



विकास प्रबंधन संस्थान  
**Development Management Institute**

Sixth Foundation Day Symposium  
**Water Governance: Issues & Challenges**

13-14 February 2020

*At Bihar Museum (Multipurpose Hall), Bailey Road, Patna*



## Water Governance: Issues & Challenges

The Development Management Institute (DMI) is organising its Sixth Foundation Day Symposium on February 13 & 14, 2020 at Bihar Museum, Patna. The theme for the symposium is “**Water Governance: Issues & Challenges**”.

The symposium aims to bring scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and innovators together to deliberate and share actionable solutions to address problems related to water governance. It will also explore the possibilities of establishing a mutual learning platform to improve governance and management of water.

रहिमन पानी राखिये, बिन पानी सब सूना।  
पानी गये न ऊबरे, मोती, मानुष, चून॥

The above couplet written almost five centuries ago reflects the importance and pervasiveness of water, without which there is neither wealth (pearls) nor life. Water is, therefore, an essential natural resource for sustenance and wellbeing of the habitants of the planet. The centrality of water in promoting or destroying development has been observed since age immemorial, starting from some of the world's oldest known civilisations such as Indus, Mayan and Nile Valley. The need for and the use of water then and now are vastly different, though. Today, the entire ecosystem is endangered because of unsustainable demand for clean water, encroachment of water bodies for construction and other economic activities and alarmingly increasing pollution in remaining existing water resources.

With 17% of the global population residing in India, the country has only about 4% of world's fresh water resources. India is, thus, highly disadvantaged due to disproportionate resource requirement and availability of water. The consequences of unprecedented overdraw of groundwater with poor management and governance of unreliable surface water supplies are not unanticipated. The rivers are more polluted while their catchments, water-holding and water-harvesting mechanisms are deteriorating at an alarming rate. At a more local level, the classic Dickensian dichotomy between water resource availability and economic progress can be observed. The areas that have access to better irrigation facilities, like Punjab, are also the areas where groundwater levels are depleting faster, while the areas



prone to natural disasters, like floods in Bihar, are poorly irrigated and are economically backward. Bihar, as a result, is experiencing large-scale rural migration to distant urban and rural areas in different states. The devastating floods and waterlogging in Indian cities like Chennai, Srinagar, Mumbai, and recently in Patna have been widely attributed to the rapidly degrading and vanishing wetlands, the natural waterbodies. These consequences attest the issue of governance deficit and calls for a serious introspection of water governance.

Water, unlike land and other natural resources, is composed of a 'bundle of rights' allowing some aspects of water to fall under private control of exclusive and rival consumption, and some aspects to fall into market failure 'tragedy of commons' due to non-exclusive but rival consumption. The rights come with responsibilities; and there is a need for massive resource mobilisation, institutional interventions and political will to operationalise such a 'right'. The presence of power asymmetries, socio-economic inequalities and other imbalances such as land ownership aggravate the issue of water governance at local level and raises many hurdles for collective action to the communities and the government.



The 2019 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report, which focuses on the theme of “Leaving No One Behind”, argues that water is vital for the dignity of each and every individual. The report mentions that the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services allow good social and economic returns when compared with their costs, with a global returns on investment of 5.5 for improved sanitation and 2.0 for improved drinking water for every dollar spent!

Against this backdrop, DMI's Symposium on “Water Governance: Issues & Challenges” at Patna, follows the spirit of development discourse and narratives from the past five events held since the inception of DMI in 2014. The forthcoming symposium has four

subthemes-

- 1) Fostering community participation in water governance
- 2) Issues in groundwater use and availability
- 3) Building resilience in wetland conservation and governance
- 4) Reimagining drinking water governance

DMI has invited national and international resource persons to contribute to the dialogue and debate among various stakeholders, including governments, practitioners and academic communities to deepen insights into managing water resources and promote best practices in water management at local, regional, national and international levels. We invite you to participate in the symposium to enrich the discourse. For further details please write to: [symposium@dmia.ac.in](mailto:symposium@dmia.ac.in)

## Programme Schedule

### February 13, 2020

09:30 AM to 10:30 AM - Registration

10:45 AM to 12:45 PM - Inaugural Session

12:45 PM to 02:00 PM - Lunch

02:00 PM to 03:45 PM - Session 01

*Fostering Community Participation in Water Governance*

03:45 PM to 04:00 PM - Break

04:00 PM to 05:45 PM - Session 02

*Issues in Groundwater Use and Availability*

06:30 PM to 08:00 PM - Cultural Show

08:00 PM to 09:30 PM - Dinner

### February 14, 2020

09:30 AM to 11:15 AM - Session 03

*Building Resilience in Wetland Conservation and Governance*

11:15 AM to 11:30 AM - Break

11:30 AM to 01:15 PM - Session 04

*Reimagining Drinking Water Governance*

01:15 PM to 02:15 PM - Lunch

02:15 PM to 03:30 PM - Valedictory Session

03:30 PM Onwards - High Tea



# About Development Management Institute (DMI)

DMI was set up on February 13, 2014 pursuant to a desire of the Government of Bihar to establish a High Performing Knowledge Institution (HPKI). DMI believes that the livelihoods of small producers and marginalised people can be enhanced by organising them to form member participation based, democratically governed institutions that leverage the strengths of collectives and build enduring partnerships with professionals for reaping the benefits of technology and market integration. Inspired by and recognising the growing need for Development Management Professionals, the Government of Bihar took the initiative to establish DMI as an autonomous institution.

The rationale of DMI is best captured in its mission: *“To empower and usher in participatory governance and management of institutions, enterprises and resources for enhancing livelihoods and generating sustainable development”*.

The following themes were adopted in our previous five Symposia:

- ✓ *First Foundation Day Symposium 2015: Development Management Pathways towards Good Society*
- ✓ *Second Foundation Day Symposium 2016: Collectives and Commons for Well-being*
- ✓ *Third Foundation Day Symposium 2017: Gandhian Pathways towards Sustainability*
- ✓ *Fourth Foundation Day Symposium 2018: Pathways to Transformative Development*
- ✓ *Fifth Foundation Day Symposium 2019: Women as Agents of Change for Development*

## How to Reach Bihar Museum (Please enter from Gate No. - 04)



### Development Management Institute

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## EMPOWERING GRASSROOTS

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