



Sustainable Investment and Global Environmental Governance

Amsterdam

A seminar in honour of Konrad von Moltke

January 23, 2006

Investment and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development requires structural economic change. Private investment, in the form of foreign direct investment (FDI), is potentially the most significant source of capital flowing into developing countries and therefore the most likely vehicle for this change. In order to attract investment, countries have signed over 2000 bilateral investment treaties (BITs), as well as numerous regional treaties with investment provisions. However, there have been concerns raised that international investment agreements may limit the ability of national governments to regulate foreign investment for the protection of the environment, natural resources and other social goods, and to ensure that it contributes to overall national development goals.

At the same time multilateral environmental agreements are increasingly trying to involve the private sector in addressing environmental problems (e.g. the climate change regime). The World Summit on Sustainable Development also tried to create a role for the private sector through so-called "type-two" partnerships. As any private investments made in the implementation of an environmental agreement or partnership will remain protected by international investment agreements, one implication of the greater involvement of private actors appears to be an increased potential for conflict between international investment law and international environmental law.

Given this background, and in light of recent (failed) attempts within the OECD and WTO to negotiate a multilateral investment treaty, this seminar will address the issue of how multilateral agreements can be designed to foster sustainable development while also promoting and providing protection for investment.

Konrad von Moltke

Konrad von Moltke was an important figure in global environmental politics and policy analysis and he contributed significantly to the study of investment and sustainable development. In addition to his many other positions, Konrad was a Visiting Professor at the Vrije Universiteit and worked closely with researchers at the IVM for more than a decade.



The Seminar

The Institute for Environmental Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft will coordinate a seminar on "Sustainable Investment and Global Environmental Governance" to be held in honour of the late Konrad von Moltke on January 23, 2006 in Amsterdam. The seminar is sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science (KNAW). Keynote addresses will be presented by Dr. M. Sornarajah of the National University of Singapore and Dr. Howard Mann of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Call for Papers

At this time we would like to invite the submission of abstracts (no longer than 300 words) complete with a short biography and contact information, from scholars, policy makers and jurists willing to present a paper at the seminar. Submissions should be made to Kyla Tienhaara (kyla.tienhaara@ivm.falw.vu.nl) no later than October 31, 2005. Decisions regarding the acceptance of abstracts will be made by November 15th. If selected, full papers will be required by January 1, 2006.

Invitation to Participate

If you are not interested in submitting a paper, but would like to attend the seminar, please request a registration form from kyla.tienhaara@ivm.falw.vu.nl. Registration forms must be received by December 1, 2005. There is no registration fee, however, participants are kindly requested to ensure that they can cover their own costs of travel and accommodation.

Contact

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