

**Stimson Center/ACRE – Alliance for a Climate Resilient Earth**

**World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development**

**United Nations**

**Thursday March 4, 2021**

**Recorded – Monday March 1, 2021 5:00 am**

**Roadmap to the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals – Advancing Sustainable and Climate Resilient Infrastructure**

**Panel Discussion – 60 minutes**

- UN SDGs – Introduction / Update – Moderator – 5 minutes
- Update on Activity & Topic Discussion - Panelists – 10 minutes / each
- Closing – Moderator – 5 minutes

**Welcoming remarks:**

- Dr Antonio Guterres, Secretary General United Nations, represented by Audrey Azoulay Director-General, UNESCO Confirmed
- His Excellency Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC - *Invited*
- Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield – *Invited*

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Gong Ke – President WFEO – World Federation of Engineering Organizations – Global Engineering Commitment to Sustainable and Climate Resilient Infrastructure
- Dr. K.N. Gunalan - Past President ASCE / Chair, WFEO UN Relations Committee - ASCE's Vision for Achieving the SDGs – ASCE Roadmap, Standards and ICSI Coalition
- Dr. Marlene Kanga, Immediate Past President, WFEO – The Diversity Imperative for Sustainable Development
- Dr. Jorge Vanegas, President Pan American Academy of Engineering - Engineering for Livability, Resilience and Sustainable Infrastructure to Advance the UNSDGs
- Elise Zoli, Board Member, Stimson Center – Need for Engineers, Policy Makers and Finance to Achieve Sustainable and Climate Resilient Infrastructure

**Moderator:**

- Michael R. Sanio Executive Advisor on Sustainability, American Society of Civil Engineers

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## Roadmap to the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals – Advancing Sustainable and Climate Resilient Infrastructure

### Biographies



Dr. Gong Ke, President  
World Federation of Engineering Organizations  
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Prof. GONG Ke is President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, he has been a member of the executive council of WFEO since 2009. He chaired the [Committee on Information and Communication](#) (CIC) from 2009-2015, the [Committee on Engineering for Innovative Technologies](#) (CEIT) from 2016 to 2017. He was elected as president of WFEO at the Federation's General Assembly in Rome on 1st December 2017 and has started his term at the General Assembly in Melbourne in November 2019. From 2013 to 2017, he was appointed by Ban Ki-moon to the [Scientific Advisory Board of the Secretary-General of the United Nations](#).



K. N. Gunalan, F.ASCE, Ph.D., P.E, F.ASCE, D.GE  
ASCE President, 2019/2020  
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Kancheepuram N. Gunalan (Guna) is proud to be a civil engineer and is passionate about enhancing the quality of life for communities around the world through this profession and continuously advancing the careers of his fellow civil engineers. He strongly believes that an educated society is an enlightened society and that research and lifelong learning are required to progress. He is committed to ethics and ethical behavior in all aspects of life, and was awarded the 2016 ASCE Professional Practice Ethics and Leadership award for his dedication to this topic. He learned more about how to encourage ethical behavior in others by serving as a member of the National Institute of Engineering Ethics.

A U.S. citizen now, Guna was born and raised in Chennai, India. Guna graduated from Texas Tech University with a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (Major: Geotechnical/Structures, Minor: Geosciences/Soil Science). Guna has worked on major engineering projects all over the world – experiences that provide him with a unique global perspective on the engineering industry and the challenges faced by civil engineers.



Elise N. Zoli  
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With a keen sense of the clean energy and water markets and opportunities, Elise Zoli provides strategic direction and advice to the nation's leading public and private enterprises. Her experience focuses on the development, financing (impact investment, hedge fund, private equity, governmental grant, and alternative funding), and operation of clean energy, water, and related infrastructure projects and services. Elise is recognized as a leading energy lawyer in Massachusetts and serves as global co-head of the Firm's Future of Energy, Renewables+ & Sustainability Initiative.



Dr Marlene Kanga

Immediate Past President

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Dr Marlene Kanga AM was President of the [World Federation of Engineering Organisations \(WFEO\)](#) 2017-2019, the top body for engineering institutions internationally representing 30 million engineers. She was the 2013 National President of Engineers Australia. During her term as WFEO President, Marlene led the initiative for UNESCO to declare 4<sup>th</sup> March, as World Engineering Day. Marlene has been listed among the top 100 engineers in Australia in the last 100 years and among the Top 10 women engineers. She is a Member of the Order of Australia, a national honor, in recognition of her leadership of the engineering profession.



Dr. Jorge A. Vanegas

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Jorge A. Vanegas, Ph.D., is the current President of API for 2020 – 2022 and has served as dean of the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University since 2008. For over 30 years, Dr. Vanegas has focused his scholarly and professional activities on: **(1)** implementing built environment sustainability at urban, infrastructure, and facilities scales; **(2)** applying creative, innovative, design, entrepreneurial, and digital thinking within transdisciplinary, transinstitutional, and transnational collaborative environments; and **(3)** advancing capital asset delivery and management in the *Architecture-Engineering-Construction* (AEC) industry through integrated strategies, tools, and methods.



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Michael (Mike) Sanio F.ASCE, CAE, ENV-SP, at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), holds the position of Executive Advisor on Sustainability where he is responsible for providing exceptional leadership on sustainability globally.