



Source: IISD ENB

MASAKO OGAWA

Deputy Director General,
Global Environment Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment, Japan

PROFILE

Senior government official with experience at the science–policy interface and in international environmental governance, including regional capacity-building work across the Asia-Pacific region and international programme experience. Has worked on chemicals and waste related issues (GEF), climate adaptation capacity building in Pacific Island countries (Samoa/Pacific), and climate transparency-related cooperation with ASEAN member countries. Currently serving in senior delegation leadership roles.

VALUE FOR THE ISP-CWP BUREAU (ASIA-PACIFIC)

- Science–policy interface: experience supporting evidence-informed policy work and engaging with scientific and technical experts.
- Regional bridge-building: experience engaging with Asia-Pacific counterparts and contributing to coordination across multilateral processes.
- Implementation & capacity support: experience designing and coordinating capacity-building and institutional support activities in developing-country contexts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected, reverse chronological)

Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) , Tokyo, Japan

Deputy Director General, Global Environment Bureau | 2023–present

- Leads strategic coordination on international environmental policy priorities, aligning global commitments with practical national and regional implementation.
- In this capacity, serves as
 - (i) Deputy Head of Delegation of Japan for climate change conferences and
 - (ii) Head of Delegation, G20 Environment Working Group, supporting inter-ministerial coordination and Japan's engagement in these processes.
- Also participated in the INC process on plastic pollution (INC-3 to INC-5) as part of the delegation.

Director, Environmental Health and Safety Division | 2023

- Leads development and implementation of policy measures to address increasing heatstroke and pollen allergy.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) / Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC), Apia, Samoa

JICA Expert (Chief Advisor) – CBCRP-PCCC | Jul 2019 – Jan 2023

- Project lead for development and implementation of the capacity building program on climate adaptation for Pacific Islands Countries, and for support of operationalization of Pacific Climate Change Center in Samoa.

Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ), Global Environment Bureau, Tokyo, Japan

Senior Policy Coordinator, Policy Planning Division | 2017–2018

Director, International Strategy on Climate Change | 2018–2019

- Lead negotiator for climate conferences,
- Team lead for development and implementation of climate change transparency project with ASEAN member countries.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat, Washington, D.C., USA

Senior Environmental Specialist (Chemicals and Waste and Climate Change focal area) | 2014–2017

- Supported chemicals and waste and climate change projects in Asia-Pacific and Africa region, including programme/project development support as relevant.

Earlier Government Service, Japan (MOEJ) / Government assignments | up to 2014

- Deputy Director, Environmental Cooperation Office, Global Environment Bureau (2005).
- JICA assignment: Environment Policy Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Indonesia (2008).
- Cabinet Office assignment: Policy Officer (Science & Technology Policy & Innovation) (2011).
- Director, Decontamination Public Relations Office, Environmental Management Bureau (2013).

EDUCATION

Kyoto University, Japan | Master's degree in waste management, 1992

Keel University, United Kingdom | Master's degree in Environment Policy, 2000

LANGUAGES

Japanese (native); English (professional fluency)