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IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

Short Biographies:

Hans-Otto Pörtner, Alfred Wegener Institute for Marine and Polar Research, Germany / IPCC Working Group II Co-Chair

Dr Hans-Otto Pörtner studied at Münster and Düsseldorf Universities where he received his PhD and habilitated in Animal Physiology. As a Research and then Heisenberg Fellow of the German Research Council he worked at Dalhousie and Acadia Universities, Nova Scotia, Canada and at the Lovelace Medical Foundation, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. Currently he is Professor and Head of the Department of Integrative Ecophysiology at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Marine and Polar Research, Bremerhaven, Germany. He acts as an associate editor 'Physiology' for Marine Biology and as a co-editor of the Journal of Thermal Biology. He was Honorary International Associate Member of the Society for Integrative Biology, USA, between 2006 and 2013. Until the end of 2014 he served as a Coordinating Lead Author of Chapter 6 (Ocean Systems) of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, and as a member of the author teams for the Working Group II Summary for Policymakers and Technical Summary, as well as a member of the Core Writing Team for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Synthesis Report. In October 2015 he was elected Co-Chair of Working Group II of the IPCC for the Sixth Assessment cycle. His research interests include the effects of climate warming, ocean acidification, and hypoxia on marine animals and ecosystems with a focus on the links between ecological, physiological, biochemical and molecular mechanisms limiting tolerance and shaping biogeography and ecosystem functioning.

Debra Roberts, eThekweni Municipality, South Africa / IPCC Working Group II Co-Chair

Dr Debra Roberts is currently head of the Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives portfolio in eThekweni Municipality (Durban, South Africa). Prior to taking up this post in 2016, she established and managed the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of the same municipality for 22 years (1994–2016) and was selected as the city's first Chief Resilience Officer in 2013. Dr. Roberts was a Lead Author of Chapter 8 (Urban Areas) and a Contributing Author to Chapter 12 (Africa) of the Working Group II contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report. She was elected as Co-Chair of Working Group II for the IPCC's Sixth Assessment cycle in 2015. She was a member of the South African United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiating team until December 2015, and has sat on various international advisory bodies focused on climate change issues in cities (e.g., the Rockefeller Foundation's Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network and UN-Habitat's 2011 'Cities and Climate Change' Global Report). She was a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Thematic Group on Sustainable Cities involved in mobilising support for the creation of a city focused SDG. Dr Roberts was also a member of the Future Earth Engagement Committee until 2017 and is a fellow of the Watson International Scholars of the Environment Programme. In 2016 she was invited to deliver the Barbara Ward Lecture celebrating 'Outstanding Women in Development' in London at the International Institute for Environment and Development. She is an Honorary Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the School of Life Sciences and has written widely in the fields of urban open space planning, environmental management and urban climate protection, and has received a number of awards for her work.

Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, France / IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair

Dr Valérie Masson-Delmotte is a senior scientist from Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, with an initial background in fluid physics. Her research interests are focused on quantifying and understanding changes in climate and water cycle, using analyses from ice cores in Greenland, Antarctica and Tibet, analyses from tree-rings as well as present-day monitoring, and climate modelling for the past and the future. She has worked across different timescales on issues such as natural climate variability and mechanisms of climate response to natural and anthropogenic forcing, polar amplification, climate feedbacks, abrupt climate change, ice sheet vulnerability. She is active in outreach for children and for the general public and has contributed to several books on climate change issues (latest: Groenland, climat, écologie et société, CNRS éditions, 2016). She was a contributor to the SCAR Report on Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment, a Lead Author in the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and a Coordinating Lead Author in the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. In October 2015 she was elected Co-Chair of Working Group I of the IPCC for the Sixth Assessment cycle. She has received several prizes (European Union Descartes Prize for the EPICA project, 2008; Women scientist Irène Joliot Curie Prize, 2013; Tinker-Muse Prize for science and policy in Antarctica, 2015; Thomson Highly Cited Researcher since 2014; Prix Jean Perrin for scientific outreach from Société Française de Physique, 2016).

Panmao Zhai, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, China / IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair

Prof Panmao Zhai is a research professor and Ph.D. supervisor at the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences in China. He has more than 30 years working experience in climate change and variability studies. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 papers and 3 monographs in Chinese and English. He has been involved in the IPCC assessment activities since 1998. In October 2015 he was elected Co-Chair of Working Group I of the IPCC for the Sixth Assessment cycle. As a well-known climatologist in China, he has developed the Global Climate Monitoring and Diagnostic System, and established the ENSO Monitoring and Prediction System in China. Currently, as a Chief Scientist, he is leading a group of excellent meteorologists focusing on studying extreme weather and climate events in China. Prof. Zhai was the Director-General of Department of Forecasting and Networking in China Meteorological Administration and the Vice President of Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences. He is now the Secretary General of the Chinese Meteorological Society.