



NUS Cities and Institute of Environment and Sustainability (IES)  
cordially invite you to a seminar

**Name of event:** Water, Land And You And Me

**Date of event:** 14th Oct (Monday), 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m., with Registrations starting from 6:00p.m onwards

**Information of event:**

The talk will discuss the linkages between the current water crisis, the growing understanding of its local-to-global complexity, the many dimensions of the hydrological cycle (and its vulnerable state) – with the blue and too often forgotten green water – and its relations to local-to-global economic, justice, environmental and (geo) political challenges. The talk will further elaborate on how to work on this, how missions can help us deliver with just partnerships, what inclusivity means, and the role of diplomacy, safe spaces and a design approach - both in its transformative capacity as well as in shaping the process.

Methodologies of research by design are lacking in the domain of diplomacy, global policy making and negotiations. While diplomacy is defined by the ability to create a safe space, the creativity to reinvent that safe space in the context of the local-to-global and geo-political crises, is lacking. Diplomacy with design (not by design), or design by diplomacy (?) can help inform the research, the process, the pathways of opportunities and the approaches towards impact. And as in any design process, this is a process of success and fail, learn and step back, fast forward and again - climbing mountains in coalitions of a magnitude never seen before. Shifting course is about grasping the complexity of that uncertain future in full, and help develop 1) a convening space and mechanics, 2) assessment governance with research and validation, and 3) development and implementation trajectories, ranging from policy and programs to innovations and projects.

**Information of speaker (if any) :**

Henk Ovink is the Executive Director and founding Commissioner for the [Global Commission on the Economics of Water](#). He was the first ever global water ambassador, appointed in 2015 by the Dutch Cabinet as Special Envoy for International Water Affairs. In this capacity he led the second [UN Water Conference in 2023](#), the first since 1977. Henk served on President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force where he led the long-term innovation, resilience, and rebuilding efforts and developed and led the groundbreaking '[Rebuild by Design](#)' competition. Before joining the Task Force Ovink was both Acting Director General of Spatial Planning and Water Affairs and Director National Spatial Planning for the Netherlands after multiple roles in the private sector and academia.

Henk holds an honorary doctorate at [Delft University](#). In 2023 Henk Ovink was the 10th recipient of the Foreign Affairs Decoration of Honor in Gold for his unique and outstanding water diplomacy work and global leadership.

**Fee:** Not Applicable

**Registration link:** [https://nus.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6KEmW5hI9yGIIImy](https://nus.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6KEmW5hI9yGIIImy)

**Registration information:** Register by 13th Oct, 5:00 p.m. SGT

**Venue:** At UHall Auditorium, Level 02, NUS University Hall Building, 21 Lower Kent Ridge Rd, Singapore 119077

Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/3VqgiW6WLkU9MXZ28>