

## Forwards by key participants



Prof. Hans van Ginkel  
Rector, The United Nations University  
URMPM Honor member

We live in challenging times. On one hand, the second half of the 20th century has been characterized by broad-scale peace and greater improvements in human livelihood than in any other period of history. On the other, however, for many people on the planet the United Nations' goals of peace and prosperity seem as elusive as ever. UNDP, for instance, estimates that half of the world's population lives on less than \$2 a day and almost a quarter even on less than \$1 a day. Poverty is still paramount. Improvement will be slow and asks for creativity, commitment and perseverance.

More than 130 million children never have an opportunity to go to school. Almost one quarter, again, of humankind does not have safe water to drink.

The founders of the United Nations University gave it a challenging mission: to contribute through research and capacity-building, to find original, forward-looking solutions to the most pressing problems which concern the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. The value of the UNU - as a University, yet within the UN System - is that it not only seeks responses at a theoretical level, but also concerns itself with the down-to-earth need for practical action.

(From The UNU homepage)



Mistuko Horiuchi, Former Director of ILO Tokyo Office, URMPM Advisor

Dr. Horiuchi had also long carriers in New York metropolitan area, and her major interest is to promote woman's status in workplace in Asia and developing countries.



清水 英佑 教授

Hidesuke Shimizu,  
Prof. The Jikei University School of Medicine,  
Department of Public Health and Environmental Medicine, Tokyo, Japan  
President, Japan Society for Occupational Health, Japan

Born in 1941 at Miyagi Prefecture, Japan and graduated from The Jikei University School of Medicine in 1967. Fellow in the Eppley Institute for Research on Cancer in University of Nebraska, USA (1971). Director in the Department of Public Health and Environmental Medicine (1986-). Director of Center for Medical Information in The Jikei University School of Medicine (1999-). Director of board members of the non-profit-organization of Japan Medical Library Association (2001-). President of Japan Society for Occupational Health (2005-).

Prof. Shimizu chairs Japan Society of Occupational Health, which is the largest academic society in occupational health in Japan, involving over 7000 members in Japan. One of the Society job is publication of environmental standards jointly with Japan Ministry of Environment.



Christopher J. Portier Adjunct Professor, University of North Carolina  
Associate Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
Head, Environmental Systems Biology, North Carolina, USA, URMPM Advisor

Understanding, developing and using statistical and mathematical methods to evaluate exposures and estimate risks from environmental exposures is a constantly changing field due to the changing nature of biological research. The long-term objective of Dr. Portier's research is the development of methodology to facilitate the appropriate translation of "cutting-edge" research findings into future public health decisions. In this regard, Dr. Portier has been very successful, having developed or improved many of the basic methods now used to determine environmental health risks. Dr. Portier has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Spiegelman Award from the American Public Health Association, has made presentations to hundreds of research groups, government agencies and interested parties, has lead the US National Toxicology Program, the world's largest toxicology research program, and implemented a new strategic plan to guide it into the 21st Century, and has published over 200 research articles, book chapters and scientific reports. He led US Government and WHO efforts to evaluate the health risks of electric and magnetic fields and dioxins and has consulted with numerous agencies on a variety of important public health threats. Dr. Portier received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina in 1981.



Ryoji Sakai Chair, Union of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine (URMPM)

“Japan had very serious environmental and occupational health risks in the 20th Century as this country generated very high industrialization in small land. Most of those issues are overcome by dedicative tasks and efforts in academic, government and private sectors. On a contrary, today’s Asia countries enter the new era of high advanced industrialization. Thus, the major purposes of this International Conference were proposed to introduce the advanced preventive system and policy of environmental and ecological disasters, and promote the advanced international preventive manner for infectious diseases from Western countries and Japan to the other Asian and developing countries of the world, together with several international organizations, governments, industrial sectors, and the citizens.”

Prof. Sakai was mainly educated in the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine, and engaged in educational and research jobs in the University of Tokyo, Harvard University, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, University of Science Malaysia, etc. His present interests is to develop theory and practice of risk management in health and safety,



Shinichi Hasegawa, Director, ILO Tokyo Office  
Former Director, ILO Asia-Pacific Office, Philippine



Rusli Bin Nordin, MBBS(Monash), MPH(Malaya), PhD(Tokyo), OHD(Dosh),  
Deputy Dean (Research & Postgraduate), Universiti Sains Malaysia,  
President of Asia Pacific Society of Risk Management for Preventive Medicine

Avian influenza, tsunami, war atrocities, nuclear fallouts, environmental degradations --- these are some of the most urgent issues confronting the world. The world is bracing itself for what could be the most disastrous pandemics the world has ever known: Influenza Pandemic. We are most certainly close to this pandemic based on global reports and countries have been on high alert to prepare for predicted human catastrophes the world have never seen. The wrath of the tsunami has somewhat subsided but there are already predictions of greater tsunamis in high risk locations. War atrocities in many hot spots have been major issues that could potentially derail efforts toward global peace. The Chernobyl disaster should have awoken governments towards the need for stricter monitoring and control of nuclear plants and greater global control of nuclear proliferation. Finally, we are witnessing the gradual destruction of our earth due to widespread pollution and degradation of our natural resources. If current environmental disasters are not clear enough warnings from nature that we have failed to safeguard the earth, what then? Hopefully, the conference will be able to contribute towards global health risk management of the environment and labour.



Chiharu Tohyama, Prof. University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine,  
The Center for Disease Biology and Integrative Medicine

Prof. Tohyama has engaged in health risk assessment and management of various environmental factors including environmental heavy metal. He was former Director of Environmental Health Department at the National Institute of Environmental Studies (NIES) of Japan.



Chiho Watanabe, Prof. University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine  
Dept. Human Ecology

Prof. Watanabe's major research subject is environmental chemical's impacts on human man and ecological relationships. Recently his Department has engaged in environmental impacts of arsenic pollution in Bangladesh villages.



Mimiuro Meguro, Prof. University of Tokyo  
Institute of Industrial Science, Disaster Crisis Management Technology

Prof. Meguro has extensive investigation of risk reduction technologies in earthquake, tsunami and the national disasters in Japan and other countries. Recent research and societal activities were carried out in Sumatra tsunami, Pakistan earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, etc.



Ms. Shirley V. V. Chaves      URMPM International Secretary (Costa Rica)



URMPM & JSRMPM Secretaries (Japan)

Makino, Higashino & Kitamura