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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute

Public Panel Debate

Building Better Dams: the Past, Present and Future of Dams

Bonn, 4 February 2020

Bonn Water Lecture Series Public Lecture

Building Better Dams: the Past, Present and Future of Dams

Date: Tuesday 4 February 2020, 17:00 – 18:30 (with reception afterwards)

Location: German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Bonn

More than 3,700 large dams are planned or under construction worldwide, to service growing demands for energy, irrigation, urban water or flood control. This new generation of dam schemes, most in 'developing countries', has the potential to make a significant contribution towards achieving economic growth, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris climate change commitments.

But, maximising the benefits of dams - while minimising the negative social and environmental impacts - remains a great challenge. Professor David Hulme's presentation builds on insights from the FutureDAMS project and reviews what is known about dam-building in developing countries and looks at future prospects. Can we learn from past experience or is 'not learning from experience' a central feature of decision-making about dams?

Professor David Hulme is Professor of Development Studies at the University of Manchester where he is Executive Director of the Global Development Institute, CEO of the FutureDAMS research centre and CEO of the Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Centre.

Waltina Scheumann, associate researcher at the DIE, will reflect on the lecture against the background of her research on social and environmental norms in dam construction in emerging economies. Ines Dombrowsky, head of DIE's programme Environmental Governance and Transformation towards Sustainability, will moderate the discussion.

Programme

Welcome and Moderation:

- [Ines Dombrowsky](#), Head of Programme, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

Presentation:

- David Hulme, Global Development Institute, The University of Manchester

Discussant:

- [Waltina Scheumann](#), Associate Researcher, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)
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Reception

Further information:

- The FutureDAMS consortium that Professor Hulme leads (www.futuredams.org) is investigating how to establish the knowledge base, tools and an approach to enable dam projects to support resilient and sustainable development in a warming world.
- An overview on DIE's water expertise is available here: <https://www.die-gdi.de/en/nexus/>

About the Water Lecture:

The Water Lecture series is a joint series organised by the Center for Development Research of the University of Bonn (ZEF), the United Nations Convention on Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the [German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik \(DIE\)](#) and the Eco-Hydrology and Water Resources Management Department of Geography, University of Bonn.

Please register by email at globaldev@die-gdi.de by 28 January 2020.