a degree in Economics from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM). He has extensive experience in the socioeconomic, private and financial evaluation of energy infrastructure projects, as well as the regulation them. He currently serves as Head of the Investment Unit in the Under-secretariat of Expenditures of the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico. Previously he worked at a private consultancy carrying out the economic and financial evaluation of 56 projects; which represented an accumulated investment amount of 2 billion dollars. Before that he served as Director of Hydrocarbon Projects in the Investment Unit, reviewing, and if necessary approving, the cost and benefit evaluations of the investment programs and projects of the Mexican State Oil Company, (PEMEX) Additionally, he oversaw the implementation of the 2008 Energy Reform in terms of investment budget. He also has developed methodologies regarding socioeconomic evaluation of oil and gas exploration and production projects.

Cecilie Daae, Director General, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB), Norway

Ms. Daae has been Director General for the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) since September 2015. She came from the position of Deputy Director General at the Norwegian Directorate of Health. In the same organisation, she previously held the position as Head of Department for Specialised Health Care Services and of Head of section for Hospital Services. Ms. Daae studied medicine at the University of Oslo. In addition, she holds a master in Health Administration from the same university.
Christy Stickney, National Director, Habitat for Humanity Nepal

Christy Stickney is the director of Habitat for Humanity International’s office in Nepal. She is an international development professional with over 25 years of experience in designing, evaluating and documenting innovative, market-based development initiatives. Since 2002, Christy has focused much of her work developing new business models for housing, writing studies for institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, Accion International, and Habitat for Humanity.

Christy began working in development finance with Opportunity International in 1993 where she advised the design of microfinance products directed toward women micro-entrepreneurs. In 2002 she shifted her focus to affordable housing and housing microfinance, working with Habitat for Humanity International as a Regional Director, and subsequently the Director of Housing Finance for Latin America and the Caribbean. In these roles Christy pioneered housing microfinance initiatives with financial institutions, and guided Habitat in developing technical expertise and mobilizing capital for shelter finance.

Moderator

Patrick H. Leusch

Patrick H. Leusch is Head European Affairs at the Director Generals Office of Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international Broadcaster since October 1st 2017. In this capacity Patrick is responsible for international relations especially to European Institutions and partners.

Before taking this position Patrick was Managing Director of the Global Media Forum, the global conference on media and foreign policy, organized annually by Deutsche Welle. He also was CEO of the DW Media Services GmbH, a company owned by Deutsche Welle. Patrick has been for many years Head International Relations of DW Akademie. He was responsible for the organization’s advocacy activities, international networking and fundraising and he represented the organization in a range of partnerships with international agencies, networks and towards political bodies, such as the European Commission or UN.

Patrick is Belgian and grew-up bilingual French-German. He holds a Master in Psycho-Pedagogy. He worked for many years as an independent TV and Radio reporter, editor and producer. He was a senior editor for leading German broadcasters and served as the correspondent for Western Africa or the German public radio, ARD, in Rabat Morocco.

In 1999 he merged his interest in psychology, pedagogy, development cooperation and journalism and became a trainer and consultant for journalists and media executives in Africa, the Arab region and Asia. After joining DW Akademie, Patrick was in charge of all projects in the French speaking part of Africa for many years. In 2008 he became Head Project Development at DW Akademie and build a dynamic team that started successfully
developing innovative comprehensive long term media development strategies and projects for international donors and partners.