

WATER AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION EXPERT JOINS WATER POLICY GROUP

Water Policy Group welcomed another renowned global water expert in November 2024, announcing Professor Kenzo Hiroki as its latest member.

A global expert in the field of water and disaster risk reduction, Professor Hiroki has 40 years of experience in research and development, budgeting and financing, and policy formulation and legislation related to water resources management and disaster risk reduction.

He is currently Professor of the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) of Japan and Coordinator of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP).

Water Policy Group member Ms Mercedes Castro said, "I celebrate Professor Hiroki joining us. There is so much to do to improve water outcomes globally, we can all benefit from his insights and experience. Professor Hiroki's deep knowledge and understanding of water issues will undoubtedly strengthen our capacity to achieve our mission."

Professor Hiroki is highly respected within the global water community and has been awarded for his achievements and impact. In April 2024, Prof Hiroki was appointed Commander of the Orange-Nassau, the highest Dutch decoration to civilians, by His Majesty the King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands, for his outstanding contribution to global community in the field of water and disaster risk reduction.

He has also held positions as a Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB); Vice Chairperson of Global Water Partnership (GWP); Director for Innovation, Science and Technology within the Cabinet Office of Japan; and Vice Rector of College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism within the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Tourism, and Transport.

Water Policy Group member, Dr Olcay Ünver emphasised Dr Hiroki's global leadership on water and disaster risk reduction, saying, "Given the increased risk of water-based disasters due to global warming, and the leadership of the HELP in showing how these risks can be better understood and managed, it is a great time for Dr Hiroki to be joining us."

Member Mr Tony Slatyer said he is looking forward to working with Kenzo Hiroki on future projects.

"We are currently planning a third survey of national water leaders and Global Water Policy Report, and to progress a range of new policy initiatives. I am excited that Professor Hiroki will be contributing to these endeavours", Mr Slatyer said.

Professor Hiroki joins nine other members in the Water Policy Group: Mr Pablo Bereciartua, Ms Anne Castle, Ms Mercedes Castro, Dr Jane Doolan, Ms Felicia Marcus, Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, Mr Tony Slatyer, Mr Tom Soo and Dr Olcay Ünver.

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Water Policy Group (www.waterpolicygroup.com) is a global network of water sector experts who have been decision makers and trusted advisers within governments and international bodies handling water policy and strategy. The members of the group have had direct experience in working with complex water policy issues, and share a common goal that their knowledge, networks and experience can help achieve the sustainable development of water resource to serve the global public interest.