100 years Ardnacrusha & the Shannon Electricity Act

On **4 July 2025** the Centre for Irish-German Studies (CIGS) will hold a one-day colloquium in collaboration with Siemens Ireland and ESB to commemorate **100 years** since the passing of the **Shannon Electricity Act on 4 July 1925** and the inception of the Shannon hydro-electric power station. The event will explore **Irish-German relations** of the time, delving into diplomatic, business, engineering, literary, and cultural contexts. Highlights include an **exhibition** of photographs, memorabilia, and postcards, alongside **discussions** on the legacy and transformative impact of the Shannon Scheme on Ireland's modernisation and engineering advancements among many other aspects.

Programme

10 am	**Opening – Moot Appeal Courtroom, 3rd floor, Glucksman Library, UL** - John Moran (Mayor of Limerick), Minister of State Timmy Dooley, T.D.; Prof Kenneth Stanton (Dean Science and Engineering, UL); H.E. David Gill (German Ambassador); Aiden Cawley (Siemens Ireland); Sean Hegarty (ESB) and Prof Gisela Holfter (CIGS, UL)
10.20 am – 11.20 am	**Ardnacrusha from an engineering, architecture and marketing perspective** – Prof Tom Cosgrove (Engineering, UL), Jan Frohburg (Architecture, UL), Prof Deirdre O'Loughlin (Marketing, UL)
11.20 am	Coffee break
11.40 am – 12.40 pm	**Literary, artistic and cultural memories & repercussions** – Maire Ni Ghrada (Irish, UL), Professor Emeritus Joachim Fischer (CIGS, UL), Dr Sorcha O'Brien (IADT)
12.40 pm – 1.30 pm	**Lunch** (ground floor, including access to the exhibition on Ardnacrusha in Special Collections, welcome Ciara McCaffrey, Director Glucksman Library and introduction Ken Bergin, Head Special Collection)
1.30 pm – 2.30 pm	**The impact and legacy of Ardnacrusha: Irish-German diplomacy and business then and now** – Roundtable with Stefanie Ziska (CEO German-Irish Chamber of Industry & Commerce), H.E. David Gill (German Ambassador), Simon Dauber (Allianz), Aiden Cawley (Siemens) and Sean Hegarty (ESB)
2.30 pm	**Leaving for Ardnacrusha** (bus transport)
3 pm	**Guided tour of the Ardnacrusha Power Station** (bus returning to UL at 5pm)