



Session Speaker Bios

Leveraging Informal Water Diplomacy in High Level Processes

Sunday 26th August 16:00-17:30 Room: NL Pillar Hall

Listed in speaking order:

Dr. Martina Klimes has over 10 years of experience working with dialogue facilitation, conflict resolution, political and security analysis, including practical work in the field and informal diplomacy processes. Her main research focus is on peace processes, incentives, and third party involvement in peace negotiation. Martina's book *Using Carrots to Bring Peace? Negotiation and Third Party Involvement* (2016) focuses primarily on the effectiveness of aid conditionality and other external tools that third parties – from states and regional organizations to NGOs – bring to the table in peace negotiations. In her current position as an Advisor for Water and Peace at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Martina is advising on SIWI's activities in the Euphrates and Tigris region and other transboundary basins affected by armed conflicts. Martina holds a PhD degree in International Relations.

Ms. Elizabeth A. Yaari has over 10 years of experience supporting regional informal and formal environmental peacebuilding, water diplomacy, water governance, and capacity building processes in conflict and post-conflict environments. Elizabeth has supported engagements and leadership of a broad spectrum of stakeholders including government representatives, diplomats, development partners, local authorities, civil society, faith-based communities and academia as part of water diplomacy processes. In her current position at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Elizabeth serves as a Senior Programme Manager in the Transboundary Water Management Department. In addition, Elizabeth serves as SIWI's Gender Equality Focal Point supporting SIWI staff and our partners to further elevate gender perspectives in their engagements. Elizabeth holds an MA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and BA in International Relations.

Dr. Hassan Janabi, is the current Minister of Water Resources in Iraq. Prior to his incumbent position he was Iraq's Ambassador to Japan. Dr. Janabi also served as the Head of the Human Rights Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served as Iraq's Ambassador to the Rome-based agencies the Food and Agriculture Organization -FAO, the World Food Program- WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD. His other positions in Iraq included Advisor to the Ministry of Water Resources and Senior Advisor to the Water & Public Works Sector in Baghdad overseeing the donors countries funded water and public works project after 2003. Before moving back to Iraq in 2003, Dr. Janabi worked as experienced hydrologist and water quality modeler for Sydney Catchment Authority in Australia. Dr Janabi has extensive knowledge in the management, planning and development of major projects in the area of natural resources, environment and public works. He possesses in depth understanding of natural processes, river basin hydrology, trans-boundary river management, ecosystems, watershed management, hydraulic modeling and GIS applications. Dr. Janabi graduated from the University of Baghdad - College of Engineering and he obtained postgraduate qualifications from the University of Warsaw-Poland and the University of Technology in Sydney- Australia.

Mr. Kerry Schneider contributes to the development of research and project management in a number of fields including transboundary water management, climate change and capacity building. Kerry a programme manager for the Shared Water Partnership, a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at advancing cooperation over shared water resources in regions where political tensions could be a source of conflict. He contributes to the development of research and project management in a number of fields including transboundary water management, climate change, and capacity building. He holds a Master's degree in International Humanitarian Action from Uppsala University, Sweden. Prior joining SIWI in 2013, Kerry worked for Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). A U.S national, Kerry speaks English and Swedish.

Ms. Ayah Aman, is a senior journalist at Al-Shorouk daily newspaper, and a freelancer writer. With 9 years experience in media work since she graduated from Faculty of Mass Communication, Cairo University in 2008. She started to engage with water issues in 2010, through articles covering the conflict over Nile River with a focus on historical, political, regional, and social aspects of the dispute. She has travelled to most of the Nile Basin countries where she conducted interviews and written stories around the Nile. Through her work she is interested to promote the water issues between readers using new media platforms.

Mr. Solomon Goshu is currently a Public Policy Advisor at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Ethiopia, and freelance journalist at the Ethiopian Reporter. Until recently, he was a Senior Editor at the Ethiopian Reporter, one of the leading private newspapers in Ethiopia. He has more than 8 years' experience in journalism and is known for his in depth feature articles on domestic and regional political and legal affairs. He has written extensively on issues related to the Nile, and is an active member of the Nile media group. Solomon is a lawyer by training with a Master's degree in public and constitutional law; he holds a bachelor degree in journalism. He is also a part time lecturer at the School of law, Addis Ababa University. He is interested in engaging in discussion and debates on policies and strategies related to regional integration and enthusiastic about building a wide range of network and relationships with experts and professionals.

Ms. Anna Inozemtseva is a leading specialist of Water Initiatives Support Program of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). Anna holds a Masters in Regional Studies with focus on Integrated Water Resources Management. She participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) funded by the Department of State (USA) with the program "Integrated Water Resources Management in the U.S." (September-October, 2015). She started her professional career in CAREC in 2008 and has 10 years of professional experience in the field of water resources management. She is involved in several regional projects aimed at fostering water diplomacy in the region, introduction of IWRM principles on small transboundary watersheds and harmonization of water quality monitoring system in Central Asian states, introduction of sustainable water supply systems and management in remote villages of Kazakhstan. Since 2016 she focuses mostly on water diplomacy processes and is involved into the work of CAREC related to the Platform of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliament representatives of Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Zaid Al-Anssari is an electrical engineer working at the Ministry of Water Resources in Iraq since 2003. In his current position he serves as the Head of the Division of Statistics, Planning and Follow up Department. With over 14 years of experience, Zaid has held numerous key positions with a variety of different duties and responsibilities with multidisciplinary functions. Zaid has also coordinated and participated as an expert in a number of national and international teams and programmes. In addition to his management positions, Zaid has worked on electrical and solar energy pumping systems, procurement processes, tenders, contracts, memorandum of understandings, official and informal diplomatic dialogues and collaboration programs, socio-economics, multi criteria approaches and institutional mapping. Zaid has contributed to organizing a variety of workshops related to water

diplomacy, international water law, negotiations, water management, and institutional mappings. He holds a MSc in Electrical Engineering from Newcastle University, UK (2012), a BSc in Electrical and Electrical Engineering from the University of Technology, Iraq (2001). He serves as an official representative in numerous governmental committees including: the International Agency for Energy; the Ministerial Committee for Post Graduate Studies; the Agriculture Analysis Committee; the Country Partners Steering Committee (CPSC) as well as following up the socio-economic process in the Collaborative Programme Euphrates and Tigris (CPET); the Iraqi Joint Council for Sustainable Energy; the Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Energy; the Ministerial Committee for Rationalization Consumption of Electrical Power; the Ministerial Committee for writing the National Report on Iraqi Marshes (the report submitted to the UNESCO in the process of listing the three main Iraqi Marshes on the World Heritage List); and the National Focal Point for Water Diplomacy Programs between the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources and Stockholm International Water Institute SIWI.

Dr. Susanne Schmeier, LL.M., is a senior lecturer for water law and diplomacy at IHE Delft. Her research and advisory work focuses on transboundary water management, river basins management and river basin organizations as well as water diplomacy. Prior to her current position, she worked with the Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ, coordinating GIZ's transboundary water portfolio and managing GIZ's water, energy and food security nexus project. She has also worked with a number of international and basin organizations, including the World Bank and the Mekong River Commission.