

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) have the pleasure of inviting you to a seminar with Göran Hydén on:

Rethinking Foreign Aid: Where Do We Go from Here?
Wednesday, 6 October 2010, 15.00-17.00
Danish Institute for International Studies
Main Auditorium
Strandgade 71, ground floor, 1401 Copenhagen K

Background

Foreign aid is increasingly being delivered in accordance with general guidelines based on international agreements like the Millennium Development Goals and the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness. According to political scientist Göran Hydén, this orientation has tied aid to goals that have little to do with the development potential on the African continent. Moreover, aid has not become more effective. The result is that despite the official donor rhetoric about national ownership by the recipient country, aid is programmatically conditioned in such ways as to perpetuate aid dependency. In Africa, the global poverty reduction effort becomes an extra burden because there are few of those drivers of economic growth that in other regions of the world have made foreign aid superfluous. In addition, African countries are being judged on the basis of standards and indicators that elsewhere have been the result of, not the condition for, development. Good governance historically has been the fruit of development, not something that can be imposed from the outside regardless of socio-economic conditions.

According to Göran Hydén, time has come to ask some basic questions about the relationship between foreign aid and development in the African context, and to go beyond official development assistance to Africa. Donors need to draw attention to substantive issues rather than managerial issues. What is development and how does it come about? How is aid being delivered and with what societal effects? How can Africa get a new start? In his presentation Göran Hydén will draw upon his ongoing work and contributions to the debate on aid and development, e.g. at the [Nordic Africa Development Policy Forum](#). He will also comment on the the new Danish Strategy on Development Assistance: [Freedom from Poverty - Freedom to Change](#) from the perspectives of reconsidering aid and development.

Speakers

[Göran Hydén](#), Distinguished Professor, University of Florida, USA
Anne Sørensen, Chief Coordinator, [DDRN](#)
[Lars Engberg-Pedersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

Programme

More details about the seminar are available on our [website](#).

Practical Information

The seminar will be held in English.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than Tuesday, 5 October 2010 at 12.00 noon.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

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