

# *Governance, the Post 2015 Development Agenda and Global Goals in the Asian Context*

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Earth  
System  
Governance



# *Post 2015 Development Agenda & Sustainable Development*

Two Processes

Post 2015 Development Agenda /  
Secretary General's High Level Panel

Sustainable Development Goals /  
Open Working Group on SDGs

**Common Global Goals /  
General Assembly**  
(From Sept. 2013)

- ⊕ Should merge Post 2015 & SDG processes: One (not 2) sets of goals
- ⊕ Focus should be on sustainable development
- ⊕ Should integrate 3 dimensions of Sustainable Development
  - ⊕ Economic, Social, Environmental
- ⊕ Should be universal – goals for all countries
  - ⊕ Not just ODA (although will still include ODA)
  - ⊕ What each country will do itself
- ⊕ Should be for all stakeholders (not just governments)

Asia is highly diverse: income, geography, natural resources, etc.

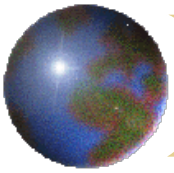


# *Regional, National, Local Context: Goals at Different Levels*

**Common  
Global Goals**

**National Goals  
According to National  
Conditions**

**Goals for Stakeholders  
(Bottom Up Approach)**



# *Importance of Governance for Global Goals*

Current governance structures are inadequate

Process of creating goals is a governance issue

Policies and measures to implement goals

Accountability mechanisms

Process for revision





# *What Governance Reforms are Important?*

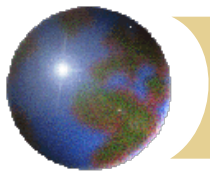
- ✦ Mainstream sustainable development into other policies
- ✦ More coordination between ministries and sectors
- ✦ Multiple levels of government need to work together
- ✦ Monitoring & reporting to enhance accountability
- ✦ More multistakeholder participation in policy design & implementation
- ✦ Governance should expand beyond governments (informal governance mechanisms by stakeholders)



# Solutions are necessary at all levels: Multilevel Governance

Levels of Governance	Advantages & Disadvantages	Roles
<input type="checkbox"/> Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global cooperation often needed</li> <li>• Global cooperation is cumbersome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set overarching goals</li> <li>• Assist implementation, capacity bldg</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional / Subregional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation &amp; coordination easier than global</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist implementation</li> <li>• Assist capacity building</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key powers to tax, spend, regulate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set national goals and targets</li> <li>• Regulation, taxing, spending</li> <li>• Responsible for implementation</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Subnational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to implementation, knows local conditions</li> <li>• Limited power, sometimes problems aren't local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop local goals</li> <li>• Implementation</li> <li>• Greener local infrastructure</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-gov't (informal) -- Business, NGOs, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key actors: Individuals &amp; businesses</li> <li>• Sometimes faster than gov't</li> <li>• Sometimes difficult to coordinate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced/greener consumption</li> <li>• Reduced/greener production</li> <li>• Influence on governments</li> </ul>

- **One level can't solve problems alone**
- **Need cooperation between & within levels**
- **Principle of subsidiarity: delegation to lowest appropriate level**



# *Regional Integration & Sustainable Development*

**Economic Integration/  
Trade & Investment Liberalisation**

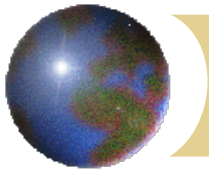
**Sustainable Development**

Make sure progress  
& institutionalization  
of SD keeps pace  
with trade &  
investment  
liberalization!

- ✦ Regional integration is a key long term trend
- ✦ SD should be at the center of regional integration
  - ❖ Basic human needs and environmental sustainability
  - ❖ Including green economy / green growth
  - ❖ Trade & investment liberalization ok, but SD at the center
- ✦ This will help promote new metrics (e.g. beyond GDP)
- ✦ Linkage of SD and regional integration will reduce worries about losing trade competitiveness due to SD policies (because all implement at the same time)



**Sustainable development could be the leading area of Asian integration**  
(Europe: environment was leading area of cold war détente in 1970s)



# *Regional Integration & ASEAN*

- ⊕ Center of regional integration may be ASEAN & others (+3, +x?)
- ⊕ Already some institutionalization
  - ⊞ East Asian Summit, various ministers meetings (environment, energy, etc.)
  - ⊞ Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) (some focus on energy and environment)
- ⊕ ASEAN Community by 2015 (3 parts)
  - ⊞ Political-Security Community
  - ⊞ Economic Community
  - ⊞ Socio-Cultural Community (environment included here)
- ⊕ ASEAN and Sustainable Development
  - ⊞ ASEAN activities cover 3 dimensions of SD
  - ⊞ But SD is not officially the main organizing principle
  - ⊞ ASEAN countries work on SD individually
- ⊕ Recommendation: ASEAN should put SD at the center



ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN NATIONS







# *APEC & Sustainable Development*

- ✦ Has a comprehensive perspective, should lead SD
- ✦ Some positive elements in various statements & declarations
- ✦ However, main focus still on trade & investment liberalization, not SD
- ✦ Focus on “sustainable growth” (what does this mean?)
  - ❖ Economic growth + sustainability?
  - ❖ Continuation of traditional unsustainable growth?
- ✦ Environment ministers met in 2012; previous meeting was 1997
  - ❖ “since sustainable development is a cross-cutting issue, implementation of the related initiatives have been carried out by the relevant sectoral fora”
- ✦ APEC has groups relating to specific SD areas
  - ❖ Agriculture/food, energy, health, human resources, illegal logging, oceans, transportation women, mining (But not SD or environment)
- Recommendation: APEC should put SD as its main focus





# Conclusion

- ✦ SD needs to move beyond environment ministers
  - ❖ Economic and sector ministries need to focus on SD
- ✦ SD community should engage main economic & sectoral policy processes
  - ❖ Not just discuss among themselves
- ✦ Implementation in the national and local context

## Key Indicator of Better Governance:

When presidents; prime ministers; central bankers; ministers of finance, economy, trade, energy, etc., explicitly emphasize the goal of sustainable development and sustainability, not economic growth.



**Sustainable  
Development**



- Economy, trade ministers
- Energy, sector ministers, etc.
- APEC, ASEAN, etc



**Thank You !**

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**RIO+20**  
United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

# *Global Level SD Governance*

## **High Level Political Forum**

- Replacement of CSD
- Currently discussing in WG
- Some proposed “Sustainable development Council” at Rio+20

## **UNEP**

- Universal membership in Governing Council
- Agreed in GA: Next implement in GC

## **Possible Functions of HLPF**

- Political leadership & guidance
- Enhance integration of the 3 pillars of SD
- Platform for dialogue and agenda setting
- Improve coordination & coherence within the UN
- Follow up the progress
- Sharing information and experience
- Strengthen science policy interface & evidence based decisions
- (Does not specifically mention accountability or general capacity building)

(A few from Rio+20)





# *Discussion of Current SD Governance in Asia*

## ✦ Evaluation of SD Progress: Mixed

- ❖ Significant economic & social progress, but still extensive poverty, worsening inequality
- ❖ Environment:
  - Stronger efforts, policies & awareness but
  - Offset by strong economic & population growth

## ✦ Governance

- ❖ Some hopeful national trends
  - Mainstreaming: China's NDRC & 5Y Plans, Korea's Green Growth
  - Participation: Philippines: Nat. SD Strategy
  - Concepts: Bhutan's Gross National Happiness
- ❖ Efforts by regional organizations (ADB, UNDP, UNEP, etc.)
- ❖ Governance isn't the only factor affecting SD
- ❖ Overall, still strong perception of environment / economy tradeoff, prioritization of economic growth
- ❖ Many stakeholders, decision makers, are still not persuaded of importance of SD

