Inaugural Session

Inauguration by Dr Manmohan Singh, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Government of India

Dr R K Pachauri welcomed the august delegation to the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, highlighting the environmental and water sectors and referring to the “tragedy of the commons”. He reflected on the progression of international talks, from Stockholm, to Rio, and finally looking ahead to the upcoming Rio+20. According to Dr Pachauri, energy security would be the biggest challenge in times to come.

Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh reminded the audience about the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 that marks the twentieth anniversary of the landmark 1992 Earth Summit. He reiterated poverty eradication as the overarching objective of India’s approach towards sustainable development and commended India for playing an important role in the climate change negotiations at COP17, where the agreement on the second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol was reached. Dr Singh stressed that India has believed in moving forward with focus on equity, but differentiated responsibilities as central dimensions. He expressed satisfaction that the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the eight national missions under it were making satisfactory progress and stated that the Twelfth Five-Year Plan would be designed to ensure sustainable development and inclusive growth. He seemed delighted to report that the tiger population is on the rise in India, as is the forest cover.

Concluding the session, Dr Arcot Ramachandran thanked the Prime Minister for his presence and his encouraging inaugural address. He highlighted the urgent need to set standards.

The SuSTainable DevelopmenT leaDerShip awarD

The Sustainable Development Leadership Award, instituted by TERI in 2005, is given away every year in recognition of significant contribution towards the cause of sustainable development.

As they said it

The idea of sustainability began as a developmental idea.

Dr Manmohan Singh
Hon’ble Prime Minister, Government of India

HE Ms Tarja Halonen, President of Finland was conferred the Sustainable Development Leadership Award by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh. In her acceptance speech, she highlighted the crucial linkages between sustainable development, human resources development, and the empowerment of women.
Dr Prannoy Roy, chair and moderator of the session, emphasized on the importance of global summits like DSDS. Opening the session, HE Mr Anote Tong, President, Kiribati emphasized on the need for global focus on sustainable development and pointed out that human beings are central to the process. Mr Tong also said that carbon tax was the need of the hour, even though it is likely to face criticism. He also reiterated that multi and bilateral organizations should assess what they are doing for sustainable commons.

HE Ms Tarja Halonen, President, Finland, emphasized on the need for social justice. She stressed on the importance of keeping the people who are part of the biodiversity of a country or region in mind. Talking about resources, she quoted Mahatma Gandhi in saying that “there is enough for everyone’s need, but not for everybody’s greed”. Pricing models for products was an important thrust of her address. Sustainable agriculture was the other major focus area of Ms Halonen’s address.

Actions and not words was the call given by HE Mr James Alix Michel, President, Seychelles. He pointed out that we have to address these problems through not only G7 and G20, but also G193 where all nations of the world can come together. President Michel stressed that time has come to develop strong political will to come together and work towards sustainable development. In his concluding remarks, he called upon citizens to put pressure on their respective governments to become responsible and move towards sustainable development.

HE Ms Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Mexico and former Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, emphasized on the need for a more effective monitoring by resource managers. She also mentioned that we have to use our financial and technological resources to bring together the Millennium Development Goals and climate change initiatives. Ms Cantellano emphasized on the need for a common goal and called for uniting all efforts with a genuine political will under a proactive leadership, which will pave the way for strong initiatives and carry on the spirit of Rio, Cancun, and Durban.

Mr Haruhiko Kuroda urged for strong initiatives and carry on the spirit of Rio, Cancun, and Durban. Opening the session, Dr Prannoy Roy, Founder and Executive Chairperson, NDTV, India, pointed out that we have to address these problems through not only G7 and G20, but also G193 where all nations of the world can come together. President Michel stressed that time has come to develop strong political will to come together and work towards sustainable development. In his concluding remarks, he called upon citizens to put pressure on their respective governments to become responsible and move towards sustainable development.

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HE Ms Patricia Espinosa Cantellano was concerned that even after 20 years of Rio, the world is still struggling to make sustainable development a part of social and economic planning. She stressed that the need of the hour is to take right political decisions and argued that with the support of NGOs, academia, local communities and other organized civil societies, the government can be more effective. She also mentioned that we have to take as regards climate change and preserving the global commons. He added that the ADB was playing an important role in inculcating green growth in the Asia-Pacific region. Arguing in favour of international cooperation to combat the global problem of climate change, he prescribed a green growth with a perfect network of regional cooperation and links with global partnerships for going ahead. He concluded by adding that the green energy development initiative is making a noticeable change in the Asia-Pacific region and hoped for the development of the Green Climate Fund by 2020. Professor Ostrom called for a polycentric approach. She added that the problem with the global change is that everyone wants to focus only on the international level; but we actually need to look regionally and locally at policies to enhance possibilities. She also added that effective monitoring by resource users can mitigate the problem of commons and categorically emphasized the need for a more interdisciplinary approach for a sustainable solution.
The panel members agreed that leadership to preserve the global commons is fraught with challenges. These include the fact that the ‘middle class’ is expected to rise by 3 billion by 2030; and the realization that despite Copenhagen, Cancun, and Durban, there have been few encouraging signs. Moreover, unlike Kyoto, when a handful of countries participated; today, 190 odd nations are vying to reach a similar agreement. For so many countries to reach consensus will itself be a huge challenge.

The skeptics tend to overlook that the issue of sustainability is being increasingly reflected in politics. It is now up to politicians to judiciously balance short-term political compulsion with long-term sustainability requirements. Simultaneously, it needs to be understood that leaders, in their efforts toward guiding the world towards sustainability, need public support. Hence, NGOs and the media have extremely important roles to play. In developing countries, such as those in Africa, people burn wood and damage forests to survive, simply because they have no other alternative. Since African nations also face serious challenges regarding adaptation, their ability to contribute to environmental mitigation is rather limited. However, such a situation does not exempt leaders of Africa from leading responsibly. It is indeed encouraging to notice that some of them have already taken the initiative in motivating their countrymen to plant trees. This brings us to the point of devising the correct performance indices that will reflect true commitment to the environment.

The time has come to change the way we use our resources, including human resources. Our leaders need to recognize that since half of the people in the world are women, it is necessary to motivate them to realize their full potential. Only then can the goal of sustainable development be reached.
The session was chaired by HE Ms. Tarja Halonen, President, Finland. The session marked the regional launch of the report, which elicited an invigorating discussion on the key recommendations of the report. It was pointed out that the road to sustainable development had changed track, and the panelists reflected on the lack of success in achieving the objectives. The two main reasons cited were discrimination against women and lack of access to resources and energy. Another key message that was highlighted was that the global community cannot carry on with the “business as usual” scenario, and a change is required in the growth narrative.

**ADB - Asia 2050 Panel**

**Moderator**
Dr Iwan Azis, Head, Office of Regional Economic Integration, Asian Development Bank, Philippines

**Speakers**
- Ms Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council, USA
- Mr Hon Cheung, Regional Director, Official Institutions Group, SIPI, Singapore
- Mr S (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, Executive Co-Chairman, Infosys Limited, India
- HE Dr Naoko Ishii, Deputy Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of Japan
- Dr Bindu N Lohani, Vice President (Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development), Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Austria

Dr Iwan Azis chaired the panel and informed the participants that the panel discussion would revolve around ADB’s recent publication – the Asia 2050 report. Dr Bindu N Lohani provided a comprehensive overview of the study and mentioned that it was commissioned to examine the possible scenarios for 2050 for Asia and to draw the attention of policy-makers.

Ms Frances Beinecke emphasized on taking action as urbanization was taking over Asia and there was a need to deal with issues at an early stage. Dr Kandeh K Yumkella reiterated that shared global affluence could reduce poverty and create wealth pockets. Growth in Asia is linked to global prosperity. Mr S (Kris) Gopalakrishnan mentioned the need for new holistic models of development, employment, job creation, and social development.

Dr Naoko Ishii stated that action on climate change is in our interest. Asia is uniquely positioned to make a difference through policy interventions. Mr Hon Cheung focused on debt financing as an interesting instrument to finance projects on sustainable technologies and models. Dr R K Pachauri said that an ideal pattern of growth should include health, education, and disaster management, and highlighted the importance of culture and innovation.

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**Green Globe Foundation Awards Ceremony**

The 4th Green Globe Awards ceremony felicitated the efforts of those unsung heroes who have contributed towards sustainable development in India in several categories. Introducing the event, Dr Pachauri said that the Green Globe Awards were important to recognize the initiatives of those who were working towards saving the planet. While the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation won the award in the Manufacturing category, IndusInd Bank received the award in the Business category for running ATMs on solar power. The Centre for Research on Environment and Development from Meghalaya was the big winner in the NGO sector, and the state government of Madhya Pradesh won the award for Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Development by a State Government. Husk Power Systems was the winner in the Product, Innovation, and Design category, while Mr Joydeep Gupta was the recipient of the Green Globe Award 2012 in the Media category. A special award was presented to the Royal Challengers Bangalore IPL cricket team for being carbon neutral. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mr Bjorn Stigson, former President of WBSCD. While Mr Rahul Saini won the award in the Yuva category, the Salwan Public School was the winner in the Outstanding Contribution by an Educational Institution category. The award for Outstanding Contribution by a Celebrity was presented to Mr Abhishek Bachchan for his initiative to save paper, and reducing energy consumption during film shootings and his contribution towards LaBL. Receiving the award, Mr Abhishek Bachchan, also the chief guest of the event, said that he became more conscious about the environment after having met Dr Pachauri and started taking steps to conserve energy. He said that he tried to lead by example and was even prepared to star in a film which has the minimum carbon footprint provided someone makes it.

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Photos by Rui Solanki, Bobby, and Ashok