

Virtual Symposium Sessions 1 & 2 Speakers

Sustainable Financing for Soil Remediation Projects in China and Beyond

Session 1

Dimitri de Boer

Chief Representative for China, ClientEarth



Dimitri de Boer is co-founder and chief representative of ClientEarth's representative office in Beijing, leading a team of legal experts to advance environmental governance and rule of law. He is also Special Advisor and member of the chief advisor's group of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), Team Leader of the EU – China Environment Project, and International Coordinator of the Green Development Guidance project for greening the Belt and Road Initiative. Previously he was Team Leader of the EU – China Environmental Governance Programme (2014 – 2015), and Senior Advisor Environment and Climate with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in China (2003 – 2014).

Zhanfeng Dong

Deputy Director, Department for Environmental Policy, MEE China Academy of Environment Planning



Prof. Zhanfeng Dong works at the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning (CAEP) directly under the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). He is mainly engaged in environmental economics, green economy, environmental strategy and policy, environmental performance evaluation and management etc. He has presided over more than 40 international cooperation and domestic scientific research projects in the past five years. As a technical backbone, he has been responsible for or involved in the completion of more than 30 research reports. He has made numeral recommendations on environmental policy and environmental protection industry development to the top legislatures and policy makers in China, and many suggestions were adopted by the relevant ministries and commissions of China. He has authored about 70 papers in academic journals and conferences, 7 books and monographs.

Dietmar Müller-Grabherr

General Secretary, Common Forum on Contaminated Land



Dietmar Müller-Grabherr works with Environment Agency Austria (EAA). His main responsibilities include supervising the national program, chairing the working group “risk assessment of contaminated sites” at the Austrian Standards Institute, and acting as associated expert to the Austrian parliaments Commission on the Remediation of Contaminated Sites. He also defines and represents Austrian positions with regard to soil and groundwater related to EU policies and international standardisation procedures regarding soil quality (ISO TC 190 and CEN TC 345). From 1998 until 2014, he was regularly involved in European R&D activities (e.g. BRIDGE, EURODEMO, RISKBASE, TIMBRE) focused on land management and remediation. Since September 2017, he has been the General Secretary to COMMON FORUM on Contaminated Land in Europe and ICCL, the European and the global network of policy advisors and regulators in contaminated land management.

Steve Wolfson

Senior Attorney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Steve Wolfson is a senior attorney in the International Law Group at the Environmental Protection Agency Office of General Counsel, where he handles international law issues regarding climate change. Steve has represented EPA at negotiation of the Rotterdam Prior Informed Consent Convention and World Trade Organization litigation and has developed and delivered environmental law training in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Steve provides drafting input on phasing out lead paint through the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint coordinated by UNEP and the WHO. For more than 10 years Steve has led EPA Office of General Counsel information exchange programs with the environment ministry of China, sharing insights on drafting and implementing environmental legislation. A graduate of UCLA School of Law, Steve has taught as an adjunct at Vermont, George Washington, and Howard Law Schools and has published widely on environmental governance and Chinese environmental law.

Session 2

Nikolai Friberg

Research Director for Biodiversity, Norwegian Institute for Water Research



Prof Nikolai Friberg is a Research Director for Biodiversity at the Norwegian Institute for Water Research NIVA in Oslo, Norway. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Copenhagen, section for Freshwater Biology, in his native Denmark and a visiting scientist at the University of Leeds, UK. His background is in freshwater ecology with more than 30 years' experience in research into impacts of human perturbation on aquatic ecosystems. His scientific interests are, among others, the influence of land-use, riparian areas as nature-based solutions (NbS), habitats (including river restoration) and anthropogenic stressors (climate change, hydromorphological degradation) on biodiversity and ecosystem processes. He is currently leading a large collaborative project on developing NbS at the catchment scale (SAfeguard Biodiversity and improve Climate Adaptation in catchment areas under pressure: tools and Solutions (SABICAS)), funded by the Research Council of Norway.

Arne Pettersen

Section Leader for Environmental Chemistry, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute



Arne Pettersen holds an MSc in Marine Chemistry and a BSc in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Oslo. He is now the head of Section Environmental Chemistry at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI). He is also the head of NGI's Environmental Laboratory. His expertise is in marine sediments and polluted soil, especially related to site characterisation, risk evaluation, traditional remediation and the use of novel remedial methods to reduce environmental risk in cost effective and sustainable manners.

Xiaoming Wan

Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences



Dr. Xiaoming Wan is an Associate Researcher and Deputy Director of the Resource Engineering and Environmental Remediation Research Laboratory at the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Her main research interests are the migration and transformation processes of heavy metals in soil-plant systems, and remediation and sustainable use strategies of contaminated soils. She has published more than 60 papers in high impact academic journals at home and abroad, including more than 30 SCI papers as first/corresponding author. Her research achievements have won the First Prize of Beijing Science and Technology Progress, the Outstanding Young Scholar Award of Chinese Soil Society, and she was selected by the Youth Promotion Association of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Bingwei Outstanding Youth of the Institute of Geography and Resources of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Hua Zhang

Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences



Dr. Prof. Hua Zhang, Chief Scientist of the national key research and development program in China, is currently a distinguished core researcher of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Deputy Director of the State Key Laboratory of Environmental Geochemistry, and Director of Guizhou engineering and Technology Research Center for the prevention and control of soil heavy metal pollution, China. His main research direction is "Environmental Health Diagnosis and Remediation." He has presided over more than 20 important scientific research projects, published 70 research papers, and served as the Topic Editor of international SCI Journal of Biosensors, and Editorial Board Member of the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public (ijerp).

Session 3

Thiago Chagas

Lead Legal Consultant, Climate Focus



Thiago Chagas is a lead consultant at Climate Focus B.V. He is a climate policy and legal adviser specializing in climate change regulatory issues and climate finance. Thiago has extensive experience in providing policy and regulatory support to public entities developing land use landscape and jurisdictional programs. Thiago has also advised several companies and non-governmental organisations on establishing the optimal legal structure for an array of land use and mitigation projects. Thiago is also closely involved with a number of projects focused on the climate-biodiversity-food nexus. Thiago holds a master of laws in international public law from Edinburgh Law School and a master of laws on international business transactions from the Catholic University of Lisbon. Thiago is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Ingvild Skumlien Furuseth

Research Assistant, Norwegian Institute for Water Research



Ingvild Skumlien Furuseth is an environmental economist working at NIVA. In her position, she works on a range of research projects related to ecosystem services valuation, financing mechanisms, and policies to support sustainable measures and reduce adverse environmental effects. Topic-wise, she mainly focuses on urban climate change adaptation and water management. She conducts economic analysis of ecosystem services, suggested measures and interventions, including willingness-to-pay assessments and cost-benefit analysis.

Kenneth Patterson

Director of the Regional Support Division, Office of Site Remediation Enforcement, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Kenneth W. Patterson is the Director of the Regional Support Division (RSD) in the Office of Site Remediation Enforcement (OSRE), a part of Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) at the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Headquarters in Washington, D.C. OSRE is responsible for developing and implementing national enforcement policy for: the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund"); the corrective action provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and, the remediation provisions of the Oil Pollution Act. He has held management positions in both RSD as well as OSRE's Policy and Program Evaluation, and has served as both the Acting Deputy Office Director of OSRE and of EPA's Federal Facilities Enforcement Office for extended periods. In addition to his management responsibilities, he represented EPA in Superfund reauthorization discussions on Capitol Hill from 1995 to 1998.

Chenghui Zhang

Former Director-General, Research Institute of Finance, Development Research Center of the State Council (China)



Chenghui Zhang is a Research Fellow of the Financial Research Institute, Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC); Deputy Secretary-General of the China Society for Finance & Banking; Owns State Council Allowance for Extraordinary Contributions Specialists. She has a Ph.D. in Economics from the graduate school of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She retired in 2017, after holding posts as Director General of the Department of Techno-Economic Research from 2002, Deputy Director General of Financial Research Institute since February 2003, and Director of Financial Research Institute since December 2011. Her research mainly focuses on financial reform and financing of small and medium-sized enterprises. She has participated and been responsible for a few dozen research projects in DRC, covering coordinated development strategy and reform in China and the Master Plan for financial system reform. She has won the China Development Research Award six times and published more than two hundred papers.

Lan Wang

Associate Professor of Law, East China Normal University



Lan Wang is an Associate Professor and currently serves in the Law School of East China Normal University, Secretary General of Ocean Law Research Society of Shanghai Law Society. She has a PhD from the Research Institute of Environmental Law, Wuhan University. Her research area is environmental laws and policies. Over the past ten years, she focused on the study of compensation for ecological and environmental damage, funding mechanisms for environmental protection and fund for soil prevention and control. Research on these topics has received support from the Ministry of Education Project and the Shanghai Philosophy and Social Science Project, and she has publicly published several articles on these topics too.

Hongqiao Liu

Moderator; journalist and policy expert, specializing in environment, energy and climate policy in China



Hongqiao Liu's journalism brings facts, nuance and context to heated discussions about China's climate actions and energy transition, providing digestible information on complex policy issues. Over a decade since the first coverage of climate change, it has now become the main focus of her work. She now writes for Carbon Brief, an award-winning specialist website focused on explaining climate science and policy, and has recently delivered a talk on TED Countdown Summit on China's climate pledges.

Her early career as an investigative journalist in China saw her publishing a series of investigations on environment and health issues rising from China's economic take-off, including a handful of investigations on soil contamination and remediation. These reports, published on Caixin Media, triggered continuous national-wide civil society movements seeking transparency and accountability, as well as national policy reform in China.

Besides journalism, she also provides independent consultancy to international organisations and think tanks. These impact-driven consultancy works are focused on promoting mutual understanding between China and the rest of the world.