Dr. Frank Rijsberman
Director-General, GGGI

Dr. Frank Rijsberman was appointed as the Director-General of the Institute in 2016. He has over 30 years’ experience addressing the challenges of environmental sustainability and poverty reduction with leading international organizations and philanthropic foundations.

Prior to joining GGGI, Dr. Rijsberman served as Chief Executive Officer of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Consortium. He was the first Director of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2010 to 2012), Program Director at Google.org, and Director-General of the International Water Management Institute.

He has a Ph.D. in water resources management and planning from Colorado State University (US) and a MSc and BS in Civil Engineering from Delft University of Technology (Netherlands).

Dr. Stelios Grafakos
Principal Researcher, GGGI

Dr. Stelios Grafakos is a Principal Economist in GGGI’s Office of Thought Leadership. Prior to GGGI, Stelios was the Head of Environment and Climate Change group at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In addition, he has published several peer-reviewed articles in academic journals, books, and international conferences.

He has a Ph.D. in decision analysis and support from the Erasmus University Rotterdam and a master’s degree in Environmental Management and Policy from the University of Amsterdam.

Dr. Barbara Botos
Deputy Minister of State Secretariat for Climate Policy, Ministry for Innovation and Technology (MIT), Hungary

Dr. Barbara Botos is currently Deputy Minister of State Secretariat for Climate Policy, Ministry for Innovation and Technology (MIT). Previously, she was the Head of Department of Climate Policy (2016-18), Deputy Head of Department of Climate Policy (2010-14), and Strategic and Environmental Manager of the Municipality of Tatabanya (2004-10).

She has a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from Eötvös Loránd University.
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Ms. Phonevanh Outhavong
Director-General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Government of Laos PDR

Ms. Phonevanh Outhavong is the Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning (MIP) and Investment and Deputy National Programme Director, UNDP Support Programme for NSEDP Implementation towards LDC graduation, MIC transition and SDG achievement. She was previously Deputy Director General of Department of Planning, MIP and Director of Poverty Eradication Planning Division, Department of General Planning, Committee for Planning and Investment (CPI).

With a Master of Economics from Kobe University, her areas of expertise are in country development strategies, national socio-economic development plans, public investment programmes and rural poverty reduction strategies.

Mr. Vineil Narayan
Acting Manager of Climate Change Division or Climate Finance Specialist at Ministry of Economy, Fiji

Mr. Vineil Narayan is currently the Acting Manager of Climate Change Division or Climate Finance Specialist at Ministry of Economy, Fiji. Previously, he was Senior Economist (Infrastructure sector) at Ministry of Economy, Fiji (2015-2017). He was also Economic Planner at Ministry of Finance (2014-2015).

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Accounting and Economics and a postgraduate diploma in Professional Accounting from University of the South Pacific (USP).

Dr. Serge Perrin
Climate Specialist, Operations Directorate – Climate Change, Agence Française de Développement

Dr. Serge PERRIN is Climate Specialist at the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Lead of the 2050 Facility, a grant facility dedicated to support the design and implementation of long term low carbon and resilient development strategies.

After several years of experience in higher education and research (Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, French Institute of International Relations, Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade - EU Science & Technology Programme), he joined the AFD Group in Paris where he held successively the position of Economist in the Research Department and in the Africa Department. He worked also in AFD’s representative offices in the Middle East (Jordan, Turkey) where he was in charge of
Session 4. From Transition to Transformation: Towards Transformative Planning and Implementation of Climate and Green Growth Actions

Mr. Omar Abu-Eid
Energy, Environment and Climate Change Programme Manager, European Union

Mr. Omar Fadel Abu Eid is currently working as the Energy, Environment and Climate Change Programme Manager at the EU delegation to JORDAN. He joined the EU Delegation in JORDAN in August 2004 as Programme Manager for Environment, then took over the energy portfolio by 2006 and climate change by 2010, and currently managing the energy portfolio with more than 160 million Euro support for green Energy. He worked as Quality Assurance Executive at Danish food Industries Company 1996-1998, and assisted the company to be certified for ISO 9002. He has worked as Assistant Head of Nature Reserves at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature RSCN 1999-2000 then worked as Head of Nature Reserves RSCN 2000-July 2004 and managed 6 Nature Reserves in Jordan including environmental, social and economic development, developed projects within these reserves, as well as prepared to establish new nature reserves in Jordan. He holds a bachelor of science in agriculture engineering/ Jordan University / 1996.

Dr. Jihad Alsawair
Technical Advisor for the Minister and Director of Green Economy Unit, Ministry of Environment, Jordan

Dr. Jihad Alsawair is currently the Technical Advisor for the Minister and Director of Green Economy Unit at Ministry of Environment. He is also the Director at BEN HAYYAN Aqaba International Laboratories since 2014. Before joining the Ministry of Environment, Dr. Alsawair was the Director of Environment at ASEZA (2013-14), Head of Air Quality Division at Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (2008-13). He was also an Environmental Research over 10 years at Royal Scientific Society (Jordan) from 1995-2006. He has a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences and Health.

Ms. Fenella Aouane
Principal Climate Finance Specialist, GGGI

Ms. Fenella Aouane is a Principal Green Finance Specialist in GGGI's Green Investment Services Department. Fenella has over 20 year experience in the financial markets.
Most recently Fenella was part of the Environmental Markets team in Standard Bank, Africa’s largest bank. She helped to lead the bank into multiple award winning, first-to-market transactions involving, amongst others, pre-payments against tranched portfolios of emission reducing projects.

She is a board member of the industry association Climate Markets Investors Association (CMIA) which promotes low carbon growth through market mechanisms and adds to the discussion of finding further green finance solutions across both the formal and voluntary sectors.

Previously Fenella has run teams in financial institutions helping clients in the energy markets with risk management through the commodity derivatives markets, working within banks and corporates such as Natixis and Cargill. She has lived in South Africa and London and has travelled extensively within Europe and Africa.

Fenella has an honors degree in Business from Oxford Brookes university and is an Approved Person with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the UK.

Mr. Vijay Waghmare  
Joint Managing Director, Maharashtra State Road Corporation (MSRDC)

Mr. Waghmare is currently Joint Managing Director of Maharashtra State Road Corporation (MSRDC). Previously, he was Managing Director of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) (2017-18), Commissioner at Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Development (2015-17), and Deputy Secretary to the Chief Secretary at Mantralaya (2013-14). He also worked for the Government of Maharashtra over 6 years as Collector and District Magistrate (2010-13) and Chief Executive Officer (2007-10).

He holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (1993-95) and a bachelor’s degree in law from KC Law College, Mumbai (2011-2014).

Mr. Shantanu Gotmare  
Country Representative, GGGI India

Mr. Gotmare is India Country Representative at GGGI. Before joining GGGI in 2017, he was Deputy Secretary at Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.
From 2014-2017, he was Private Secretary for the Union Minister for Power, Coal, Mines and New & Renewable Energy of Government of India and from 2012-2013, he was Additional Secretary of General Administration Department (GAD) and Additional Secretary of Planning of Government of Assam, India.

He holds a master's degree in Economics and Public Policy from Princeton University (2013-2014).