

Day 1: 06. 04.2021 – Understanding Climate Change and Its Effects

5.00 PM – 7.00 PM

Presenter 1: Dr. C. Mahesh Edirisinghe Senior Lecturer, Department of Physics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Specialist in Lightning Climatology, Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation, Lightning & Surge protection and Transients Analysis

In 2002, Dr. Edirisinghe joined the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo as an academic and currently he is a Faculty Member in Physics attached to the Department of Physics. He received his B.Sc. (Honors.) Special Degree in Physics from the University of Colombo Sri Lanka in 1997 and the Ph.D in Instrumentation Physics with special attention to lightning climatology and lightning protection under a split research program between the University of Uppsala, Sweden, and the University of Colombo in 2007. He completed his MBA from London Metropolitan University, UK in 2016. He has served as the Commissioner of Sri Lanka Inventors Commission, Ministry of Science, Technology, and Research from December 2015 to November 2018. Dr. Edirisinghe was the President of Section E-1 (Physical Sciences), Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science, Sri Lanka in 2012 and a Joint Secretary of Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka (IPSL) from 2007 to

2010. Dr. Mahesh Edirisinghe was a member of the Board of Management and the Director Board in several government institutions including Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, National Science Foundation, and Institute of Human Resource Advancement. He was a member of the Sectoral Committee on Electronics Engineering, Sri Lanka Standards Institution, the National Standards Body of Sri Lanka.



Presenter 2: S.C. Bhan Regional Coordinator, Agro meteorology; and Head, Power, Health and Transport Sector Applications, India Meteorological Department, New Delhi, India

MSc. in Agricultural Meteorology from Haryana Agricultural University 1988 by securing top position in MSc in the University. Joint Secretary of the Indian Meteorological Society for four years; and is elected Vice President of the society for two years. Established the location specific weather information & forecast system in the country during the Commonwealth Games-2010, New Delhi – A first of its kind in the country and the ‘Heat-Health Early Warning System’ in India. He has more than 80 research papers in peer reviewed national and international journals, authored 4 books; three of his papers have won the ‘Best Paper Awards’.



Presenter 3: Maharam Dakua Civil and Environmental Engineer & consultant in water supply, sanitation, waste management and climate change adaptation, Bangladesh

B. Sc. and Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology. He developed the national guideline for CR-WSP for urban piped water supply systems, which will soon be adopted in the national water safety framework by the government and currently developing climate resilient water safety plan (CR-WSP) for climate vulnerable water supply systems and training the sector professionals on CR-WSP. A Master trainer of training courses on rainwater harvesting system, climate resilient water safety plan, and city-wide inclusive sanitation system.



Moderator: Dr. Aslam Saja PhD, Editor, INJCR

Day 2: 07.04.2021 – Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

5.00 PM – 7.00 PM

Presenter 1: Charitha Ratwatte Jr. Head – Group Sustainability at Dialog Axiata PLC, Sri Lanka

BSc. (Hons) in Information Systems from Manchester Metropolitan University, UK and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, with Certificates from the Public Management and Global Management Programs. As an inaugural Stanford Social Innovation Fellow, he founded Rural Returns (Guarantee) Limited Sri Lanka, a non-profit Company that works with rural communities to create sustainable pathways out of poverty. Founding director of the Brain Gain organization SL2College and has served as a member of the Human Resource & Education Steering Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves on the Board of Study of the PostGraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.



Presenter 2: Alaiha Rathore Expert in Environmental Impact Assessment, Pakistan

An expert in environmental impact assessment, Alaiha Rathore is an environmental management graduate from National College of Business, Administration and Economics. Over the years Alaiha has achieved certification in a number of issues relating to environment, education and women health from international institutes such as in International Women's Health & Human Rights from Stanford University, Introduction to Family Engagement in Education from Harvard University and taken a number of certifications from United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in issues relating to Designing Multidimensional Poverty Index and Nature Based Solution For Sustainable Development. She has worked with a number of organizations including piloting a project for WWF focused on converting biodegradable waste to natural fertilizers and running active plantation drives throughout Lahore. She is a strong advocate for taking practical approaches to Pakistan's rising

environmental problems. Currently she is working on a number of projects with the U.S Embassy and The Asia Foundation. She is the First Pakistani female children's book author working on a Project with the European Union, advocating on environmental issues, recycling and sustainability. Alaiha has also received a Duke of Edinburgh International Award for Young People (Bronze Standard) for Public Services.



Presenter 3: Ibrahim Mohamed (PhD) Deputy Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Maldives

Bachelor of Science in the University of the South Pacific and has joined the Environment Ministry as a teacher. He then completed a master of applied science in Protected Area Management from the James Cook University of Australia and completed his doctorate from James Cook University in 2017. Ibrahim has been working in the Environment sector of Maldives since 2006. He has worked in various departments of the Environment Ministry and has been working as Deputy Director General of Environmental Protection Agency since October 2011. His research focus is on climate change adaptation of Maldivian islands with a major focus on resilience and adaptive capacity of island communities. He has a special interest in salty urbanism and building resilient island communities for a post sea level rise scenario for Maldives. He has a vision of creating buoyant ecologies as a transformative adaptation for Maldives.



Moderator: Dr. Justin Okoli Editor, INJCR

Day 3: 08.04.2021 – Development and Presentation of the Colombo Declaration on Solve Climate by 2030

5.00 PM – 7.00 PM

Presenter 1: Khadija Abid, Assistant Director, Climate Change Adaptation Program, German Red Cross, Pakistan

Khadija Abid is a policy analyst and climate enthusiast by profession. She is currently working as Assistant Director in the Climate Change Adaptation Programme in German Red Cross. At the moment, she is a frontline advocate on issues of Climate Change in Pakistan spearheading various workshops on climate-smart lifestyle, environment and social responsibility etc. She holds a Public Policy degree and M.Phil. degree in International Development Studies. Through all of these years studying environment, policy, structuring and innovation, she has worked with leading think tanks in Pakistan and abroad. She is also a Legislative Fellowship Programme alumna

from the U.S. State Department. She is also an entrepreneur and leading an IT firm.



Presenter 2: Rangitha Balasuriya, *Environment and Climate Change (MECC) focal, IOM, Sri Lanka*

A senior social researcher and a development practitioner in the fields of emergency response, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate induced migration, She also represents the IOM's Humanitarian Country Team within the UN network and provides necessary institutional guidance and support to environmental migrants by liaising with local, regional and international institutions / counterparts during emergency settings. Within a career span for more than 18 years, Rangitha was the youngest senior organizational process development specialist attached to the Ministry of Public Management and Reforms in 2012 - 2014 and was recognized as the only female Senior Functional Reviewer in the National Administrative and Reforms Commission in Sri Lanka. She was a former data scientist, a technical expert in e-learning platform and content development, and a researcher in development economics. She is also a certified international higher education quality standardization verifier and a senior academic represented many national and international universities for more than 15 years.



Presenter 3: Avash Pandey *Monitoring and Assessment Analyst, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal*

Climate and livelihoods researcher focusing in Hindu Kush Himalayan region, based at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal. He was a contributing author to the IPCC's Special Report in Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate and is currently a contributing author to the cross chapter paper on mountains of the IPCC's sixth assessment report. Prior to joining ICIMOD Mr Pandey worked for national NGOs and in private sectors of Nepal. He holds Master degrees in International Finance and Environmental Management.



Moderator: Dr. Novil Wjsekara, *Founder Editor, INJCR*