



CONFERENCE

Towards a resilient society – Croatia & Japan cooperation

Zagreb, March 1st 2022

Speakers

Dr. Haruo Hayashi is President of the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) since 2015. He is also Professor Emeritus of Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University where he has taught since 1994. The general focus of Dr. Hayashi's work is on societal and human reactions to disasters, risk communication and education, information system for disaster management, standardization of emergency operations, and multi-hazard risk assessment.

Dr. Robert Mikac is the professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Zagreb with rich practical and theoretical experience in the security sector of the Republic of Croatia. Previously he served in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia and NATO ISAF mission in Afghanistan, was the Head of the State Centre 112 and spent four years as the Commander of Civil Protection of the Republic of Croatia and the nation point of contact for CIP.

Ms. Branka Bakšić Mitić is the Deputy Mayor of Glina and a humanitarian activist. She is a co-founder of "Ljudi za ljude" (People for people) initiative that collects donations for those who live in difficult circumstances in Banovina and around it. Her initiative has helped hundreds of people. She received the *Pride of Croatia* award from 24sata media company and the *Fierce Women* prize from Vox Feminae.

Dr. Velibor Mačkić is the Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Croatia for Economy. He is also the assistant professor at the Faculty of Economy of the University of Zagreb where he received his PhD in 2015. His research interests include political economy, analysis of competitiveness and election cycles. He received the Marijan Hanžeković award in 2013 and the annual award of the Society of University Professors and Other Scientists in 2014.

Mr. Kensuke Tsuchiya is the President/CEO of Toyota Adria and is involved in alternative fuels development (such as hydrogen) and smart city development.

Ms. Ines Obradović is the Director of the International affairs and EU sector of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce. She has been involved in international relations and in supporting Croatian companies entering foreign markets for more than 17 years. She is also a member of the Governmental Working Groups on Internationalization and Regulatory Reform.

Dr. Naoko Ishii is the former CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). She had led the development and implementation of the GEF's first long-term strategy. She helped the GEF address the underlying drivers of environmental degradation and catalyse systems transformation in energy, cities, and food systems while protecting critical ecosystems. Previously, she was Japan's Deputy Vice Minister of Finance and represented the Japanese Government during the design of the Green Climate Fund. She worked as the Country Director for the World Bank and held positions at the IMF and Harvard Institute for International Development.

Ms. Nataša Mikuš Žigman is the State Secretary in the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia. Previously she acted as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts (2016-2020), and as the Head and Deputy Head of the Central Finance and Contracting Agency of the European Union funded programmes and projects (2012- 2016). She was also the Deputy of the State Secretary of the Central State Office for the Development Strategy and Coordination of the European Union Funds (2006-2011) and expert assistant and head of a department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (2000-2005).

Ms. Marijana Šarolić Robić is the President of the Professional Women's Network (PWMN Croatia/PWN Zagreb), a part of global movement of people working towards gender-balanced leadership through professional development and international, cross-industry, online and in-person networking. She is the attorney-at-law by trade and an enthusiast for artificial intelligence (AI). She works in the AI regulatory field to support AI companies in designing their business models in accordance with current regulatory trends.

Ms. Kristina Martinović works in the City of Zagreb Office for Emergency Management. She leads the project "Earthquake Risk of the City of Zagreb", which is among the strategic projects of the Republic of Croatia. After the earthquake in Zagreb in 2020, she has participated in organizing the response and since the declaration of the epidemic in Croatia she has provided operational support to the Civil Protection Headquarters of the City of Zagreb in the implementation of epidemiological measures.

