

Locally-Led Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA) in Asia

Online Course

Date: October 6th, 13th, 20th, 2021

Speakers Biography

Week 1: October 6, 2021 (Wednesday), 13:00-15:30 JST

Duration: 2.5 hours

Module 1: Understanding the Locally-Led Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA) Analytical Framework



Dr. Miwa Hirono
Associate Professor/
Associate Dean,
Ritsumeikan University, Japan

Dr. Miwa Hirono is an Associate Professor at the College of Global Liberal Arts and the Graduate School of International Relations at Ritsumeikan University. She held a Research Councils UK Research Fellowship at the University of Nottingham. Her publication includes “China’s Evolving Approaches to the principle of Non-Intervention” (The China Quarterly 2019)., “Linkages between China’s Foreign Policy and Humanitarian Action” (Overseas Development Institute 2018), “China’s Evolving Approach to Peacekeeping (London: Routledge 2012). She has taught at the Australian National University, where she was awarded a PhD in International Relations, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Canterbury. She was also a Visiting Fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and innovation at Harvard Kennedy School on Fullbright Fellowship.



Ms. Jessica Alexander
Humanitarian Professional

Ms. Jessica Alexander is a humanitarian aid professional with experience in operations, evaluation and policy. Her career includes global deployments spanning Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. She has conducted large scale evaluations, assessments and policy research for the UN, Red Cross and various NGOs on a range of humanitarian issues including: child protection, shelter, emergency education, coordination, accountability and humanitarian effectiveness. She has also overseen programming in Sudan, South Sudan and Haiti.

Jessica is two-time Fulbright grantee who received the award to research Japan’s approach to disaster risk reduction in 2019 and the use of child soldiers in Sierra Leone in 2006. She received a Master of Public Health and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University. She is an editor at The New Humanitarian and teaches humanitarian affairs at numerous global universities. She has authored policy papers and mainstream articles about the humanitarian sector and is the author of “Chasing Chaos: My Decade In and Out of Humanitarian Aid.”



Ms. Taeko Yokota
Programme Expert on DRR
and Water,
United Nations Center for
Regional Development
(UNCRD)

Ms. Taeko Yokota is the Programme Expert on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Water at the United Nations Center for Regional Development based in Tokyo, Japan. Her specialization is in the issues of Disaster Risk Reduction and water issues.

She received her Master’s Degree in Social Science at Waseda University. Prior to joining UNCRD, she was a Programme Management Officer at the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water/CEB Secretariat and also was a Programme Officer at the Global Water Operator’s’ Partnership Alliance/UN Habitat.