

Dr. Arne Raj Panesar



Dr. Arne Panesar is heading the Component “Resilient WASH” in the Sector Program “Waterpolicy Advice” of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH since 2021. He has more than 25 years of professional experience in research and development projects.

Before this he was heading the GIZ-Sector Program “Sustainable Sanitation” from 2014 to 2021. As a Senior Country Manager in the South Asia Division (GIZ), he was responsible for the development of the climate related portfolio in Asia and coordinated the GIZ India Portfolio (2010-2014). Furthermore, he was the coordinator for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the General Department Asia & Latin America.

As a project officer (2007-2010) in the Sector Program “Sustainable Sanitation – ecosan” he was a main driver in the creation of the global network of today more than 400 organizations and 15.000 individual members focusing on sustainability aspects in sanitation and wastewater management – the “Sustainable Sanitation Alliance”.

He has a constant relation to India with his father being of Indian origin. From 1989-1991 during his M. Sc. studies, he was in New Delhi at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) with a fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He visited the Indian Himalayas regularly (1993-1997) for fieldwork during his Ph.D. From 1990 to 2007 he was working as a consultant for GIZ, UNESCO, Swiss Water Institute (Eawag) and others, mainly in the field of water and sanitation.

In addition to his work at GIZ he was a member of the board of directors (2009-2012) of the cooperative society “Energie in Bürgerhand” in Freiburg, where he was actively contributing to the transformation of Germany into a country that is based on green energy and its efficient use. In the same role he was responsible for water-issues (from 2004-2006) in the umbrella association of environmental German NGOs, the “Bundesverband Bürgerinitiativen Umweltschutz e.V.” and again as member of the board of directors (2002-2004) he was active in the NGO-Group “Forum Vauban”, that supported citizens participation in the UN-Habitat Dubai Award winning eco-model district Vauban in Freiburg.

Dr. Panesar holds a M.Sc. in Biology and a PhD in Aquatic Ecology (magna cum laude) both from the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg im Breisgau, in Germany. He is teaching at this University since 2014, giving a seminar on the role and potential of development cooperation.

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