



Speaker Biographies

Nicolas De Santis

Secretary General, Gold Mercury International

Having grown up in a family deeply involved in theatre, television and film, Mr. De Santis built an important acting career of his own before entering the world of business, where he has figured as an Internet entrepreneur and leader in marketing and related areas. As president of Twelve Stars Corporate Vision, an international consulting firm, he has developed global strategies and brands for numerous multinational firms and international organizations. Since also taking up his current position with Gold Mercury, Mr. De Santis has strengthened its resources and expanded its international activities.

Honorable Anne-Marie Lizin

President of the Belgian Senate and Chairperson of the Senate Foreign Relations and Defense Committee

Mme. Lizin served as an Independent Expert on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty on the United Nations' Human Rights Commission from 1998 to 2004 and was also State Secretary for European Affairs. She is a keen advocate of women's rights and is Chairperson of the largest women's rights organization in Belgium. She represented the European Commission at the 1975 United Nations Conference of the International Women's Year.

Martin Parry, PhD

Director, Jackson Environment Institute (JEI), University of East Anglia, UK

A specialist in the effects of climate change, Dr. Parry has directed the JEI for the last 10 years and is a professor of environmental science. He occupies other key positions as well, including chair of the Task Group on Scenarios for Climate Impact Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Climate Impacts and Responses Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He has won a number of awards, including the World Meteorological Organisation's Gerbier-Mumm International Award in 1993 for contributions to research on climate change.

Cynthia E. Rosenzweig, PhD

Leader of the Climate Impacts Research Group, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Institute for Space Studies, USA

Dr. Rosenzweig's research involves the development of methodologies by which to assess the potential impacts of and adaptation to global environmental changes. She has organized and led large-scale, interdisciplinary, national and international studies of climate change impacts and adaptation, serving as co-leader of the Metropolitan East Coast Regional Assessment of the US National Assessment of the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change and as principal lead author on Working Group II (Impacts) of the Task Group on Climate Scenarios of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Louis Verchot, PhD**Lead Scientist on Climate Change, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Kenya**

Dr. Verchot is an ecologist, having earned his PhD at the University of North Carolina, working on issues of land-use change and sustainable agriculture in tropical systems. The author of 55 scientific articles and book chapters on these issues, he is a key member of a working group formed by the CGIAR to build a coherent and coordinated approach in its research aimed at mitigating global climate change and helping developing country agriculture adapt to its consequences.

Robert S. Zeigler, PhD**Director General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Philippines**

Dr. Zeigler, a US citizen, is a plant pathologist by training, having earned his PhD at Cornell University. He has had a long and distinguished career in agricultural research. He has served at two of the CGIAR-supported Centers—the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and IRRI—as well as with the recently created CGIAR Generation Challenge Programs. In the CGIAR, he has conducted crop improvement research and held key leadership positions, culminating in his current role as IRRI's director general. He was also a professor and occupied management positions at Kansas State University, including head of the Department of Plant Pathology and director of the Plant Biotechnology Center.