



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

HLPF 2021 Side Event: Carbon Neutrality & Social Transformation: Are We on Track to Arrive at a Justice-based Transition?

6 July 2021, 07:30–09:00 EDT

SPEAKERS

by order of presentation

CHAIR

Prof. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi (Director, UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability)

Dr. Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi is Director of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). Her fields of specialisation include international development and cooperation, ICT in education, reform and policy of education, science and technology policy, and the application of technology in world heritage site preservation. Prior to this post, Dr Yamaguchi worked at Tokyo Institute of Technology as an Associate Professor (2002–2006) and then full Professor (from 2006). In 2005–2007, she concurrently served as Advisor to the President. Before joining Tokyo Institute of Technology, Dr Yamaguchi worked for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), first at the Paris headquarters, and then in the Beijing Office. While with UNESCO, she was involved primarily in the development of education systems in China, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Pakistan. Dr Yamaguchi holds a PhD in Economics of Education from Columbia University (New York). She has authored or co-authored more than 200 publications and conference/seminar presentations.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof. Yukari Takamura (Professor, Institute of Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo)

Professor Takamura specialises in international law and environmental law. Her research focuses on legal and governance issues surrounding environmental agreements and seeking how these agreements could effectively tackle global environmental issues while accommodating imminent social and development needs. She serves as member of governmental advisory bodies, among others, Central Environmental Council as President, and Procurement Price Calculation Committee for Feed-in Tariff Scheme for Renewable Energy as Vice-President. She also serves as one of 10 members in the expert meeting established under the Prime Minister to promote climate actions. She serves as member of Advisory Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development of ADB and as member of Science Council of Japan as Vice-President. She received Environmental Conservation Merit's Minister of the Environment Award in 2018.

PANEL MODERATOR

Dr. Shen Xiaomeng (UNU Vice-Rector in Europe and Director, UNU Institute for Environment & Human Security)

Dr. Shen Xiaomeng is the UNU Vice-Rector in Europe (UNU-ViE) and Director of the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). Before she rejoined UNU in 2020, she had worked with the then International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the DLR-PT (German Aerospace Center) for 10 years focusing on international cooperation, innovation policies and multilateral science and technology development in Asia and Oceania. Prior to that, Dr. Shen worked with UNU-EHS with a focus on social vulnerability, environmentally induced migration issues and water-related disaster and risk research from cultural perspectives.

PANELLISTS

Dr. Minoru Takada (Team Leader, Sustainable Energy, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

Dr. Takada spearheads DESA's efforts in reviewing, following up and implementing SDG7 on energy, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Prior to this position, Dr. Takada was the Team Leader for Sustainable Energy for All at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General at UN. Previously, he was Head of the Sustainable Energy Programme at UNDP, and worked in Africa as a community organizer for several years. He holds a PhD in renewable energy applications from the University of Mie in Japan, and a Masters in nuclear engineering from the University of Hokkaido, Japan.

PANELLISTS (CONTINUED)

Dr. Youssef Nassef (Director of the Adaptation Division, Chair of World Adaptation Science Programme, UNFCCC)

Dr. Youssef Nassef has led the adaptation workstreams under the UNFCCC since their inception. He possesses over 30 years of experience in diplomacy and international environmental policy, and is a seconded diplomat from the Egyptian Foreign Service. While assuming progressively higher levels of leadership at the UNFCCC, he led UNFCCC support for several initiatives on adaptation. These include the inception and support for National Adaptation Programmes of Action and National Adaptation Plans; the Nairobi Work Programme – an international knowledge hub for impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; and the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. He recently created the Resilience Frontiers initiative which applies foresight for attaining post-2030 resilience.

Dr. Fatima Denton (Director, UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa)

Dr. Fatima Denton is the Director of the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA). She is an accomplished senior leader in the UN system, respected across the research and implementation branches of the organization. She has depth of expertise in natural resource management, as well as deep knowledge of research and policy development, and the African region. Prior to joining UNU-INRA, Dr. Denton had worked with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Ethiopia since 2012. Her roles included Director of the Natural Resource Management Division and Coordinator of the African Climate Policy Centre. Before that Dr Denton was a Programme Leader with the Canada-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC). She also worked as an energy scientist with the United Nations Environment Programme Risoe Centre (Denmark) and as an energy programme manager with Enda Tiers Monde (Senegal). Dr Denton has written more than 50 peer-reviewed articles, reports, and books. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Birmingham (UK).

Dr. Jean-Paul Adam (Director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management, UN Economic Commission for Africa)

Prior to taking on this role, Dr. Adam served in the Government of the Republic of Seychelles in several Cabinet positions. He was Minister of Health from 2016 to 2019. He served as Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy from 2015 to 2016 where he negotiated a debt for climate change adaptation swap and launched the process for Seychelles to become the first issuer of a Blue Bond. Between 2010 and 2014, he was Seychelles' Minister of Foreign Affairs, where he advocated for countries to embrace the concept of the Blue Economy, to improve sustainability for island and coastal countries. Before entering the Cabinet, between 2005 and 2009, he occupied several senior roles in the Office of the President of the Republic of Seychelles including Director General for presidential affairs, Principal Secretary for the Office of the President and Secretary of state in the presidency.

Mr. Hiroyuki Tezuka (Chair, Working Group on Global Environment Strategy, Committee on Environment and Safety, KEIDANREN Fellow & General Manager, Climate Change Policy Group Technology Planning Department, JFE Steel Corporation)

Mr. Tezuka is Executive Fellow and the General Manager, Climate Change Policy Group at JFE Steel Corporation, and the Chairman of Energy Technology Committee at Japan Iron & Steel Federation. Since 2007, Mr. Tezuka has been in charge of Climate Change issues and involved in environmental and energy policy in steel industry. On international front, he also chaired the Environment Committee at worldsteel Association till June 2019, and has been chairing the WG on Global Environmental Strategy at Keidanren, and the Public & Private Collaborative Meeting between Indian and Japanese Iron & Steel Industry. From March 2021, he started serving as the Vice Chair at Environment & Energy Committee at OECD-BIAC. Mr. Tezuka received MBA from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and BE on Applied Physics from The University of Tokyo.

Ms. Mailes Zulu Muke (CEO, Save Environment and People Agency)

Mailes Zulu Muku is the Founder and Executive Director of the Save Environment and People Agency (SEPA). SEPA is a climate advocacy grassroots organisation based in the North Western province of Zambia that aims to transform rural communities by addressing the adverse effects of climate change, environmental sustainability, food security and promoting agriculture.

In 2004, Mailes worked with rural communities in Zambezi to establish two community schools which offer education to less-privileged children. She also worked tirelessly using her own resources to raise awareness on environmental protection and the need to plant trees to protect the Zambezi River source. Mailes has been empowering women in rural communities by training them in gardening, bee keeping, goat and pig rearing, fish farming and crafts production to help sustain their livelihoods whilst conserving the environment. Currently, Mailes represents Zambian Women in Environment on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Green Wall Initiative, the African Women Innovative Sustainable Environment and she is the first Zambian Woman in Environment to sit on the United Nations Environment Governing Council as an observer.