

## LOOKING BACK AT RECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

15<sup>TH</sup> – 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014, COVENTRY, UK

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### SPEAKERS PROFILES AND PRESENTATIONS

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**Mr Asoka Ajantha**

Project Manager

**Practical Action**

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Asoka Ajantha is a civil engineer with a post graduate degree in Integrated Water Resource Management from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Asoka played a key role in shaping Practical Action South Asia's programme in housing and infrastructure. He has been instrumental in incorporating climate change, gender and governance concerns in infrastructure development. Asoka has been working in war and tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka during the last seven years and is involved in water resources management, post disaster housing reconstruction and related governance issues including gender.



[Presentation - Practical Action Sri Lanka post-tsunami reconstruction](#)

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**Ms Claudia Blanco**

Deputy Director

**FUNDASAL**

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Claudia Blanco is an architect with a Master's degree in Local Development from José Simeón Cañas Central American University (UCA) in El Salvador. She has been with the Salvadorian Foundation for Development and Low-cost Housing (FUNDASAL) for the past 16 years, working on issues related to the low-cost housing sector. She has been involved in the execution of projects; research, analysis and evaluation of new housing and slums improvement programmes and advocacy.



[Video 1 – Context and components](#)

[Video 2 – Impacts](#)

[Video 3 - Technologies](#)

[Video 4 – Interview with beneficiaries](#)

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**Mr Guillaume Chantry**

Project Coordinator

**Development Workshop France**

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Guillaume Chantry is a civil engineer who worked for 35 years in the field of human settlements and housing, with a focus on disaster prone areas. He is currently the project coordinator of Development Workshop France (DWF) in Vietnam working on the "Prevent typhoon damage to housing" project that has been implemented since 1999. The project was a recipient of a World Habitat Award in 2008. Guillaume is involved in preventive housing reinforcement, public campaigning and social marketing, reconstruction programmes, research and training, creating an atlas of vulnerability in Vietnam and solutions for safe housing and collaboration work with the Ministry of Construction.



[Presentation – DWF Lessons from Vietnam](#)

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**Ms Jo da Silva**

Director

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Jo da Silva was the founder of Arup international Development (a non-profit part of the Arup Group); her expertise spans buildings, infrastructure, disaster risk reduction, and programme management. She was the first woman to deliver the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE), 9th International Brunel Lecture, entitled 'Shifting Agendas: from response to resilience – the role of the engineer in disaster risk reduction' (2012); Officer of the British Empire (OBE) for services to engineering and to humanitarian relief (2011); Fellow, Royal Academy of Engineering (2010); British Expertise Individual of the Year (2006).



Keynote Speaker

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**Ms Jennifer Duyne Barenstein**

Founder

**World Habitat Research Centre (WHRC)**

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Jennifer Duyne Barenstein has a PhD in anthropology. She specialized in socio-cultural dimensions of post-disaster recovery processes, housing, habitat, water management, and infrastructure development. Between 1999 and 2008 she was a senior lecturer at the department of social anthropology of the University of Zurich, where she taught anthropology of disasters, housing and resettlement. As a senior researcher at the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland she founded and is currently directing the World Habitat Research Centre ([www.worldhabitat.supsi.ch](http://www.worldhabitat.supsi.ch)), a centre of competence specialized in interdisciplinary research and consultancies on socio-economic, cultural, environmental, and technical dimensions of the built environment with key competences in post-disaster reconstruction. Jennifer did research and consultancies in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines, Argentina, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Haiti. She is the author of several publications on post-disaster reconstruction and is one of the lead authors of the 'Handbook for Reconstruction after Natural Disasters' published by the World Bank in 2010.



[Presentation – Reconstruction in India](#)

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**Mr Nawab Ali Khan**

General Manager

**Aga Khan Planning and Building Service**

Opposite FCNA Helicopter Chowk  
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Nawab Ali Khan is a development professional with over 15 years of practical engagement in community development initiatives. He has implemented large reconstruction projects in Pakistan in response to the Kashmir Earthquake of 2005 and the floods of 2010. He is the General Manager of the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service in Pakistan (AKPBSP) which is a lead agency of the Aga Khan Development Network for Improvement of the built environment. Under its BACIP programme, AKPBSP has been engaged in improving the quality of life of remote mountain communities of Pakistan through technological innovations, policy support, awareness and capacity building projects. Mr. Khan has been associated with the programme for over 11 years.



[Presentation – BACIP Pakistan disaster mitigation](#)

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**Ms Victoria Maynard**

PhD Candidate

**Habitat for Humanity Great Britain  
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Victoria Maynard specialises in post-disaster housing, recovery and resilience. She trained as an architect and has worked for UN-Habitat, Shelter Centre and Arup International Development since becoming involved in post-disaster reconstruction following the Indian Ocean tsunami. Victoria is currently completing a PhD in partnership with Habitat for Humanity at University College London. She also writes and lectures on disaster recovery, resilience, and participatory approaches to design.



[Presentation – Habitat for Humanity Indian Ocean post-tsunami reconstruction](#)

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**Ms Annye Meilani**

Campaigner

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Annye Meilani graduated from Universitas Padjadjaran Bandung, Indonesia with a degree in Psychology. Her first experience in working with the urban poor was when she joined the capacity building team to deliver training for Uplink to pedicab drivers in Aceh in 2006, in the context of a livelihood programme for tsunami survivors. Since then, urban poverty has been one of her major concerns. In 2008, she joined the Urban Poor Consortium (UPC), a national NGO focusing on urban poverty issues as well as advocacy on adequate housing for the poor.



[Presentation – Uplink Aceh \(Indonesia\) post-tsunami reconstruction](#)

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**Mr Yatin Pandya**

Founder

**Footprints E.A.R.T.H.**

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Yatin Pandya is an author, campaigner, researcher as well as a practising architect with his firm Footprints E.A.R.T.H. (Environment Architecture Research Technology Housing). He has been involved in city planning, mass housing, design, and conservation projects. He is a graduate of CEPT University in India and earned a Master's degree in Architecture from McGill University in Canada. He has written journal articles and books on architecture such as "Concepts of space in traditional Indian architecture", and "Elements of space making" which have been published internationally. Yatin has received recognition for his work on architectural design and research.



[Presentation – Gandhi Nu Gam post-earthquake reconstruction](#)

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**Mr Kurt Rhyner**

Director

**Grupo Sofonias**

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Kurt Rhyner developed Grupo Sofonias from a small work team into a non-profit organization with active bases in Nicaragua, Ecuador, Haiti and Switzerland, and affiliated organizations in Namibia and Cuba. He is involved in the conception of projects, analysis of technologies and materials appropriate to specific situations, financial analysis, executive management, backstopping and evaluations. He also lectures in various Latin American countries and links projects of the EcoSouth Network, an international network that disseminates technical information about the manufacture and use of "eco-materials" to local entrepreneurs in the Caribbean and Latin America.



[Presentation – Post-earthquake Reconstruction in Guatemala](#)  
[Presentation – Post-Mitch Reconstruction in Honduras and Nicaragua](#)

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**Mr Max Watanabe**

Coordinator - Disaster Risk Management and Climate  
Change Adaptation Programme

**Practical Action**

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Max Watanabe is a sociologist from Peru who has worked for Practical Action Latin America since 2004. He is currently the Coordinator of the Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Programme involved in the assessment, implementation and monitoring of projects as well as fundraising and designing new proposals for donors. Max also develops research activities related to the themes of disaster risk reduction, climate change, natural resource management and food security.



[Presentation – Practical Action Peru post-earthquake reconstruction](#)

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## FROM THE BUILDING AND SOCIAL HOUSING FOUNDATION

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### **Mr Theo Schilderman**

Senior Researcher

#### **Building and Social Housing Foundation**

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Theo Schilderman is a Dutch architect with 40 years of experience in low-income housing, construction technologies and post-disaster reconstruction. He is currently a Senior Researcher at BSHF; prior to this, he worked for a short time as a consultant and lecturer. He has lived in the UK for 25 years, most of the time working for the NGO Practical Action, as head of the infrastructure programme or shelter programme. Before that, he worked as a senior lecturer for the Institute for Housing Studies in The Netherlands and as a researcher for the Belgian NGO COOIBO in Rwanda. Theo has worked on the ground in developing countries on low-income housing, reconstruction, the production of local building materials and capacity building. He has been a consultant and author on a range of housing and reconstruction related topics.



[Presentation – Literature review on impact of reconstruction](#)

### **Ms Jelly Mae Moring**

Research Officer

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Jelly Mae Moring is a Research Officer within the International Programmes team at the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF). She has an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of the Philippines and has worked for four years in the private sector in the Philippines and China. With a keen interest in climate change and sustainable development, she pursued an MSc degree in Environmental Governance at Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg, Germany. She worked as an intern with GTZ-Mekong River Commission in Laos on integrating climate change adaptation and watershed management. She also worked in Vietnam for two years with a local NGO in raising public awareness of environmental issues and sustainability. She is currently doing a part-time distance learning course on MSc Architecture: Advanced Environmental and Energy Studies with the Centre for Alternative Technology.



### **Mrs Silvia Guimaraes Yafai**

Head of International Programmes

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Silvia Guimarães Yafai is a Brazilian-American architect and planner and is the Head of International Programmes at the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF). Having previously worked in Brazil, the USA and Germany, Silvia joined BSHF in 2002 and currently leads the organisation's International Programme, coordinating the annual World Habitat Awards competition, international peer exchange visits, collaborative research projects and knowledge and good practice transfer activities. Key areas of focus include housing and land rights, informal settlement upgrading, environmentally sustainable design and the international transfer of innovative housing policy and practice. Her academic background includes an undergraduate degree in Architecture and Urban Planning (São Paulo, Brazil) and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of California, Berkeley.



## FROM COVENTRY UNIVERSITY

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### **Dr Eleanor (EI) Parker**

Associate Head of Department (Student Experience)  
Programme Manager - Undergraduate Disaster  
Management Courses  
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EI Parker is currently Associate Head for Student Experience for the Department of Geography, Environment and Disaster Management. She has been working for 12 years as lecturer in Disaster Management at Coventry University; 7 years as programme manager for undergraduate programmes in Disaster Management. She has numerous research/ consultancy projects and research student supervisions associated with emergency and disaster management. Her specialties are: Natural hazards – assessing complex natural hazards, communication of hazard via maps and statistics etc, single hazard vs multi-hazard approaches.

- Risk communication – the importance of raising awareness, targeting effectively and developing bespoke information in a participatory way prior to W&I the public.
- Community adaptive resilience to the impacts of acute hazards & climate change.
- Emergency & disaster management curriculum development for UG, PG and CPD courses.



### **Dr Matthew Blackett**

Senior Lecturer of Natural Hazards and Physical  
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Matthew Blackett completed his PhD at King's College, London, where he utilised his computing and geographic skills in the remote sensing of earthquakes and volcanoes. Following this, he completed a post-doctoral position, also at King's College, where he ran a project comparing urban energy balance models. During his time at King's College, Matthew was a tutor and lecturer both there and at the London School of Economics. Matthew started a lectureship at Coventry University in 2010 and since joining, has maintained his research interests and, given a research fellowship, was a visiting researcher at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, in 2012.



### **Dr Marion MacLellan**

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Marion's research interests lie predominantly in Sub-Saharan Africa, and in particular, in human development issues and disaster management. Her doctoral research focused on Rwanda and on the challenges faced by child headed households in livelihood strategies and community integration. Her interest in conflicts and emergencies has led to her recently embarking on research into lost education in conflict and post conflict societies, focusing on Sierra Leone and Rwanda. She is also working with practitioners in DRC on the development of a network of disaster managers based in the global South. She has links with NGO projects in Mozambique, Rwanda and Gambia, where she leads an undergraduate field trip each year. She is external examiner for the postgraduate sustainable development programme in the University of Makeni, Sierra Leone. Her teaching includes responsibility for modules which focus on conflict, peacekeeping, food security and livelihoods, as well as more general development and disaster risk reduction content.

