



## Optimism in a Time of Uncertainty: Before the Flood

### Synopsis

At this event, panellists discuss the realities of climate change, the need for climate leadership in a time of uncertainty, the Paris Agreement, and their hopes for the future. The event also features the screening of *Before the Flood* by long time environmental advocate Leonardo DiCaprio to raise awareness about climate change from a global perspective. Follow him as he travels to multiple countries, bearing witness to climate change around the world and galvanising the audience to do whatever it takes to save the planet and ourselves. *Before the Flood* is being screened at NUS in commemoration of Earth Day.

### Programme

Welcome address by Professor Chou Siaw Kiang  
*Executive Director, Energy Studies Institute*

Opening Remarks by Ms. Nikolina Kulidzan  
*Deputy Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Singapore*

### Panellists

Sandeep Chamling Rai, *Senior Advisor for Adaptation Policy, WWF*

Leon Toh, *Executive Director for Damson Capital*

Melissa Low, *Research Fellow, Energy Studies Institute*

Rachel Ooi, *Yale-NUS student*

### When

Thursday, 6 April 2017  
3.30 pm Registration  
4.00 pm Panel  
4.30pm Film Screening  
6.00pm Networking

### Where

NUS University Hall  
Auditorium  
Level 2  
21 Lower Kent Ridge Rd  
Singapore 119077

### Dress Code

Smart Casual

### Admission

Free and open to public but advanced registration is required.

Click here to register:

<http://esi.nus.edu.sg/e-registration>

### Enquiries

Ms. Jan Lui  
Tel: 6516 2000  
[esilyyj@nus.edu.sg](mailto:esilyyj@nus.edu.sg)  
[www.esi.nus.edu.sg](http://www.esi.nus.edu.sg)



*The US Embassy in Singapore and NUS Office of Environmental Sustainability are Event Partners for this panel and film screening.*

## About the Panellists



Mr Sandeep Chamling Rai is Senior Advisor on Global Adaptation Policy for WWF international based out of Singapore. He leads WWF effort on adaptation policy work within the UN climate negotiations process and has been participating in the UNFCCC process since 2003 in various capacities as a member of WWF and Nepalese government delegations. Prior to joining WWF international in 2009, he was senior manager of climate change and energy programme for WWF Nepal in Kathmandu for almost six years. He has over 10 years of working experience on climate change issues ranging from project implementation (adaptation projects, glacial research, renewable energy, CDM) to national and international policy processes, in particular, UNFCCC. Sandeep holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Kathmandu University, Nepal and Master of Science in Environmental Management degrees from both Pokhara University, Nepal and NUS.



Melissa Low is a Research Fellow at the Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore. She holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in Climate Change Law and Policy (with distinction) from the University of Strathclyde and a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the National University of Singapore. For her NUS Master thesis on past and contemporary proposals on equity and differentiation in shaping the 2015 climate agreement, Melissa was awarded the Shell Best Dissertation Award 2013. She received her Bachelor of Social Sciences in Geography degree (with Honours) and a minor in Urban Studies from the National University of Singapore in 2010. Melissa has participated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) talks since December 2009 and is the Designated Contact Point for NUS's accreditation to the UNFCCC. Her current research areas are on the implications of the Paris Agreement and countries' progress in meeting their climate pledges.



Leon Toh is the executive director of impact investment holdings company, Damson Capital in Singapore. He has dedicated his career to supporting social entrepreneurs seeking to create sustained positive change through enterprise. Damson focuses on social impact investments, enterprise development, and impact innovation within Asia. Concurrently, Leon serves on the Board for a Renewable Energy company in Sri Lanka, supporting small and marginalised farmers while teaching them to be organic farmers. Previously, Leon was a management consultant with Accenture, a petrochemical price reporter with the Independent Chemical Information Service (ICIS) and did research in East Timor with Monash University on Coffee Farming households. On the personal front, he serves on the Advisory Board of the UWC (United World College) in London and is the Chairman of the UWC's Singapore Scholarship Committee, to select young Singaporean Change-makers to study in the UWC network for their pre-university education.



Rachel Ooi is a second-year Environmental Studies major at Yale-NUS College. She has engaged with the local environmental scene in a variety of ways, including participating in Member of Parliament Louis Ng's Advisory Panel, volunteering with the People's Movement to Stop Haze, and working as a Wildlife Ambassador for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Singapore. Her research interests include discourse framing and ecological imagination. In June 2017, she will commence summer research on connections between folklore and natural resource management in Iceland.