Speakers

On February 20, 2018, Mr. Ban Ki-moon was elected as the President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). His leadership enables the Institute to help its Members to successfully adopt the green growth model of development, which is in line with the work he spearheaded at the United Nations.

In addition to leading GGGI, Mr. Ban serves as the Chair of Korea’s National Council on Climate and Air Quality since April 2019 and Chair of the Boao Forum for Asia since April 2018. Along with the former President of Austria Mr. Heinz Fischer, he serves as Co-Chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens in Vienna, Austria since January 2018. Mr. Ban is the Chairman of the International Olympic Committee Ethics Commission since September 2017, and he is the Distinguished Chair Professor and Honorary Chairman at the Institute of Global Engagement and Empowerment at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. Mr. Ban also serves as Deputy Chair of The Elders since 2017, an independent group of global leaders established by President Nelson Mandela.

Prior to the current appointments above, Mr. Ban served two consecutive terms as the Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) from 2007 to 2016, during which time he worked to build bridges, to give voice to the world’s most vulnerable and marginalized people, and to bring transparency and effectiveness to the UN. He successfully initiated global action to combat climate change that culminated in the adoption and rapid entry into force the landmark Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2016. He worked closely with member states to shape the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to establish UN Women, the latter of which advances global gender equality and women’s empowerment. He also led major efforts to strengthen UN peace operations, protect human rights, improve humanitarian assistance, prevent violent extremism and revitalize disarmament activities.

Prior to leading the UN, Mr. Ban was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea. His 37-year career as a diplomat included postings in New Delhi, Washington D.C., and Vienna, as well as key responsibilities for a variety of portfolios, including as the Foreign Policy Advisor to the President, the Chief National Security Advisor to the President, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Deputy Minister for Policy Planning, and the Director-General for American Affairs. Mr. Ban contributed significantly to issues relating to inter-Korea relations and WMD proliferation by serving as Vice Chair of the South—North Joint Nuclear Control Commission and Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

Mr. Ban holds a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from Seoul National University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.
Helen Watts is a Director of Innovation and Partnerships in Student Energy.

Pragya Dawadi is a Program Manager of Youth Climate Lab.

Hakku has been named the Project Manager for the Greenpreneurs Program at GGGI by the Director-General who joined GGGI in 2013 as HR Officer. He transitioned from HR to Special Assistant to the ADG-IPSD (2017-2019) and will pursue further career development by joining the Strategy Team in July 2019. Hakku has served over 4 years at GGGI as a HR Officer and has taken up the Special Assistant role and will undertake the work of the Strategy team as the Results Reporting Officer to expand his horizon and further develop his career. He has worked for the National Tax Service before joining GGGI. He graduated from Simon Fraser University (SFU) major in Political Science and graduated from Seoul National University (GSIS) in International Cooperation.

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Mr. Hakku Bang
Results Reporting Officer, GGGI
Dr. Frank Rijsberman leads the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in supporting governments transition towards a model of economic growth that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. With over 30 years’ experience addressing the challenges of environmental sustainability and poverty reduction with leading international organizations and philanthropic foundations, Dr. Rijsberman was initially appointed as the Director-General of the Institute, on October 1, 2016 and re-appointed for a second term starting October 1, 2020.

Upon assuming his position, Dr. Rijsberman has engaged with senior international stakeholders to drive the green growth agenda and help mobilize finance for climate action and sustainable development. As an advocate for sustainable development, Dr. Rijsberman is focused on supporting GGGI Member and partner governments to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and achieve their Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. His priorities are to support collaborative NDC implementation among GGGI Members, as outlined under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and assist its Member governments to green their investment to deliver inclusive, pro-poor green growth, as well as climate action.

Prior to joining GGGI, Dr. Rijsberman served as Chief Executive Officer of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Consortium. In this role, he led CGIAR’s transformation from 15 independent research centers towards a single integrated organization. This included a process of cultural and institutional change towards results-based management, including the development of the Consortium’s 2016-2030 Strategy and new portfolio of research programs for 2017-2022, building an integrated organization and governance structure, and developing its policies and procedures to ensure accountability.

From 2010 to 2012, Dr. Rijsberman was the first Director of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, where he developed a strategy to help achieve universal access to sustainable sanitation services using radical new technologies and innovative market-based mechanisms.

Dr. Rijsberman also has worked as Program Director at Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, where he led grant making in the public health initiative and was responsible for programs and partnerships in health, disaster response, geo-informatics, and climate-change adaptation.

Before working at Google, Dr. Rijsberman was Director-General of the International Water Management Institute, an international research institute with HQ in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He holds a PhD degree 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).

Hope to achieve at #GGGWeek2021:

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Juhern Kim is the Country Representative, Philippines, who is in charge of organization's technical delivery and operation in the country. His professional focuses are to inject sustainability agenda into policy development, originate investment pipeline of project that is aligned with such policy direction, and bring finance to the pipeline. All of them are anchored in accelerating implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

Since 2012, he has been serving numerous roles in emerging economies with GGGI, which includes the Country Representative, a.i., Colombia ('18) and Vietnam ('14), Senior Land-use Specialist ('15–'17), and Program Manager, Cambodia and Vietnam ('12–'14). Among his accomplishments with GGGI, his dedication to establishing Cambodia's National Council on Green Growth was recognized through the citation of the Environment Minister ('13), and his analysis on Costa Rica’s payment for environmental services (PSA) and the way forward with impact investing trend was appreciated by and thus presented to the 47th President of Costa Rica ('16). He was also seconded to the Green Climate Fund (GCF, '18) with the task of supporting operationalization of Simplified Approval Process, where he led development of technical guidelines of the new funding window, tailored to several sectors including renewable energy, ecosystem, agriculture, transport, etc.

Prior to joining GGGI, he worked at the UN Environment ('09–'10), ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center ('11–'12), the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), and Corporation 2020 initiative, where he learned both public and private, and policy and industry perspectives on greening economic sectors.

On top of that, he has a particular passion on nurturing entrepreneurs implementing green growth. For example, he has co-founded Greenpreneurs (www.greenpreneurs.co), a global platform designed to support young entrepreneurs to convert their innovative ideas into realistic business plans through coaching, mentoring, and peer competition. He has also been an advisory member of impact investment firm and an expert judge of ENATUS, one of the world’s largest start-up business plan competitions.

He completed the Executive Education of Yale School of Management (Certificate, Accelerated Management Program), graduated from Yonsei Graduate School of International Studies (Master’s Degree, Global Affairs and Policy) and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Bachelor’s Dual Degree, English Literature / Business Administration). He also had a stint in Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Global Leadership Seminar on International Regimes for Global Warming), and was certified by the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, via the International Environment Expert Training Program.

Hope to achieve at #GGGWeek2021:

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Dr. Achala Abeysinghe is the Country Representative for Papua New Guinea (PNG), leading GGGI country programme on green growth and climate resilience.

Dr. Abeysinghe has over 16 years of managerial, advisory and research experience in leading high-performing teams to deliver complex, innovative and results oriented strategies and programmes.

Prior to joining GGGI, Dr. Abeysinghe was the Head of the Global Climate Law, Policy and Governance Team at International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED-UK) as well as Head of the European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi) Training and Support Programme for nearly 12 years.

A lawyer by training, Dr. Abeysinghe was the legal, technical and strategy advisor to the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group under the UNFCCC negotiations, advising the Gambia, Nepal, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and the Royal Government of Bhutan from 2010 to 2019. She was also lead author of the chapter on Climate Resilient Pathways in the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Dr. Abeysinghe holds a PhD in International Environmental & Climate Change Law and a Master of Laws degree in International Environmental Law & Policy from Kent Law School at University of Kent, UK. In 2008, she was Robert S. McNamara Research Fellow of the World Bank, conducting her research at the Vrije University, The Netherlands. Prior to moving to the UK, she graduated from Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka with an LLB (Hons) degree and worked as a lecturer in Environmental Law at the Legal Studies Department of the Open University of Sri Lanka. She’s also an attorney-at-law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Abeysinghe is a trusted advisor to various high-performing international organisations such as the Mission 2020 led by former UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figures. In 2015, she was nominated as one of the top 15 female climate champions in the world in recognition of her role in negotiating the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
Juan Pablo Bustamante Caballero is a Senior Officer, Latin America and Caribbean, GGGI.

About GGGI

Founded to support and promote the mainstreaming of green growth, GGGI programs and projects target economic growth that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. Headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea, GGGI has 40 members with operations in over 35 countries.