UNU-FLORES 5TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

From Isolation to Integration

Five Years of Research on the Water-Soil-Waste Nexus

The United Nations University (UNU) and the German Federal Government recognised early on the importance of expanding the emerging field of integrated environmental resources management for advancing sustainable development. Joining forces with the Technische Universität Dresden (TU Dresden) and the Government of the Free State of Saxony, they established the UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES) on 10 December 2012 in Dresden. The mission of the new institute was to consider an integrated “linked cycle management” of environmental resources, in particular water, soil, and waste, taking up the nexus concept put forward at the Bonn2011 conference. As a hub for integrated resources management, the Institute advances research and initiatives that elaborate in particular on the science-policy interface and the implementation of a Nexus Approach to environmental resource management with a focus on developing countries.

Five years after its founding, we invite guests to join us while we look at the current state of affairs of research on the Nexus Approach and what UNU-FLORES’s role will continue to be in shaping it in the next five years.

Since 2012 the discussion on the Nexus Approach has gained momentum internationally and diversified by adding various additional perspectives to the originally sector-oriented concept of a Water-Energy-Food security nexus. One such perspective is the resource-orientation of UNU-FLORES, addressed in various initiatives and in the Joint PhD Programme on Integrated Management of Water, Soil, and Waste with TU Dresden. The results achieved thus far in ongoing research projects showcase how global issues arising from climate change, urbanisation, and land-use changes are addressed in specific case studies.

The Symposium will look at nexus-related research from various perspectives. Starting with two impulse statements reflecting on the conceptual context in which UNU-FLORES was established and on the evolving nexus discussions of the past five years, the research approach pursued will be outlined and exemplified with selected research projects. An outlook will emerge from a panel discussion involving partners and key actors in the nexus community.
Programme

13:30 | Welcome: Dr David M. Malone (Rector, UNU, and Under-Secretary-General, United Nations)

Session A: Conceptualising Nexus Research | Chair: Prof. Karl-Heinz Feger (Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, TU Dresden)

13:40-14:15 | Impulse Statement I
The Need for Nexus-Related Research: Reflections from a Founder-Perspective on UNU-FLORES
Prof. János Bogárdi/ Prof. Peter Krebs (TU Dresden)

14:20-14:55 | Impulse Statement II
The Nexus Approach in the International Agenda: Consolidation and Diversification
Lucie Pluschke (FAO)

15:00-15:30 | Coffee Break

Session B: Research on the Nexus of Resources | Chair: Prof. Jakob Rhyner (Vice-Rector in Europe, UNU)

15:30-16:00 | State of the Science and Practice of the Water-Soil-Waste Nexus
Dr Kai Schwärzel (UNU-FLORES)

Launch of 5th Anniversary Report: From Isolation to Integration

16:00-16:20 | Assessing and Synthesising Climate-Related Data for Integrated Water-Soil Management in East Africa
Solomon Gebrechorkos (UNU-FLORES/TU-Dresden)

16:20-16:40 | Cycle Management within African Smallholder Farms
Anika Reetsch (UNU-FLORES/TU-Dresden)

16:45-18:00 | Panel Discussion: The Future of Nexus-Oriented Research
Moderator: Dr David M. Malone
Panellists:
  › Dr Reza Ardakanian (Founding Director, UNU-FLORES)
  › Prof. Edeltraud Günther (TU Dresden)
  › Prof. Wim van Vierssen (KWR Water Cycle Research Institute)
  › Prof. Bancy Mati (Water Research and Resource Center (WARREC), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT))
  › Ms Lucie Pluschke (FAO)

Remarks: Prof. Hans Müller-Steinhagen (Rector, TU Dresden)

Reception and Vernissage of the Nexus Approach Exhibition

18:30 | Remarks and Presentation of the New Funding Agreement
  › Mr Uwe Gaul (State Secretary, Saxon State Ministry for Higher Education, Research, and the Arts)
  › Mr Frithjof A. Maen nel, MinDirig. (Head of the Directorate for International Cooperation, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research)

Recognition of UNU-FLORES Founding Director Dr Reza Ardakanian (Minister of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran)
  › Prof. Rattan Lal (Chair of International Advisory Committee, UNU-FLORES)