



5th Global Biennial Conference on Small States

Building Resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction

25-29 March, 2019

T.A.T.T.E Convention Centre

Apia, Samoa

Supported by:



OVERVIEW

The theme for the 5th Global Biennial Conference is '*Building Resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction*', endorsed by Ministers at the Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Small States in April 2018. The objectives of the Conference are:

1. Provide training on disaster risk reduction and disaster finance for senior officials in Ministries of Finance in Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth small states.
2. Provide an opportunity for development partners, academia, the private sector and other non-state actors to present their innovative disaster risk reduction solutions to key stakeholders in small states.
3. Facilitate a matching of products and strategies offered by development partners that could adequately address small states' disaster risk reduction needs.
4. Create networking opportunities for senior government officials from small states and stakeholders working in the field of disaster risk reduction, particularly disaster finance.

In preparation for the Biennial Conference in Samoa, the Commonwealth Secretariat organised the inaugural Commonwealth Research Conference on Small States in London, United Kingdom on 25-26 February that considered evidence and policy recommendations from academia and experts on the related theme of '*Strengthening Resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction*'. These outcomes will be presented during the Conference.

The Conference is organised as follows:

- Monday and Tuesday, 25th and 26th March 2019: The Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with the World Bank will facilitate a capacity building training course on disaster finance and disaster risk management. The training will prepare the participants to make the best use of the opportunities provided in the final 3 days of the Conference.
- Wednesday, 27th March 2019: The aim of Day 3 is to have small states governments articulate their specific regional or national disaster risk reduction needs. This day will also showcase the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat in this area.
- Thursday, 28th March 2019: Day 4 focuses on exploring a range ex-ante and ex-post solutions for small states to reduce their disaster risk and better recover from such events when they occur. The day will start with an overview of the disaster financing landscape, followed by different initiatives at the multilateral and regional level, as well as perspectives from the private sector and non-governmental organisations. In the afternoon, countries are encouraged to visit the Knowledge Exchange Booth Exhibition to have more in-depth discussions about country specific needs and solutions.
- Friday, 29th March 2019: Day 5 will feature 2 sets of parallel side events on a range of disaster risk reduction issues, including innovation, data, infrastructure, and capacity development. The conference will conclude with a plenary session on the next steps.

MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
9:00-9:30	REGISTRATION
9:30-10:00	<p>Training Opening Session</p> <p>Introduction: Mr Travis Mitchell, Adviser and Head, Economic Policy & Small States Unit, Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate (EYSDD), Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Training Objective Setting: Ms Kaavya Krishna, Knowledge Management Lead, Crisis and Disaster Risk Finance, World Bank</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Government of Samoa (TBC)</p>
10:00-11:30	<p>Session 1: Context Setting - Political Economy Factors underpinning Disaster Risk Finance</p> <p><i>This session will set the context for the training, canvassing the political economy landscape of climate finance, with implications on disaster risk finance.</i></p> <p>Speaker: TBC</p>
11:30-11:45	BREAK
11:45-12:45	<p>Session 2: Communicating Disaster Risk</p> <p><i>This session will highlight various approaches/tools that can be used to communicate disaster risk for disaster preparedness and response.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Ms Elissa Webster, Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) Network</p>
12:45-14:00	LUNCH

TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
9:00-10:00	<p>Session 3: Operationalising Disaster Risk Finance - Simulated Learning Experience</p> <p><i>This session seeks to operationalise DRF instruments through an interactive exercise which will provide the participants with practical comprehension of the tools required to build financial resilience. Participants will partake in groups.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Ms Kaavya Ashok Krishna, Knowledge Management Lead, Crisis and Disaster Risk Finance, World Bank</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>Session 4: Core Principles of Disaster Risk Finance</p> <p><i>This session will outline core principles underpinning DRF and will set the scene for day 2 of the training.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Ms Akosita Drova, Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank</p>
11:00-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:45	<p>Session 5: Development of a Disaster Risk Management Strategy</p> <p><i>Following the discussion on core principles of DRF, this session will outline steps to be followed in developing a disaster risk management strategy to better equip the participants with the basic skills.</i></p> <p>Presenter: The World Bank Group</p>
13:00-14:15	LUNCH BREAK
14:15-15:15	<p>Session 6: Tools and Instruments for Disaster Risk Finance</p> <p><i>This session will outline common ex-ante and ex-post instruments for financial planning.</i></p> <p>Presenter: The World Bank Group</p>
15:15-15:30	BREAK
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 7: Introduction to Data Analytics for Disaster Risk Finance</p> <p><i>This session will highlight innovative approaches for customising DRF tools to bridge the gap between catastrophe risk data and informed sovereign decision-making with a view to increase financial resilience of countries against natural disasters.</i></p> <p>Presenter: Dr Rashmin Gunasekera, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank</p>

TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019

Time	Session
16:30-17:00	<p data-bbox="411 414 979 450">Session 8: Summary and Closing Remarks</p> <p data-bbox="411 465 1378 533"><i>During this session, a brief summary of outcomes of the training will be provided. This will be followed by closing remarks.</i></p> <ul data-bbox="459 548 1342 757" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="459 548 1278 616">• Dr Rashmin Gunasekera, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank<li data-bbox="459 622 1342 689">• Ms Kaavya Ashok Krishna, Knowledge Management Lead, Crisis and Disaster Risk Finance, World Bank<li data-bbox="459 696 1342 757">• Mr Travis Mitchell, Adviser and Head, Economic Policy & Small States Unit, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
8:30-9:00	REGISTRATION
9:00-10:00	<p>Conference Opening Session</p> <p>Introduction: Mr Travis Mitchell, Adviser and Head, Economic Policy & Small States Unit, Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate (EYSDD), Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Welcome Address: The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Commonwealth Secretary-General (<i>video message</i>)</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Government of Samoa (TBC)</p>
10:00-10:30	GROUP PHOTO/BREAK
10:30-11:40	<p>Session 1: Recovering from Disasters - Triangular Cooperation</p> <p><i>This session seeks to highlight challenges of vulnerable states in preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters. It also aims to showcase good practice and/or innovative examples from states who have recently dealt with natural disasters.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Government of Samoa (TBC)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Wenny Woi Tarikelana, Fiscal Economist, Department of Finance and Treasury, Vanuatu • Ms Shivon Burton, Economic & Financial Analyst, Ministry of Finance & Corporate Governance, Antigua & Barbuda • Mr Joseph Samah, Senior Economist, Ministry of Planning & Economic Development, Sierra Leone • Mr Steve Cantwell, Principal Advisor, Earthquake Commission Policy, The Treasury, New Zealand
11:40-12:40	<p>Session 2: Regional Perspectives on Disaster Risk Management</p> <p><i>This session will showcase good practice examples of regional cooperation in disaster risk management. It will also highlight regional approaches to preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Andy McElroy, Sub-Regional Coordinator Pacific, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Engel Raygadas, Chair, Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce • Mr Gatkuoth Kai, Technical Coordinator, DRR, African Union Commission • Ms Elizabeth Riley, Deputy Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
12:40-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-14:30	<p>Session 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction to Achieve the Targets of the Sendai Framework</p> <p><i>This session aims to outline progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, highlighting challenges countries face and global efforts to support countries achieve the Sendai targets.</i></p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Andy McElroy, Sub-Regional Coordinator Pacific, UNISDR
14:30-15:00	<p>Session 4: Outcomes of the Inaugural Commonwealth Research Conference on Small States</p> <p><i>This session will cover the outcomes of the inaugural Commonwealth Small States Research Conference in London from 25-26 February, 2019, that brought together a multi-disciplinary cadre of experts and practitioners.</i></p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Travis Mitchell, Adviser and Head, Economic Policy & Small States Unit, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat
15:00-15:30	BREAK
15:30-17:00	<p>Session 5: Disaster Risk Reduction and the Commonwealth: Commonwealth DRR Initiatives</p> <p><i>This session seeks to highlight key initiatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat to reduce member state vulnerability to disasters.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Travis Mitchell, Adviser and Head, Economic Policy & Small States Unit, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Motselisi Matsela, Economic Adviser, Economic Policy & Small States Unit, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat • Ms Briar Ferguson, Adviser, Debt Management Unit, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat • Ms Katherine Blackman, Commonwealth Secretariat Climate Finance Access Hub, National Climate Finance Advisor, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica
19:00-20:00	Welcome Reception - hosted by Government of Samoa (Venue)

THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
9:00-10:00	<p>Session 6: Finding the Right Financial Fit: Review of the Disaster Finance Landscape</p> <p><i>This session aims to provide an overview of the disaster finance landscape and examine the pros and cons of different financial instruments and tools. It also seeks to provide experiences on how countries have found their own mix of disaster finance tools to fit their risk profile.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Representative from the Ministry of Finance, Samoa (TBC)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Akosita Drova, Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank • Mr Steve Cantwell, Principal Advisor, Earthquake Commission Policy, The Treasury, New Zealand
10:00-11:00	<p>Session 7: Disaster Finance Options from Multilateral Organisations</p> <p><i>This session seeks to present information on the financial instruments offered by the main multilaterals and climate funds. It will also provide an opportunity for member states to understand which instruments will be most appropriate for their country circumstances, and give feedback on the type/characteristics of instruments that are preferable.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Prof Prajapati Trivedi, Senior Director, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Rashmin Gunasekera, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank • Mr Wendell Samuel, Program Coordinator, Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, IMF • Representative from the Green Climate Fund (TBC)
11:00 - 11:30	BREAK

THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
11:30-12:50	<p>Session 8: Disaster Finance Support from Regional Organisations</p> <p><i>This session seeks to provide an overview of a range of disaster finance services and products offered by regional bodies.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Motselisi Matsela, Economic Adviser, Economic Policy & Small States Unit, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Gillian Golah, Chief Operations Officer, Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Segregated Portfolio Company • Mr Jason Cotton, Economist, Caribbean Development Bank • Ms Maria Melei, Senior Country Coordination Officer, Pacific Subregional Office, Asian Development Bank • Mr Gatkuoth Kai, Technical Coordinator, DRR, African Union Commission
12:50-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-15:10	<p>Session 9: Examining the Role of the Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organisations in Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p><i>This session aims to review the policies, rules, and regulations that incentivise long-term private sector investments in disaster risk reduction. It also seeks to examine the governance frameworks that better enable collaboration between the public sector and non-governmental organisations in building resilience of communities.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Bilal Anwar, General Manager, Commonwealth Secretariat Climate Finance Access Hub</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Bijay Kumar, Executive Director, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Risk Reduction • Ms Chloe Demrovsky, DRI International • Ms Morika Hunter, Chair, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) Pacific Business Resilience Council • Representative from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) (TBC)
15:10-17:30	<p>BREAK AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BOOTH EXHIBITION</p> <p><i>Participants will have the opportunity to visit different knowledge booths set up by disaster finance service providers to have in depth 1-to-1 discussions about specific country needs.</i></p>

FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
9.00-9.30	<p>Session 10: Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p><i>This session will discuss governance issues around disaster risk reduction, focussed on effective implementation of programmes.</i></p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Prajapati Trivedi, Senior Director, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat
9:30-10:40	<p>Session 11A: Building Back Better - Investing in Resilient Infrastructure</p> <p><i>This session aims to discuss practical ways and means of mobilising resources for financing resilient infrastructure (including sources, eligibility criteria, partners, etc.).</i></p> <p>Moderator: Representative from the Ministry of Finance, Samoa (TBC)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Sara Moriarty, Australian High Commissioner to Samoa • Ms Maria Melei, Senior Country Coordination Officer, Pacific Subregional Office, Asian Development Bank • Mr Jason Cotton, Economist, Caribbean Development Bank • Representative from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (TBC)
9:30-10:40	<p>Session 11B: Data and Disasters - Using information to Reduce Disaster Risk</p> <p><i>This session aims to demonstrate the central role data plays in tracking progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and efforts made to assist countries address their data challenges.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Akosita Drova, Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Pisila Otunuku, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance & National Planning, Tonga • Ms Dian Black, Acting Deputy Financial Secretary, Economic Management Division, Ministry of Finance & the Public Service, Jamaica • Mr Habofano Makopela, Director, Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance, Lesotho • Ms Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Samoa (TBC)
10:40 - 11:10	BREAK

FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
11:10-12:30	<p>Session 12A: Disasters and Capacity Development</p> <p><i>This session aims to showcase capacity building programmes for disaster risk reduction and financing.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Samoa (TBC)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Rashmin Gunasekera, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank • Ms Eriko Hibi, Sub Regional Coordinator/Representative, Food and Agriculture Organisation (TBC) • Ms Anais Rouveyrol, Adviser for Disaster Risk Management and Community Resilience, Pacific Community • Ms Nomsa Dube, Policy Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation, Disaster Risk Reduction, African Union Commission • Representative from SPREP (TBC)
	<p>Session 12B: Employing Technology to Reduce Disaster Risk</p> <p><i>This session seeks to demonstrate how technology is being effectively used in disaster risk reduction efforts in many Commonwealth small states. The session will also highlight the CommonSensing initiative which is being undertaken by a consortium of partners including the Commonwealth Secretariat and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Henry Taiki, World Meteorological Representative (WMO) for the South-West Pacific, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) (TBC)</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Richard Teeuw, Reader, Applied Geoinformatics & Disaster Risk Reduction, University of Portsmouth • Mr Khaled Mashfiq, UNITAR Operational Satellite Applications Programme Unit (UNOSAT), UNITAR • Mr Dale Schilling, Chair, Insurance Working Group, Blockchain Climate Institute
12:30-13:30	<p>Closing Session</p> <p><i>The final session aims to summarise the main action points raised at the Conference.</i></p> <p>Conference Summary: Prof Prajapati Trivedi, Senior Director, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p>Closing: Government of Samoa (TBC)</p>
13:30-14:30	LUNCH

FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2019	
Time	Session
TBC	Cultural Excursion (TBC)

BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order by forename)



Mr Andy McElroy is the Head of the Pacific Office of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction based in Suva, Fiji. Over 6 years with the UN Office for DRR he has held a variety of roles in its Geneva, Switzerland HQ, global training institute in Incheon, South Korea and Asia Pacific regional office in Bangkok, Thailand. Previously he worked for the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (12 years) and as a newspaper journalist (14 years).



Mr Bijay Kumar has a long track record in humanitarian and development work, particularly in DRR. He has considerable expertise in leading and managing civil society organisations and networks, gained through hands-on experience working in Africa, Europe, South Asia & South East Asia. Mr Kumar is a strong advocate of shifting power from the international system to community led capacities, preparedness and response, facilitated by local organisations. He is also a passionate promoter of Human Rights and ‘people power’, both in policy advocacy and implementation.



Ms Briar Ferguson is a Public Debt Management specialist within the Commonwealth Secretariat. Arriving in the Secretariat in 2015, Ms Ferguson had over 10 years’ sovereign debt management experience in the New Zealand Debt Management Office. Having specialised in securities issuance and development, investment and asset management, loan structuring, risk management, and derivatives trading, Ms Ferguson has been provided technical assistance on public debt and risk management to Commonwealth members in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Africa.



Ms Chloe Demrovsky is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Disaster Recovery Institute (DRI) International. She is also a Board Director for the DRI Foundation, a Certified Business Continuity Vendor and a Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities Subject Matter Advisor. She served as an editor for the 2017 version of The Professional Practices for Business Continuity Management and was the coordinator for the first International Glossary for Resiliency. She is on the adjunct faculty at New York University (NYU). She holds a MSc in International Business from NYU, a Bachelor of Arts from Bard College at Simon’s Rock and speaks four languages.

BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order by forename)



Ms Elizabeth Riley is the Deputy Executive Director at the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency. She is also the Vice-Chair of the ICG/Caribe Early Warning Systems Group of Experts on Coastal Hazards. She sits on the Regional Advisory Group on the Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean on DRM in the Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Sectors. She holds a M.A (Econ) in Environment and Development from the University of Manchester, BSc. (Hons) in Geography from the University of the West Indies and a Masters Certificate in Results Based M&E and Information Systems from the University of Laval.



Mr Engel Raygadas is the Deputy Permanent Secretary for International Affairs of French Polynesia. Mr Raygadas followed a double course in North America and Europe in Engineering (Energy & Hydraulics) and Rural Development. He has worked in the private sector for Energy and Environment international firms and in the public sector in Tahiti for 15 years in Agriculture, Environment, Tourism and Foreign Affairs sectors. He was Director for Environment when he started to deal with climate change issues. Mr Raygadas was advisor to the Minister of Tourism before joining the Permanent Secretariat for International Affairs of French Polynesia as Senior Advisor and focal point for Climate, Oceans and SDG agendas.



Mr Gatkuoth Kai is a development and humanitarian specialist with over 17 years of experience in leading several development initiatives and life-saving humanitarian interventions. Mr Kai currently heads the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit at the African Union Commission (AUC). Prior to joining AUC, he was Programme Manager for a peacebuilding cross-border programme, targeting and building resilience among borderline communities in South Sudan, Sudan and the Uganda border regions. He has also implemented complex humanitarian emergency programmes. Mr Kai holds an MSc in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management from the University of Leicester, as well as an MSc in Project Management.



Mr Jason Cotton is an economist with 15 years of professional experience in academia, central banking and development economics. He currently functions as a Country Economist in the Caribbean Development Bank. His experiences span a range of Caribbean countries and broadly includes: supporting the design, implementation and monitoring of economic policy; disaster risk management in small states, monitoring and analysing social, political and economic developments and research on development issues and challenges. Mr Cotton has also worked on projects in diverse economic sectors (e.g. energy, water, financial). Beyond these professional exploits, Jason is an avid footballer, toastmaster and public speaker.

BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order by forename)



Ms Kaavya Ashok Krishna leads capacity building, knowledge exchange and communications for the Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program. Kaavya launched the Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) Training initiative which has trained over 2500 clients from 50+ countries in the Fundamentals of DRF, DRF Analytics and DRF for Shock Responsive Social Safety Nets. She has previously worked in leadership development and marketing roles at the United Nations, Warner Bros Media, the Indian Express, Sify and Ogilvy and Mather. She holds a bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Madras, a Master's degree in Technology, and Learning from Harvard University.



Ms Katherine Blackman is one of seven National Climate Finance Advisers under the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub. She has mobilised over \$2m in initiatives to strengthen Jamaica's ability to access climate finance. Ms Blackman has 13 years' experience in natural resources management, particularly in biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries, and climate change. Previously, she worked with the Global Environment Facility, Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP and the University of the West Indies as a Researcher. She has a B.Sc. in Biology and a M.Sc. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from the University of the West Indies.



Ms Motselisi Matsela is an Economic Advisor, Small States in the Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate at the Commonwealth Secretariat. She manages the resilience building programme of small states, which includes developing targeted projects to address the vulnerabilities of these countries and advocate for their recognition in global platforms. She is leading the disaster risk reduction programme, which seeks to provide solution-based approaches in supporting small states to reduce disaster risk. She is currently leading the development of the Commonwealth Disaster Risk Finance Portal, which will act as a repository of disaster finance.



Ms Nomsa Dube is currently the Policy Officer responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation for DRR at the African Union Commission (AUC), providing technical support on Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) to the AUC, Regional Economic Communities and Member States. She has led the development of the Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa (2015-2030) and is responsible for developing the Africa biennial DRR report. She has previously worked with UN and International NGOs in programmes related to relief and recovery, community development and peace and security.

BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order by forename)



Prof Prajapati Trivedi is the Senior Director of the Economic, Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Previously, he was a Senior Fellow (Governance) and Faculty Chair for the Management Programme in Public Policy at the Indian School of Business. From 2009-2014, he was the Permanent Secretary to the Government of India in the Cabinet Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office. Other roles include Senior Economist with the World Bank from 1995-2009; Economic Adviser to the Government of India (1992-1994) and a Chaired Professor of Public Sector Management at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (1987-1992). He has a BA (Economics Honours) from Delhi University, MSc (Economics) from London School of Economics and PhD (Economics) from Boston University.



Dr Rashmin Gunasekera is a Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the World Bank, focusing on disaster risk assessment and risk financing within the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, specifically in the Latin American and Caribbean region. He has over 15 years of work experience in disaster risk quantification extending to the public sector, re/insurance industry and academia. Previously, he was Divisional Director of a global reinsurance intermediary and a coordinator of the Willis Research Network. He has a MPhil in GIS and Remote Sensing from University of Cambridge and a PhD in earthquake seismology from the University of Durham.



Dr Richard Teeuw runs the Crisis and Disaster Management MSc course at the University of Portsmouth. His research focuses on low-cost uses of remote sensing for assessing hazards, vulnerability and risk, as well as geoinformatic capacity building in low-income countries. He led a NERC-funded team surveying impacts of Hurricane Maria in Dominica, using satellite data, drone photography and GIS for a forensic geomorphological analysis of fatality locations. He leads the Risk Science activities of the UK Space Agency-funded CommonSensing project, using satellite imagery for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction applications.



HE Sara Moriarty is a career officer with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently Director, Conditions of Service Section. Previously she served as Director, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan Section; Director, Caribbean Program; and Director, Pacific Governance, and has twice served overseas at the Australian Embassy, Jakarta, most recently as Counsellor (Climate Change and Environment). She holds a Master of International Studies and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney.

BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order by forename)



Ms Shivon Burton is an Economic and Financial Analyst at the Ministry of Finance & Corporate Governance in Antigua and Barbuda. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Accounting from the University of the West Indies. Ms Burton's area of expertise is Debt Management where her focus is debt reporting and portfolio and risk analysis. Ms Burton has participated in various trainings/seminars to elevate her professional career such as "Understanding Ex-Ante Disaster Financing, CCRIF Parametric Policies and the Relationship with Fiscal and Economic Policy" and "Debt Sustainability Analysis". She has also provided Debt Consultancy and training to individuals in the Caribbean region.



Mr Steve Cantwell is a policy generalist. Mr Cantwell is the lead official on the current review of New Zealand's Earthquake Commission scheme and Act, with broader interests in insurance and government disaster financing. He has worked on notable projects, including several major tax reform packages, a large defence procurement, being lead New Zealand official on establishing an investment treaty with Australia, and on the investment chapter of the NZ-China Free Trade Agreement. Mr Cantwell's work often involves delivering policy, informed by the two-way interactions between government policy and private actors and incentives.



Mr Travis Mitchell is Head of the Economic Policy and Small States Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat where he manages programmes aimed at building economic and environmental resilience in small developing countries. Issues he covers includes debt sustainability, economic and environmental resilience, financial regulation and aid. Previously, he worked as an Economist at the European Union. He was also a Senior Economist at the Central Bank of Barbados. Mr Mitchell holds a MSc in Economics from the University of Warwick and BSc in Economics from the University of the West Indies. He is currently completing a PhD in Economics at Keele University, U.K.



Ms Wenny Tarikelana graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics in 2013 from the University of Tasmania and a Master in Commerce in the area of Economics in 2018 from the University of the South Pacific. She worked at the Department of Finance and Treasury under the Ministry of Finance and Economics Management within the Budget section for 3 years as a Fiscal Policy Officer before moving to the Economics section at the end of 2018 as a Fiscal Economist.