

## UN 2023 Water Conference Site Event: Resilient Rivers to Healthy Coasts for People and the Planet: An Integrated River Basin Management Approach

**Date:** 1530 – 1700, March 23, 2023

**Venue:** Nature Hub, 450 E 29th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10016; (212) 706-4100  
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### Bios of Speakers

#### Li Guoying - H. E. Minister of Water Resources, the Peoples Republic of China



Li Guoying, male, Han ethnicity, was born in Yuzhou, Henan Province, in December 1963. He began his career in July 1984 and joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in August 1988. Li completed an in-service graduate program and was awarded a Doctor of Science degree. He is also a professor level senior engineer. Currently, he is a member of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee, Secretary of the CPC Committee of Ministry of Water Resources and Minister of Water Resources.

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| Aug.1980-Jul.1984 | Completed an undergraduate study in North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power, majoring in Water Conservancy and Hydropower Engineering Construction, and after graduation worked as an engineer in Planning Section I of Planning Division of Yellow River Engineering Consulting Co., Ltd., Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources |
| Mar.1987-May 1991 | Deputy Chief of Planning Section I, and Chief of Comprehensive planning Section of Planning Division of Yellow River Engineering Consulting Co., Ltd., Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources   |
| May 1991-Aug.1992 | Deputy Director of Planning Division I of Yellow River Engineering Consulting Co., Ltd., Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources   |
| Aug.1992-May 1994 | Director of Planning Division I of Yellow River Engineering Consulting Co., Ltd., Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources  |
| May 1994-May 1995 | Assistant to Chief Engineer, Ministry of Water Resources  |
| May 1995-Oct.1995 | Deputy Chief Engineer, Ministry of Water Resources  |

Oct.1995-May 1997	Deputy Chief Engineer, Ministry of Water Resources Deputy Director-General and a member of the CPC Committee of Xiaolangdi Project Construction and Management Bureau, Ministry of Water Resources
May 1997-Sep.1998	Vice Commissioner and a member of the CPC Committee of Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources Deputy Director-General (concurrently) and a member of the CPC Committee of Xiaolangdi Project Construction and Management Bureau, Ministry of Water Resource
Sep.1998-May 1999	Chief Engineer, Ministry of Water Resources
May 1999-Aug.1999	Secretary of the CPC Committee of Department of Water Resources, Heilongjiang Province (Sep.1996-Jul.1999 participated in the one-year training program for young and middle-aged cadres in Party School of the Central Committee of CPC, and continued to study philosophy in Graduate Department of Party school of the Central Committee of CPC )
Aug.1999-May 2001	Director-General and Secretary of the CPC Committee of Department of Water Resources, Heilongjiang Province
May 2001-Mar.2011	Commissioner (Vice Minister Level) and Secretary of the CPC Committee of Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources (Sep.2007-Jan.2011 participated in an in-service graduate program in Environmental Science in School of Urban and Environmental Sciences of Northeast Normal University, and was awarded a Doctor of Science degree)
Mar. 2011-Jul. 2015	Vice Minister of Water Resources A member of the CPC Committee of Ministry of Water Resources
Jul.2015-Aug.2015	Deputy Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee
Aug.2015-Aug.2016	Deputy Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee President of Party School of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee (concurrently)
Aug.2016-Sep.2016	Deputy Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee Secretary of the CPC Committee of Anhui Provincial Government

Sep.2016-Nov.2016	President of Party School of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee (concurrently) Deputy Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee Vice Governor and Acting Governor of Anhui Province Secretary of the CPC Committee of Anhui Provincial Government
Nov.2016-Jan.2017	President of Party School of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee (concurrently) Deputy Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee Vice Governor and Acting Governor of Anhui Province Secretary of the CPC Committee of Anhui Provincial Government
Jan.2017-Jan.2021	Deputy Secretary of the CPC Anhui Provincial Committee Governor of Anhui Province Secretary of the CPC Committee of Anhui Provincial Government
Jan.2021-Feb.2021	Secretary of the CPC Committee of Ministry of Water Resources
Feb.2021	Secretary of the CPC Committee of Ministry of Water Resources Minister of Water Resources

Li is a representative of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CPC National Congress, an alternate member of the 18<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee and a member of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee, and he is also a deputy to the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress.

## **Jaime de Bourbon de Parme – Climate Envoy for the Government of the Netherlands**



H.R.H. Prince Jaime de Bourbon de Parme is the Climate Envoy for the Netherlands. His role is to help raise global ambition and foster international collaboration on climate action.

Jaime has an extensive diplomatic career in forging partnerships for innovative solutions to complex global challenges. As Senior Advisor on Private Sector Partnerships for the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) he led the Clean Energy Challenge to bring renewable energy solutions to refugees. As the Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Holy See (Vatican, under the leadership of Pope Francis) he partnered on climate action, peace negotiations and forced migration. As Special Envoy for Natural Resources, he initiated the Responsible Mining Index and set up conflict-free supply chains of metals and minerals in the DRC with the private sector and civil society.

He was selected to be a member of the Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Competition, worked in the field as Political Advisor to the Dutch Commander of the NATO Peacekeeping Mission in Afghanistan and helped set up the Netherlands Embassy in Iraq. He has held various other roles in MENA, Africa and Latin America.

Born in the Netherlands, Jaime holds an MA from Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a BA from Brown University. He is married and has two daughters.

## **Woochong Um – Managing Director General, Office of the President, Asian Development Bank**



Woochong Um is the Managing Director General of the Asian Development Bank since February 2021. Mr. Um has been with ADB for 29 years.

He supports the President to institute Bank-wide coherence on key initiatives and issues. His leadership covers managing the Department of Knowledge Management and Communications, the Office of Safeguards, the Transformation Office, and the New Business Incubation Unit. He also provides support to the President in his oversight of the Office of Professional Conduct, and the Office of the Ombudsperson. Mr. Um supports strategic initiatives assigned by the President, in close collaboration with relevant Vice President(s) including: Implementation of Strategy 2030 and its upcoming midterm review; Cultural Transformation Initiative; Innovation Framework; Talent Management; Job Architecture Review; Organizational Transformation as recommended by the organizational review; Organizational resilience and business continuity plan; and any other ADB-wide initiatives requiring President's attention. He supports the implementation of the Knowledge Management Action Plan. Mr. Um acts as a member of the selection panels which recommend the selection of Directors to the President. He participates in Management Committee Meetings as well as other committees as needed, and other ad hoc activities assigned by the President including representing the President in external and internal events, communication, and consultation missions when needed.

Mr. Um holds an MBA in Finance from New York University, USA, and a bachelor's degree in computer science from Boston College, USA.

**Tom Panella - Director for Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)**



Tom Panella is the Director for Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture in the East Asia Department at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He serves as the Chair of ADB's Water Sector Committee. He was ADB's inaugural Chief of the Water Sector Group from 2017-20, Afghanistan Country Director from 2014-17, and joined ADB in 2002. He has led water operations in Central, South, and Southeast Asia including postings in Indonesia leading ADB's water and climate programs and Uzbekistan as head of operations. He worked as a Water Resources Management Specialist at the World Bank from 2000 to 2002. He was Southern California Regional Director for Tabors, Caramanis and Associates from 1989 to 1993 and served as the Convener of the California Water Efficiency Partnership in 1997. He is a member of the AGWA Board of Directors, GWP Technical Committee, and Advisor to the HELP. He has a PhD and MPP in Public Policy and MSc from the Energy and Resources Group from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Jasmin Schous – Senior Advisor International Water Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Government of the Netherlands**



At the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands, Ms. Jasmin Schous is responsible for the bilateral and European cooperation of the Netherlands with China on the topics of water and climate adaptation. She has previous work experience at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Beijing, China, and in the team of the Netherlands' Water Envoy Henk Ovink. Currently, next to this Chinese cooperation, she also acts as the deputy project director of the New York Water Week 2023.

**Yuanyuan Li – Vice President of Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design, China, and President of International Water Resources Association**



Yuanyuan Li is Vice President of Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design, China, and President of International Water Resources Association. He has rich experience in water resources management, human activities-water resources interaction, water resources system analysis, planning and management, water ecology and environment protection, water disaster prevention and mitigation, etc. He has led many nationwide water resources surveys, strategy studies, integrated water resources planning, major water projects study, planning and design, policies formulation on water resources regulation and management in China. He also has led or participated in many international programs and cooperation with international organizations and research institutions, such as WB, ADB, WWF, UN, etc. He has widely published books and papers about water-related topics. His research results have been awarded numerous state science and technology awards.



## **Annemieke Nijhof – Managing Director at Deltares**



Annemieke Nijhof has been working on different aspects of the sustainable living environment for almost 30 years. She has working experience in both business and government. Furthermore, she is supervisor and advisor to knowledge institutes, the government, NGOs and the financial sector. She was top woman of the year 2015 because of her tenacious dedication to diversity and inclusivity in organisations.

After her study (Chemical Engineering) at the University of Twente she started out as engineer in Innovative Soil Remediation at Tauw bv. Then she became head of Water and Spatial Planning. In that same period, she finished an MBA at the TSM Business School. Next, she joined the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science as Coordinator Technical Sciences, to subsequently transfer to the Ministry of Public Health, Spatial Planning and Environment. First in the position of Head of the department Foresight and Policy Evaluation, later as Vice Director External Safety at the same Ministry. In 2005 she became Principal Advisor to Prime Minister Balkenende at the Ministry of General Affairs. Three years later she was appointed Director-General Water at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. In 2012 she became CEO of Tauw Group bv, responsible for all (inter)national business units of Tauw Group. She is also co-director of The Springtij Foundation. In 2019, she became the figurehead for the Water & Maritime Top Sector.

Annemieke became Managing Director of Deltares per 1 October 2020.

**Lifeng Li – Director of Land and Water Division, Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**



Joined FAO in August 2021, Dr. Li leads FAO's work on soil, land, water and geospatial, as well climate financing through partnership with the Adaptation Fund. He acts as FAO's Focal Point to UNCCD Convention and Ramsar Convention and co-leads UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration with other FAO and UNEP senior staff.

He has 15 years of experience on water policy, river basin and freshwater ecosystems management through his works in WWF China, WWF International (Switzerland) and Wetlands International (Netherlands), and three years of experience on climate financing, national climate planning & programming and country readiness to access climate financing through his works in the Green Climate Fund (GCF, South Korea). He holds a PhD in physical geography from Chinese Academy of Sciences in China.

**Liqun Huang – Director, Ministry of Water Resources, the People’s Republic of China**



Ms. Liqun Huang is Director of Groundwater Management Division of Water Resources Management Department, Ministry of Water Resources, the People’s Republic of China, professor-level senior engineer, master of science. Ms. Huang has long career engaged in the field of water resources management, aquatic ecological protection, groundwater over-exploitation control, groundwater supervision and management inter alia.

**Amy Newssock – Global Associate Director of Freshwater Outcomes, The Nature Conservancy**



Amy Newssock is the Global Associate Director of Freshwater Outcomes at The Nature Conservancy where she supports the advancement towards the organization’s audacious goal of conserving 1 million kilometers of river and 30 million hectares of lakes and wetlands by 2030.

Amy has worked on freshwater projects in the Western Balkans, China, Mexico, the Amazon, Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Myanmar. She has also led and contributed to the development of over 10 publications covering renewable energy planning and freshwater protection including as a co-author on [the Durable River Protection Framework](#). Her contributions have led to freshwater protection designations and renewable energy projects that avoid conflicts with people and nature.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and geography from the University of Richmond. She is based in Washington, DC.

**Xin Yu - President, Yellow River Institute of Hydraulic Research, Yellow River Conservancy Commission**



Xin Yu is the president of Yellow River Institute of Hydraulic Research, YRCC's team lead for the research on estuarine and coastal morphological progress, chief expert of the Yellow River Numerical Model System, and core member of MOST's expert group on optimized allocation and utilization of water resources. He has rich experience in integrated management of the Yellow River basin, large-scale project planning, lower Yellow River channel and estuary management, smart water conservancy, etc. Xin Yu is the principal investigator for Research on Morphological Changes of the Yellow River Estuary and Integrated Management of Course Stabilization (National Key Research and Development Program). He was in charge of more than 50 national and provincial projects. He has published more than 60 papers and 5 books. He won the Outstanding Contribution Award for the National Science and Technology Plan and the title of Provincial Academic Leader. His research has been awarded 6 provincial awards.

**Xiaojiang Li – Special Advisor of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development**



Mr. Li is a senior urban planner; He has presided over the coordinated development planning of the urban agglomerations in the Pearl River Delta, the study of Beijing's urban spatial development strategies, the urban agglomeration planning in Chengdu and Chongqing, and the planning of the Liangjiang New District in Chongqing.

**Silvia Cardascia – Water Resources Specialist, East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank**



Silvia supports the design of technical assistance and investment projects for integrated water and natural resources management in the People’s Republic of China and Mongolia. She also works on knowledge management and is one of the authors of the Asian Water Development Outlook 2020. Prior to joining ADB, she was a research assistant at the University of Oxford, a UNDESA Fellow and a Programme Officer for the Italian Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Addis Ababa. She has supervised water and sanitation multi-donor programs in partnership with the Ethiopian government, co-financed by the European Investment Bank and AFD. She also is also the co-founder of the digital platform Water Science Policy.