
Dialogue Conference

Legal Remedies for Resource Equity

September 15, 2014

Neue Mälzerei Berlin

Friedenstr. 91, 10249 Berlin

Legal Remedies for Resource Equity

The handling of natural resources is key to the multitude of significant global challenges we face – for example, growing inequality, human rights violations, biodiversity loss, economic crises, climate change, etc. Natural resources have traditionally played a central role in economic growth but their extraction and use have also been linked to significant environmental degradation and human rights violations. Disputes over control and extraction of natural resources are expected to intensify in coming years, bringing these issues to the forefront of international relations. This has caused many to question the adequacy of our current legal, political and economic frameworks on the regional, national and international level.

It is against this backdrop that the dialogue conference “Legal Remedies for Resource Equity” will take place. The conference will focus on the use of environmental law to prevent and mitigate the negative ecological and social impacts of global resource extraction.

The conference will take place on September 15, 2014 and is organized by the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU), the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW).



The **Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU)** is both a scientific institute and a citizen-based organization. Its vision is focused on the creation of a sustainable and productive society. The department of environmental law & participation has two main focuses. The first focus is to make effective environmental law accessible for environmental lawyers and concerned citizens. The second focus is to review the applicability of environmental law in practice, using empirical studies.

www.ufu.de

The **Heinrich Böll Foundation** is a catalyst for green visions and projects, a think tank for policy reform, and an international network. We work with more than 100 project partners in over 60 countries and currently maintain 30 international offices. Fair and sustainable Resource Politics in the triangle of ecological justice, human rights and democracy are a cornerstone of our work globally.

www.boell.de

The **Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)** is a global alliance of attorneys, scientists and other advocates collaborating across borders to promote grassroots efforts to build a sustainable, just future and to protect the environment. More than 300 public interest advocates from 70 countries participate in the ELAW network.

The core mission of ELAW is to help grassroots environmental lawyers working in their home countries protect the environment and communities through law. ELAW helps communities speak out for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet.

www.elaw.org

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Draft Program*

9:00 am	Registration	
9:30 am	Opening remarks and introduction of the agenda	Dr. Michael Zschiesche (Independent Institute for Environmental Issues/ UfU) Lili Fuhr (Heinrich Böll Foundation)
10:00 am	Conflicts associated with natural resource extraction and legal frameworks to achieve more resource equity	M. C. Mehta Mahesh Chandra Mehta is an Indian public interest attorney who has pioneered legal activism for environmental protection. In 1984, he began focusing on environmental litigation. M.C. Mehta's public interest environmental litigation cases have formed the foundation for the development of environmental jurisprudence in India. He is one of the founders of the Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action (ICLEA), and director of the M.C. Mehta Environmental Foundation in New Delhi, an NGO that provides training programs for aspiring environmental attorneys. He has been conferred with several prestigious awards. Some of these are the Goldman Environmental Prize (1996), for his continuous fights in Indian courts against polluting industries, the UNEP's Global 500 Award (1993) and the Magsaysay Award (1997).
10:20 am	Financialization of nature and resource protection	Barbara Unmüßig Barbara Unmüßig has been the President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation since 2002. She is responsible for its strategy and program development for Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and for the Gunda Werner Institute for Feminism and Gender Democracy. Her work focuses on issues of globalization and international climate and resource policy, international agricultural policy, national and international gender policy, and the promotion of democracy. In 1991 and 1992, she managed the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) project office of the German environmental organizations in preparation for the Rio de Janeiro summit in 1992. In 1992, she was a founding member – and until 2002 spokesperson – of the Forum on Environment and Development. From 1993 until 2002 Barbara Unmüßig served as the executive chairperson of World Economy, Ecology, & Development (WEED). Her numerous contributions to periodicals and books have covered global governance, international environmental issues, and gender policy. Her publications include "Critique of the Green Economy" (2012) and "On the Value of Nature. The Merits and Perils of a New Economy of Nature" (2014).
10:35 am	Short Interviews Short interviews with selected international participants on current resource protection issues in their home countries	
11:00 am	Speaker's Corners Law reform efforts, litigation, judgments and public campaigns in the context of resource equity and resource protection will be presented by 20 international environmental lawyers and activists.	Topics (examples)*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fair mining regulations, Mark Haddock (University of Victoria, Canada) ▪ 20 years of legal process against iron ore mining, Claude Alvares (Goa Foundation, India) ▪ Indigenous land rights for communities affected by oil development, Antoinette Moore (Honorable Madame Justice, Belize) ▪ Access to information on a natural gas exploration agreement, Olya Melen-Zabramna (Environment-People-Law, Ukraine) ▪ New regional framework for participation laws in Latin America, Carolina Neme (GAIA Derecho Ambiental, Uruguay) ▪ Yasuni ITT: civil society strategy for enhanced public participation, Manolo Morales (ECOLEX, Ecuador) ▪ Civil society advocacy in the development of a new Petroleum Industry Bill, Simon Amaduobogha (Community Defense Law Foundation, Nigeria) ▪ Strategic Law suits against public participation (SLAPPs), Jessica Binwani (Consumers Association, Malaysia) ▪ Open governance in the extractive industry in Africa, Dr. Collins Odote (Institute for Law and Environment Governance, Kenya) <i>and more</i>
1:00 pm	Lunch	
2:15 pm	Workshops On the basis of the Speaker's Corners, overriding issues will be discussed in 5 parallel workshops	WS1: Strategies for keeping resources in the ground Facilitator: Lili Fuhr (Heinrich Böll Foundation) WS2: Public participation – challenges and opportunities for local populations Facilitator: Peter Rottner (Friends of the Earth Germany) WS3: Due diligence of mining companies Facilitator: Anna von Gall (European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights) WS4: Transparency in the resource sector – contracts and concessions Facilitator: Liz Mitchell (Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide/ ELAW) WS5: Financialization of natural resources Facilitator: Jutta Kill (author & activist)
4:10 pm	Coffee break	
4:40 pm	Fishbowl Discussion	Outputs of the workshops will be further discussed among the participants and speakers
5:50 pm	Closing words	Bern Johnson (Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide/ ELAW)
6:00 pm	Dinner	