

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2003

The Message from WSSD: translating resolve into action for a sustainable future

Organized by TERI, New Delhi, 6-9 February 2003

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

In brief . . .

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3

Chairperson Mr Suresh P Prabhu
Speaker Mr Chad Holliday



While emphasizing DuPont's reliance on technological innovation in promoting sustainability, Mr Charles Holliday

added that DuPont's commitment towards society and environment is manifested in its core values: (1) safety and health, (2) environmental stewardship, (3) respect for people, and (4) superior ethical standards. This has transformed it from a large polluting chemical company into an exemplary corporate citizen carrying out sustainable business. He underscored three vital ingredients of sustainability: (1) integrated science, the innovation driver; (2) knowledge intensity, the structural driver; and (3) productivity, the operational driver.

Advocating that the perspective should be to look beyond technology and treat software/services as important components, he highlighted some examples of DuPont's enabling waste minimization and productivity enhancement to benefit its customers.

Having implemented the 'Six Sigma' technique, DuPont has tripled its rate of adoption of new technologies and processes. It has achieved significant reductions in global air carcinogens and global hazardous waste since 1990. It has achieved over 30% growth in production in the past decade without increasing energy usage and 68% reduction in CO₂-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions.

Emphasizing the significance of process innovation, Mr Holliday said that DuPont's improvements in fuel cell technology have helped it reduce environmental and noise pollution. He concluded by stating that the fruits of new technology must reach the poor for only then would it be truly 'fruitful'.

Chairing the session, Mr Prabhu encouraged a multi-stakeholder approach in business and development. He added that India's river-linking initiative would take the feared ecological impacts into consideration.

PLENARY SESSION 4

Land use, forestry and biodiversity

Chairperson Ambassador Walter Fust
Speakers Dr Vibha Dhawan • Dr John Kilama
• Dr S K Pande • Dr Kilaparti Ramakrishna
• Ms Tiahoga Ruge • Dr Kazuhiko Takeuchi



Land and resource degradation and biodiversity loss are accelerating and the existing genetic base is depleting due to human interference with natural processes. Simultaneously, globalization has led to the paradox where advances like free information flow, technological improvements, and progressive awareness of interdependence among people are accompanied by growing disparities between rich and poor.

Strategic resource management must appreciate that natural resources symbolize the sole source of livelihoods for most communities living in/around forested areas. Various village-level institutions set up for local participation in natural resource management understand the strong conviction of local communities to protect their resources for the future.

Indeed, sustainability must be carried to the local level, where poverty really exists. Channels to link people with policies and bottom-up approaches to facilitate cross-sectoral integration are required. These imply understanding the links between impacts of land tenure, common property resources, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and trade on people's access to resources and ecosystem protection.

Conservation must be integrated into economic development. Biodiversity must be viewed as a means to livelihood and environmental security. Corporates must catalyse the

development of new, value-added business opportunities, particularly in rural areas, to help local communities capitalize on their rich resource bases.

The complex challenges of increasing pressures on land, forests, and biodiversity require multi-dimensional approach through collaborations between policy-makers, corporates, civil society, and local communities. Strategic multi-stakeholder alliances are also needed for science and technology, including biotechnology, so vital for food security.

Leaders of the world must adopt pragmatic, result-oriented approaches. These changed development priorities, however, must come from within natural resources-rich (developing) nations, reflecting their commitment to conservation and sustainability, not an imposed worldview.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 4

Chairperson Mr Ashok Jaitly
Speaker Prof. Y K Alagh



Opining that sustainable development depends much on our capacity, both present and future, Prof. Alagh said that the 0.5 mha (million hectares) of land under appropriate water and land regime cropping patterns is sustainable, as it provides energy and food to the poor. The larger challenge is to bring the planned 2.5 mha under the regime.

Three major policy concerns should be addressed: (1) an organizational structure to support community organizations that are not purely corporate or governmental; (2) a proper financial mechanism for replicable programmes/projects; (3) a support system to meet upfront costs in historically abandoned areas, deprived of infrastructure. Such a system should differ from subsidies and be undertaken from the perspective of social equitable development.

Change must begin with local reforms to address resource misallocation through tough budget constraints. Structural adjustment reforms can address local bodies that are not really helping the poor. Financial institutions and international funding agencies could recognize the community as collateral.

He emphasized the need for agricultural diversification for eradicating malnutrition from rural Asia. A shift to high-value-added sustainable agriculture will enable communities to fund themselves. This has been evidenced in Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia, where the poverty rate has declined considerably.

PLENARY SESSION 5

The role of the media in sustainable development

Chairperson Sir Mark Tully

Speakers Dr Sanjaya Baru • Mr Raj Chengappa
• Mr Darryl D'Monte • Mr Sunil Jain
• Mr Yateendra Joshi



Mr Tully: The media often harps on what is *not* happening in sustainable development rather than reporting positive stories.

Dr Baru: That the sustainability debate has come into the public domain shows that the media is highlighting it. The biggest challenge to sustainability is growing consumerism, which the media does portray. Ignoring a lifestyle that uses public transport, the media talks of swank automobiles, making viewers/readers aspire for unsustainable lifestyles.

Mr Chengappa: The media had little interest in Johannesburg, as there was tremendous hype at Rio but its tall promises were not fulfilled.

Mr D'Monte: If the media is a mirror of society, how is it that issues that people are interested in are not reflected? Good communication is all about humanizing stories. It is important to give sustainable development a human face.

Mr Jain: The media has boosted campaigns against polybags and crackers. However, at times the media gets it wrong by one-sided reportage. For example, the fact that it actually took five hectares of land to make one megawatt of electricity through solar power was never highlighted in articles against the Narmada dam.

Mr Joshi: Detailed reporting of sustainable development issues and concepts is vital. The media could report good uses of technology and facilitate contact with the innovators.

The panel recommended that instead of 'ghetto'izing the environment by putting it into an exclusive channel/page, it should be brought into the mainstream. Public sector broadcasting is extremely important, as it highlights the issues of change and development.

PLENARY SESSION 6

Governance issues in sustainable development

Chairperson Mr Michael F Carter

Speakers Dr Frank Biermann • Dr Julia Marton-Lefèvre • Prof. Rehman Sobhan • Dr Leena Srivastava



Injustice to and exclusion of the poor leads to gross underutilization of resources, encouraging caste conflicts and terrorism, and confines the poor to low productivity activities while the narrow elite class gets greater access to resources. Little progress has been made in implementing better governance, because over-centralization coupled with ignorance of differing needs of various sections of society lead to decelerated decision-making.

Global environmental governance is an attempt to align international actors, institutions, and political processes to the demands of the sustainability transition. The two most important players in the area of sustainable development exist at the international and the national level. In this context, the role of donors in influencing the agenda of developing countries is extremely pertinent. Donor agencies should be careful about imposing their views on what constitutes sustainable development on recipient governments, which indeed have the greater role in setting sustainability priorities. This can be done by enforcing systems that encourage local participation and decentralized approaches.

The recommendations made by the panel included (1) empowering the deprived by accumulating the required resources at local levels, (2) legitimizing community-based participatory approaches, (3) transforming micro-finance into corporate finance owned by the poor, (4) graduating the poor higher up in the market chain of value addition by developing income-earning assets in all sections of society, (5) eliminating disparities in economic status and built institutional sustainability within and across countries, (7) providing ownership and management rights over resources to the deprived, and (8) creating economic democracy apart from political democracy.

RECEPTION AND DINNER ADDRESS

Chairperson

Ambassador C Dasgupta

Speaker

Mr Gilbert Parent



Ambassador Gilbert Parent

spoke of the extraordinary opportunities offered by the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) to enable the global community to focus on the immediate and pertinent need to embrace sustainable development. He highlighted various initiatives taken by the Canadian government, corporate sector, and civil society.

As the theme of Johannesburg drives home, this is indeed the time for action. Accordingly, Ambassador Parent gave numerous examples to show that the means to implement the goals of WSSD exist, and called for greater will. By ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, participating in the Johannesburg Summit, and signing various environment-related conventions, Canada has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development. Through the activities of the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Centre, and various corporates, significant efforts are being made to enhance livelihoods, provide water and sanitation, manage waste, promote education and health care, and conserve biodiversity. Moreover, attempts are being made to change energy consumption patterns, and turn to alternative and renewable sources of energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Reiterating the fact that all countries share the challenges of sustainable development, he underscored the importance of sharing knowledge, expertise, and technologies to make this world clean, safe, and equitable.

Media dialogue on Challenges post-Johannesburg: what the stakeholders have to say

Mr Stigson: That there were more businessmen than heads of state at the WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) indicated the importance corporates attach to sustainable development.

Mr Martin: The WWF's focus is on water, sanitation, trade, and energy with the objective of integrating the environment with socio-economic concerns, the foundation of which was laid at the WSSD.

Mr Kher: The media is a vital tool in creating environmental awareness and must complement governments in disseminating the right information and sensitizing the masses to valid concerns.

Mr Sharma: DFID's main emphasis is on implementing WSSD's recommendations by mainstreaming the environment, which is inextricably linked to health and poverty.

Ms Quay: It is important to focus on implementing the commitments reaffirmed at the WSSD and catalyse partnerships.

Dr Pachauri: Issues like water and sanitation, poverty reduction, and climate change are of primary concern to developing countries like India.

Look forward to . . .

10.00–10.25 a.m.

***Priorities for the Developing World:
Carrying Forward Our Research Agenda***

Plenary session 7 (10.30 a.m.–12.00 noon)

Climate change: many paths, many stakeholders

Chairperson

Ms Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, Bonn

Speakers

- Dr John Ashton, Director for Strategic Partnerships, LEAD International, London
- Ambassador C Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, TERI
- Dr James R Mahoney, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, US Department of Commerce
- Mr Andrei Marcu, Executive Director, International Emissions Trading Association, Switzerland
- Dr Chris Mottershead, Distinguished Advisor, Environment, BP plc., UK
- Dr Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Project Leader, Transitions to New Technologies, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

Plenary session 8 (12.00 noon–1.30 p.m.)

Ministerial Session

Chairperson

Prof. Emil Salim, Chairman, National Economic Board, Government of Indonesia

Speakers

- Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa
- Mr Elliot Morley MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary (House of Commons) for Fisheries, Water and Natural Protection, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK
- Prof. Saifuddin Soz, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Former Union Minister – Environment & Forests, India
- Mr Pieter van Geel, State Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Netherlands

Commentary

Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI

Lunch (1.30–2.30 p.m.)

Valedictory Session (2.30–4.30 p.m.)

Chairperson

Prof. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi

Speakers

- Mr Björn Stigson, President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Switzerland

- Dr Claude Martin, Director-General, WWF International, World Wide Fund For Nature, Switzerland
- Ms Anu Aga, Chairperson, Thermax Ltd, India
- Mr V K Duggal, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, India

Valedictory address

Mr Digvijay Singh, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Government of Madhya Pradesh, India

Vote of thanks

Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI

SPECIAL SESSION

**Energy for Sustainable Development:
Translating the WSSD Plan of Implementation
into Concrete Action, including Targets and
Timetables**

Jointly organized by TERI and United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Venue IHC, New Delhi

Registration & Tea (5.00 p.m.)

Welcome & introductory remarks (5.30–5.40 p.m.)

5.40–6.00 p.m.

Session moderator

Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI

Lead discussants

- Dr Emil Salim, Chairman, National Economic Board; Former Minister for Population & Environment, Indonesia
- Dr Ogunlade Davidson, Director, Energy & Development Research Centre, University of Cape Town, South Africa

6.00–6.45 p.m.

Panel discussion

- Dr Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
- Dr Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Project Leader, Transitions to New Technologies, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
- Mr Daryoush Karimi, Director-General for Environmental Education, Department of Environment of Iran, Secretary for National Committee on Sustainable Development, Iran
- Dr Zhou Dadi, Director-General, Energy Research Institute, State Development Planning Committee, P.R. China
- Dr Ibrahim Abdel Gelil, Chairman, Organisation for Energy Planning, Egypt

Open discussion (6.45–7.10 p.m.)

Summary by the moderator (7.10–7.20 p.m.)

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