

AIT Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Seminar Series

22 September 2015 (Tuesday), 10:30am, B108 AIT Conference Center

Dr. Mogens Dyhr-Nielsen

M.Sc. (DTU), Ph.D. (CSU), R.

Lessons learned from 50 years in the Waterbox

In the Third World Water Development Report a little more than five years ago, the concept of the "waterbox" and the "decision maker" was given global recognition by the UN. This 300 page review on "water in a changing world" also contained a 4 page section on the way forward for the people inside and outside the waterbox, in order to address water issues in a changing world: *Making water an integral part of all planning and management decisions by "deciding and acting"*.

In his 50 years in the "water box" and as "decision maker", he found that the toolkit in the waterbox has improved dramatically from unit hydrographs for dam design to decision support systems for basin management. Unfortunately, it has not been sufficient to address our many serious water challenges. The Sahel desertification, Aral sea disaster, Bangkok flood and the water shortages in Colorado and the Murray Darling basins are testimony to the limitations of the toolbox in our waterbox and of the decision makers' decisions.

The lecture will identify some reasons for why efforts often have failed with huge costs to economic development and social welfare. Also, it will discuss a proposition of a way forward which he calls RBAM 2050: River Basin Asset Management by year 2050.



Dr. Mogens received his M.Sc in Civil Engineering from Technical University of Denmark in 1966. He received his Ph.D in hydrology and water resources from Colorado State University in 1972. His publications focus on coastal engineering, stochastic hydrology, water resources management and environmental management.

He has been employed and associated with DHI Water and Environment since 1968 and with Danish Ministry of Environment since 1978. Dr. Mogens was a DANIDA Seconded Faculty in AIT under Civil Engineering from 01 August 1984 to 01 August 1986. His position was Associate Professor, Hydrology and water resources. In 1986-93 he was in charge of environmental research and monitoring programs on agricultural nitrate pollution. As Director of Research and Development in the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, he served on boards of national environmental research institutes and programs. In 1993-2001 he was in charge of DANCED (Danish Cooperation on Environment and Development) programs in Thailand and Malaysia. In 2002-07, he managed the UNEP/DHI IWRM 2015 program in South East Asia.