



## **Advancing Climate, Peace, Security, and Geopolitical Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region**

**International Workshop  
Canberra  
14–15 July, 2025**



## Host Organisations



### **Toda Peace Institute**

The Toda Peace Institute is an independent, nonpartisan institute committed to advancing a more just and peaceful world through policy-oriented peace research and practice. The Institute commissions evidence-based research, convenes multi-track and multi-disciplinary problem-solving workshops and seminars, and promotes dialogue across ethnic, cultural, religious and political divides. It catalyses practical, policy-oriented conversations between theoretical experts, practitioners, policymakers and civil society leaders in order to discern innovative and creative solutions to the major problems confronting the world in the twenty-first century.

Please visit <https://toda.org/> for more information.

### **adelphi**

adelphi is an independent think tank for environmental and development policy research and analysis. Our mission is to enable transformative change and to create a sustainable future for generations to come. adelphi research, established in 2001 in Berlin, is a non-profit and independent institution. Our team of over 300 researchers and analysts specialises in analysing environmental, energy, and climate policies at both national and international levels. We're passionate about conducting transdisciplinary research projects that delve into environmental, development, and social policy matters. Additionally, we actively promote knowledge dissemination through lectures, publications, and events. Our aim is to reach a wide audience, sharing insights and raising awareness on topics related to nature, environmental and resource protection, as well as development cooperation on a national, European, and international scale. With over 23 years of experience and expertise of adelphi plays a crucial role in translating research and analysis into practice, thereby effecting sustainable change at societal and political levels.

Please visit <https://adelphi.de/en> for more information

### **Australian Strategic Policy Institute**

ASPI is an independent, non-partisan think tank that produces expert and timely advice for Australian and global leaders. ASPI generates new ideas for policy makers, allowing them to make better informed decisions. ASPI is one of the most authoritative and widely quoted contributors to public discussion of strategic policy issues in the Indo-Pacific region and a recognised and a leading Australian voice in international discussion on strategic, defence, national security, cyber, technology and foreign interference issues. ASPI was established by the Australian Government in 2001 and is partially funded by the Department of Defence with other sources of revenue including sponsorship, commissioned tasks and event registration fees.

Please visit <https://www.aspi.org.au/> for more information



## About the Workshop



### **Advancing Climate, Peace, Security, and Geopolitical Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region**

The Asia-Pacific region faces a unique convergence of challenges at the nexus of climate change, peace, and security. Compounding and cascading climate impacts from sea-level rise and extreme weather events are exacerbating existing vulnerabilities, including through rising food and water insecurity, which is in turn contributing to displacement, social tensions, and conflict risks. At the same time, the region's geopolitical dynamics, including intensifying competition over strategic influence and resources, further complicate efforts to address these challenges.

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific are on the frontlines of these intersecting risks, whether in Oceania (Australia), the Pacific, Southeast Asia (Indonesia), or Northeast Asia (Republic of Korea (RoK), and Japan). Despite this, conversations on climate, peace, and security have not advanced equally in the Asia-Pacific, and moreover are not as advanced as those taking place globally in other regions. Lessons learned from those discussions abroad can be brought to the Asia-Pacific, much as the Asia-Pacific's approach to climate and security can and should inform global discourse. Multilateral cooperation, innovative programming, and inclusive dialogue are essential to address the climate-security nexus while navigating the geopolitical realities of the Indo-Pacific.

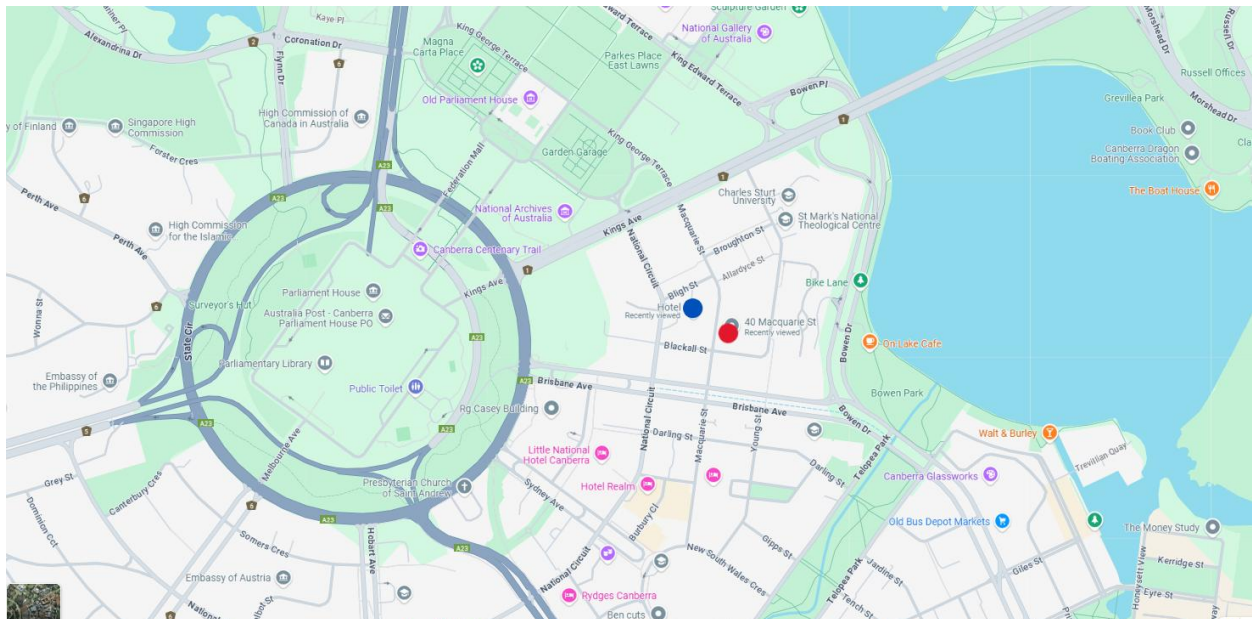
This workshop aims to bring together 30 experts from government ministries (foreign affairs, development, defence), academia, think tanks, and regional organisations to deepen understanding of the climate-security nexus and design actionable strategies to address these risks collaboratively.

## Venue, Accommodation and Ground Transport

**Advancing Climate, Peace, Security, and Geopolitical Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region** workshop will be held at the **Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)**, 40 Macquarie Street, Barton ACT 2600, Australia (marked with a red dot).

All accommodation is at the **Hotel Kurrajong** (marked with a blue dot).

The hotel is approximately 7 km from Canberra Airport. From the airport, please take a taxi and retain your receipt for reimbursement.



*Please note: For travellers, Toda will cover hotel breakfasts and provide all meals during the conference period. Personal costs such as room service or minibar and other meals outside the conference period are the responsibility of participants.*

## Programme



### **Agenda: Advancing Climate, Peace, Security, and Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region**

**Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 40 Macquarie Street, Barton, Canberra, Australia, 14-15 July 2025**

**Objective:** To deepen understanding of the climate, peace, and security nexus, explore the geopolitical dimensions of these challenges, and develop actionable strategies for joint programming to address climate security risks in the Asia-Pacific region.

---

#### **Day 1: Setting the Stage and Exploring Regional and Geopolitical Dynamics**

- **08:30 – 09:00 | Registration and Welcome Coffee**
- **09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Remarks:** Kevin Clements (Toda), (Senior ASPI)

**Intro to Themes:** Workshop objectives, importance of the climate-security nexus in the Asia-Pacific, and expected outcomes: Janani Vivekananda (adelphi, Toda), Michael Copage (ASPI)

- **09:30 – 10:30 | Keynote Panel: Climate Security Risks and Geopolitical Tensions in the Asia-Pacific**

**Format:** Panel discussion with Q&A

**Panellists:**

- Ambika Vishwanath (Kubernein Initiative)
- David Dutton (DFAT)
- Upolu Luma Vaai (Pasifika Communities University)

**Moderator:** Janani Vivekananda (adelphi, Toda)

**Guiding Questions:**

- What are the most pressing climate-related security risks in the Asia-Pacific region?
- How do these risks intersect with geopolitical tensions, such as competition over resources or strategic influence?
- What role does climate diplomacy play in mitigating regional tensions?

- **10:30 – 11:00 | Morning Tea Break**
- **11:00 – 12:30 | Breakout Session 1: Regional Perspectives on Climate Security and Geopolitics**

**Format:** Parallel breakout groups by geography

- **Group 1:** Pacific Islands – Balancing climate resilience and geopolitical influence

**Facilitator:** Carol Farbotko (Toda)

**Input:** Justine Maravu (TO Fiji), Rebekah Ramsay (World Bank)

- **Group 2:** South and Southeast Asia – Resource competition, climate risks, and regional security

**Facilitator:** Janani Vivekananda (adelphi, Toda)

**Input:** Jose Ma Luis Montesclaros (NTU Singapore)

- **Group 3:** Oceania – Supporting regional resilience and partnerships

**Facilitator:** Michael Copage (ASPI)

**Input:** Japhet Eichel (UN Women)

**Guiding Questions:**

- How are climate risks manifesting in this sub-region, and what are the geopolitical dimensions?
- How do geopolitical dynamics shape responses to climate security risks?
- What opportunities exist for regional cooperation to address shared challenges?

- **12:30 – 13:30 | Networking Lunch**
- **13:30 – 15:00 | Thematic Panel: Climate-Security Nexus in Practice**

**Format:** Panel discussion with case studies

**Themes:**

- Climate-related migration and mobility and its security implications: Tasnia Khandaker Prova (BRAC University Bangladesh) [virtual input]
- Water security and conflict prevention: John Campbell (Toda/Waikato)
- Climate adaptation as a tool for peacebuilding: Alexander Douglas (Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue)
- Climate change and cultural security: Upolu Luma Vaai (PCU, Fiji)

**Moderator:** Volker Boege (Toda)

**Guiding Questions:**

- How can programming address the intersection of climate and security?
- What lessons can be drawn from successful initiatives in the region?

- **15:00 – 15:30 | Afternoon Tea Break**

- **15:30 – 17:00 | Breakout Session 2: Thematic Focus Areas**

**Format:** Parallel breakout groups by theme

- **Group 1:** Integrating climate security into defence and foreign policy:

**Facilitator:** Michael Copage (ASPI)

**Input:** Swathi Veeravalli (Washington/DFAT), Kazuo Matsushita (IGES)

- **Group 2:** Food security/Supply chain disruption:

**Facilitator:** Janani Vivekananda (adelphi, Toda)

**Input:** Jose Ma Luis Montesclaros (NTU Singapore), Steve Crimp (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)

- **Group 3:** Regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction and conflict prevention:

**Facilitator:** Ria Shibata (Toda)

**Input:** Matt McDonald (University of Queensland),

**Guiding Questions:**

- What are the key challenges in addressing this theme?
- What innovative approaches or partnerships could help?

- **17:00 – 17:30 | Day 1 Wrap-Up**

**Facilitator:** Kevin Clements - Recap of insights and themes from the day, outline of Day 2 agenda.

- **18:30 | Dinner: Hotel Kurrajong**

---

**Day 2: From Understanding to Action – Addressing Geopolitics and Climate Security**

- **09:00 – 09:30 | Recap of Day 1 and Setting Objectives for Day 2:** Michael Copage (ASPI)

Summary of Day 1 discussions and framing for Day 2's focus on actionable outcomes.

- **09:30 – 11:00 | Geopolitical Panel: Strategic Cooperation on Climate Security in the Indo-Pacific**

**Format:** Panel discussion with Q&A

**Speakers:** Matt McDonald (University of Queensland), Tim Bryar (Pacific Islands Forum), Swathi Veeravalli (Washington/DFAT)

**Moderator:** Janani Vivekananda (adelphi, Toda)

**Themes:**

- The role of Indonesia/Pacific in promoting regional climate security
- US-China competition and its implications for climate security cooperation
- Strengthening multilateral frameworks (e.g., ASEAN, Pacific Islands Forum)

**Guiding Questions:**

- How can climate security serve as a platform for regional cooperation amidst geopolitical tensions?
  - What are the risks of climate issues being securitised in the context of great power competition?
  - How can middle powers (e.g., Australia, Japan, RoK) lead on this issue?
- **11:00 – 11:30 | Morning Tea Break**

**11:30 – 12:30 | Interactive Workshop: Designing Joint Programming for Climate Security and Geopolitical Cooperation**

**Format:** Small group discussions with facilitators (Ria Shibata, Janani Vivekananda, Mike Copage)

**Objective:** Develop draft concepts for joint programming initiatives addressing climate security risks while considering geopolitical as well as local level human security realities.

**Guiding Questions:**

- What are the key components of effective programming in this space?
  - How can geopolitical dynamics be leveraged or mitigated to enhance cooperation?
  - What partnerships and resources are needed?
- **12:30 – 13:30 | Networking Lunch**
  - **13:30 – 15:00 | Breakout Session 3: Roadmaps for Action**

**Format:** Group work to refine research and programming ideas (Ria Shibata, Janani Vivekananda, Mike Copage)

**Objective:** Develop action roadmaps for specific sub-regions or themes, including timelines, partnerships, and funding strategies.

- **15:00 – 15:30 | Afternoon Tea Break**
- **15:30 – 16:30 | Closing Plenary: Presenting Roadmaps and Next Steps**

**Format:** Group presentations and feedback

**Objective:** Share proposed roadmaps, gather input, and identify next steps for collaboration.

- **16:30 – 17:00 | Closing Remarks**

**Speakers:**

- Volker Boege (Toda)
- David Dutton (DFAT)

**Themes:** Reflections on the workshop, commitments to action, and thanks to participants.



## Participants

Afeeya Akhand	Researcher with ASPI's Cyber, Technology and Security Program, Australia
Volker Boege	Formerly Senior Research Fellow at the Toda Peace Institute, in charge of the Institute's climate change, conflict and peace workstream, Australia
Isabelle Bond	Fellow with ASPI; formerly climate security analyst with the Climate and Security Policy Centre, Australia
Timothy Bryar	Programme Adviser for Climate Mobility at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji
John Campbell	University of Waikato, New Zealand
Salā George Carter	Senior Fellow and Deputy Head of the Department of Pacific Affairs at The Australian National University (ANU), Australia
Kevin Clements	Director, Toda Peace Institute, New Zealand
Michael Copage	Head of the Climate and Security Policy Centre at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Australia
Steven Crimp	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)
Siad Darwish	Research Associate, University of Melbourne's Initiative for Peacebuilding; teaches at the Academy for Conflict Transformation, Australia
Sebastian Dern	Head of the Climate and Environment Section at the German Embassy in Australia
Alexander Douglas	Deputy Regional Director for Asia-Pacific at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), Australia
David Dutton	Assistant Secretary for Climate Diplomacy, Australia
Japhet Eichel	UN Women's Climate, Peace and Security (CPS) Specialist for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand
Carol Farbotko	Australian Research Council Future Fellow, Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University, Australia
Robert Glasser	Senior Fellow with ASPI, Australia
Neil Greet	Director of Collaborative Outcomes and the Institute of Integrated Economics Research, Australia
Tobias Ide	Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at Murdoch University, Australia
Will Leben	Senior Analyst at the Development Intelligence Lab and an Expert Associate at the ANU's National Security College, Australia
Justine Maravu	Transcend Oceania's Acting Project Manager/Projects Officer, Fiji
Kazuo Matsushita	Professor Emeritus at Kyoto University; Chairman of the Japan Society for GNH Studies, and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
Rosemary McBryde	Toda Peace Institute, New Zealand

Matt McDonald	Associate Professor in International Relations, School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland, Australia
Jose Ma Luis Montesclaros	Research Fellow and the Food Security Lead within the Centre of Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Melanie Pill	Research Fellow, Indo Pacific Development Centre at the Lowy Institute, Australia
Rebekah Ramsay	Senior Social Development Specialist, currently serving as Social Risk Focal for Fiji, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Regional Pacific projects at the World Bank Group, Fiji
Elise Remling	Senior Research Fellow at UC's Centre for Environmental Governance, Australia
Hideki Sakomoto	Toda Peace Institute, Japan
Dustin Schinn	ADB's regional climate anchor for East Asia
Ria Shibata	New Zealand Centre for Global Studies and University of Auckland, New Zealand
Upolu Lumā Vaai	President and Vice Chancellor of the Pasifika Communities University (PCU), Fiji
Swathi Veeravalli	Previously Director for Climate Security and Adaptation in the United States National Security Council's Climate & Energy directorate
Ambika Vishwanath	Co-Founder and Director of Kubernein Initiative; currently serving as a DFAT funded Miatr Principal Research Fellow at La Trobe Asia in Australia.
Janani Vivekananda	Senior Research Fellow at the Toda Peace Institute and Head of Programme Climate Diplomacy and Security at adelphi, Germany
Andrew Watkins	Research Associate at Monash University's School of Earth, Atmosphere, and Environment, Australia



## Participant Bios



**Afeeya Akhand** is a Researcher with ASPI's Cyber, Technology and Security Program, focusing on South Korean foreign policy, Indo-Pacific security and social cohesion. She is also an Emerging Associate with the ANU National Security College. Afeeya is committed to the promotion of cultural diversity and intersectionality in foreign policy and national security. She is the Secretary of Women in International Security – Australia and is a committee member of Careers in Colour, a not-for-profit dedicated to advancing the inclusion of people of colour in Australian workplaces. Afeeya holds a Masters in International Security specialising in Korean language from the University of Sydney and Bachelors in Laws with Honours and Finance from the Australian National University. She was a finalist on the 2024 Young Women to Watch in International Affairs list. She has previously worked in the Department of Defence and a consultancy for government and defence industry clients.

**Volker Boege**, Dr phil., peace researcher and historian. From early 2018 to September 2024, Volker was Senior Research Fellow at the Toda Peace Institute, in charge of the Institute's climate change, conflict and peace workstream. His main regional area of expertise is Oceania. From the early 1980s through to the mid-2000s, Volker worked with a number of peace research institutions and universities in Germany and Switzerland. He moved to Australia and started work with The University of Queensland in Brisbane in 2005. Over the last two decades, Volker has worked on research projects which address peacebuilding and state formation in Pacific Island Countries, as well as climate change, peace, and conflict in the Pacific. Volker has published numerous journal articles, book chapters, reports, conference papers and books in peace and conflict studies as well as in contemporary history.

**Isabelle Bond** is a Fellow with ASPI, and previously served as a climate security analyst with the Climate and Security Policy Centre. She is also a Research Associate of the Climate Change and (In) Security Project, a joint initiative between the University of Oxford and the British Army's Centre for Historical and Armed Conflict Research (CHACR). Isabelle is a casual lecturer at the ANU's National Security College and has previously held positions within the Australian Government as an International Policy Officer with the Department of Defence, and on the investigations team at the Clean Energy Regulator. Her research focuses on the nexus between climate security and intelligence, some of which she has published with the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence* and the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*.

**Timothy Bryar** is the Programme Adviser for Climate Mobility at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji. Prior to that he also served as Senior Policy Adviser and Conflict Prevention Adviser with the Secretariat. Dr Bryar has over 15 years of experience in the Pacific Islands region in peace and conflict, human security, climate change and mobility. He has a PhD from the University of Sydney.

**John R. Campbell** has been researching population and environment issues in Pacific Island countries since the 1970s. He is currently working on the human dimensions of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction including environmental migration. He obtained a PhD. at the University of Hawaii where his thesis was on population and environment interrelations on a small island in northern Vanuatu. He has written a book on development and disasters in Fiji, co-authored a book on Climate Change in Pacific Islands and a number of book chapters and articles on disasters, environmental management, and global change, especially in Oceania.

**Salā George Carter** is Senior Fellow and Deputy Head of the Department of Pacific Affairs at The Australian National University (ANU). He is the Director for the ANU Pacific Institute and cluster lead on Climate Security, and Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge at ANU Institute of Climate Change Energy and Disaster. His research explores the interplay of international politics and security, with climate change (diplomacy, negotiations, finance, democracy, gender and knowledge), through the influence and authority/power of Islands (Pacific states and peoples, Small Island Developing States). His work contributes to areas of climate politics, foreign policy, multilateralism, non-western and Oceanic Diplomacy, Pacific regionalism and geopolitics, indigenous knowledge, and philosophy.

**Kevin P. Clements** is the Director of Toda Peace Institute. the Foundation Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies and former Director of the New Zealand National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (NCPACS) at the University of Otago, New Zealand. For several years, he served as Secretary General of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), President of the IPRA Foundation and Secretary General for IPRA's Asia-Pacific region (APPR). He was also Secretary General of International Alert, London; Lynch Professor and Director of Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) at George Mason University; and Head of the Peace Research Centre at Australian National University. He has been a regular consultant to a variety of non-governmental, governmental and intergovernmental organisations on conflict resolution, peacebuilding, disarmament and arms control, and human security issues. Dr. Clements received the New Zealand Peace Foundation's 2014 Peace Award, and in 2022 was the recipient of an ISA Distinguished Scholar Award and the Luxembourg Peace Prize.

**Michael Copage** is Head of the Climate and Security Policy Centre at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. He previously led the centre's projects from 2022-2024, focused on assessing the security implications of Indo-Pacific climate change impacts for Australia. Michael has a long-standing interest in understanding the relationships between climate change and security. Prior to this role, Michael worked with the Government of Canada from 2012–2022 in various environment and climate policy roles. This included supporting the development of Canada's national climate mitigation plans in 2016 and 2020, assisting with the development of national climate adaptation policy, and delivering climate services by helping decision-makers understand and use climate data.

**Steven Crimp** joined the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) from the ANU Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions, where he was Deputy Head of Climate. His research has focussed on examining opportunities for improved climate risk management within primary industries, both in Australia and internationally. He has worked at a range of scales from individual farmer to multi-national and global food producers. Steven has over twenty years of experience designing, implementing, and managing research to improve climate risk

management, for national and international primary industries. He has been a contributing author and expert reviewer of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 2001 and was a recent member of the IPCC TG-Data expert panel tasked with promoting improved data findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability for researchers. Steven has over 10 years' experience managing research partnerships focussed on enhancing the resilience of Indo-Pacific food systems to the impacts of climate change.

**Siad Darwish** is an environmental anthropologist and systems thinker working at the intersection of climate action, peacebuilding, and governance in fragile and conflict-affected settings. He brings over 15 years of experience designing and facilitating inclusive, transformative processes that bridge research, policy, and practice to address systemic risks and climate–security challenges. Siad has led global research initiatives on climate change and systemic risk with CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, and advised a range of multilateral agencies, INGOs, and donors—including Oxfam, WWF, the International Rescue Committee, and USAID—on integrating gender, conflict sensitivity, and resilience into climate programming. His work is grounded in participatory design and a commitment to equity and context-specific solutions. He currently serves as a Research Associate with the University of Melbourne's Initiative for Peacebuilding and teaches at the Academy for Conflict Transformation. Siad holds a PhD anthropology, specialization in environmental governance, from Rutgers University.

**Sebastian Dern** is the Head of the Climate and Environment Section at the German Embassy in Australia. Prior to this role, he served as Deputy Consul General in Chengdu/China and as desk officer managing the German Foreign Office's real estate in Africa and Afghanistan. He holds a Master's degree in business administration and civil engineering from TU Darmstadt and in real estate development from the University of Maryland.

**Alex Douglas** is the Deputy Regional Director for Asia-Pacific at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), an independent organisation that works to prevent and resolve armed conflict. He helps oversee HD's programs across the Philippines, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, the South China Sea, South Asia, and cyberspace. His work focuses on inclusive peace processes, preventing forced migration, reducing communal violence, and addressing the role of social media in conflict. Before joining HD, Alex worked for the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), focusing on humanitarian emergencies, natural resource management, and social protection in Australia and Indonesia. In 2010–11, he was a long-term observer for The Carter Center's election monitoring mission in Nepal and later joined its missions in 2011 and 2014. Alex holds two degrees from Flinders University in Australia: a Bachelor of International Studies and a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice.

**David Dutton** commenced as Assistant Secretary for Climate Diplomacy in August 2023. He joined Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1999 and served most recently as Deputy Head of Mission in Brussels with accreditation to the EU and NATO. He was an Assistant Secretary in the Southeast Asia Division 2016-19 and Deputy Head of Mission in Manila 2013-16. Previously, he served as Minister-Counsellor Political in Washington 2010-13 and in Australia's Mission to the UN in New York 2002-05. In Canberra he has held positions with responsibility for international security, environment, development, and trade. Dr Dutton holds a PhD in history from the University of Melbourne.

**Japhet** [DJAH-feht] **Eichel** is UN Women's Climate, Peace and Security (CPS) Specialist for Asia and the Pacific. Previously with the UN's Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the UN Climate Security Mechanism at UN Headquarters in New York, he advised Security-Council members and field missions, co-authored UNAMA's first CPS report and supported civil society and regional organizations on CPS. A former Danish naval and army officer, Mr. Eichel has deployed to Afghanistan where he worked with the Afghan National Army as well as creating gender-sensitive security-sector reforms. In the Middle East Mr. Eichel has served as a UN Peacekeeper, worked in the Danish National Police on conflict prevention and served as a consultant for UNODC's East Africa division on transboundary crime and human rights. He holds BA and MA degrees in international relations (climate policy) from the University of Copenhagen, plus executive studies in mediation and climate-business at Harvard University and environmental peacebuilding from Geneva Graduate Institute.

**Carol Farbotko** is a cultural geographer, specializing in critical climate mobilities. Her research examines how place, culture, politics, habitability, and human mobility are changing in a changing climate, with a particular focus on self-determination, equity, and climate justice. She is currently an Australian Research Council Future Fellow at Griffith University, Australia.

**Robert Glasser** is a Senior Fellow with ASPI and served as the inaugural Head of ASPI's Climate and Security Policy Centre from 2021 to 2024. He previously held the role of United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, where he was a member of the Secretary-General's Senior Management Team. Prior to his work with the UN, Dr Glasser was the Secretary-General of CARE International, one of the world's largest humanitarian organisations, overseeing a global workforce of more than 10,000 staff across 80 countries. From 2003 to 2007, he served as Chief Executive of CARE Australia. Earlier in his career, Dr Glasser held the position of Assistant Director General at AusAID (the Australian Government's aid agency), where he led programs for Papua New Guinea, Southeast Asia, corporate policy, and the Infrastructure and Environment Group. Currently, Dr Glasser is a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Development Program Committee, which oversees Australia's development cooperation initiatives. He also serves on the boards of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and Fire to Flourish and is a member of the Lethal Humidity Global Council. Previously, he was the inaugural board chairman of the CHS International Alliance, chair of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, an Advisory Panel member of the Climate Vulnerability Monitor, a member of the Principals Steering Group of the United Nations Transformative Agenda for Humanitarian Action, and a member of the Steering Group for the World Economic Forum project on the Future Role of Civil Society.

**Neil Greet** is currently a Director of Collaborative Outcomes and the Institute of Integrated Economics Research – Australia, and through these two agencies has advocated for strengthened national resilience and action on climate change. He is a Director of Redr (Australia) which addresses a world where dedicated and skilled professionals are readily available and actively addressing needs before, during, and after crises and conflicts. He is also an Executive Committee Member of the Australian Security Leaders Climate Group. Neil is an active Member of Engineers Australia and is an Engineering Executive. He has served on the College of Leadership and Management Board since 2017 and was Canberra Division President in 2015. He is a civil engineer

who has extend his education with Masters Degrees in both Science and Defence Studies. Neil served in the Australian Defence Force from 1982 to 2011 retiring as a senior officer.

**Tobias Ide** is Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at Murdoch University. He focuses on the intersections of climate change, natural resources and environmental politics with peace, conflict, and security. His further academic interests of include climate politics, peace and conflict studies, international politics, security studies, and the critical geopolitics of education. Tobias employs various quantitative and qualitative research methods, including qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) and field research. Preciously, Tobias worked at the Georg Eckert Institute in Braunschweig, Germany, and the University of Melbourne. He currently holds a Specially Appointed Professorship in Peace and Sustainability at the University of Hiroshima. In the past, he was a visiting researcher at the University of Melbourne, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the American University in Washington, DC. At Murdoch University, he is an active member of the Harry Butler Institute and the Indo-Pacific Research Centre.

**William Leben** is a Senior Analyst at the Development Intelligence Lab and an Expert Associate at the ANU's National Security College. He previously served as an Australian Army officer, including on operations in Iraq. He holds an MPhil in Development Studies from Oxford and is a General Sir John Monash Foundation Scholar. He has eclectic research interests, including climate change impacts, Australia's colonial history in PNG, Australian foreign policy, future war and much else.

**Justine Maravu** is currently Transcend Oceania's Acting Project Manager/Projects Officer primarily responsible for the Bread for the World funded regional project on Engaging Men and Boys for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls. Her role expands to other projects on climate change and conflict, Trauma Awareness and Healing due to her expertise and skills in Peacebuilding. Justine has worked in the NGO sector for more than a decade. She has a deep interest in Community Peacebuilding and Development which led her to complete a Graduate Certificate in Peacebuilding and Leadership from Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia USA. Currently she is also a Programme Associate for the Pacific Women Mediators Network.

**Kazuo Matsushita** is Professor Emeritus at Kyoto University, Chairman of the Japan Society for GNH Studies, and Senior Fellow of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

He joined the Environment Agency of the Government of Japan in 1972 and served as Director of the Air Quality Control Division, Director of the Environmental Conservation Measures Division, etc. Prof. Matsushita also worked at the OECD Environment Directorate and served as a Senior Planning Officer at the United Nations Conference on Environment Development (UNCED). He served as Professor of Global Environmental Policy at the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University from 2001 to 2013. He has long been involved in environmental administration and policy studies, especially in the global environment. His publications include "Climate Crisis and Covid-19", "Environmental Governance Theory" and "Environment in the 21st Century and New Development Patterns" among others.

**Rosemary McBryde** is a staff member at Toda Peace Institute, based in New Zealand.

**Matt McDonald** is a Professor in International Relations in the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland. His research focuses primarily on the intersection between climate change and security, examining how this relationship is approached in practice and how it should be. He has published widely on these themes and is the author of *Security, the Environment and Emancipation* (Routledge, 2012), co-author (with Anthony Burke and Katrina Lee-Koo) of *Ethics and Global Security* (Routledge, 2014) and author of *Ecological Security: Climate Change and the Construction of Security* (Cambridge UP, 2021). He is completing an Australian Research Council-funded project examining comparative national responses to the security implications of climate change. He contributes to public commentary on the politics of climate change, and has advised the United Nations (the Climate Security Mechanism) and a range of national governments on the climate-security relationship.

**Jose Ma Luis Montesclaros** is a Research Fellow and the Food Security Lead within the Centre of Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, where he has worked for the past 10 years. He holds a PhD in International Political Economy with RSIS, NTU, a Master's in Public Policy with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore as an ASEAN Scholar, and a BS Economics Degree with the University of the Philippines. He was one of the two "Leaders of Tomorrow" representing LKYSPF at the 44th Saint Gallen Wings of Excellence Awards in 2014 (Switzerland). He presently teaches on the Political Economy of Development at RSIS, and conducts research on Food Security in Southeast Asia. He co-authored the commissioned report, "Climate Change and Its Impact on Peace and Security in Southeast Asia."

**Melanie Pill** is a Research Fellow at the Indo Pacific Development Centre at the Lowy Institute where she leads the climate change agenda and holds an Honour in Economics, a Masters of Environmental Management and Development and a PhD from the Australian National University. Dr Pill has worked at various government departments and is an advisor to Pacific governments and organisations. She has over a decade of experience in international policy development, climate change finance as well as the economics of climate change with a focus on vulnerable countries, particularly the Pacific. Her areas of expertise range from climate change loss and damage and finance over adaptation to policy development for climate change mitigation. She currently also explores the importance of the security and climate change nexus.

**Rebekah Ramsay** is a Senior Social Development Specialist with 14 years of experience, currently serving as Social Risk Focal for Fiji, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Regional Pacific projects at the World Bank Group. Since starting this role in 2020, Rebekah has supported over 55 Bank-funded projects within the Pacific region. Her passion for social issues in the Pacific is evident through contributions to knowledge creation on the social dimensions of climate change, forced displacement and gender. She also mentors Pacific Social Practitioners and supports capacity-building initiatives in environmental and social risk management. Before joining the World Bank, Rebekah was based in the Philippines with the Asian Development Bank, focusing on social safeguards in South Asia. She holds a PhD in Forced Migration Studies from the University of Queensland, with her dissertation examining the application of private sector environmental and social performance standards in the Peruvian Andes. Rebekah's career began as a Community Development Practitioner in Nicaragua and Vanuatu, working directly with communities on livelihoods development. She later joined the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining as a



Research Analyst, contributing to research and training on topics such as gender, agreement-making, indigenous peoples, benefit sharing, involuntary resettlement, and the social and environmental impacts of large-scale infrastructure. Her diverse experience spans Asia, Melanesia, and Central/South America, working with various cultural communities and contributing to numerous publications and collaborative studies. Rebekah is an avid reader of the Toda Peace Institute policy briefs and reports.

**Elise Remling** is a Senior Research Fellow at UC's Centre for Environmental Governance. She has a background in both academic and policy-oriented research in the field of climate change and sustainable development. Located at the interface between human geography, political science, and development studies, Elise's work is driven by a keen interest to shine a critical light on the social and political implications of climate and environmental changes and of sustainability transitions. Prior to joining UC, Elise was a Researcher with the Climate Change and Risk Programme of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), an internationally renowned institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament. There her work focused on how climate and environmental change impact on human security, and on institutional responses to climate-related security risks, particularly in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and European Union. Elise continues to engage with SIPRI as an Associate Senior Researcher.

**Hideki Sakomoto** is a staff member at Toda Peace Institute, based in Tokyo.

**Dustin Schinn** is ADB's regional climate anchor for East Asia, where he provides strategic advice to mainstream climate-related risks and opportunities in investment loans. He also manages several technical assistance projects in the PRC and Mongolia on climate-smart mining, methane emission reduction, and climate change adaptation planning. Dustin has more than 13 years of experience working in and on fragile and conflict-affected countries across Africa, the Middle East and Asia, including for UNDP, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Potsdam, Germany, a Master of Environmental Management from Yale, and a certificate in Finance from Harvard Business School Online.

**Ria Shibata** is a Senior Research Fellow at New Zealand Centre for Global Studies and a Visiting Fellow at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Her area of expertise lies in conflict resolution and reconciliation, with a particular focus on identity, collective memory, and victimhood. Her research explores the significance of identity, dignity, and the sense of belonging as fundamental human needs. Ria is also the principal investigator for Toda Peace Institute's research project on climate change, loss of land and its impact on Pasifika cultural identity.

**Upolu Lumā Vaai** is the President and Vice Chancellor of the Pasifika Communities University (PCU), formerly known as Pacific Theological College. He is also Professor of Theology and Ethics at the same institution. He is an indigenous philosopher, decolonial educator and theologian, cultural custodian, and Pasifika development analyst.

**Swathi Veeravalli** previously served as the Director for Climate Security and Adaptation in the United States National Security Council's Climate & Energy directorate. In this role, Swathi served as the Executive Office of the President's principal climate security and global adaptation expert who formulates and implements U.S. government policy to minimize global food, water, and energy risk and tradeoffs. She previously served at United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) and helped shape, synchronize and assess USAFRICOM's security cooperation priorities in Africa. Prior to joining USAFRICOM, Ms. Veeravalli led the Strategic Integration Office's development of national security objectives on contingency operations to ensure force protection and readiness for the Combat Engineer Regiment, while at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Having worked and travelled in over 85 countries, Ms. Veeravalli has several years of experience in international development, civil-military engagement, and grass-tops advocacy.

**Ambika Vishwanath** is the Co-Founder and Director of Kubernein Initiative, a geopolitical research advisory in India, and currently serving as a DFAT funded Miatr Principal Research Fellow at La Trobe Asia in Australia. For over 20 years she has worked at the intersection of water, climate, and foreign and security policy in various geographies around the world. She specialises in bringing a water and climate lens to more traditional forms of security and while in Australia is working on new climate security partnership opportunities between India and Australia in the Pacific region.

**Janani Vivekananda** is Senior Research Fellow at the Toda Peace Institute and Head of Programme Climate Diplomacy and Security at adelphi, where she specialises in climate change and peacebuilding. Working as a field researcher, practitioner and policy advisor on climate change, peace and security across different geographic regions for over 18 years, she has published widely on this topic, in academia, including Nature, and in global media outlets, such as the Economist, the Guardian, der Spiegel, and the BBC. Before joining adelphi, Janani was the Head of the Environment, Climate Change and Security at International Alert. Prior to this, she held advisory positions at Plan International, and UNDP. Janani holds a master's in Violence, Conflict and Development from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University. She is also a Senior Fellow at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research.

**Andrew Watkins** is a research associate at Monash University's School of Earth, Atmosphere, and Environment. He joined the Bureau of Meteorology in 1999, and headed its long-range forecast team from 2012-2022, before switching his focus to climate change and its impacts, leading the delivery of the climate science in Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment. After leaving the Australian Climate Service in 2025 he joined the School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment at Monash University as a research associate, while contributing to several communication activities regarding climate.