You are cordially invited to a public lecture by the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy on:

Use of Local and Traditional Knowledge for Resource Management and Conservation

By

Dr. Fikret Berkes

Distinguished Professor and Canada Research Chair
Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

29 April (Wednesday), 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
Budapest, Nádor utca 9
Room 201, Monument Building

Chair and welcome remarks: Dr. Laszlo Pinter, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy and Senior Fellow, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Abstract: Local and traditional knowledge provides lessons in a number of fields, including resource management and conservation of biodiversity and protected areas. A large body of findings documents the use of such knowledge in a number of kinds of ecosystems, with examples from many parts of the world: North America, Latin America, Asia and Europe. For example, findings from the west coast of Canada and the east coast of the United States show how local and traditional knowledge can improve management of marine resources. Findings from Oaxaca (Mexico) and Kerala (India) provide insights regarding the relationship between local and traditional land use practices and biodiversity conservation. Biocultural approaches, combining biodiversity and cultural diversity conservation, are being discussed, and protected area conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICGAs) have been receiving attention. Research approaches involving partnerships of scientists and local knowledge experts are being developed, including fuzzy logic thinking and the treatment of indigenous knowledge as expert systems.

Presenter: Dr. Fikret Berkes holds the title of Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, and the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Community-based Resource Management. His book, Sacred Ecology (Routledge, 2012) won the 2014 Sustainability Science Award of the Ecological Society of America. He has rich experience working with indigenous and local knowledge holders in northern Canada. He has also worked with knowledge holders in coastal Brazil, northern Norway, New Zealand, India, Bangladesh, Turkey, Thailand, Kyrgyzstan and Taiwan. Dr. Berkes' main area is commons and community-based management, dealing with knowledge systems and resilience. His major contributions have been in the area of integrated social-ecological (or human-environment) systems. He has co-edited two volumes in this area, Linking Social and Ecological Systems (1998) and Navigating Social-Ecological Systems (2003) both published by Cambridge University Press.

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