



Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle

UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences

- She went to UNESCO from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), where she had served as Director of the OzonAction programme since 2012. Responsible for implementing the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol, she had coordinated a unique network of 147 national Ozone Action offices, providing developing countries with scientific and technical advice as to which alternative technologies to choose to the chemical substances depleting the Ozone Layer. A strong advocate for enhancing women's role in science and engineering, she launched UNEP's first training programme for women technicians.
- Dr Nair-Bedouelle holds a PhD in Life Sciences from the University of Cape town in South Africa. She pursued her research career at the Institut Pasteur in Paris from January 1992 onwards then within the pharmaceutical industry at the MIT University Park in Boston, USA, from January 1994 until January 1996, when she integrated the French National Institut for Medical Research. She has published in numerous scientific journals and is the co-inventor of several patents.
- As Coordinator of the Working Group on Gender Equality at UNESCO from January 2010 onwards, she launched the first Science Camp for Girls in South Africa and coordinated science education projects on in Africa;
- Africa remained the focus of her work at the Africa Department, where she evaluated UNESCO's scientific programmes on the continent from January 2012 onwards before taking up her new functions as Director of OzonAction at UNEP.
- She is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the African Strategy for Fundamental and Applied Physics.



Prof Simon Connell (Professor of physics at the University of Johannesburg)

Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences.

- Prof Connell is professor of physics at the University of Johannesburg with the Engineering Faculty. He has research interests in Particle Physics, Nuclear Physics, Nuclear Energy, Materials Science, Quantum Physics, High Performance Computing and Applied (innovation) Physics. He is a past president of the South African Institute of Physics;
- He is the founding member of the South African participation in High Energy Physics at the ATLAS Experiment at CERN, where with his group participates in a Beyond Standard Model search as well as engineering and technical activities;
- A current activity in the service of the discipline is to lead the progression of the African Roadmap for an advanced Light Source on the continent. This global project is known as the African Light Source project;
- For the last year he has participated collaboratively in Public health projects, motivated to bring computational, engineering and physics expertise in an interdisciplinary way together with health scientists, to real problems;
- Member of the Steering Committee of the African Strategy for Fundamental and Applied Physics.



Prof. Setsuko Tajima (Professor Emeritus at Osaka University, Japan)

Prof. Setsuko Tajima is the 77th President of the Physical Society of Japan (JPS), (Mar. 31, 2021 - Mar. 31, 2022).

- She received Doctorate of Engineering from the Graduate School of Engineering, Univ. of Tokyo in 1988. She became Deputy Director, The third Laboratory, Superconductivity Research Laboratory (SRL), International Superconductivity Technology Center in 1989. In 1995, she was the Director of the Second Laboratory, SRL. In 2004, she was promoted to Full Professor, Department of Physics, Osaka University. From 2011-2017, she was a member of Science Council of Japan. 2017, she Dean of Science, Osaka University. She became Professor Emeritus at Osaka University in 2020
- For JPS, she served as Director from September 2006 to August 2008, Vice President/President-Elect from April 2020 to March 2021.
- Professor Tajima's major research fields are Condensed matter physics, especially High temperature superconductivity and Experimental study of Optical characteristics.
- She is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the African Strategy for Fundamental and Applied Physics.



Prof. Zhengguo Zhao, Professor of physics at University of Science and Technology of China (USTC)

- He received Ph.D. in 1988 from USTC;
- He worked as postdoctoral fellow, research associate at the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), for Beijing Spectrometer (BES) experiment at Beijing Electron Positron Collider (BEPC), and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETHZ), for exotic atom experiments at Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI);
- He was a Visiting Professor and Research Scientist at University of Michigan in USA for D0 and ATLAS experiments at Tevatron in FNAL and the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in CERN;
- He was Spokesperson of the BES Collaboration, and header of Center of Experimental Physics at IHEP;
- He was chair of Chinese High Energy Physics Association and is now vice president of Chinese Physics Association.
- He was elected Fellow of American Physics Society (APS) in 2012 and Academician of CAS in 2013.