The Future of Humanitarian Action in Asia and the Pacific: The World Humanitarian Summit and beyond

Symposium Program

Friday 2 December, Melbourne, Australia
Agenda - Friday 2 December 2016

9:00 – 9:30am  Participant registration

9:30 – 9:45am  Opening Address
Mr. Ron Fairchild, Vice-President and Chief Advancement Officer, Deakin University
Kate Sutton, Humanitarian Advisory Group
Phil Connors, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership

9:45 – 10:45am Panel Discussion 1
Reflections on World Humanitarian Summit Outcomes
Facilitator Beth Eggleston, Humanitarian Advisory Group
Speakers Marc Purcell, ACFID; Stephen McDonald, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership; Nemi Naparau, Vanuatu Red Cross; Leonard Blazey, ICRC

10:45 – 11:15am Morning tea

11:15 – 12:30pm Panel Discussion 2
Challenges for implementation of WHS commitments
Facilitator Jeremy Wellard, ICVA
Speakers Jamie Isbister, DFAT; Julia Edwards, Pacific Conference of Churches; Katherine Haver, Humanitarian Outcomes; Phoebe Wynn-Pope, Australian Red Cross

12:30 – 1:30pm Lunch

1:30 – 3:00pm Panel Discussion 3
Implications for the Asia Pacific Region: WHS commitments
Facilitator Maria Holtsberg, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
Speakers Peter Korisa, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Authority; Ipol Powaseu, PNG Association of Disabled Persons and Pacific Disability Forum; Loti Yates, National Disaster Management Office Solomon Islands; Rudi Phadmanto, National Disaster Management Authority Indonesia; Sune Gudnitz, UN OCHA Pacific

3:00 – 3:20pm Afternoon tea

3:20 – 4:20pm Panel Discussion 4
Tracking WHS commitments: when, who and how
Facilitator Gladston Xavier, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
Speakers Oliver Lacey-Hall, UN OCHA Indonesia; Laitia Tamata, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations; Bernadus Wisnu Widjaja, National Disaster Management Authority Indonesia; Charlie Hunt, Centre for Global Research, RMIT University

4:20 – 4:30pm Closing Address
Professor Matthew Clarke, Head, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University
Kate Sutton, Humanitarian Advisory Group
Phil Connors, Centre for Humanitarian Leadership

Our Speakers and Facilitators

BERNADUS WISNU WIDJAJA,
DEPUTY HEAD OF PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS,
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (BNPB), INDONESIA
Bernadus Widjaja is Deputy Head of Prevention and Preparedness, BNPB Indonesia.

BETH EGGLESTON, DIRECTOR,
HUMANITARIAN ADVISORY GROUP
Beth has worked for fifteen years in the humanitarian sector and specialises in civil-military interaction and humanitarian coordination. Beth worked with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in Afghanistan for several years where she developed civil-military guidance, policy on interaction with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) and was involved in rolling out humanitarian reform including the cluster approach. Beth also has experience working with alongside host governments (including with National Disaster Management Offices) and with local and international NGOs in Liberia, Tonga, Laos PDR, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands. Beth has co-authored publications on the protection of humanitarian personnel, peace and development in Iraq, the Women, Peace & Security Agenda and was a member of the drafting team of Same Space Different Mandates: a civil-military guide to Australian stakeholders in international disaster and conflict response. Beth has a Master of Development Studies and is a graduate of the Humanitarian Leadership Program. Currently, Beth is an advisory committee member of the Centre for Global Research at RMIT University.

CHARLES HUNT, VICE-CHANCELLOR’S RESEARCH FELLOW,
CENTRE FOR GLOBAL RESEARCH, RMIT UNIVERSITY
Charles has a background in political science with specialisation in international relations and critical security studies. Charles has been an Associate Investigator with the Australian Research Council’s Centre for Excellence in Policing and Security since 2009 and worked with the Australian government over a number of years assessing their role in peace operations. He has worked extensively in Africa conducting field research in a number of locations (e.g. Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe) and performed consultancy roles with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the UN and a number of international humanitarian NGOs. He is an Honorary Fellow at the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect where he was the leader for the protection of civilians program from 2009 to 2015. Awarded a Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2015, Charles is based in the Centre for Global Research within the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies.
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In the late 1990’s Jamie worked in the Asia Pacific region particularly in Cambodia, Burma and the Church Together network and was the International Director for ACT – Australia from 1998-2001. International’s network in Aceh following the Asian Tsunami. Jamie has worked for the Action by 2001-2008. In 2004, he coordinated the initial assessment and response efforts of the Caritas positions with NGOs including the International Programs Director for Caritas Australia from 2004-2008. Jamie Isbister joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (formerly AusAID) in January 2009 and October 2010.

Gladdston (Ashok) Xavier is the Head of the Social Work Department of Loyola College in Chennai, India, and has served as the Dean of the Arts Faculties of the same college. He is an expert in the field of conflict and peacebuilding, and has done substantive work providing training on trauma awareness and recovery, arts-based approaches to peacebuilding, sustainable development, strategic planning and management, and restorative justice as well as working with community-based organizations. Ashok has worked extensively in South Asia, providing training to people at the grassroots and policy makers. He has also lectured widely in Asia, Europe and the Americas. Ashok has travelled and worked in Sri Lanka for the last 14 years where he has volunteered with Sri Lankan refugees. At Loyola College, Ashok completed both his Master’s Degree and Doctorate in Social Work. He also holds an MA in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding from Eastern Mennonite University in the USA, where he was a Fulbright fellow from 2003 to 2004.

IpuI Powaseu, PNG ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED PERSONS AND PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM

IpuI Powaseu is a PhD student at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. Prior to that she was the Dean of Women at the Pacific Adventist University in Papua New Guinea. IpuI has been co-chairperson of the Pacific Disability Forum and currently holds the co-chairperson for the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons, PNG. She is currently on the Board of the Pacific Disability Forum. IpuI has been instrumental in developing a structure of disabled people’s organization in the 20 provinces of PNG as well as advocating for the establishment of Women with Disability Network across the 20 provinces of PNG. She has been a great advocate for the empowerment and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities and had advocated to have the PNG Government sign and ratified the Convention on the Rights of persons with disability (CRPD) which was recently granted seeing PNG being the 136 country to ratify the UNCRPD on 26 September 2013 in New York.

She represented the Pacific region as the Vice Regional representative to the Disabled Persons International Asia Pacific (DPI-AP) as well as being on the DPI World Council representing the Pacific Region. She has also participated and been represented various committees, groups and expert consultation. She has been the voice of the women with disabilities in PNG and has participated in various national women’s gathering making sure that women with disabilities are not left out in mainstream women’s forum. She is a member of the Indigenous people with disability Global Network and currently holds the position of focal persons for this network, advocating on issues such as justice, climate change, educations, health and other issues facing people with disabilities.

JAMIE ISBISTER, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR, DFAT

Jamie Isbister joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (formerly AusAID) in January 2009 and has over 20 years experience working in the humanitarian and development field. Jamie is the First Assistant Secretary of the Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Prior to this he was Minister Counsellor Development for Africa based in Pretoria, and Assistant Director General for the Africa and Middle East Branch of AusAID. He was also the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Australian Government between January 2009 and October 2010.

Before joining government Jamie worked in a range of international policy and development positions with NGOs including the International Programs Director for Caritas Australia from 2001-2008. In 2004, he coordinated the initial assessment and response efforts of the Caritas International’s network in Aceh following the Asian Tsunami. Jamie has worked for the Action by Church Together network and was the International Director for ACT – Australia from 1998-2001. In the late 1990’s Jamie worked in the Asia Pacific region particularly in Cambodia, Burma and Thailand on refugee policy and internally displaced issues.

JEREMY WELLARD, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ASIA, ICA

As ICA’s Regional Representative for Asia, Jeremy is responsible for ensuring the global policy and programme work of ICA connects to, and is informed by, member organisations throughout the region. Prior to this role, Jeremy worked for UNOCHA’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific as part of the World Humanitarian Summit team, coordinating Asian representation throughout the Summit process and organizing The South and Central Asia Regional Consultation in Tajikistan and the WHS Global Consultation in Geneva. Jeremy holds a Masters in Social Science (International Development) from RMIT University and has a diverse range of experience working in government, non-government and the private sector in Australia and South-East Asia.

JULIA EDWARDS, MISSION PARTNER

BRITISH METHODIST CHURCH

Julia Edwards is a mission partner with the British Methodist Church, and has been based in Suva since 2010. For much of the time, she worked at the regional ecumenical organisation, the Pacific Conference of Churches, in the programme area of Stewardship. Her work involved the accompaniment of church leaders in the care of God’s good creation. Advocacy on behalf of communities impacted by climate change, especially those threatened with relocation, has been a particular focus of her work. Most recently, Julia was involved with the UN Women Markets for Change project, assessing the resilience of markets and market vendors to disasters and climate change in Fiji. Previously, she worked at several British universities in the area of environmental management. Julia was the faith-based representative on the WHS regional steering committee, and attended the WHS in May.

KATHERINE HAVER, PARTNER, HUMANITARIAN OUTCOMES

Katherine Haver, MIA (international affairs), has worked at the global and field level on humanitarian policy and practice. Recent work has focused on delivering aid in insecure environments as well as risk management, humanitarian financing and institutions, livelihoods and cash-based assistance. Before joining Humanitarian Outcomes, Katherine worked as a policy advisor for Oxfam in DR Congo, where she authored reports on helping displaced people living in host families and better supporting community self-protection, among others. Prior to that, she was a research associate at New York University’s Center on International Cooperation. Katherine is currently serving on the US Board of Directors of AUNIA.

LAITIA TAMATA, SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR, PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (PIANGO)

Laitia Tamata has been engaged in regional and global development issues for over 30 years. Laitia started as a Civil Servant in 1980 before he was engaged in international peace keeping from 1984 to 1996 whilst he was a member of the Fiji Military Forces. Laitia graduated with an LLB in 1999 and has post-graduate qualification in legal practice and Constitutional law from the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. He has worked with the Institute of Justice and Applied Legal Studies (IJALS) of the USP and as a Research Fellow on a Legal Literacy Project from 2000 - 200; with UNICEF as a Child Rights Consultant from 2002 - 2003 and after a short span with Legal Aid, joined the Office of the Prime Minister as a Policy Analyst in 2003. Since then, Laitia has been engaged in human rights and development promoting the right to development and developing human rights. Laitia is a Senior Technical Adviser at PIANGO and focuses on some projects namely; “Next Generation Leadership” which includes “Decolonization & the Right to Self Determination” and instantly West Papua, the French and the English territories come to mind, Climate Justice and the CSO Regional Humanitarian Response; a program PIANGO is just building up on. In this work, Laitia frequently applies the Transnational Leadership development as the vessel to engage Pacific Islands CSO in developing CSO leaders for the next generation which runs parallel with decolonizing the thinking and choosing to interpret the self, situational re-determination, the situation of being colonized, political self-determination, and decolonization in an empowering way.
Leonard Blazey is the Head of the ICRC’s Mission in Australia. In his current post he leads a team working with government, the ADF, think tanks, academics and the media to foster a greater understanding of ICRC and its global operations, and promote international humanitarian law. After having worked as a Barrister and Solicitor in South Australia and Victoria for over 10 years and being a volunteer with the Australian Red Cross since 1991, he joined the ICRC in 2000. He worked for the ICRC in Africa for nearly 10 years as a regional legal adviser in Southern and Eastern Africa based in Zimbabwe, as Deputy Head of Delegation in South Africa, and as communications coordinator in East Africa. He was then legal adviser for the common law countries at the ICRC’s Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland for over 4 years before taking up his current post in April 2012.

Loti Yates is the Director of the National Disaster Management Office in the Solomon Islands. Loti joined the NDMO in 1996. Loti Yates is the Director of the National Disaster Management Office in the Solomon Islands. Loti joined the NDMO in 1996.

Marc Purcell has headed the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) since 2009. ACFID is the peak body for around 140 Australian organisations working in international development. ACFID operates a Code of Conduct for Australian development NGOs. Marc has 25 years’ experience in the community, international development and human rights sectors in Australia. He worked as Oxfam Australia’s National Advocacy Manager and was Executive Officer for the Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace Executive. He has also worked as Country Program Manager for Africa at Australian Volunteers International; and worked with UNHCR in Nepal assisting Tibetan refugees. He researched China’s global rise and impacts on developing countries for Oxfam Hong Kong and has written about refugee and human rights in Burma. Marc is a Director of the Community Council for Australia and the Campaign for Australian Aid Executive Committee.

Maria Holtsberg serves as gender specialist for Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and works on building the gender and disaster risk capacity of organisations in Asia. She is currently Project Manager for a broad-ranging program on integrating gender into policies and practice for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. This comprises an internal organisational development work stream for ADPC to assess its own gender equality capacity and identify and fill institutional gaps as well as deliver capacity-building measures to ensure integration of gender into DRR and humanitarian action policy and practice. Maria represents ADPC in the IASC Working Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action, co-chaired by OCHA, UN Women and ADPC. Prior to joining ADPC, Maria worked with United Nations Population Fund, Save the Children Sweden and Kvinnoforum (Foundation of Women’s Forum) on various aspects related to gender, including gender strategy development, policy reviews including multi-stakeholder situational analysis, and program development.

Peter Korisa, Operations Manager, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Authority

Peter works for the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office for the last 8 years. Currently, Peter is the Operation Manager of the National Disaster Management office. Peter coordinates several major disasters during his time here at NDMO firstly the 2009 Gaua Volcanic Eruption, 2011 Cyclone Vania, 2012 Cyclone Jimina, 2013 Flooding Estae, Pamoa Island and Tanna Island Volcanic Eruption 2013-2014 and Tropical Cyclone Pam 2015. Peter also represents Vanuatu for international meetings and forums in relation to climate changes and disaster risk management at regional level to global level. Academic Background - Post-graduate Degree in Disaster Risk Management -2015 Fiji National University, Trade Certificate on Electronic Engineering and Under take certain degree Courses on Economics and Finance and Climate Change, has undertaken a short course on International Humanitarian Law.

Phoebe Wynn-Pope, Director, IHL and Movement Relations, Australian Red Cross

Phoebe has over 25-years experience in the humanitarian sector and has worked in complex humanitarian emergencies and conflict zones throughout Africa, the Middle East and Europe. This field work included working in Iran responding to the humanitarian impacts of the first Gulf War, and leading a humanitarian response to the Somali famine.

Previously Phoebe was a Principal Executive of Fundraising and Communications and from 1996-2002 Phoebe was the Commonwealth representative on the National Council for the Centenary of Federation. In this role she was Convenor of the Communications Committee and chaired the organising Committee of the Yeperene Festival, the largest gathering of Aboriginal peoples since Federation. Most recently, Phoebe was a founding Director of the Humanitarian Advisory group where her work focussed on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the use of information technology for the prevention of mass atrocity crimes, as well as researching policy development for businesses operating in fragile and conflict affected states.

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RUDI PHADMANTO, DEPUTY OF LOGISTICS AND EQUIPMENT, NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OF AUTHORITY (BNPB) INDONESIA

Rudi Phadmanto has worked for the National Disaster Management Authority of Indonesia (BNPB) for 6 years. Prior to being promoted to Deputy of Logistic and Equipment in June 2016, Rudi was BNPB’s internal Auditor.

STEPHEN MCDONALD, DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

Stephen McDonald is co-Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership. He has more than 10 years’ experience in leading humanitarian responses, including in Japan, Thailand and the Ivory Coast. As Head of Humanitarian Programmes with Save the Children, Stephen was responsible for developing global tools and systems to improve Save the Children’s humanitarian response efforts. Prior to joining Save the Children, Stephen worked in the private and government sectors, and spent a number of years in emergency services in Australia. Stephen studied at La Trobe and Deakin Universities, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Training and Development. He has lectured on humanitarian issues at City University, London, Warminster, and the Australian Emergency Management Institute. He has also lectured on Civil/Military issues at the Australian Defence Force. Stephen’s current research examines command and control in the digital age.

SUNE GUDNITZ, HEAD, UN OCHA PACIFIC

Sune Hjelmervik Gudnitz is Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for the Pacific in Fiji and has held the position since June 2013. Mr Gudnitz is a Danish national and first joined OCHA in Guinea in 2002, following assignments with the Department of Political Affairs in Timor Leste and Sierra Leone. Since then, he has worked with OCHA in Sudan, Geneva, and most recently in New York as an adviser to the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs. Sune holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen, and a MA in Political Science from the New School University.