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Mr. Paolo Caridi is First Secretary at the Trade section of the Delegation of the European Commission to Japan. His main responsibilities are coordinator of environmental issues for the Delegation and market access and regulatory issues in the fields of agriculture/SPS, fisheries, transport, pharmaceuticals, and Information and Communication Technology. From 1999 to 2002 he worked in the Directorate for Trade where, after a period in the trade defence service he was in charge of bilateral trade relations with some Mediterranean and middle-Eastern countries (Egypt, Iran, Syria).

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Ms. Merinda-Lee Hassall has been an Adviser with the International team at the Ministry for the Environment of New Zealand since 2005. She has responsibility for leading and developing an implementation programme including environment cooperation and capacity building projects under the Environment Arrangement associated with the New Zealand Thailand Closer Economic Partnership. Other areas of her work experience include developing strategic policy decisions and negotiating environmental provisions for New Zealand's future trade agreements.

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Mr. Brett Longley is a Senior Operator, International, at the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment. His experience there includes work on strategic policy issues including the New Zealand Sustainable Development Programme of Action, trade and environment issues in the WTO and bilateral trade agreements, environmental tax reform, national environmental accounts, sustainability indicators, health and environment, tourism and environment, valuing New Zealand's 'clean, green' image, and climate change. In 2006 he took up his current role in the International team, with responsibility for negotiating environment cooperation arrangements in free trade agreements, and overseeing coordination between the Ministry and key international environmental organisations including OECD, UNEP, UNCSD, and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements.

Mr. Hideki Minamikawa is Director-General, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment (MOE). In 1974 he joined the Environment Agency (currently, MOE). He has held posts of Director-General, Environmental Heath Department, Director-General, Waste Management and Recycling Department, and Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau in MOE. He was seconded to the Environment Directorate of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1976 -1977.

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