

Emergent Appoints Dr. Naoko Ishii, Former Head of GEF, to Board of Directors

NEW YORK, 2 May 2022 – Emergent has appointed Dr. Naoko Ishii to its board of directors, where she joins a global group of experts who provide strategic advice and oversight for the U.S. based non-profit that coordinates the LEAF Coalition.

Dr. Ishii is the Executive Vice President and Director of the Center for Global Commons at the University of Tokyo. Prior to joining the university, she served as CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) from 2012 to 2020. She has also worked with the IMF and World Bank and held senior roles with the Ministry of Finance of the Japanese Government.

“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Ishii to the Emergent board. Her work at the Center for Global Commons, where she leads efforts to catalyze systems change, is extremely well aligned with our mission to create a step change in the global effort to end tropical deforestation,” said Eron Bloomgarden, Executive Director of Emergent. “Dr. Ishii’s breadth of experience is extensive. We are looking forward to the expertise and input she will contribute to our efforts, as well as the insight she can bring for increasing Emergent and LEAF’s presence in Asia.”

“A global challenge like deforestation requires system-level thinking and extensive collaboration between a diverse range of stakeholders, and I am impressed with the coalition of governments, companies and civil society that Emergent and its partners have already brought together,” said Dr. Ishii. “I look forward to working with my fellow board members and the Emergent team to continue to build on their ongoing efforts to protect tropical forests.”

Emergent also announced that current board member Mahua Acharya will be assuming the role of chair. Ms. Acharya is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of state-owned energy transition company, Convergence Energy Services Limited of the Government of India. Ms. Acharya was the Assistant Director-General the Global Green Growth Institute in Seoul, where she established an investment division that worked across 16 countries and mobilized USD 500 million of financing commitments.

“I’m delighted to take on this role and to welcome Dr. Ishii at such an important moment for the world’s remaining tropical forests,” Ms. Acharya said. “I’m proud at what we’ve already accomplished but acknowledge there is still much work ahead. It’s an honor to work with such a renowned team of experts who bring their diverse experience and expertise to bear on one of this century’s greatest challenges.”

About Emergent: Emergent is a U.S. non-profit that serves as an intermediary engaging between tropical forest countries and the private sector to mobilize finance to support emissions reductions in deforestation. It does this by developing and bringing practical, credible and large-scale forest protection solutions to market. Emergent serves as the coordinator of the *LEAF Coalition*. Launched during President Biden’s Leaders’ Summit on Climate in April 2021, LEAF is a public-private initiative designed to accelerate climate action by providing results-based finance to countries committed to protecting their tropical forests. Its participants, which include the US, UK and Norwegian governments, together with 20 global companies, have already mobilized more than \$1 billion.

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