

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2004

Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Addressing the WEHAB agenda

Organized by TERI, New Delhi, 4–7 February 2004

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

In brief . . .

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 3

The Anthropocene: Human Activity as a Geologic Force. Where are we Heading?

Chairperson Dr Suman K Bery
Speaker Nobel Laureate Prof. Paul Crutzen



Prof. Crutzen recapitulated global development trends over the past three centuries – encompassing increases in human and livestock populations, urbanization, industrialization, energy and water use – and highlighted how human activities accelerate climate change. Atmospheric concentrations of several climatologically important GHGs (greenhouse gases) have grown substantially: methane by 100% and carbon dioxide by 30%. Climate models estimate the resultant average global surface warming to be in the range of 1.4–5.8 °C. The transcontinental nature of climate change renders it a global problem rather than a regional or national one.

Aerosols absorb solar radiation and prevent it from reaching the ocean, thus reducing both evaporation and precipitation. However, cleaning of aerosols may intensify temperature rise, as they neutralize 50% of the greenhouse effect. At the current level of emissions, the biosphere alone may not be able to fix carbon dioxide concentrations. To stabilize the earth's climate, we need to effect a reduction in human-led emissions of carbon dioxide by more than 60%, of nitrous oxide by 70%–80%, and of methane by 5%. Tremendous technical developments are required for achieving these substantial goals.

Adaptation strategies are equally important to mitigate the impacts of climate change. There is insufficient knowledge about the many positive and negative feedback processes in the complex physical–chemical–biological climate system. There are also knowledge gaps about future developments in the energy and agricultural sectors and resultant GHG emissions. A new research network is being launched by the United Nations Environment Programme to generate scientific data on climate change in Asia.

PLENARY SESSION 4

Public Education in a Knowledge Society: Creativity, Content, and Delivery Mechanisms

Co-chairs

Mr Paul Iredale • Ms Aban Marker Kabraji

Members of the panel Dr Roger Baud

• Prof. Gilberto M Jannuzzi • Ms Tiahoga Ruge • Prof. Jeffrey I Steinfeld



Sustainability is a social concept dealing with attitude change and adaptation of behavioural patterns. Sustainable education includes basic knowledge of the natural sciences and the development of appropriate technologies. Basic knowledge should be linked to real-life situations, which essentially require an ideal environment that allows for the generation of community feeling and concern. The best knowledge, though available, does not reach the right target groups. The real challenge is to bring forth issues that people can conceive, grasp, and understand. Knowledge effects positive changes in the lives of the people, leading to greater sustainability. We should ensure that knowledge is available to the public at all levels.

Today, the dilemma of adopting long-term initiatives is reflected in all levels of our education system. The primary goal of education is to prepare young people for taking on leading roles in socially responsible sustainable development.

We are aware of situation but not willing to change our ways of acting, thinking, and living. We need to harness global strategies, and develop a master plan for environment education, capacity building, and communication. Education is an essential tool to realize environmental democracy.

‘Asia’s economy is developing very fast and standards of living are rising but we have to be careful that we do not overload the environment.’

Nobel Laureate Prof. Paul Crutzen
Director Emeritus, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Germany

Public policies with special budgets for environment education are imperative. Partnerships are essential to achieve this objective. In India, the media can become an important partner in this context.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has called for a 'decade for education for sustainable development', beginning 2005. This initiative will provide the whole world with an opportunity to work towards sustainability.

PLENARY SESSION 5

Defining the Stakes, Engaging the Stakeholders: Inclusive Approaches for Coordinated Action

Chairperson Dr Prodipto Ghosh

Members of the panel Dr Stephen Bass

- Ms Preeti Bhandari • Mr Warren Evans
- Dr Charles McNeill • Mr Vikram S Mehta
- Ms Cornelia Richter



The last decade-and-a-half witnessed the evolution of 'partnership' as an effective and appropriate method to achieve sustainability goals.

Sustainability is a comprehensive concept, encompassing a diversity of issues and disciplines. Multi-stakeholder processes are facilitated not only by the establishment of new supportive institutions but also the openness of actors involved. For example, environmental stewards are now more receptive to industry participation in environmental causes.

It is beneficial for all actors to engage in partnerships for sustainable development because different stakeholders have different – but complementary – core competencies. The expertise of each enhances the efficacy of the collective effort. Partnerships can involve different sectors (government, private, community, social sector) at different levels (local, national, global). Business participation in such engagements is eventually related to long-term benefits, which can be translated into profits.

There can be no universal model for formulating partnerships, but there can certainly be some basic underlying principles of sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods. We must remember that public-private partnerships are limited to the extent that business sees only a profit motive. It is also necessary to keep in mind that sustainable development partnerships can become window dressing for the private sector and, therefore, it is good to maintain a healthy degree of scepticism.

It is important to clarify the role of the government while consciously seeking to involve local institutions in the participatory processes. Finally, there is a need for consistent commitment, leadership, financing, and – most importantly – nurturing of a value structure, which boosts sustainable development.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 4

The Millennium Development Goals. Can we Afford Failure? Can we Avoid Failure?

Chairperson Dr R K Pachauri

Speaker Dr Jan P Pronk



Though the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) aim to halve global poverty by 2015, many more suffer from hunger today than ever before. Using a figure of 'one dollar a day' as the benchmark of poverty is to fool oneself—life with one dollar is simply not possible!

Gaps in access to education, sanitation, health, water, etc. are widening while, ironically, economic growth is rising. We cannot assume that economic growth would banish poverty through a trickle-down effect. World leaders must display the will and build strategies to eliminate poverty, assigning the highest priority to ensuring necessary monetary flows. Achieving the MDGs is possible only with financial resources and political commitment.

The current world order holds economic opportunities for the middle class but not for the underclass. That is why we must accept the 'non-discriminatory' paradigm of sustainable development as the best insurance of security for all.

Global economic and political systems should be reorganized to reflect the demands of the poor. Economic growth necessarily brings with it environmental deterioration, which victimizes the poor the most, indeed makes them pay the most. Poverty can be very frustrating when it engenders a feeling of exclusion. However, if the poor accept that they have better lives than their parents' and that even better lives await their children, they will contribute within the system.

PLENARY SESSION 6

Bridging the Science and Technology Gap: Institutional Innovations and Effective Financing

Co-chairs • Ambassador Walter Fust

• Prof. V Ramanathan

Members of the panel

• Prof. Joanne Kauffman • Dr Jorgen Kjems

• Dr Chris Mottershead • Mr Steven D Smith

• Prof. Patrick Whitney



Modern science and technology tools can unravel the complexity of interaction between society and natural systems. Cross-border collaborations between scholars and among scholars, practitioners, and affected stakeholders are essential for developing effective solutions by applying existing knowledge and creating new knowledge. Policy and

institutional mechanisms should encourage research networking across developed and developing countries. Both top-down and bottom-up initiatives are vital for technology transfer and relevant capacity building. The advantages include the stimulation and synergy that international networking creates; the efficiency gains effected through the sharing of financial resources; availability of information and facilities; and abundance of cultural inputs at various levels.

Technology must be humanized and innovation must be encouraged by developing new low-cost methods for human-centred design and transferring these to the industry. Solutions should harness local enterprise and encourage private investment rather than relying on aid or government funding.

The industry is increasingly adding the society's expectations to its fiscal objectives. However, since the industry has no mandate to serve the society, government intervention is crucial in the form of appropriate policy frameworks or public funding. Yet, the government's role should not be so large that it undermines that of the private sector.

To reduce or share the private sector's heavy investment in R&D, relevant partnerships must be developed at the initiation stages. This will encourage innovations in the public domain. To ensure adequate return on the risk capital invested in typical R&D projects, developing countries must ensure strong legal and institutional frameworks. This will ensure effective delivery of need-based technological solutions.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 5

Chairperson Mr S Sundar

Speaker Mr Anand Mahindra



Mr Mahindra narrated the incident of a British journalist asking Mahatma Gandhi – on the eve of India's Independence – if India would follow Britain's model of industrial development. Gandhiji responded with a question: Britain had used half the planet's resources for its development. If India were to do the same, how many planets would it take?

Even now, if China, India, Brazil, and Russia – who are expected to grow into the top six economies – were to reach current US levels of prosperity, half the Milky Way may be required! Sustainability cannot exist without development but development that does not ensure sustainability carries the seeds of its own destruction.

Earlier, businesses were ambivalent about sustainability and, therefore, capitalism ruled. With increasing awareness and advent of regulations, businesses went into the 'minimum compliance regime'. They, however, realized that they could derive benefits from compliance in terms of energy saved, lower production costs, and so forth, and entered the stage of 'trawling for benefits'.

Sustainable operation makes good business sense. Persistent efforts are needed to find the right business model but the attempt is worth in terms of both business profitability and social satisfaction.

As they said it . . .

Nearly 30 new infectious diseases have emerged since 1976, primarily due to ecosystem degradation.

Dr Charles McNeill

Team Manager, Environment Programme, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme, New York

Children are capable of changing mindsets and habits in a very innocent, yet persuasive, way.

Ms Preety Bhandari

Director, Policy Analysis Division, TERI, New Delhi

Neither in India nor in America can you live on one dollar a day.

Dr Jan P Pronk

Chairman, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council; Special Envoy for the Secretary-General, United Nations

Human capital is the developing world's asset.

Mr Steven D Smith

Venture Investor, Redding, USA

One signal that I have picked up at DSDS 2004 is the sense of urgency, the other is the will.

Dr Jorgen Kjems

Managing Director, Riso National Laboratory Management, Roskilde

Sustainable development could be the world's biggest business opportunity. The new tribe of entrepreneurs will view sustainability as the next big thing.

Mr Anand Mahindra

Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Mahindra & Mahindra, Mumbai; President, Confederation of Indian Industry, New Delhi

The figures are mind-boggling: 700 million people without sanitation, 600 million without electricity... Our challenge is to convey information to these millions so they can bring about their own change.

Mr Paul Iredale

Journalist, Reuters Foundation, Kent, UK

The future is an open field. Any option is possible. Let us consider the sustainability option.

Dr Roger Baud

Executive Director
Alliance for Global Sustainability, Zürich

The real heart of the problem is getting 6 billion people to realize the impact they are having on the planet.

Prof. Jeffrey I Steinfeld

Professor of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

Look forward to . . .

Keynote address 6 (9.45–10.30 a.m.)

Leadership is Key to Sustainable Development

Chairperson

Dr Claude Martin, Director-General, WWF International, Gland

Speaker

Mr Børge Brende, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Government of Norway, Oslo; Chairman, United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, New York

MINISTERIAL SESSIONS

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

Taking Stock: Have We Achieved Anything Since WSSD?

Chairperson

Dr Jan P Pronk, Chairman, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and Special Envoy for the Secretary-General, United Nations

Members of the panel

- Ms Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, India
- Mr Pekka Haavisto, Hon'ble former Minister of Environment and Development Cooperation, Government of Finland, Helsinki
- Mr Elliot Morley, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, Government of UK, London
- Mr Erich Stather, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Germany, Bonn

Tea (12.00 noon–12.15 p.m.)

Plenary session 7B (12.15–1.45 p.m.)

Charting the Path Ahead: Creating Political Resolve and Forward Momentum

Co-Chairs

- Mr Børge Brende, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Government of Norway, Oslo; Chairman, United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, New York
- Mr Apolonio Ruiz Ligerio, Vice Governor, Council of Europe Development Bank, Paris

Members of the panel

- Mr Omar Abdullah, Hon'ble former Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India
- Prof. Yoginder K Alagh, Hon'ble former Minister of Power, and Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi
- Mr Pieter van Geel, State Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, Government of the Netherlands, The Hague
- Ms Martha Wangari Karua, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources Management and Development, Government of Kenya, Nairobi

Lunch (1.45–3.00 p.m.)

Valedictory Session (3.00–4.30 p.m.)

Joining Hands: Common Goals and Partnerships Across Borders

Chairperson

Mr Björn Stigson, President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva

Members of the panel

- Dr Claude Martin, Director General, WWF International, Gland
- Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI, New Delhi; Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Geneva
- Dr Jan P Pronk, Chairman, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council; Special Envoy for the Secretary-General, United Nations
- Ambassador Arne Walther, Secretary-General, International Energy Forum, Riyadh

Concluding Session (4.30–5.00 p.m.)

Summary of DSDDS 2004 and Plans for the Future

Dr R K Pachauri, Director-General, TERI, New Delhi; Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Geneva

Tea (5.00–5.30 p.m.)

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