

# Speaker Biographies

## **Ngawang Choephel**

Tibetan refugee and active campaigner for Tibet rights, Ngawang Choephel has worked for decades for the cause of his people founding Tibetan UN Advocacy (Geneva). He is elected President of Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization and special correspondent to Phayul.com.

## **Abdul Hamid Khan**

Abdul Hamid Khan is co-founder and chairman of the Balawaristan National Front (BNF) and long standing advocate for the human and political rights of the deprived people of Gilgit-Baltistan. He has been forced to leave his homeland as a result of his political activities and actions on behalf of the rights of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

## **Mumtaz Khan**

Executive Director of the Canadian International Centre for Peace and Democracy, Mumtaz Khan is an active supporter of Gilgit Baltistan aspiration for self-determination and social justice. He has contributed to several recent thematic conferences on Gilgit Baltistan at the United Nations Human Rights Council and the European Parliament.

## **Hermann Kreutzmann**

Hermann Kreutzmann is Chair of Human Geography at Freie Universität Berlin. For more than 25 years Hermann Kreutzmann has been conducting research there on issues of resource use and the development of mountain regions since 1977 he has participated in fieldwork and academic research in South and Central Asia.

## **Lakhu Luhana**

Principal Consultant of Air Quality at Bureau Veritas, Lakhu Luhana is responsible for assessing, monitoring and reviewing the air quality impacts resulting from a variety of sources and development projects. Lakhu Luhana also assists local authorities in their duties for Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) and policy support.

## **Michael J. Penders**

Chairman of Environmental Security International in the United States, Michael Penders previously conducted consultations which led to advanced investigations that helped to develop standards for integrated environmental and security management, and tested their application in numerous critical infrastructure sectors.

## **David Petley**

Founder and director of the International Landslide Centre at the University of Durham, David Petley is primarily interested in developing greater understanding of landslides and landslide mechanics, especially in high mountain areas within less developed countries.

## **Dirk Terwel**

Senior associate of the Institute for Environmental Studies (IES) in The Hague. He has a background in war studies and has worked and lived for several years in Afghanistan. In recent years he has focused in the direction of SME development in fragile states like Palestine or Moldova and follows developments in Afghanistan and the region.