

Stability
and peace
for a global
society

Admiral Piyal de Silva Retired commander, Sri Lanka Navy

Admiral Piyal de Silva was appointed the 23rd Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, which he led from January 2019 until his retirement in July 2020. He was promoted to the rank of four-star Admiral by His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, former president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Admiral Piyal De Silva is well-versed in disaster management activities and has always rendered his unwavering contribution to the nation when it faced calamities. During his tenure as commander, he spoke about the impact of climate change on the economy, pushing developing countries to encourage more disaster-resilient businesses to provide continuity of economic development.

Admiral De Silva attended Dharmasoka College in Ambalangoda and joined the Sri Lanka Navy in the executive branch as an officer cadet of the 12th Intake in 1984. He rose through the ranks to admiral during his 36-year tenure in the navy. Admiral Piyal De Silva has received specialized training on deep sea salvage diving and explosive ordnance disposal diving from the U.S. Navy and used his knowledge and skills extensively in salvage and mine clearance operations. The senior officer was highly decorated during his exemplary career in the Navy.

He graduated with a Master of Business Administration in Human Resource Management and also in Master of Defense and Strategic Studies. He followed his national defense course at the National Defense University in China.



Geoff Dabelko Professor and associate dean, George V. Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service at Ohio University

Geoff Dabelko is professor and associate dean at the George V. Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service at Ohio University. He teaches in the Environmental Studies Program, where he was formerly program director from 2012-2018. He serves as a senior advisor to the Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program in Washington, D.C., a program he directed from 1997-2012. He is also an associate senior fellow with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Environment of Peace Initiative. Dabelko's research focuses on environment, climate, peace building and security. He worked previously at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Foreign Policy, and the Council on Foreign Relations. He has taught as an adjunct at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service. Dabelko is co-editor with Ken Conca of "Green Planet Blues: Critical Perspectives on Global Environmental Politics" (6th Ed. 2019) and "Environmental Peacemaking" (2002). He was a lead author for the 5th Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II "Human Security" chapter and is currently an author on the 5th U.S. National Climate Assessment to be published in 2023. Dabelko has a PhD in government and politics from the University of Maryland, College Park and an AB in political science from Duke University.



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Maria Ivanova Professor and director, School of Public Policy
and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University

Maria Ivanova is the director of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University and professor of Public Policy. She focuses on international environmental institutions, environmental sustainability and the science-policy interface. She has published on global environmental governance, the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), climate change, and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, among others.

Professor Ivanova was named one of 66 inaugural foundation fellows of the International Science Council, the highest honor awarded by the council in recognition of contributions to the role of science in promoting the global public good. She is a member of the Technical Advisory Group to the Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability. She is also an Andrew Carnegie Fellow and a member of the Joint Scientific Committee of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). She serves as a research scholar at the Center for Collective Intelligence at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the Sustainability Advisory Council at Yale University and on the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative Advisory Group.

For 12 years, Professor Ivanova served at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she directed the Center for Governance and Sustainability and the PhD program in Global Governance and Human Security.



Lizzie Quigley Director of partnerships, Sustainability Alliance at ASU

Elizabeth is an undergraduate honors student at Arizona State University, graduating in Spring of 2023 with degrees in Sustainability (B.A.) and Supply Chain Management (B.S.). She is passionate about sustainability education and its relationship to sustainable behavior change and leadership. As an intern at the Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Teachers' Academy, Elizabeth works on sustainability education programming for K-12 educators, in order to inspire sustainable action in youth. At Arizona State University, she has been a strong proponent for youth leadership in sustainability through her work as a student leader with organizations such as Changemaker Central @ ASU, where she fostered a culture of sustainability as the university-wide sustainability chair, and with The Sustainability Alliance @ ASU, where she built ASU's sustainability coalition and now serves as the director of partnerships and engagement. Beyond her work with sustainability, Elizabeth enjoys art, outdoor activities, and spoiling her cat, Magnus.



Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir

[moderator] Chair of the board, Reykjavík Global Forum
& Senior Advisor on Women's Leadership, UN Women

Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir is the senior advisor on Women's Leadership at UN Women. She is also the chair of the board of the Reykjavík Global Forum, Women Leaders. She has been active in Icelandic politics for many years, both in the national Parliament and local government. She is the former chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Parliament and former Minister of the Interior in Iceland. Before being elected to Parliament, she was the mayor of Reykjavík, the president of the city council and chaired several committees and organizations for the City of Reykjavík. She is also the former vice chair of the Independence Party in Iceland; the former deputy secretary general of the party and the former secretary general of its Parliamentary Group. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Iceland in 1991. After that, she received a Master of Science in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh (1993).

