Dr Dasarath Jayasuriya

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Dr Dasarath (Jaya) Jayasuriya is the Assistant Director for Water Forecasting at the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia's national weather, climate and water agency. From August 2011 to April 2014, Jaya was a member of the Bureau's Executive team and acted as Deputy Director of the Bureau's Climate and Water Division. In this role, Jaya was responsible for the *Improving Water Information Program*, a 10 year, $450 million Australian Government initiative to monitor, assess and forecast the availability, condition and use of Australia's water resources.

Dr Jayasuriya is one of the six members of the Expert Group established by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) to advise the global community on Climate, Water and Food Security. In addition, Jaya is also a member of the Flood Forecasting Initiative Advisory Group of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and a member of the Advisory Board supporting the European Union funded recent initiative 'EartH2Observe' (E2O) commencing in November 2013. Jaya also has experience working in Thailand on ADB funded projects as well as dealing with the irrigation sector and the disaster management sectors in Sri Lanka.

A civil engineer by training, Jaya completed his PhD from Monash University (Australia) in the mid 1980s and worked at Melbourne Water for 22 years prior to joining the Bureau in 2009. During this time Jaya was responsible for the strategic planning of Melbourne's water supply system that included the management of over 150,000ha of protected forested catchments supplying water to a city of 4 million people. Jaya has contributed to water resources management and water reform at the national, state and regional level for over 30 years including extensive work with local government developing sustainable water strategies and water conservation measures.

His expertise spans environmental water, flood forecasting and warning, drought management, water resources allocations and optimization, and institutional governance.