

Regional Policy Dialogue: Mobilizing Finance for SCP and SDG 12

17th March, 2022 | 14:30 – 17:45 (GMT+7)



Speakers Profile



Dr. Fawzia Tarannum
TERI School of Advanced Studies,
New Delhi, India

Dr. Fawzia Tarannum is an Assistant Professor in the Coca-Cola Department of Regional Water Studies at the TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS), New Delhi. She is an interdisciplinary water professional with 22 years of experience in project management, teaching, research, and training. She is the recipient of the Fulbright Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship and has spent a year in Cornell University, enhancing her skills in water governance. She is also an awardee of the University of Nairobi- IDRC Doctoral Research Grant. Prior to joining TERI SAS, she worked as General Manager-Sales at Cleantec Infra Private Limited, a company engaged in providing mechanized solutions for cleaning and dredging of shallow water bodies.



Dr. Mushtaq Memon
EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy
Advocacy Component (RPAC)

Dr. Mushtaq Memon is working with UN Environment (United Nations Environment Programme) as a Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency in Asia Pacific Office located in Bangkok. He is supporting resource efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, green economy, green financing, sustainable public procurement, sustainable tourism, sustainable industries and various areas for Asia and the Pacific. He is also implementing EU funded SWITCH-Asia Phase 2 component by UN Environment Programme to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production in the region. He got his Masters in Project Management and National Development from University of Bradford in UK, and Doctorate in Environmental and Resource Economics and Management at Hiroshima University in Japan.



Prof. Prateek Sharma
Vice Chancellor, TERI SAS

Dr. Prateek Sharma is currently Vice Chancellor of TERI School of Advanced Studies and has served as professor and Dean (Academic) in the past. He has more than 20 years of research/teaching experience. He received his Ph. D. degree in environmental engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. His general research interests-focus on environmental systems modelling, statistical applications in environmental and water resources engineering, and environmental risk assessment. He has been regularly contributing to high impact academic journals. He has also authored two books (international editions) in the area of vehicular pollution modelling and stochastic modelling and one monograph. Presently he is writing two books titled Environmental Data Analysis, and Environmental Modelling. He is a member of several professional societies. He has been admitted as a Fellow of Wessex Institute of Great Britain in 2004, in recognition of outstanding scholarly work.



Francesca Gilli
Acting Team Leader, Cooperation
Section, Delegation of European
Union to Thailand

Ms. Francesca Gilli is the Cooperation Attaché of the EU delegation to Thailand since 2018. She was Desk Officer for Tunisia, European Commission Headquarters in Brussels from 2013-2017, and worked for international non-governmental organizations in the Middle East and North Africa from 2005-2013. She has a Bachelor's degree in Oriental languages and civilisations and a Master's degree in Development studies.



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Paulus Geraedts

Directorate-General for International
Partnerships, European Commission

Mr Geraedts is an engineer by education with over 30 years of international experience. He joined the European Commission in 2004, after 15 years in the private sector in infrastructure development in Europe and Asia. For the EU, Mr Geraedts has worked in infrastructure in Ghana and in Brussels, where he particularly focussed on promoting the innovative use of EU grants together with financial products of development financing institutions (DFIs) for increased leverage and higher impact. Before joining DG INTPA on external action guarantees, he worked in DG ECFIN as Deputy Head of Unit for Coordination with EIB, EBRD and the IFIs.



Dr. Ria Sinha

Adjunct Faculty- TERI SAS & Senior
Fellow, Indian School of Development
Management (ISDM)

Dr. Ria Sinha is a Senior Fellow and Research Lead at the Indian School of Development Management (ISDM) working on various sustainability issues, philanthropic funding and impact investments. Previously Ria has also been a consultant with the Department of Finance, University of Szczecin, Poland. She is also a Visiting Faculty at TERI SAS, New Delhi in the Department of Business and Sustainability teaching a course on Financing for Sustainability. She has expertise in the areas of Climate Finance, Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS), Sustainable Finance, ESG with ten years of experience in research and academia. Dr. Sinha holds a PhD in Sustainable Finance from TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS), New Delhi and is a Masters in Economics from University of Calcutta.



Dr. Sumantra Sen

CEO, Canvest Infracapital Inc.

Dr. Sumantra Sen is an investment professional with 25+ years of progressive experience in managing global client portfolios and strategic investment programs with leading financial organizations including Bank of America and ABN AMRO. He is a specialist in responsible finance, and in his present roles as the CEO of Canvest Infracapital and Director at General Carbon Advisory, he engages with DFIs, government agencies, institutional investors and corporates, for advancing best practices in ESG integration, Impact Investing and Blended Finance for Social & Environmental Infrastructure. Sumantra is an MBA and a member of CISI, UK. He has co-authored published work in responsible investment and sustainable development including 'Evolutions in Sustainable Investing' by Wiley Finance and 'Thirsty Nation' published by Penguin Random House. His expert comments and articles have been published in United Nations' reports, The Economic Times, CFO Magazine, Business Today, SRI- Connect, Ethical Markets, Responsible Investor and amongst other media resources.



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Dr. Dhruva Purkayastha
Director of US-India Clean Energy
Finance, Climate Policy Initiative

Dhruva is the India Director for Climate Policy Initiative, a global non-profit research and advisory institution, working on Sustainable/Green/Climate finance. Earlier Dhruva worked with International Finance Corporation (IFC) as the Program Manager for Investment Climate Advisory and with The World Bank as a Senior Specialist in the South Asia Finance and Private sector unit in lending operations for infrastructure and clean energy financing, public private partnerships, SME financing, banking and capital market reforms and technical assistance in improving investment climate for private sector development. Dhruva has advised a wide range of government and public sector institutions, banks and financial institutions, multilateral institutions, regulators in areas of policy and institutional development for infrastructure, housing, climate and SME financing, developing financial infrastructure for improving access to finance, credit risk management, regulatory compliance and portfolio management. Dhruva is Bachelor of Engineering, MBA from IIM, Cal. and PhD in Financing Infrastructure from IIT Delhi.



Dr. Ji Xi
Associate Professor, School of
Economics, Peking University
(PKU), China

Dr. Ji is an tenured Associate Professor at School of Economics in Peking University (PKU). She is currently leading a research group focusing on Ecological Economics, Environmental Economics, Transformation of Economics under the Transformation of Civilization, and Ecological Civilization and Ecological Institutions in China. She has published more than forty academic papers in well-known journals, as well as a monograph and some book chapters on Ecological Economics. She has presided over nearly twenty national or sectoral funded research projects. She serves as the Board Member of the Academic Degree Evaluation Committee (Theoretic Economics) in PKU, Vice-dean of the Resources, Environmental and Industrial Economics Department of School of Economics in PKU, Vice-director of Center for Human and Economic Development Studies in PKU, and Vice-director of Professional Committee on Theory and Development in China Ecological Economics Society. She is the Editorial Board Member of Ecological Economics and several other academic journals.



Prof. Geoffrey Williams
Professor & Dean, Institute of
Postgraduate Studies, Malaysia
University of Science and Technology

Geoffrey Williams is a Professor and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and International) at City University, Malaysia. He was formerly Deputy Vice Chancellor of Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), Dean of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies at the Malaysia University of Science and Technology and Professor at HELP University, Malaysia. A graduate of the University of Cambridge, he has held academic positions at the London Business School, Pembroke College University of Oxford and the University of London. He is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2004. Geoffrey has been living and working in Asia for 18 years focusing on higher education, economics, and sustainability. He created the SRI-Kehati Sustainability Index for the Indonesian Stock Exchange and the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Blueprint for the Malaysian Government. In 2017 he was honoured with the Lifetime Contribution Award for his work on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability around the world. Recent books include Responsible Management in Asia – Perspectives on CSR (Palgrave-Macmillan) and Advancing Innovation and Sustainable Outcomes in International Graduate Education, with Mohan Raj Gurubatham (IGI Global, Pennsylvania).



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Dr. Shilpi Kapur Bakshi
Vice President, Environmental
Management Centre LLP

Dr. Shilpi Kapur is working at Environmental Management Centre (EMC) as Vice President. Shilpi is a trained economist and has over 13 years of research experience in the field of environment and natural resource management. One of her key focus areas of research is designing policy instruments and governance and institutional mechanisms to foster circular economy. Shilpi has worked on multiple projects and research assignments for bilateral and multilateral organizations, industry and different Ministries and States in the Government of India on a wide range of issues including sustainable consumption production, resource efficiency and circular economy, environmental fiscal reforms and natural resource revenue management. Shilpi holds a PhD Economics from Washington University in St Louis, USA and before that Masters and Bachelors in Economics from Delhi University. Prior to joining EMC, Shilpi was working as a Senior Fellow in TERI. Apart from work, Shilpi enjoys painting Madhubani art, baking and gardening.



Mr. Utpal Chakraborty
Chief Digital Officer, Allied Digital

Utpal Chakraborty is an eminent data scientist, AI researcher, strategist and thought leader with more than two decades of industry experience, including as a principal architect in Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Infotech, IBM, Capgemini and other MNCs including heading the Artificial Intelligence division of YES Bank. Currently he is he is the Chief Digital Officer(CDO) at Allied Digital Services Ltd. Utpal is a well-known speaker and author on artificial intelligence, Quantum Computing, IoT, as well as Agile & Lean and has spoken at conferences around the world. Utpal has also been recognized as one among top AI Influencers & Thought Leaders by reputed forums. He has also been recognized as Global AI Ambassador 2022.



Dr. Ancha Srinivasan
Principal Climate Change Specialist
and Climate Change Focal Point for
Southeast Asia, Asian Development
Bank, Thailand

Dr. Srinivasan ANCHA serves as the Climate Change Focal for the Southeast Asia Department of ADB, and as ADB's focal for the Forest Investment Program of the Climate Investment Funds. He chairs the ADB Working Group on Climate Smart Agriculture and serves as alternate focal for the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, UK and has more than 25 years of experience in interdisciplinary research, design and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. He mobilized more than \$2 billion climate finance for developing countries. He contributed to several global initiatives including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Global Environmental Outlook, and Millennium Ecosystems Assessment as an author and/or reviewer. He edited 8 books including "Climate Smart Development in Asia", "Low Carbon Transport in Asia" and "Handbook of Precision Agriculture" and is an author of more than 90 peer-reviewed publications. He serves as a member of the editorial boards of journals, advisory boards of non-profit organizations, and received many honors including a letter of appreciation from the Prime Minister of India, and Eisaku Sato Memorial Foundation Prize of the United Nations University.



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Mr. Dinesh Dulal

Head Sustainable Banking, NMB Bank,
Nepal

Dinesh Dulal works for NMB Bank Ltd. He is currently heading the Sustainable Banking Department at NMB Bank. He is a seasoned banker with more than two decades of working experience in Nepalese banking industry. In his more than 20 years of career journey, he has been mostly involved in sustainable energy project financing which includes both on-grid and off-grid projects and providing financial access to unbanked populations. He is involved in Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financial (PACF) as a Steering Committee member. PACF is a global partnership of financial institutions that work together to develop and implement a harmonized approach to assess and disclose the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with their loans and investments. He is also representing NMB Bank in the board of NMB Microfinance which is a subsidiary microfinance institution of NMB Bank and works in the space of financial inclusion. He has completed his Masters of Business Studies and Bachelor's in Law from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.



Ms. Mafruda Rahman

Assistant Vice President, Green
Climate Fund, Bangladesh

Business development analyst with technical expertise in financial modelling, market research, monitoring and results measurement (MRM). Over 8 years of experience in both corporate and development sector. Currently working in Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), as an Assistant Vice President in the Green Climate Fund unit. IDCOL as the nationally accredited direct access entity of GCF is supporting Bangladesh Government and Private sector to access international climate change mitigation or adaptation funding. **Ms. Mafruda** is responsible for coordinating with the pertinent stakeholders to develop concept notes, funding proposal and other readiness funding documents to catalyze international climate finance in the country. She and her team successfully brought 340.5 million dollar concessional credit line from GCF in 2020 which will leverage private participation in energy efficiency financing in the industrial sector. Ms. Mafruda is currently pursuing CFA program and has a MSc in Economics.



Mr. Abhejit Agarwal

Deputy Vice President, Sustainability
& CSR, Axis Bank, India

Mr. Abhejit leads the Sustainability and CSR vertical at Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector Bank. His role focuses on expanding the Bank's sustainability vision and action across diverse mandates. Prior to his current role, Abhejit held positions of responsibility at YES Bank and at the Essar Group, notching up several firsts in the corporate sustainability domain in India. With over a decade of experience in the ESG domain, Abhejit comes with strong domain expertise in ESG strategy and management, triple bottom line accounting and reporting, CSR, and stakeholder engagement. Abhejit is a postgraduate from the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta and has a bachelor's degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia, USA. He lives in Mumbai with his wife and daughter, and enjoys being a father, traveller, writer and plant parent.



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