



World Sustainable Development Forum

DSDS 2006

Delhi Sustainable Development Summit

LINKING ACROSS MDGs
Towards innovative partnerships and governance

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

In brief...

Environmental threats and the MDGs

Moderator Mr Ian Johnson

Speakers • Dr Alok Adholeya • Ms Soledad Blanco • Mr Yvo de Boer • Ms Cornelia Richter



Unsustainable agricultural practices have contributed towards the rising extent of degraded land areas, declining productivity, and soaring price of food, eventually translating to higher rates of child malnutrition. This grave situation calls for promoting research and bringing in innovative technologies, such as promotion of energy crops for biofuels.

The damage due to disasters alone has risen by a factor of 12 in the past four decades, making it evident that the global environment is under immense stress. The ecological footprint for several countries show that the resources required to meet the present needs is much higher than what can be sustained. The MDGs certainly cannot be met if the trend continues.

Environment protection is often regarded as a cumbersome obligation both in developed and developing countries, with each preferring getting rich now and cleaning later. In this respect, it is felt that eco-efficient innovations can contribute to competitiveness, growth, and employment. The role of the business sector in enabling sustainable solutions is imperative. Hence, the MDGs should be treated as investment portfolios rather than as isolated goals.

Some concrete measures need to be undertaken collectively by the international community for ensuring environmental

sustainability. These include adhering to the ODA (official development assistance) commitments and ensuring consistency between developmental objectives and country policies. Moving towards sustainable development requires a holistic thinking, and joining hands can enable attainment of the MDGs.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson Mr R K Narang

Speaker Mr Claude Mandil



Going by the prevailing energy consumption rate, it is expected that world energy demand would increase by 52% between now and 2030, and

would be dominated by fossil fuels. Consequently, carbon dioxide emissions would increase at an annual rate of 1.6%–1.7%, aggregating to nearly 37 billion tonnes by 2030. On the other hand, the number of energy-deprived population would marginally decrease from 1.6 billion to 1.4 billion. This is a clear diversion from the proposed MDGs. However, there is a possibility of change.

In order to attain a sustainable fuel mix, the *World Energy Outlook* provides an alternative

To meet the energy demand and stabilize carbon dioxide concentrations, unprecedented technology changes must occur in this century... No single technology or policy can do it all.

Claude Mandil

Executive Director, International Energy Agency, France

In brief...

scenario. The alternative case envisages that the total energy requirement of the world would decrease by 10% along with a 14% decrease in the share of fossil fuels, and carbon dioxide emissions would go down by 16%. Most targeted energy savings and emissions reduction can be attained through energy-efficient measures across sectors.

In the long run, the key challenge for achieving a sustainable fuel mix is adoption of better and environmentally benign technologies. Technological changes need to occur immediately, considering the need to replace the long-lived technology capital. However, there is no single technology or policy option, which would be able to achieve the desired results. Hence, there is a need to pursue a 'portfolio' approach for policy, technology deployment, and R&D for achieving a sustainable fuel mix.

Eradicating poverty and hunger

Moderator Mr Saeed Naqvi

Speakers • Ms Sowmya Anbumani • Mr Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury • Mr R Gopalakrishnan • Prof. Mohan Munasinghe • Dr Shiv Someshwar • Dr Maritta R Koch-Weser



The session highlighted case studies and issues relating to improvement in education, focusing on the girl child; promotion of people-centric markets; integration of community, livelihood and environmental challenges, and recent public policy initiatives; and effective resource utilization.

There are clear inter-linkages between eradicating poverty and hunger and addressing the MDGs. The Employment Guarantee Scheme, which recognizes 'employment' as a basic right rather than a 'provision', aims to provide 100 days of employment to the poor in India. It aids the mitigation of short-term poverty and hunger by employment, besides promoting rehabilitation of resource bases.

There are global impacts like climate variability that have clear implications on poverty. The patterns of monsoon variability

and other climatic shifts across the world have to be carefully studied to address their impacts on agriculture. Finance for poverty alleviation would mean making market-based development investment feasible. Creation of an international social re-insurance facility would need to be preceded by creation of a market for international development aid.

Mere dependence on public investment is not a sustainable strategy. They are catalyst and people-centric public policies and effective decentralized institutional mechanisms are facilitating systems to eradicate poverty and hunger. However, in the long run, skills of the poor need to be transformed into commodities so as to attract market investment. Micro-credit assists the poor to fulfil immediate basic needs, but in long run, it must converge into micro-enterprise. It requires addressing three fundamental issues: risk mitigation, portfolio management, and leveraging catalyst aid funds.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chairperson Ms Radha Singh

Speaker Mr Ian Johnson

The development of the agricultural sector holds relevance in the ecological, social, and economic contexts. Since the sector seeks to provide food for the world at



large, it is faced with challenges in terms of production and distribution. The sustainable development framework includes interrelated

Sustainable development lies at the heart of social sustainability: the ability of humans to live with mutual tolerance and respect in a harmonious world.

Sustainable development is not only about today but also about tomorrow; it is about the future we want to create for our children.

Mr Ian Johnson

Vice President and Head, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, The World Bank, USA

themes with agriculture as central to the discussion in most of them.

The Green Revolution improved the agricultural scenario of India and many other countries. Yet, it brought along greater dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides by nearly 20 times and increased irrigation requirements, as inevitable trade-offs. Both science and technology and public policy have, however, in this regard, had a major influence on the development of the agricultural sector.

Though the share of agriculture in the GDP (gross domestic product) contribution for India has fallen over the years, it still contributes to a large share and is central to poverty reduction with nearly two-thirds of the workforce engaged in this activity. In view of this, an expected increase in the world economy from 40 trillion dollars to 140 trillion dollars by 2050 would require tremendous growth in the agricultural sector. In the Indian context, the feasibility of an 8% growth in the GDP could not have been possible without a 4% growth in agriculture.

Agricultural growth lies in the heart of water resource management and land use management. Ecological threshold levels for effective farm management are, therefore, required to be developed.

MINISTERIAL SESSION 2

Meeting the MDGs: technology and financing issues

Moderator Prof. John D Podesta

Speakers • HE Mr Børge Brende

- HE Mr Hamdun Abdulla Hameed
- Prof. Tsugio Ide • Dr Mamphono Khaketla
- HE Mr Brice Lalonde



Since science and technology are essential elements for addressing developmental needs, countries should have technology visions with clear priorities reflecting the changing socio-economic situation. It is necessary for developing countries to invest in science education.

Eradication of poverty – the greatest global challenge – is possible only if the existing resources are used more efficiently and a holistic approach is taken towards peace, poverty, and development. It was emphasized

that the MDGs are achievable since the establishment of global targets does make a difference at the ground level.

Technology and finance becoming the weakest link in meeting the MDGs is a matter of concern. Improvement in access to technology and financing as well as global early warning systems for disaster management are lacking in the developing countries.

The session ended with the recognition of partnerships as a key factor in achieving the MDGs. There is need for recognizing the environment as one of the major assets and thus protecting it while aiming to achieve the MDGs. It is important to have a transparent, accountable, and responsible system of functioning in place.

CLOSING PANEL DISCUSSION

Energizing the World Sustainable Development Forum: charting out the road ahead

Chairperson Ms Frannie Leautier

Speakers • Dr Bindu N Lohani

- Dr R K Pachauri • Mr Khalid Sheikh
- Mr Björn Stigson • Mr S Sundar



The underlying theme of the session was moving from debates and discussions on to action. The importance of the findings of the DSDS and now the need of the World Sustainable Development Forum further emphasize the need for re-energizing the sustainable development agenda. The three Ps – purpose, patronage, and programme – need to be in place to take on the gigantic responsibility. This cannot be done without a nodal agency with a well-defined structure and role, adequate resource mobilization, data collection, coordinated efforts amongst different stakeholders, and effective partnerships.

Bulk of the global growth, infrastructure development, and resulting implications are expected to largely flow from the Asian countries. However, a separate forum for Asia as of now is a missing entity in the overall planning and sustainable development scenario. It is, therefore, imperative to build partnerships among private sectors, governments, and the civil society.

Technology and R&D have a significant role to play in the process of the developmental efforts. Unless values of environment and social equity are featured into the markets consciously, they will always remain a secondary priority. It has also been established that without partnerships, trust, and mutual cooperation, goals of sustainable development cannot be achieved. However, the most challenging and basic task remains the simplification of the entire process of sustainable development so as to make it perceivable to the layperson, arriving finally on a common pathway for a sustainable future.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Importance of water-related issues towards achieving MDGs

Welcome remarks Dr R K Pachauri
Chairperson Dr A Ramachandran
Speaker HE Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto
Vote of thanks Ms Annapurna Vancheswaran



Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto delivered the address within the larger framework of finding a solution to the issue of water. This issue is the most pressing one globally and also has direct

consequences on the very serious problem of poverty.

He spoke about the traditional importance of water in all civilizations and the concept

that water brought benefits to mankind. Where water-related problems are concerned, he said that the world cannot keep sitting and watching without taking action or offering help. Surprisingly, Japan ranks last among the developed nations in terms of the per capita availability of water even though its annual rainfall is twice the world average.

Currently, water resource management and the required infrastructure are in good shape in Japan, providing for a proper balance between the supply and demand of water. In order to properly manage these resources, rules need to be devised and a system put in place. Efforts are on to conserve groundwater, as excessive consumption causes land subsidence and salination. Other nations can learn from the Japanese experience, which has generated a rich database derived through the process of dealing with failures.

Problems relating to water differ from country to country; hence, water resource management should take into account the economic and social milieu of the country involved. Countries also need to cooperate with each other in finding solutions to problems.

In order to accomplish a 'sustainable water supply', we, the mankind, need to acknowledge the common issues related to water as a resource, water for fulfilment of dignified life, and water as a platform to use the wisdom of human being.

HE Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, Former Prime Minister of Japan

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