

PANEL MEMBERS



Professor Dr. Don Cowan

Director, Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics
University of Pretoria
South Africa

Professor Cowan was educated (BSc, MSc, PhD) at the University of Waikato (New Zealand) and worked at University College London (UK) for 16 years before being appointed to the Chair of Microbiology and Head of the Department of Biotechnology at the University of the Western Cape (RSA). In 2012, he moved to the University of Pretoria where he is currently the Director of both the Genomics Research Institute and the Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics. Prof Cowan currently leads a 40-member research team, working in the fields of microbial ecology, microbial genomics and applied microbiology. His research interests are broad, and include the microbial ecology of various hot and cold desert soil environments, and of agricultural soils and the plant rhizospheric zone. He is also active in functional metagenomics and gene discovery, with an emphasis of various classes of biocatalysts and on the genes for stress response and adaptation. Much of his research focuses on the microbiology of extreme environments, including hot (Namib) and cold (Antarctic) desert soils. Professor Cowan has an NRF B1 rating, has published over 220 research papers, review articles and book chapters, and sits on the Editorial Boards of nine international journals. He is currently the President of the Royal Society of South Africa



Prof. Dato' Dr. Azizan Hj Abu Samah

Director

National Antarctic Research Centre

Prof. Dr. Azizan bin Abu Samah was born in Kedah, Malaysia and has a B.Sc (Hons.) IIB in Physics (1977) from the Monash University. He pursued his studies further and obtained his master degree (1982) from the La Trobe University in atmosphere physics, and subsequently his Ph.D (1990) in Meteorology from Reading University in the United Kingdom. He became a lecturer and joined the academic staff at the University of Malaya in 1983. In the Geography Department, he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1992, and currently a Professor in the department as well as being the Deputy Director in the Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences, University of Malaya. He is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM). Azizan has been an active researcher in the field of meteorology with expertise in polar meteorology, monsoon meteorology and air pollution. He is the Director of the National Antarctic Research Center and has been instrumental in Malaysia's involvement in polar scientific research. He has a long involvement with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and at present he is vice president of SCAR. He is also a member of many national and international committees that relate to such meteorological issues. He has co-authored 5 books and published over 60 journals. He has an h-index of 7. Currently his research has focused on the dynamics of the water circulations in the Southern South China Sea, extreme weather and flood, tropical – high latitude climate linkages, El Niño–Southern Oscillation, polar weather systems and rapid transportation of pollution into the atmosphere in the tropics.





Dr. Hezri Adnan

Honorary Associate Professor
The Fenner School of Environment and Society
The Australian National University.

Dr. Hezri Adnan is an independent scholar and international consultant specializing in comparative public policy. His work spans areas such as green economy, environmental policy, natural resources governance and sustainable development strategy. In 2015, Hezri was elected as a Member of the United Nations' International Resource Panel (IRP), a UN Environment expert body that focuses on strategic issues of resource scarcity, efficiency and decoupling. Until July 2016, he was the Director of Technology, Innovation, Environment and Sustainability at the think-tank Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, and currently serves as its Visiting Fellow. Dr Hezri is also an elected Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) and a former Distinguished Visiting Professor with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. His past and current advisory roles include Cleared Advisor for the Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industries, Member of the Advisory Council for WWF Malaysia, and Member of the Advisory Committee for the Penang Green Agenda. Dr. Hezri has been awarded research fellowships by various institutions abroad, including the Australian Studies Fellowship by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Commonwealth of Australia, International Leadership Programme by the United States Department of State, and the Asian Public Intellectuals Fellowship by The Nippon Foundation of Japan. His latest book *The Sustainability Shift: Refashioning Malaysia's Future* was funded by The Perdana Prime Minister's Exchange Fellowship. Hezri holds a Ph.D in Public Policy from the Australian National University, where he is currently Honorary Associate Professor. His other degrees include Master of Science in Environment and Development from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology from the University of Sheffield. He also writes regularly in newspapers and other popular publications on issues related to environmental security and technology.

MODERATOR



Dr. Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad

Department of Science and Technology Studies
Faculty of Science
University of Malaya

Dr. Zeeda Fatimah Mohamad is a senior lecturer and researcher at the Department of Science and Technology Studies (STS), Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. She holds a BSc. in Ecology from the Institute of Biological Sciences, Universiti Malaya; MSc in Environmental Management and Policy from the International Institute of Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE), Lund University, Sweden; and MSc and PhD in Science and Technology Policy from SPRU Science and Technology Policy, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. She has been an active researcher in the field of environmental protection and science & technology policy, primarily to understand the relationship between the development of science, technology and innovation (STI) and environmental protection. She also works in the field of innovation & sustainability studies and environmental ethics, particularly within the context of sustainable development and associated challenges to late-industrialising countries. She has a long involvement with the Community and Sustainability Centre (UMCares) and UM Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UMSDSN), University of Malaya and at present she is one of the advisory committee member of UMSDSN. She is also a member of many national and international committees that relate to such environmental and sustainability issues. She has co-authored 2 books and published over 20 articles and proceedings. She has an h-index of 2 and currently her research has focused on environmental quality and ethics.