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CIDI/INF.385/20

 24 September 2020

 TEXTUAL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE. BUILDING BACK BETTER: THE KEY TO RESILIENT RECOVERY

GUEST SPEAKERS BIO

**Laura Seraydarian**

Executive Director

The Boulder Center for Resilience

Laura Seraydarian is a leader in the field of resilience with over a decade of experience working on resilience initiatives in South and Southeast Asia, Central America, the Caribbean, and at home in Boulder County. She is an expert in strategic development, participatory planning, complex problem solving, and leadership development.

Laura brings a unique, systems-level perspective with a background in both the physical and social sciences. The first 10 years of her career were spent as a hydrogeologist and licensed Professional Geologist (P.G.) working on water infrastructure, environmental monitoring remediation, climate science, and coastal geomorphology. Her work in the field brought forward the systemic socio-political challenges hindering the human-environment continuum that were not being solved through science or engineering. This led to a series of work, across scales and geographies, aimed at 'bridging the gap' through the field of Resilience. Laura developed resilience strategies to address the uncertainties of climate change, natural disasters, and socio-politics and to enhance internal resilience in local government and community leadership. She specializes in bringing teams together and developing partnerships to facilitate resilience-building initiatives.

Since founding The Boulder Center for Resilience in 2015 (formerly Creative Vision Works), Laura has been heavily involved in the growth, development, and implementation of Boulder County and BoCo Strong’s work around community resilience. Over the last two years, she has developed a program for 'Resilience Visioning and Planning for Individuals' working primarily with individuals in Boulder's start-up and gig economy.

**Jason D. Averill**

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Jason D. Averill is Chief of the Materials and Structural Systems Division (MSSD) of the Engineering Laboratory (EL) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Materials and Structural Systems Division includes four groups: the Infrastructure Materials Group, Structures Group, Earthquake Engineering Group, and the Community Resilience Group. The division is also responsible for managing three statutory programs, including the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (for which NIST is the lead agency), the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (for which NIST is the lead agency), and the National Construction Safety Team Program.

Since joining the Engineering Laboratory in 1997, Mr. Averill has focused his research on assessment of hazards to building occupants. Key research areas include movement of people, emergency preparedness, effectiveness of building systems and technologies, and emergency response. Mr. Averill has assessed fire safety for passenger rail cars, characterized material toxicity in large and bench scale experiments, characterized the effect of firefighting resources, and evaluated smoke detection technologies in residential housing.

Mr. Averill is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, was previously appointed to the International Code Council's Means of Egress Committee, has served on the NFPA Life Safety Code Committee (Means of Egress), and was a member of the ASME A17 Task Group developing guidelines for Occupant and Firefighter Use of Elevators During Fire Emergencies.

In 2005, Mr. Averill received the U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Federal Service for his work as leader of the *Occupant Egress, Human Behavior, and Emergency Communication in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001* project in the Federal Investigation of the Collapse of the World Trade Center Buildings. In 2011, Mr. Averill received the U.S. Department of Commerce Silver Medal for characterizing the deployment of firefighting resources to the residential fireground in order to enable fire departments and city/county managers to make sound decisions regarding optimal resource allocation. In 2004, he received the U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award for Superior Federal Service for research into the characterization of the performance of home smoke alarms. In 2014, Mr. Averill was awarded the "President's Award" from the International Association of Fire Chiefs for "leadership and contributions to science-based firefighting tactics and strategies."

**Dr. Marco da Silva**

Executive Director

Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

Dr. Marcos Regis da Silva is responsible for the provision of strategic advice to high level policy makers on issues related to global change and their socio-economic impacts, development of linkages between the IAI’s scientific agenda and global governance environmental frameworks, especially the Sustainable Development Goals, and long-range strategic planning and financial policies to ensure the implementation of the IAI’s scientific agenda. Previously he held the post of Chief, Knowledge Management and Outreach Services with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). He was responsible for issues related to the use of new information and communication technologies, including those to conduct international trade in specimens of CITES-listed species that is legal, sustainable and traceable. This includes development of electronic trade standards and the establishment of Single Window environments in developing countries. He was previously with the Convention on Biological Diversity where he was responsible for the implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism and for the technical implementation of the Biosafety Clearing-House under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Before joining the United Nations, Marcos was a Programme Officer with the NAFTA Commission on Environmental Cooperation where his duties included the development of the North American Biodiversity Information Network. He holds a PhD from McGill University and was an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Distance Education for many years.

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