

BIO-WASTE ALCHEMY: TRANSFORMING MUNICIPAL WASTE INTO GREEN GOLD

SPEAKERS BIOS (IN SPEAKING ORDER)

Prof. Mats Eklund

- **Affiliation:** Linköping University, Sweden
- **Bio:** Mats Eklund is professor in environmental technology and management, Linköping university, Sweden. He leads research in the group "Industrial and Urban symbiosis" and is the founder and director of the transdisciplinary Biogas Solutions Research Center, a triple-helix center of excellence involving fifty private and public organizations. He has supervised more than 50 Master theses, twelve PhD-candidates to their degree and authored more than fifty scientific papers on analysis, development and dissemination of sustainable solutions.

Dr. Jane Gilbert

- **Affiliation:** Organic Resources Expert, Carbon Clarity & Chair of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)'S Biological Treatment Working Group
- **Bio:** Jane holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology, a doctorate in biochemistry and an MBA. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Wastes and Resources Management, is a Chartered Environmentalist and an ISWA International Waste Manager. Jane has been involved in the organics recycling sector for over twenty-five years. She has experience in bio-waste recycling (composting and anaerobic digestion), standards and certification schemes, recycling organics to soil, compostable/ biodegradable packaging, waste management qualifications, health and safety, end-of-life vehicles and clinical waste. She is the former chief executive of the UK Composting Association, co-founder of the European Compost Network and the current Chair of the International Solid Waste Association's Biological Treatment Working Group. Over the years, Jane has authored a number of technical publications on composting and the benefits of compost use. Notably, Jane was a co-author of the ISWA reports on the benefits of applying compost and digestate to soil and the recent practitioner's guide to preventing and managing contaminants. She is currently working on international

projects developing food waste composting and alternatives to single use plastics.

Mr. Manjushri Dissanayake

- **Affiliation:** Municipal Engineer, Kaduwela Municipal Council, Sri Lanka
- **Bio:** Mr. Manjushri Dissanayake serves as the Municipal Engineer at the Kaduwela Municipal Council in Sri Lanka since 2021. He is responsible for providing consultation services for the construction works undertaken by the Municipal Council. He has a distinguished career spanning over seven years in Waste Management, Construction and Transportation sectors. Mr. Manjushri Dissanayake has extensive experience and knowledge in implementing sustainable waste management practises in Municipal Councils. Mr. Dissanayake served as the Site Engineer of Metallurgical Corporation of China Pvt Ltd's Central Expressway project in Sri Lanka. During his tenure, he conducted structural and geotechnical site inspections and oversaw construction work. He also served as a Civil and Survey Engineer at the Nawaloka Construction Company (PVT) Ltd during 2019-2021. Mr. Dissanayake holds a Bachelor of Science Engineering degree in the field of Civil and Environmental Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering, University Of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka and is currently reading for the Master's degree(M.Eng) in Highway and Traffic Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Mr. Dissanayake is an associate member of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) and an associate engineer in the Engineering Council of Sri Lanka (ECSL). Furthermore, Mr. Dissanayake has extensive research experience in the fields of constructions and transport sector.

Mr. Noah Gyimah

- **Affiliation:** Chief Investment Officer, Jospong Group of Companies, Ghana
- **Bio:** Mr. Noah Gyimah is an investment banker and a multifaceted C-Suite business executive with over 20 years of experience in Capital Markets, M&A, Corporate Restructuring, Climate Finance, Management Strategy and Consulting. He is the Chief Investment & Climate Finance Officer at Jospong Group of Companies where he leads investment and sustainable finance strategies across the group. Noah served as an executive at JP Morgan Chase for 12 years where he held several leadership roles in the US across Corporate & Investment Bank, Treasury & Security Services, Global Finance Technology, and Consumer &

Community Bank. Among other academic qualifications, Mr. Gyimah holds MBA in Banking & Finance and International Business Strategy from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland OH, BSc in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Ghana, and Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute, USA.

Dr. Hiroshan Hettiarachchi

- **Affiliation:** Waste management and geotechnical engineering expert (presenting on Cajica, Colombia)
- **Bio:** Hiroshan Hettiarachchi is a globally recognized leader in environmental sustainability, waste management, and geotechnical engineering with 25 years of diverse experience in academia, scientific research, engineering consulting and United Nations (UN) capacity development programs. Currently, he is driven to inspire the global community to achieve sustainability goals through his research and consulting work. In 2014 he joined the UN as a Professor and established the Waste (Resources) Management Unit at the United Nations University (UNU-FLORES) in Germany. The research and capacity development work he conducted during the 6 years spent at the UN were primarily focused on looking at waste as a resource in the context of water-food energy nexus. Prior to joining the UN, he was at Lawrence Technological University, in Michigan, USA, as a Civil Engineering Professor and the Director of Civil Engineering Graduate Programs.