

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2005

BEYOND UNIVERSAL GOALS

Steering Development Towards Global Sustainability

Organized by TERI, New Delhi, 3-5 February 2005

Online at <http://www.teriin.org/dsds>

HE Mr Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of the Republic of Iceland, inaugurates DSDS 2005

DSDS 2005 opened on a mixed note—both hope and apprehension about the future in terms of the sustainability of human development. The overriding importance of addressing sustainable development from a global perspective underscored the discussions.

The Millennium Development Goals might be difficult to achieve by 2015 unless concerted efforts are made by the global community. It is critical to harness sectoral inter-linkages to ensure consistency in goal achievement and efficiency in resource utilization. There should be a democratic dialogue among nations towards this end.

A catalyst may be the establishment of a World Sustainable Development Forum, bringing different countries to a common platform to enable policy-makers to act in tandem. Dr R K Pachauri launched this forum; its first activity will be the TERI technology exhibition, scheduled for 5-9 February.

The first Sustainable Development Leadership Award, instituted by TERI, was presented to Dr Shoichiro Toyoda, Honorary Chairman Member of the Board, Toyota Motor Corporation.

The Indian government seeks to achieve sustainable economic growth with a human face. The targets are ambitious and can only be met with active support from citizens. Individuals



should be informed of the impact of developmental pressures on their well-being and involved in the quest for sustainability.

Keynote Address by Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs

The Asian tsunami warns us of changes yet to come. It reminds us of the many silent 'tsunamis' engulfing people across the world, like 3 million children dying of malaria every year due to unaffordable treatment costs. Indeed, the critical challenge in sustainability is securing the lives of the poorest millions.

The MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) are achievable if we focus on a 'decade of implementation'. There are costs in attaining the MDGs; however, the costs of inaction are far higher. Government resolve must be bolstered by social mobilization and civic involvement. Three important areas for investment are people, physical environment, and infrastructure. Three major concerns are demographics, urbanization, and global commons.

While the global population grows steadily, urbanization creates newer problems for infrastructure and environmental quality. Yet, urbanization provides opportunities in the long term. Five issues related to the global commons merit immediate attention: disease, biodiversity (especially fisheries), energy (shift from oil and gas), climate change (move to decarbonized energy sources), and the global commons of peace.

This is a critical century for sustainable development. Advances in science and technology are critical to combat climate change, energy insecurity, and poverty. Developed nations must honour their financial commitments to this end. Global politics must be characterized by cooperation, not competition.

Welcome address

Dr Arcot Ramachandran

Address

Dr R K Pachauri

Special Address

Mr Namon Narain Meena

Presidential Address

Smt. Sheila Dikshit

Inaugural Address

HE Mr Olafur Ragnar Grimsson

Address by the Summit Patrons

■ Mr Børge Brende

■ Prof. Klaus Töpfer

Keynote speaker

Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs



Mr Hiroyuki Watanabe receiving the Sustainable Development Leadership Award from Smt Sheila Dikshit on behalf of Dr Shoichiro Toyoda

MINISTERIAL SESSION 1

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY: CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Chairperson Mr Elliot Morley

Speakers Mr Rajesh Anand Bhagwan • Mr Paljor J Dorji • Prof. Tsugio Ide • Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi • Dato' S Sothinathan



The session discussed key concerns of developing countries, including rapid population growth, rural–urban disparity, and unemployment. With high rate of unemployment, progress in education is critical to ensure greater contributions to science and technology in the long run. Rapid population growth imposes pressure on domestic resources and threatens sustainability. Unsustainable production and consumption lead to environmental degradation and greater dependence on imports. Renewable energy sources, efficiency improvements, and focused R&D can help developing countries meet their growing energy needs.

The agricultural sector in developing countries is constrained because of lack of capital investment, land degradation, misdirected agricultural subsidies, etc. A greater thrust to policies in the agricultural sector can not only reduce poverty but also enhance food security. Infrastructure development is another concern given the rapid rise in populations and changes in lifestyles. The session attached high importance to creating enabling environments for foreign direct investment in infrastructure.

Lack of market access and inequitable trade also hinder development. Unfair trade practices need to be reformed. Although trade is important for a nation's economic growth, it should not be at the cost of the environment.

The formulation of ambitious MDGs has catalysed progress on sustainability. However, the progress is slower than expected and unequally distributed across countries. Developed and developing countries must work together to operationalize sustainable development. A truly global issue, sustainability cannot be addressed by any single country in isolation; coordination between various countries and various government strata is essential. South–South cooperation would be effective and increased multilateral efforts would ensure equity.

While G-8 countries are deeply involved in sustainable development – and hold immense potential for constructing a sustainable climate change agenda – their dialogue should be extended to countries like China, Brazil, India, and South Africa.

PLENARY SESSION 1

STAKEHOLDERS' PANORAMA: ARE WE STEERING DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY?

PLENARY SESSION 1A

Multilateral organizations

Chairperson Dr Bimal Jalan

Speakers Mr Nitin Desai • Dr Leonard Good
• Mr Ian Johnson • Dr Sudipto Mundle
• Prof. Klaus Töpfer



The roles, challenges, and strategies of multilateral organizations in achieving the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) formed the basis of discussions. Besides providing financial assistance, multilaterals help integrate global best practices. Forums such as the Johannesburg Summit encourage various stakeholders - governments, NGOs, academia, the research community, civil society - to interact. These events have had significant impacts on environmental discourses, especially legislation. It is vital to integrate people-centred approaches with area/resource-based ones.

The Global Environment Facility finances efforts related to climate change, desertification, biodiversity, etc. It is devoting greater attention to individual sectors, knowledge sharing, private sector participation, and livelihood issues.

The World Bank assesses the impacts of its lending programmes on local environment and society. Believing that 'development aid' is outmoded, it focuses on developing relationships: people–people, North–South, South–South, and money–knowledge.

The Asian Development Bank believes that the MDGs will be achieved globally only if they are achieved in India and China. It focuses on poverty reduction through infrastructure-led growth and supports improved governance and best practice implementation.

The United Nations Environment Programme focuses on harnessing traditional knowledge to supplement scientific knowledge in its efforts conserve valuable ecosystems.

PLENARY SESSION 1B

Corporate organizations

Chairperson Mr Björn Stigson

Speakers Mr Y C Deveshwar • Mr C P Jain
• Mr Vikram S Mehta • Mr Michael P Schulhof



Corporates cannot replace the government. However, corporates can enhance their role in realizing sustainable development. Corporates are increasingly getting allied with issues within the sustainable development discourse and gaining confidence in moving the world towards sustainability.

The idea of achieving the millennium development goals is a laudable one but also ambitious, considering that many people subsist on an income of less than a dollar a day. The involvement of corporates in eradicating global poverty is important. The Global Compact, which deals with a range of issues relating to corruption and human rights, is a good initiative.

In the energy sector, cost-effective measures, including effective coal exploitation and integrated gasification combined cycle, should be explored. Futuristic research on underground coal gasification, gas hydrants, and coal-bed methane should be intensified. Luxury and survival emissions should be distinguished.

Sustainability should be viewed along a timeline: long, medium, and short. It is essential to incorporate sustainability values into the corporate ideology; imbibe societal vision; and fulfil the responsibility that comes with leadership. Obligatory disclosure in terms of accounting for sustainability is an important mechanism for creating value and achieving social sustainability.

Improved internal performance of corporates – manifested as energy-efficient facilities, zero water leakage, use of quality fuels, better engineering techniques, and alternatives to fossil fuels – benefits the environment and society. Technology incubators like universities and venture capitalists contribute immensely to the goal of sustainability. There is a need to build intra-corporate partnerships to harness the strengths of individual corporates and enable local-level interventions to develop environmentally sustainable capacities relating to employment generation.

PLENARY SESSION 1C

Media

Chairperson Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia

Speakers Dr Sanjaya Baru • Mr Raj Chengappa
• Mr Roger Harrabin • Mr Saeed Naqvi
• Mr Pankaj Pachauri • Mr Samuel Shiroff



The panellists agreed on the fact that environment was not moving up in the news agenda. It was observed that while a few stories like pollution in Delhi and suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh did get mileage in the media, they were sensationalized because of lack of expertise on the subjects in newsrooms.

There was a view that during the last general elections, the channel that showed maximum SD (sustainable development) stories got the highest ratings. Development stories need to be repackaged if they are to grab the attention of the audience.

Most of the people are aware of the problems related to water, sanitation, climate change, and poverty—what they need is solutions. It was also observed that Indian media give more weight to international agencies.

The panellists agreed that TV was one of the biggest businesses today; the channels compete with each other all the time, and the environment figures nowhere in their priorities.

The link between the leaders and the people of a country is the media. The media have the power to raise the concerns of the people, and should consider it a duty to do so. Most of the SD stories in the media are driven by NGOs; the media tend to be lazy and do not get into the depth of any story.

Lack of information or poor access to information on these issues is also responsible for poor coverage.

The role of the Internet was also highlighted. Being a very modern medium, it was observed that NGOs should use the Internet to disseminate their stories to a wider audience.

It was also observed that if an initiative gets highlighted by the media, it gives impetus to the people. Vernacular papers were observed to be doing much better on this score. They raise issues of governance, basic needs, and rural poverty more often than the national media.

It was suggested that the media are capable of bringing these issues to the forefront but can do only if they enjoy the support of society.

DINNER ADDRESS

Chairperson Mr Børge Brende, Hon'ble Minister for Trade and Industry, Norway

Dinner address Mr Salman Khurshid, Chairman, Department of Policy Planning, and Coordinator, All India Congress Committee, New Delhi



The dinner hosted by Air India at Hotel Oberoi saw some lighter moments. Dr R K Pachauri introduced the distinguished speakers, namely Mr Børge Brende, who chaired the

session, and the theme speaker, Mr Salman Khurshid. In his dinner address, Mr Khurshid emphasized sustainable democracy. He highlighted the current situation prevailing in two states, namely Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He emphasized actions to be taken in order to have sustainable democracy, which would eventually lead to sustainable development in India. The different challenges which India faced were listed during the session. The speaker stated that the real challenge is to provide equitable and just solutions to the community at large. Mr Khurshid concluded his speech by mentioning specific areas where India could progress and needed a change.

As they said it . . .

This event (DSDS) is symbolic of a much larger action required worldwide... It is a common cause that humanity must now pursue with an urgency and determination.

Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI

I am glad that poverty and environmental degradation are now recognized as threats to all. We face threats that no nation can solve alone. We have to address them in a new manner...in a multilateral manner.

Mr Børge Brende, Hon'ble Minister for Trade and Industry, Norway

The recent tsunami forces us to remember the silent tsunamis that continue to inflict unrecognizable impacts on the poorest countries of the world...What we need to achieve is investment in people's health, education, nutrition, and family planning;

investment in the natural environment and in infrastructure.

Prof. Jeffrey D Sachs, Director - Earth Institute and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, United Nations

There is a need to distinguish between luxury emission requirements of the developed countries and the survival emission requirements of the developing countries.

Mr C P Jain, Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC, New Delhi

Wealth and power should not become concentrated in the hands of a minority. This is where journalists come into focus...it is the task of journalists to educate people about the risks they face.

Mr Samuel Shiroy, Executive Director, Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development, Germany

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