

13th International Riversymposium



Keynote Speakers

Dr Leon Braat



Dr Leon Braat is Senior Researcher of International Biodiversity Policy at Alterra, Wageningen-UR. Between 1979 and 1990, he was associate professor of environmental modelling and ecological- economics at the University of Florida, the Free University Amsterdam and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna. In this period, he published widely and co-wrote several books. In 1990, Dr Braat moved to the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, where he was director of the Biodiversity department. Since 2007, at Alterra, he leads international biodiversity projects on the science – policy interface for the European Commission, the Dutch National Government and more recently, the Chinese Government.

Roger Pulwarty



Roger S. Pulwarty is a climate scientist and the Director of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS, www.drought.gov) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Boulder, Colorado.

Roger's research interests include climate's role in society-environment interactions and how to develop effective services to address its associated risks. He seeks to bridge multidisciplinary scientific research and assessment with public service. His studies have focused on hydroclimatic variability and change, assessing social vulnerability and the capacity to respond to climatic variations and weather extremes, and the use of research-based information in natural resources policy and decision-making. His research and applications focus on natural resources policy, development and decision-making in the Western U.S., Latin America, and the Caribbean.

From 1998 to 2002 he helped develop and directed the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program at NOAA. He leads the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments component of the World Bank/GEF-funded project on “Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean.”

Roger is a lead author on Adaptation Practices in the 2007 UN IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, the 2008 IPCC Technical Report on Climate and Water Resources, on the 2009 multi-agency report “Climate Change and Water Resources Management: A Federal Perspective”, and U.S. Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessments Reports including the State of Knowledge Final Synthesis to be released in 2009.

Roger has acted in advisory capacities on climate and natural resources management to several U.S. and international agencies including the Western States Water Council, the Department of the Interior, the Governments of CARICOM (the Caribbean Economic Community), Portugal, Venezuela, Chile, the Organization of American States, the UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt



Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt is a Fellow at the Resource Management in Asia Pacific Program at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University. In ANU, Kuntala teaches courses on Gender and Development in Masters of Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development program. Kuntala has done extensive research on water and river control in South Asia. Her edited books include 'Fluid Bonds: Views on Gender and Water' (published in 2006), and 'Water First: Issues and Challenges for Nations and Communities in South Asia' (jointly with Bob Wasson, Sage, 2006).

Kuntala's keynote address will focus on 'river islands' - pieces of land within the rivers, created naturally in deltaic plains but enhanced by dams and barrages.

W/Prof Richard Weller



Richard Weller is Winthrop Professor and Discipline Chair of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts at The University of Western Australia. His original and creative designs can be experienced in the urban landscapes of many cities and they include the National Museum of Australia. He is also the Director of Room 4.1.3 Pty. Ltd., a landscape design company and has been awarded more than 20 design awards recognising his flair and style in landscape design. Prof Weller is the author of the highly acclaimed Boomtown 2050 which examines ways Perth could be creatively reorganised to suit the challenges of the 21st century with cutting edge development scenarios.

Winthrop Professor Richard Weller will be relating his presentation to images regarding population growth on a national scale. He will then present about urban design scenarios related to that growth both nationally and in Perth.

MEDIA SHOULD REPORT TO THE REGISTRATION AREA ON ARRIVAL AT BURSWOOD CONVENTION CENTRE FOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

For information regarding these themes and the program, please visit – www.riversymposium.com

For further information and interview opportunities contact –
Carla Mathisen

Riversymposium Producer

T +61 7 3123 7766 ext 202; M 0416 342 101

E carla@waterforum.org.au

Riversymposium is being held at the BURSWOOD ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX, Convention Complex