



Community Management of the Commons in the Context of Water Governance

A lecture delivered by Mr K.J. Joy

As part of the lecture series titled ‘Dialogues on Development’, the Bahá’í Chair for Studies in Development at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore is pleased to announce a lecture delivered online by Mr. K.J. Joy, Founding Member and Senior Fellow at Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) on Wednesday 11 October, 2023 from 3 pm to 4 pm on the theme ‘Community Management of the Commons in the Context of Water Governance’. Those interested in participating in the lecture may register at the following link: <https://forms.gle/BNkfWPPnu1pyeSra7>

Abstract of the lecture:

The talk will begin with a historical overview of community-managed water systems in India from pre-colonial times to the post-independence era. It is generally believed that colonial policies led to the collapse of these community-managed systems. Though this is largely true there have also been internal contradictions that have contributed to their collapse. In this lecture, efforts will be made to problematise the concept of “community” and bring forth the issue of caste which has often been missing in the discourse on community-managed water systems. The second part of the talk will focus on the bio-physical and socio-cultural peculiarities or characteristics of water that have a bearing on the institutions that we design to manage water. The third and final part of the talk will focus on the normative concerns that should underpin the community management of water as a common pool resource.

About the speaker:

K. J. Joy is Founding Member and Senior Fellow, Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune, India and the Convener of the Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India. Mr. Joy has been an activist-researcher for nearly 40 years and his areas of interest include drought, participatory irrigation management, river-basin management, institutions, multi-stakeholder processes, water conflicts, dams and hydropower, renewable energy, water ethics and people’s movements. He was a Fulbright Fellow with the University of California at Berkeley and was the recipient of the TN Khoshoo Memorial Award in 2016. He has published extensively on water-environment-development issues and some of his co-authored/co-edited books include: *Split Waters: The*

Idea of Water Conflicts; India's Water Futures: Emergent Ideas and Pathways; Alternative Futures: India Unshackled; Water Conflicts in Northeast India; Water Conflicts in India: A Million Revolts in the Making and Community-based Natural Resource Management: Issues and Cases from South Asia.