

## Biography

### Maryam Golnaraghi, Ph.D.

Dr. Golnaraghi is the Chief of the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme. Prior to joining WMO, in 2004, Dr. Golnaraghi was hired as a consultant to develop strategic priorities of WMO, a specialized United Nations agency, on issues related to climate change. In 2008, she led a task team to develop components of the Global Framework for Climate Services for provision of climate information to support climate adaptation and risk management at the national level, which was adopted at the Third World Climate Conference in September 2009.



In September 2004, Ms. Golnaraghi joined WMO to head up its new crosscutting DRR Programme. In this capacity, she is responsible for development and management of strategic, implementation, financial, governance and institutional and partnership aspects of the Programme at international, regional and national levels. She has facilitated national and regional pilot projects supporting risk assessment and early warning systems in a number of developing and least developed countries in Asia, Central America, South Eastern Europe and Africa, in partnership with the World Bank, UN-ISDR, UNDP and other UN, regional and technical agencies. In cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Bank, she is working on development of pilots in weather-indexed insurance targeted at agricultural risk management. Dr. Golnaraghi is coordinating multi-agency activities in multi-hazard early warning systems, including documentation of good practices, development of guidance for the governments and implementation of a number of projects. She was the WMO focal point responsible for upgrading of the telecommunication systems to support the Indian Ocean tsunami warning system.

In 1996, she founded Climate Risk Solutions, Inc. (CRS), a research and consulting firm, and served as its president until 2004. Headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, CRS worked with government agencies in the United States, the private sector, the academia, national and global climate centres, to provide innovative climate risk management solutions for energy, agricultural and financial sectors. In this capacity, Ms. Golnaraghi worked extensively in the area of weather-indexed insurance and weather derivatives, facilitated private/public partnerships in the US, developed training programmes on climate risk management for companies, developed specialized climate information products for sectoral risk management.

Dr. Golnaraghi serves on a number of international committees and advisory boards. She was the executive editor of *The Climate Report*, a quarterly publication of CRS and currently serves on the editorial board of WMO and other publications. She has authored a number of papers in science and policy.

Dr. Golnaraghi holds a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University, a Masters of Science in Applied Physics and a Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography from Harvard University. From 1993 to 1995, as a research associate at the Harvard Business School, she worked in the areas of commercialization of technology and new product development.