Professor Hironori Hamanaka is the chair of IGES Board of Directors. When he took up his current position at IGES, he was teaching at Keio University as a Professor, and previously served as the Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs as well as other important positions at the Ministry of the Environment.

While serving with the Government of Japan, he devoted his administrative career to intergovernmental negotiations in areas including: the Kyoto Protocol and its implementing rules; major agreements in the field of sustainable development, such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002; and the development of national policies to implement international agreements, most notably the Kyoto Protocol. Based on his professional career, he served as a Co-chair of the Compliance Committee under the Kyoto Protocol and the Chair of its Facilitative Branch from 2006 to 2008. He gained a B.A. in Engineering from the University of Tokyo in 1967.