

Cape to Cairo in 150 Days – An Engineer’s Experiences

Keynote by Prof. Dr. Mike Schlaich in the HCU auditorium

We look forward to seeing you on

June 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.



To mark the 20th anniversary of HafenCity University and its activities in Africa, as well as the 15th anniversary of the city partnership between Hamburg and Dar es Salaam, civil engineer Mike Schlaich – a partner at the engineering firm schlaich bergemann partner and, until last year, a professor at the Technical University of Berlin – will give a lecture.

In his keynote address, “Cape to Cairo in 150 Days – An Engineer’s Experiences,” Mike Schlaich recounts a remarkable journey through twelve countries in southern and eastern Africa. He experienced the continent’s roads, railways, and bridges firsthand and visited local universities to gain insights into the culture of civil and structural engineering in research, teaching, and practice. Using numerous photos, he explores questions such as: Is there a distinct, country-specific approach to civil and structural engineering that addresses regional conditions such as geography, climate, materials, and building traditions while also accounting for rapid population growth? How are sustainability challenges addressed? And is civil engineering understood and discussed as an art form – one that creates structurally and technically sophisticated structures?

The lecture is part of HCU in Dialogue and the Hamburger Architektur Sommer.

