

**IRGC International Conference**  
**9 - 11 January 2013**  
**Beijing - China**



**清华大学**  
Tsinghua University

# **FROM RISK MANAGEMENT TO RISK GOVERNANCE**

**9 January 2013**  
**14:00 - 18:00**

**Ceremony and conference agenda**

## **International Conference**

### **Part 1: Ceremony for the Foundation of IRGC China**

**Wednesday 9 January 2013 – 14:00 - 15:00**

**Tsinghua University - Main Building - Reception Hall, Second floor**

Chair: **Yanhua LIU** Counsellor, the Counsellor's Office of the State Council, the People's Republic of China; Member of IRGC Board of Foundation

#### **Welcome remarks**

- **Weizhong WANG**  
Vice Minister, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the People's Republic of China
- **Ning FANG**  
Vice-Chairman, the Counsellor's Office of the State Council, the People's Republic of China
- **Philippe GILLET**  
Provost and Vice-president of EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland;  
Chairman, IRGC Board of Foundation
- **Bruno MOOR**  
Head, Division for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation  
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland
- **Representative from Tsinghua University**

#### **Introduction of IRGC China**

- **Lan XUE**  
Dean, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University;  
Member, IRGC Scientific and Technical Council

#### **Remarks from the IRGC academic network**

- **Marie-Valentine FLORIN**  
IRGC secretariat
- **Prof. Granger MORGAN**  
Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, USA
- **Dr. V.S. ARUNACHALAM**  
Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), India
- **Prof. Manuel HEITOR**  
Instituto Superior Técnico, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal
- **Prof. Kenneth OYE**  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- **Prof. Ortwin RENN**  
University of Stuttgart, Germany
- **Prof. Philippe GILLET**  
EPFL, Switzerland

## **Part 2: International Conference From Crisis Management to Risk Governance**

**Wednesday 9 January 2013 – 15:30 – 18:00**  
**Tsinghua University –Main Building – Reception Hall, Second floor**

### **Overview description**

The conference will aim to encourage the use of methods and tools for risk governance, and the development of policies and regulations based on the principles of risk governance. This requires investing in the creation of appropriate risk cultures, for risk awareness, assessment, prevention and management, in order to avoid or reduce the consequence of catastrophes and crises.

Risk accompanies change and is often accompanied by potential benefits and opportunities. Better risk governance implies enabling societies to benefit from change while minimising the negative consequences of the associated risks. The governance of global, systemic risks requires cohesion between countries and the inclusion within the process of government, industry, academia and civil society.

Speakers at the conference will present their views and recommendations for improving risk governance: how scientists and policy makers can promote better risk governance practices.

Chair: **Philippe GILLET**      Provost and vice-president EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland  
Chairman, IRGC Board of Foundation

### **Science and Policy for Risk Governance**

- **José Mariano GAGO**  
Professor IST and President LIP, member of IRGC Board, Former minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal  
*Modern science and technology policy must share the need and the opportunities of better governance of public risks.*
- **Lan XUE**  
Professor and Dean, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University  
*The balancing act: risk governance in science and technology policy*
- **Granger MORGAN**  
Professor and Head of the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University  
*NEEDED: More and better ways to think about uncertain futures*
- **Peijun SHI**  
Executive Vice-President, Beijing Normal University  
*Large-scale disasters governance in the context of global climate change*

### **Implementing Risk Governance**

- **He WANG**  
Executive Vice President of PICC Property and Casualty Company Ltd.  
*Risk culture and risk governance – an enterprise perspective*
- **Robert WIEST**  
President, Swiss Re China  
Member of the Asia Management Team  
*Importance of risk governance for the reinsurance*
- **Margareta WAHLSTROM**  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction  
*Risk governance to reduce disaster risk, illustrated by the Hyogo Framework for Action*

## Speakers' Biographies and Abstracts

### Part 1: Ceremony for the Foundation of IRGC China

**Weizhong WANG** Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the People's Republic of China

Weizhong Wang is Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the People's Republic of China since 2010. He holds a Bachelor's degree in hydraulic engineering and a Ph.D. in management science from Tsinghua University (1984 and 2006) as well as a MS diploma from China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (1987). From 1987 to 1991, he worked at the National Water Conservation Office and Department of Water Resources, the Ministry of Water Resources. From 1991 to 1998, he worked as Deputy Director, Director and Assistant Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology for Social Development of the State Science and Technology Commission (currently Ministry of Science and Technology). In 1995, he worked as a visiting analyst at the Country Study Program Office for Climate Change, Department of Energy of the United States. From 1998 to 2001 he was appointed as acting Director-General, Director-General of the Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA 21) and of the Life Science Development Center of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). From 2001 to 2006, he was in charge of the Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA 21) as Director-General. He was Vice Mayor of Zhaotong city, Yunnan Province from 2004 to 2006. From 2006 to 2010, he worked as Director-General of the Department of Facilities and Financial Support of MOST. He is the Vice-president of Innovation Method Society and the Vice-president of Chinese Society for Sustainable Development.

**Ning FANG** Vice-chairman, the Counsellor's Office of the State Council, the People's Republic of China

Ning Fang was born in Jinzhai of East China's Anhui Province, in 1955. He is a member of the Communist Party of China. He graduated from the Philosophy Department of Anhui University in 1982 and holds a PhD in management. He served as Mayor, Party Secretary, Chairman of Municipal People's Congress of Xuancheng City in Anhui Province, and member of Anhui Provincial Committee of Communist Party of China. In February 2008, he served as Secretary General of People's Government of Anhui Province. Since October 2009, Mr FANG is Vice-Chairman of the Counsellors' Office of the State Council. He is a member of the 17th Congress of Communist Party of China.

**Philippe GILLET** Provost and vice-president of EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland;  
Chairman, IRGC Board of Foundation

Philippe Gillet is Provost and Vice-president for Academic Affairs, EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne). Before joining EPFL he was the Chief of Staff of the French Minister of Higher Education and Research. Philippe Gillet completed his undergraduate studies in Earth Science at Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris Ulm). In 1983 he obtained a Ph.D. in Geophysics at University of Paris VII and joined University of Rennes as an assistant. Having obtained a State Doctorate in 1988, he became a Professor at this same university, which he left in 1992 to join and lead the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon. The first part of his research career was devoted to the formation of mountain ranges – particularly of the Alps. In 1997, Gillet started investigating extraterrestrial matter. He was involved in describing meteorites coming from Mars, the moon or planets which have disappeared today and explaining how these were expelled from their original planet by enormous shocks which propelled them to Earth. He also participated in the NASA Stardust program. Philippe Gillet is also active in science and education management. He was the Director of the CNRS Institut National des Sciences de l'Univers (France), the President of the French synchrotron facility SOLEIL and of the French National Research Agency (2007), and the Director of Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon.

**Bruno MOOR** Head, Division for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation,  
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland

Bruno Moor is presently Head of the Division 'International Cooperation in Research and Innovation' at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation being part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Switzerland and in this capacity Deputy of the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland. With his expertise he is actively involved in various European councils and governing boards such as the CERN Council or the CERN Pension Fund Governing Board in Geneva. Previous roles by Mr. Moor included being Head of Division 'Security Policy Research, Science and Cooperation', Switzerland's Ministry of Defence, Head of Division 'Security Policy Research, Science & Defence Attachés' Directorate for Security Policy, Switzerland's Ministry of Defence as well as being Chief of Staff Directorate for Security Policy, Ministry of Defence. Dr MOOR, a Swiss national, holds a master degree of arts, economics and advanced studies. He concluded studies in ethnology and international relations as well as in conflict research and conflict resolution during his post-doctoral training. He speaks German, French, English and Spanish.

#### **Representative from Tsinghua University**

**Lan XUE** Dean, School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University

Dr. Lan Xue is a Cheung Kong Chaired Professor and Dean of School of Public Policy and Management at Tsinghua University. He is also the Director of the China Institute for S&T Policy and a Deputy Director of the China Institute for Strategic Studies on Engineering and Technology Development. His teaching and research interests include public policy analysis and management, science and technology policy, and crisis management.

He also serves as an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow of Brookings Institution. His many public service appointments include a member of the Expert Committee on Emergency Management of the State Council of China, Vice President of China Association of Public Administration, Vice Chairman of the National Steering Committee for MPA Education, a member of the Visiting Committee for Harvard Kennedy School, and a member of the Governing Board of International Development Research Center (IDRC). He is a recipient of the Fudan Distinguished Contribution Award for Management Science.

Trained as an engineer, Prof. Xue has two master degrees in Technological Systems Management and Public Administration from State University of New York at Stony Brook. He holds a Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University and taught as an Assistant Professor of Engineering Administration and International Affairs at the George Washington University before returning back to China in 1996. He is also a recipient of the National Distinguished Young Scientist Award of China.

#### **IRGC academic network**

**Marie-Valentine FLORIN** Managing Director, International Risk Governance Council

Marie-Valentine Florin is the Managing Director of IRGC. Since 2010, she has been involved in the restructuration of the Foundation and the reorientation of its activities to meet the demand of IRGC's audience and sponsors. She spent the first part of her career (1984-1999) in an international socio-cultural research and marketing consulting firm, as group finance director and chief operating officer. Before joining IRGC in 2006, she was consulting local authorities on strategies and practices for sustainable development. She was also involved in philanthropic and humanitarian organisations. Marie-Valentine Florin graduated from Science Po in Paris (political science and public administration), and then earned a post-graduate diploma in marketing strategy from the same institute. In 2001 and 2006 she studied sustainable development and environmental diplomacy at University of Geneva.

**Granger MORGAN** Professor and Head, Department of Engineering and Public Policy,  
University and Lord Chair Professor in Engineering,  
Carnegie Mellon University, USA

M. Granger Morgan is Professor and Head of the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University where he is also University and Lord Chair Professor in Engineering. In addition, he holds academic appointments in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

and in the H. John Heinz III College. His research addresses problems in science, technology and public policy with a particular focus on energy, environmental systems, climate change and risk analysis. Much of his work has involved the development and demonstration of methods to characterize and treat uncertainty in quantitative policy analysis. At Carnegie Mellon, Morgan directs the NSF Center for Climate and Energy Decision Making. He is also director of the newly-formed campus-wide Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation. Morgan serves as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Council for the International Risk Governance Council. In the recent past, he served as Chair of the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and as Chair of the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute, of which he is now again a member. He is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a Fellow of the AAAS, the IEEE, and the Society for Risk Analysis. He holds a BA from Harvard College (1963) where he concentrated in Physics, an MS in Astronomy and Space Science from Cornell (1965) and a Ph.D. from the Department of Applied Physics and Information Sciences at the University of California at San Diego (1969).

**V.S. ARUNACHALAM** Chairman,  
Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), India

V. S. Arunachalam is Chairman of the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a Bangalore-based non-profit research corporation that studies technology and policy issues. He was the scientific advisor to the Defense Minister of India for more than a decade and head of Indian's largest research and development institution – Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO). Arunachalam initiated and headed India's major defense projects, including light combat aircraft and integrated guided missiles programs. He also advised the government on large and innovative human development and infrastructure building programs. He continues to hold a distinguished service professorship at Carnegie Mellon University and is an honorary professor of engineering at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. Arunachalam is a recipient of numerous honors and awards including Padma Vibhushan, the highest civilian award for the year from the president of India. He was the past president and fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, Indian Institute of Metals and a fellow of Indian National Science Academy and Indian Academy of Sciences. Arunachalam also is a fellow of Royal Academy of Engineering (UK).

**Manuel HEITOR** Full Professor, Instituto Superior Técnico,  
Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal; IRGC Portugal

Manuel Heitor is Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico, IST, the engineering school of the Technical University of Lisbon, and served as Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Higher Education in the Government of Portugal from March 2005 to June 2011.

He earned a Ph.D. at Imperial College, London, and did post-doctoral training at the University of California San Diego in the area of experimental combustion and related energy aspects.

Manuel Heitor has served as Deputy-President of Instituto Superior Técnico, Technical University of Lisbon, for the period 1993-1998. Since 1995, he has been Research Fellow of the IC2 Institute, Innovation, Creativity and Capital, the University of Texas at Austin. Manuel Heitor was the founding director of the IST's "Center for Innovation, Technology and Policy Research", which was awarded in 2005 by the International Association of Management of Technology, IAMOT, as one of the top 50 global centres of research on "Management of Technology". He was co-founder in 2002 of "Globelics - the global network for the economics of learning, innovation, and competence building systems". In 2003 he was awarded with the Dibner Award of the Society for the History of Technology, SHOT.

**Kenneth OYE** Director, MIT Program on Emerging Technologies,  
Associate Professor of Political Science and Engineering Systems,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

Kenneth A. Oye is Director of the MIT Program on Emerging Technologies (PoET) with a joint appointment in Political Science and Engineering Systems. Prior to MIT, Professor Oye served on the faculties of Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of California, and Swarthmore College and was a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution. He holds a BA in Economics and Political Science with Highest Honors from Swarthmore College and a Ph.D in Political Science with the Chase Dissertation Prize from Harvard University.

His current research addresses issues in science and technology policy, with a focus on biotechnologies. He is a faculty researcher with the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation and was an

invited expert on the 2012 US PCAST Report to the President on Propelling Innovation in Drug Discovery, Development and Evaluation. He is a faculty PI in the NSF Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SynBERC), chairs the safety committee of the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (iGEM) and is a member of the US National Research Council Board (NRC) on Global Science and Technology

**Ortwin RENN** Professor, University of Stuttgart, Germany  
Director, Stuttgart Research Center for Risk and Innovation

Ortwin Renn serves as full professor and Chair of Environmental Sociology and Technology Assessment at Stuttgart University (Germany). He directs the Stuttgart Research Center for Risk and Innovation (ZIRUS) at Stuttgart University and the non-profit company DIALOGIK, a research institute for the investigation of communication and participation processes in environmental policy making. Renn also serves as Adjunct Professor for "Integrated Risk Analysis" at Stavanger University (Norway) and as Affiliate Professor at Beijing Normal University. Ortwin Renn has a doctoral degree in sociology and social psychology from the University of Cologne. His career included teaching and research positions at the Juelich Nuclear Research Center, Clark University (Worcester, USA), the Swiss Institute of Technology (Zuerich) and the Center of Technology Assessment (Stuttgart). His honours include an honorary doctorate from the Swiss Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), an honorary affiliate professorship at the Technical University Munich and the "Distinguished Achievement Award" of the Society for Risk Analysis. Among his many political advisory activities the chairmanship of the "State Commission for Sustainable Development" (German State of Baden-Württemberg) and the participation in the "Federal Government's Ethics Committee on Germany's Energy Futures" are most prominent. Renn is primarily interested in risk governance, political participation and technology assessment.

## Part 2: International Conference From Crisis Management to Risk Governance

**José Mariano GAGO** Professor IST and President LIP,  
Member of IRGC Board of Foundation,  
Former Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal

### Presentation abstract

**Modern science and technology policy must share the need and the opportunities of better governance of public risks.**

How will risk governance issues increasingly shape science agenda setting? How are risk governance issues shaping a renewed social constituency for scientific development, triggering a wider social appropriation of science and expanding the democratic values of informed participation?

### Biography

Professor of Physics at *IST (Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon)* and an experimental high-energy physicist (*École Polytechnique* and *Université Pierre et Marie Curie, European Organisation for Nuclear Physics - CERN and LIP*) Prof. Gago has also created and chairs a think-tank for forward-looking studies, *Instituto de Prospectiva*. He prepared, along with the EC, the *Lisbon Strategy* for the Information Society and the European Research Area, chaired the *Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE)* and campaigned for the creation of the European Research Council. He chaired the *High Level Group on Human Resources for S&T* and coordinated the report *Europe Needs More Scientists*. He was the first President of the *International Risk Governance Council (IRGC)* in Geneva and is a member of IRGC Board. Prof. Gago has recently prepared a new UNESCO Centre for the advanced training of scientists from developing countries. He is policy advisor to the European Cancer Organisation, member of the Board of INSERM and special advisor to ESA Director-General. He is a member of the *Academia Europaea* and was elected Honorary Member of the European Physical Society.

**Presentation abstract****The balancing act: risk governance in science and technology policy**

China's innovation and S&T policy aims to promote innovation as a driver for economic development. Innovation is important to social welfare and to economic growth. However, innovation is also a double-edged sword on which some balancing is needed. Innovation, as well as inappropriate science and technology policy, may also bring risks to the society. Those must be identified, assessed and mitigated. The presentation will discuss how the adoption of risk governance strategies enables to reach a balanced approach to innovation, notably through better regulation that both enables innovation and reduces the associated risks.

**Biography**

*Please see page 5.*

**Presentation abstract****NEEDED: More and better ways to think about uncertain futures**

This presentation will provide illustrations of the poor performance of past forecasts of critical policy-relevant variables such as energy consumption and price. It will then suggest the characteristics that determine why some variables and time series can be reliably forecast while others cannot. Finally, for those that we know can not be reliably forecast, it will suggest and illustrate some better strategies that could be adopted when risk assessors and policy makers need insight about how those variables may evolve in the future.

**Biography**

*Please see page 5.*

**Presentation abstract****Large-scale disasters governance in the context of global climate change**

Response to the climate change has become a global issue which highly concerns dignitaries, scientists, governments and the public around the globe. Impact of climate change to human sustainable development has both - advantageous and disadvantageous sides. One of the adverse impacts of climate change is an increasing uncertainty of large-scale disasters. How to evaluate its disadvantageous side from the essence of climate change and to seek large-scale disasters governance measures is highly concerned. This report dives deeply into first, typical large-scale disasters in the world, second, the relationship between large-scale disasters and global climate change and thirdly, explores an integrated risk governance way to deal with large-scale disasters in the future in the context of global climate change.

**Biography**

Professor Peijun Shi is currently the Executive Vice-President of Beijing Normal University, director of the State Key Lab of Earth Surface Process and Resource Ecology, and vice dean of Academy of Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management, People's Republic of China. He earned his Ph.D. degree in physical geography at Beijing Normal University and had a postdoctoral experience at the College of Natural Resources, University of California at Berkeley, USA. He is associate director of the Expert Committee under the National Disaster Reduction Committee, housed in Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, a member of OECD's High Level Advisory Board on Financial Management of Large Scale Catastrophes. He is also a member of Prize Jury of Volvo Environment Prize. His research focuses on natural disaster theories and risk management. He has been charged with many relative national or ministerial programs and has numerous publications. He established the system of "regional natural disaster system" which consists of "environment, hazard and society"; put forward the technological system of regional agricultural natural disaster assessment. He is co-chairing the Integrated Risk



Governance Core Science project of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, whose purpose is to study how risk governance is implemented across scale and how multi-level governance of risks could be improved, and how resilient institutions for effective risk governance can be designed. Besides, he has made major contributions in advancing the field of study in environmental change, including land use/cover change in particularly the agro-pastoral transitional zone.

**He WANG** Executive Vice President, PICC Property and Casualty Company Ltd.

#### **Presentation abstract**

##### **Risk culture and risk governance – an enterprise perspective**

The private sector plays a key role in risk governance. However, weaknesses in risk governance at financial institutions have been widely blamed for exacerbating the financial crisis. Risk governance in Chinese financial enterprises is supported by a traditional risk culture which emphasizes risk aversion more than risk acceptance. Risk culture shapes risk perception and risk behaviour for directors and employees in the private sector. Good risk governance can be achieved by fostering an appropriate risk culture.

#### **Biography**

He Wang is the executive Vice President of PICC Property and Casualty Company Ltd.. He has a Ph.D. in economics and is a guest professor at Nankai University, Wuhan University and Central University of Finance and Economics. He is a permanent member in the Board of Directors of the Insurance Institute of China and a specially-invited expert in National Disaster Reduction Center. His expertise is on catastrophic insurance and enterprise risk management. He has taken lead in developing and implementing norms in a state-owned enterprise, been principal investigators for quite a few key projects in related field. Also, he published extensively in insurance.

**Robert WIEST** President Swiss Re China,  
Member of the Asia Management Team,  
Swiss Reinsurance Company

#### **Presentation abstract**

##### **Importance of risk governance for the reinsurance**

The Swiss Re Group is a leading wholesale provider of reinsurance, insurance and other insurance-based forms of risk transfer. Dealing direct and working through brokers, its global client base consists of insurance companies, mid-to-large-sized corporations and public sector clients. From standard products to tailor-made coverage across all lines of business, Swiss Re deploys its capital strength, expertise and innovation power to enable the risk taking upon which enterprise and progress in society depend. Reinsurance companies operate in a complex environment today with multi-disciplinary sources of risks. To grow successfully, Swiss Re has established a comprehensive system of internal and external risk governance, which the presentation will explore in detail.

#### **Biography**

Robert Wiest is President for Swiss Re China and member of the Asia Management Team. Robert started his career at Swiss Re in 1995 as an engineering underwriter for the Italian market. From 1998 to 2000 he serviced a number of European markets as engineering underwriting manager and headed special lines at Swiss Re Italia where he was a member of the local executive team. One of his major achievements as project manager was to successfully develop and launch SwiftRe.

In 2004 he was in charge of developing Swiss Re's P&C Business Group's Global Facultative System (GFS). In May 2005 he was appointed as Market Executive for Western & Southern Europe, and took on additional responsibility for the Middle East, Turkey and Pakistan from September 2006. He relocated to Beijing, China to head up this important market in November 2008. Robert was born in 1963 and is a graduate engineer majored in semiconductor and chip design at the Technical University of Munich, Faculty of Electrical Engineering. He is married and has two children.

**Presentation abstract****Risk governance to reduce disaster risk, illustrated by the Hyogo Framework for action**

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) – was created to offer to countries a set of actions to take in order to strengthen its risk governance capacities and substantially reduce mortality and economic losses from disasters. The presentation will talk about the current status of progress made in many countries in the Asia Pacific region and worldwide but also about the deficits, in particular in the area of governance. It will also illustrate the key elements of governance such as establishing National Platforms as well as the HFA Review Process, the richest source of information available to more effectively manage disaster risks.

**Biography**

Margareta Wahlström has over 30 years of extensive national and international experience in humanitarian relief operations in disaster and conflict areas, and in institution-building to strengthen national capacity for disaster preparedness, response and for risk reduction. In November 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced her appointment as the first Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. Ms Wahlström is based in Geneva and heads UNISDR, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ms Wahlström has an academic background in economic history, political science, social anthropology, archaeology and philosophy of science. She speaks English, Swedish, French and Spanish. She is from Sweden. More information on UNISDR can be found on: <http://www.unisdr.org> Among others, Margareta Wahlström's previous appointments include being Member and Coordinator of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of UN Personnel and Premises, Chaired by Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, as well as being Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and Assistant-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2004-2008.