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Present

Water management in global perspective: from multi-governance of water to multilevel water governance

by

Prof. dr. Theo. A.J. Toonen

Date: Thursday , 29 October 2009
Time: 4.00 pm
Venue: Lecture Theater 1, Block E2
National University of Singapore

Abstract

How can and should water resources be 'governed' at a global scale? Whereas some years ago the relevance of such a question was highly contested the need for global coordination in water governance is not disputed any longer. However, the judgement on current state and desirable future developments of global coordination efforts diverge considerably. The issue of water governance is to be differentiated from the question of water management. Management is about achieving goals, with given means and resources, within given constraints and preferably in a 'cost-effective way'. Governance is about setting the stage for management, the processes of selecting policy options among competing values, translating them into goals, means and processes to be 'managed', to evaluate outcomes and externally account and take responsibility for choices made along the way. Water management is about effectiveness and efficiency. Water governance is about legitimacy. Pasquale Steduto - current Chair of UN Water and Johan Kuylenstierna – his Chief Technical Advisor – eloquently formulate the essence: "Climate change, energy, food security,

economic development – in the end, it all trickles down to water'. In order to become a useful and effective countervailing power in the various global debates associated with water, the prevailing system of *multi-governance of water* is to be complemented and embedded in a system of *multilevel water governance*. To this end much primary and particularly comparative institutional research still needs to be done. Some basic questions in global water governance are urgently to be addressed in order to properly support and sustain an inevitable institutionalisation process.

About the speaker



Introduction

Theo Toonen (1952) is Dean of the Faculty Technology, Policy/Governance and Management (TBM/TMP) of the Delft University of Technology since March 1, 2008. He is Chair in Institutional Governance and Public Administration at the Delft University of Technology and has a co-appointment at Leiden University. He has been Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences of Leiden University from January 2003 – January 2008.

Academic Career

Theo Toonen graduated (cum laude) in 1976 at the University of Nijmegen (currently: Radboud University Nijmegen) where he studied Political Science and Public Administration with a major in Institutional Economics and Research Methodology. In October 1976 he became assistant (later associate) professor in Public Administration at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, where he helped building a new Political Science Programme (1978) and later (1983) the Joint Rotterdam-Leiden Public Administration Programme. In 1984 he spent most of the year at Indiana University as Visiting Fellow at The Workshop of Political Theory and Policy Analysis (Co-Directors Vincent Ostrom and Elinor Ostrom). He completed his PhD (1987) at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. Toonen was appointed Chair in Institutional and Comparative Public Administration at Leiden University in the Fall of 1989.

Achievements

Theo Toonen was (founding) Director International Programmes of the Joint Rotterdam-Leiden Public Administration Programme from 1985-1993. He has been co-founder and first Director of Research of the Netherlands Institute for Governance (NIG, 1994-1996), the current Dutch Research School of Public Administration and Chairman of the G.A. van Poelje Annual Prize Committee for Best Dissertation of the Dutch Association of Public Administration (*Vereniging voor Bestuurskunde* (VB), 1997-2007). He has been Director of the Leiden Department of Public Administration (1992-1995; 1997-2001) and Co-director of the Leiden PA-Research Programme on "Institutional Change in Multi-Actor, Multilevel Systems of Public Sector Governance and Public Administration" (2001-2007). This programme was evaluated in the Summer of 2008 by an Independent International research 2 Assessment Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. dr George Frederickson (University of Kansas) as excellent with the highest mark (5) on Quality (5), Productivity (5), Relevance (5) and on Prospects (4.7).

Research Interests

Theo Toonen has been teaching on Public Administration theory, urban, local and regional

government, comparative intergovernmental relations and multi-level governance (MLG), comparative public sector reform, comparative civil service systems and public management. These topics also represent his research interests. He is founder and former President of the European Public Administration Network (EPAN; 1987), later the EU Thematic Network on Public Administration (TNPA, 1998), which in 2006 has been transferred to the European Group of Public Administration (EGPA). Toonen has been teaching at the College of Europe in Brugues (1989-1993). He has contributed to various international EPAN/TNPA Summer Schools and has been giving Invited International Guest-lectures in Blacksburg, Berlin, Indiana, Dubrovnik, Washington State, Lexington, Leuven, Madrid, Athens, Barcelona, Oxford, Vaasa, Florence, Denver, New York, Berlin, Jakarta, Istanbul, Sana'a.

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Location Map



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