



Bios of panelists in Plenary 6

Dr. Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director Asia Pacific, International Labour Organization

Sachiko Yamamoto was appointed Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, at the level of the Assistant Director-General, with effect from 1 July 2007. Dr. Yamamoto holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Cambridge (UK), an MA in International Administrative Law from the Graduate School of Public Administration, 19 International Christian University (Japan), and a BA in International Relations from the University of California (USA).

Dr. Yamamoto has joined the ILO from the United Nations Environment Programme where she held the position of the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention on the Control of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal from 2001 to 2007, with responsibilities for the operation of the Convention Secretariat and 14 Basel Convention Regional Centres worldwide. Her earlier appointments at the United Nations include the Principal Legal Officer of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (1997-2001), the Deputy Legal Adviser to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (1992-1993), Senior Legal Officer of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (1988-1991), and the Secretary-General/Coordinator of the International Convention for the Protection of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1984-1985).

She was also the Coordinator of the UNEP projects on the control of land-based marine pollution and environmental impact assessment (1982-1984) and Programme Officer at the UNEP Environmental Law Unit (1976-1981). Dr. Yamamoto has published various books and articles on international environmental law, international law on terrorism and jurisdictional immunities of States. She has lectured on international law and international organizations at Ritsumeikan University and Aoyama Gakuin University in Japan and conducted research on environment and trade at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (1995).

Honourable Niko Lee-Hang, Minister of Finance, Government of Samoa

Mr Niko Lee-Hang is the Hon Minister of Finance for the Government of Samoa since April 2006. Hon Lee-Hang was the Associate Minister of Justice for the last four years (2001 to 2005) prior to his Ministerial appointment. Prior to going into Parliament in 2001, he was Deputy General Manager for the Samoa Life Assurance Corporation before his appointment as Chief Executive Officer for the Samoan Public Trust Office (Public Trustee) in 1997 to 2001; all being public bodies.

His ministerial position has involved him in almost all the development plans of Samoa due to their financial necessities; Lee-Hang is also a Governor to the ADB Institution where he plays a vital role in negotiating funds for the national development of Samoa not only from ADB but also from the World Bank.

Hon Lee-Hang holds a Masters Degree in Management apart from his Financial Management Degrees and Achievements which make him a member of the Australian Society of Accountants and that of Samoa. He has a high standard of knowledge and experience through his many years of public appointments together with his involvement in executive levels of non-governmental and private organizations (sports and communal) and that of private business societies.

Mr. Kosi Latu, Deputy Director, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Environmental Law and Policy
- Law of the Sea and Maritime (Shipping) Law
- International Trade Law
- Financial Compliance issues

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Deputy Director of SPREP, August 2008 – present
- Manager – Financial compliance programme (based with PIFs, Fiji), July 2006 – August 2008
- Head - Legal and Economic Section (Special Advisory Services Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London), 2001 – 2006
- Deputy Director – Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division (Commonwealth Secretariat, London), 1995 - 2001
- State Solicitor – Attorney-General's Office, Apia, Samoa), 1990 – 1995.