



# Ben Ramalingam: Aid on the Edge of Chaos

## Book Presentation and Discussion

**Invitation | 11 March 2014 | 6.15 p.m.**

Hertie School of Governance | Friedrichstraße 180 | 10117 Berlin

### Book Presentation

### **Ben Ramalingam: Aid on the Edge of Chaos**

It is widely recognised that the foreign aid system - which today involves every country in the world - is in need of drastic change. But there are conflicting opinions as to what is needed. Some call for dramatic increases in resources, to meet long-overdue commitments, and to scale up what is already being done around the world. Others point to the flaws in aid, and bang the drum for cutting it altogether - and argue that the fate of poor and vulnerable people be best placed in the hands of markets and the private sector. Meanwhile, growing numbers are suggesting that what is most needed is the creative, innovative transformation of how aid works.

„Aid on the Edge of Chaos“ is firmly in the third of these camps, stating that the linear, mechanistic models and assumptions on which foreign aid is built would be more at home in early twentieth century factory floors than in today’s dynamic, complex world. All around us, we see the costs and limitations of dealing economies and societies. The reality is that such social systems have far more in common with ecosystems: they are complex, dynamic, diverse and unpredictable. Ramalingam shows how embracing the ideas of complex systems thinking can help make foreign aid more relevant, more appropriate, more innovative, and more catalytic.

**Ben Ramalingam** is an independent researcher, consultant and writer specialising in international development and humanitarian issues. He leads research and provides advice to international organisations on a wide range of issues, from wealth creation, disaster resilience, state fragility to strategic thinking, policy processes and innovations.

He is a co-founder and Chair of the Humanitarian Innovation Fund. Ben currently holds honorary positions at the Overseas Development Institute and the Institute of Development Studies.



#### **Discussant:**

**Heiner Janus**, Researcher, Bi- and Multilateral Development Cooperation, German Development Institute

#### **Moderation:**

**Markus Jachtenfuchs**, Professor of European and Global Governance, PhD Director, Hertie School

.....The Hertie School of Governance reserves the right to publish photographic and film documentation of the event in print, online and audiovisual formats.....

### Registration

#### Book Presentation and Discussion

### **Ben Ramalingam: Aid on the Edge of Chaos**

**11 March 2014 | 6.15 p.m.**

Hertie School of Governance

Friedrichstraße 180 | 10117 Berlin

If you wish to attend, please register via fax  
(+49-30-259 219 444) or e-mail  
(events@hertie-school.org).

In case of further questions, please contact  
Communications (+49-30-259 219 118).

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Position

\_\_\_\_\_

Institution

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_

Accompanied by