



CEP Conference 2023

Our Resilient Future

Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington

27 & 28 June

Challenging our behaviours and decisions to deliver a thriving, low carbon Aotearoa.



MEDIA RELEASE

13 March 2023

UN RESILIENCE EXPERT ADDED TO CEP CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

CEP has just announced the second Keynote for its Conference in June. Headlining Day 2 of the event will be Prof. Liz Varga, lead technical author of the UNDRR's **Principles of Resilient Infrastructure** and professor of complex systems at UCL.

“With research interests covering the resilience of infrastructure systems in energy, transport, digital communications, water and waste there’s probably no one, worldwide better qualified to kick off our second conference day”, said CEP CEO Mike Hopkins. Prof. Varga’s reputation is second to none, which is why she was invited to lead the technical aspects of developing the UNDRR’s infrastructure resilience principles.

New Zealand has much to learn from Prof. Varga, across all areas of infrastructure resilience. The devastation in Hawke’s Bay this year, the risk of future climate related events and the ever-present risk of earthquake and volcanic eruptions brings home the need for resilience in NZ. “We’re proud to have Prof. Varga join us and grateful she’s prepared to fit us in to a hugely busy schedule” said Hopkins.

Prof Varga joins Justin Bean as a Keynote at the conference, which is New Zealand’s leading gathering of energy efficiency, carbon management and sustainability professionals.

Registration for the 2023 CEP conference is now open and more information can be found at <https://cep.org.nz/conference/>

ENDS

For further information on CEP, visit the CEP website or contact:

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Carbon and Energy Professionals New Zealand is a member based, not for profit industry association of energy and carbon reduction professionals. CEP supports its members through a range of activities that raise skills, knowledge and all-round competence in energy and carbon management.

About Prof. Liz Varga, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/civil-environmental-geomatic-engineering/people/prof-liz-varga>

Prof Varga holds a chair in Complex Systems in UCL's Department of Civil, Environmental & Geomatic Engineering (CEGE). Her area of research is economic (aka linear) infrastructure which provides critical services to people, society and the economy. She directs the Infrastructure Systems Institute, which investigates grand challenges on the resilience, sustainable innovation, efficiency, etc. of integrated transport, energy, water, waste and telecommunications systems.

She was the lead technical author of the UNDRR's Principles of Resilient Infrastructure (2022).

About Justin Bean, <https://www.justinbean.com/>

Justin Bean is an impact-focused tech executive who has worked with Fortune 500s, Silicon Valley startups, and non-profit organisations to achieve triple-bottom-line (people, planet, profit) results, as an intrapreneur and entrepreneur, consultant, mentor, and thought leader. He has authored many syndicated articles and has been interviewed by the New York Times, The Hill, VERDICT, NBC, South China Morning Post, and others on topics ranging from smart cities, sustainable technology, AI and IoT, and industry solutions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and social issues.

Justin is a global sustainability strategist and innovator helping to accelerate the transition to a sustainable economy. He has helped bring innovation to cities, transit, airports, manufacturing, retail and more. He is a startup mentor for sustainability and impact-focused entrepreneurs through multiple startup accelerators.

Justin has an MBA in Sustainable Management from Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco, with training in design thinking from IDEO, and continued education in product innovation and AI at Stanford, and executive education on sustainability strategy at INSEAD.

About the UNDRR, <https://www.undrr.org/>

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR, brings governments, partners and communities together to reduce disaster risk and losses to ensure a safer, more sustainable future.