



Spring 2019 Hydrology & Water Resources Seminar

Title: Iran's Water Bankruptcy and Politics

Kaveh Madani

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Date: Tuesday, April 23rd, 2019

Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Place: [CIRES auditorium](#)



Abstract

In this seminar, Kaveh Madani, a former deputy head of Iran's Department of Environment, overviews the major drivers of Iran's water resource problems and shares his observations during his service as the Deputy Vice President of a country that is under strong international and domestic pressure. He argues that Iran is suffering from a socio-economic drought—i.e. “water bankruptcy,” where water demand exceeds the natural water supply significantly. Madani believes that the current structure of the water governance system and the food-dependence paranoia in Iran leaves minimal hope for a meaningful reform that can address Iran's water problems in a timely manner. In this talk, he reviews how the internal politics forced him to eventually resign from his post after being labelled as a ‘water terrorist’ and getting accused of espionage for CIA, MI6 and Mossad.

Kaveh Madani is an environmental scientist, educator, and activist, working at the interface of science, policy, and society. He has previously served as the Deputy Vice President of Iran in his position as the Deputy Head of Iran's Department of Environment, the Vice President of the UN Environment Assembly Bureau, and Chief of Iran's Department of Environment's International Affairs and Conventions Center. He is currently a Henry Hart Rice Senior Fellow at the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies of Yale University and a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Environmental Policy (CEP) of Imperial College London. He has received a number of awards for his research, teaching, as well as outreach and humanitarian activities, including the New Faces of Civil Engineering recognition in 2012, the Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Young Scientists in 2016, and the Walter Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize in 2017.

CIRES will provide a light reception after the seminar.

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Rajagopalan Balaji, balajir@colorado.edu