SPEAKERS – SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ngoc Phuong van der Blij

Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij completed her MA in International Relations at the Graduate Institute of International Studies. She is currently working as a Political Affairs Officer for the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) housed in the United Nations Office for Disarmament affairs in Geneva, Switzerland. She joined the BWC ISU since the creation of the Unit. She is acting as a core member of the Secretariat for all meetings of the BWC, including as Deputy Secretary and Secretary at BWC meetings and Review Conferences Committees in previous intersessional processes. Additionally, her duties include all matters related to Cooperation & Assistance under the Art. X of the BWC, universalization, liaising with international organizations, interacting with States Parties to the Convention on implementation, and building confidence in the treaty regime. She is regularly invited as a speaker, lecturer or chair at various conferences, workshops, training programmes and roundtables around the world, including for Interpol, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee.

Nola Faasau

Nola, a Tongan national, is the Legislative Drafting Officer (since August 2013) of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva, Fiji. Her key responsibilities include providing and coordinating legal policy and legislative development advice, support and assistance to the 14 Island Countries of the Pacific Islands Forum[1] in relation to annual regional priorities of the Forum. She also coordinates networking and professional development opportunities for legal officials in Forum Island Countries on law development and drafting. Prior to this, Nola served as a Senior State Solicitor in the Samoa Office of the Attorney-General from 2008 – 2012, during which time she was actively involved in providing legal advice and legislative development support relating to international security and disarmament matters. Nola holds a Master of Laws and Bachelor of Laws from the University of the South Pacific.

Beato Lenoa

Dr. Beato Lenoa completed his Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours) from the University of Queensland in Brisbane. He was involved in private clinical practice until he transitioned to being a government veterinarian in August this year. He is currently the Senior Veterinarian Officer- West with the Ministry of Agriculture.
Nitesh Datt

**Organization:** Biosecurity Authority of Fiji  
**Position:** Acting Chief Plant protection Officer (CPPO) / Senior Plant Protection Officer (Plant Pathologist)  
**Mission:** To protect Fiji’s unique biodiversity and facilitate international trade to and from Fiji  
**Title of the Presentation:** “Bioterrorism: A Threat to Plant Biosecurity”

Yuriy Kryvonos

Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos (Colonel Air Force, retired in 1996) has served as Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) since 1 October 2014.

Dr. Kryvonos has been dealing with arms control issues since August 1992. He started as the senior officer of the Open Skies Division in the Verification Centre of the Ukrainian General Staff. In May 1993, Yuriy Kryvonos was seconded as a military adviser to the Directorate for Arms Control and Disarmament of the MFA of Ukraine where he occupied positions of first secretary, counsellor, and, finally, the Head of Division for Conventional Arms Control.

In September 1998, Mr. Kryvonos was assigned to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to International Organizations in Vienna where he worked for three years. His portfolio included issues of conventional arms control, confidence- and security-building measures (CSBM), disarmament, export control and non-proliferation.

From November 2001 till December 2007, Yuriy Kryvonos served as the Senior FSC Support Officer in the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE Secretariat. He was responsible for issues relating to politico-military aspects of security in the OSCE area including the implementation of the complex of agreed CSBMs, OSCE Documents on SALW and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

During his assignment at UNODA since December 2007, Yuriy Kryvonos worked at the position of Political Affairs Officer in the UNODA Branches of Conventional Arms, Regional Disarmament, and the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva Branch). He also served as the Secretary to three United Nations groups of governmental experts on the Register of Conventional Arms; the Report on Military Expenditures; and on Transparency and CBMs in outer space activities.