3rd SOUTH ASIA JUDICIAL ROUNDTABLE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR SUSTAINABLE GREEN DEVELOPMENT
8th & 9th AUGUST 2014
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

DAY 2 – SESSION 2
DEVELOPMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL ADJUDICATION

Speakers:

Mr. Ritwick Dutta, Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), India
Mr. Dutta is an Environmental Lawyer. He is the Managing Trustee of Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment. He has been practicing for more than 10 years in the field of environmental law.

Mr. Harsha Fernando, Attorney-at-Law, Consultant Trainer, Sea-Change Partners of Singapore on Mediation and Negotiation, and Consultant, ADB
Harsha Fernando is an Attorney-at-Law based in Sri Lanka with over 18 years of litigation experience. He currently works as Governance Specialist to the Sri Lanka Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank. He is a trained mediator and a Negotiator and Consultant Trainer with Sea-Change Partners (Pvt) Ltd, a global training and consulting firm in conflict, negotiations, and crisis management. He is a visiting resource person of Queen Mary University of London, University of West London, and Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) of Sri Lanka. Harsha was a Senior State Counsel of the Attorney General’s Department of Sri Lanka, Legal Consultant to the Central Bank, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, and an Industrial Relations Advisor with the Employers’ Federation of Ceylon. He was also the advisor to the office of the Prime Minister during ceasefire negotiations in 2002 in Sri Lanka. Harsha holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Singapore, an Executive MBA from the Sloan School, MIT, USA, and a Master of Laws (LLM) in Economic Regulation from Kings College, University of London.

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Judge, Lahore High Court, Pakistan
Justice Shah is a judge at the Lahore High Court, Pakistan. He is also serving as a green bench at the Lahore High Court. Prior to becoming a judge, he established his own law firm under the name of Afzil, Shah and Minallah and practiced corporate, constitutional and development law for several years including a vast number of environmental law cases under public interest litigation. He also taught law at various prestigious institutions together with participating in various national and international conferences. He served at the boards of a number of organizations including WWF. He has recently been appointed as a Reform Judge at the Lahore High Court looking at reforms in the justice delivery sector. He has read for a masters in Law at Downing College, Cambridge University, UK.

Panelists:

Mr. Lal Kurukulasuriya (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Lal Kurukulasuriya is the founder and Director-General of the Centre for Environmental Research, Training and Information (CERTI). He used to work as Chief of the Environmental Law Branch, in UNEP, and has an extensive expertise and experience in the development and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and national environmental law. He joined
UNEP in 1990 as the head of the Interim Ozone Secretariat, UNEP’s environmental law capacity building program, as well as the Environmental Law Program for Asia and the Pacific. He has provided leadership to the development and implementation of UNEP’s global program aimed at strengthening the role of judiciaries around the world in promoting the rule of law and governance in the field of environment and sustainable development. Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Kurukulasuriya was the Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and served as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Sweden and the other Nordic countries from 1982-1987. He was the Assistant Secretary General of the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee from 1978-1980. He has also taught Environmental Law at several Universities and contributed to numerous training programmes, seminars and symposia. He is a graduate of law from the University of Sri Lanka, holds an MPhil degree in International Law from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and is an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Bharat Desai, International Law and Jawaharlal Nehru Chair in International Environmental Law, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Dr. Baharat Desai is Professor of International Law and Jawaharlal Nehru Chair in International Environmental Law at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has published significant works on international environmental law and governance, and advised international organizations and national governments. He also serves as an Associate Editor of the Yearbook of International Environmental Law, Governing Board member of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law as well as Chairman of the Centre for Advanced Study on Courts & Tribunals. Prof. Desai has also initiated and coordinates three inter-disciplinary and Inter-University Consortium on themes of cryosphere, atmospheric aerosols, and geo-spatial information systems as unique knowledge platforms that could trigger futuristic cutting-edge developments in various fields.

Justice Ananda Mohan Bhatarai, Acting Chief Judge, Court of Appeal, Nepal

Dr. Ananda Mohan Bhatarai currently works as acting Chief Judge at the Court of Appeal, Nepal. He was formerly a faculty member at the National Judicial Academy Nepal – an institution established to cater to educational and research needs of the Nepali judiciary. After graduating in Law from Nepal in 1982 and working in the Judiciary for over a decade, Dr. Bhatarai went to National Law School of India in 1994 and obtained his LL.M in 1996, and JSD in 2000. He is a Hubert Humphrey Fellow at MIT, Cambridge, USA and Alexander von Humboldt Fellow to Max Planck Institute of Comparative and Public International Law, Heidelberg. He has authored three books and dozens of articles on law and justice. His book titled “Protection of Himalayan Biodiversity” has been widely reviewed in Nepali and international journals.

Justice Ashfaqul Islam (Bangladesh)