



Danish Development Research Network and Danish Institute for International Studies are hereby inviting you to a seminar on:

“Rethinking foreign aid: Where do we go from here?”

Wednesday 6 October 2010, 15.00-17.00

**Danish Institute for International Studies, the Lecture Hall
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.

Programme

15.00-15.10 **Welcome and Introduction**

Anne Sørensen, Chief Coordinator, [DDRN](#)

15.10-15.45 **Rethinking Foreign Aid: Where Do We Go from Here?**

[Göran Hydén](#), Distinguished Professor, University of Florida, USA

15.45-16.00 **Coffee Break**

16.00-17.00 **Comments and Discussion**

[Lars Engberg-Pedersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

Chair: *Anne Sørensen*, Chief Coordinator [DDRN](#)

Participation is *free of charge*, but *registration is required*. Please note that due to the high number of interested participants, it is now only possible to be registered for the waiting list through the online form available [here](#).



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