

EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS AND SPEARHEADING INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

1 Context/Rationale

The active and meaningful participation of stakeholders is a critical feature of effective governance for sustainable development. The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) Showcase Programme demonstrates the prototype of a regional platform for forging social capacity for achieving sustainable development. Since 2005, the 58 field projects supported under the programme, have provided useful results and valuable lessons achieved with the support of prominent experts and leading research institutes in the region.

This parallel session was intended to promote discussions about ways to empower stakeholders, strengthen the nexus of policy, science and field actions and underscore the need for a regional platform that will enable the stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to achieve sustainable development in the realms of the post-2015 Development Agenda. The session was co-organised by IGES and the United Nations Environment Programme through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

2 Objectives

At the parallel session, experts and representatives of the project implementation organisations and research institutes presented their observations on APFED and project achievements, as well as on the need for a regional collaborative platform. The discussions were conducted with the following objectives:

- To highlight the key achievements of the Programme and its projects.
- To propose ways to feed good practices and lessons learned under APFED into the post-2015 development agenda setting and implementation process.
- To articulate possible actions to capitalise upon the achievements to make useful contributions to the process of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- To explore an enhanced regional platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration on sustainable development.
- To exchange views on the modalities to mobilise support and partnership to buttress such a regional platform.



3 List of Speakers

[Welcome Remarks]

Hideyuki Mori President, IGES

[Opening Remarks]

Eisaku Toda Director, International Strategy Division, Global Environment Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment, Japan

[Video Presentation]

APFED Voices from the Ground

[Panel Discussion]

Facilitator:

Masanori Kobayashi Fellow, Graduate School of Environment and Information Sciences,
Yokohama National University

Panelists:

Emil Salim Chairman / Council's Member on Economics and Environmental Affairs at the Advisory Council to
The President, The Republic of Indonesia

Akio Morishima President and Director General, Japan Environment Association /
Special Research Advisor, IGES

Parvez Hassan Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan / Senior Partner of Hassan & Hassan (Advocates)

Kaveh Zahedi Regional Director and Representative,
United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)

Intervention by APFED Collaborators (*through video link)

- Agus Syarip Hidayat, Indonesia Institute of Science, Indonesia*
- Chino Gaston, Journalist for GMA 7, Philippines*
- Mahmood A. Khwaja, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan*
- Manesh Lacoul, APFED Showcase Facility, UNEP*
- Maria Rosario Piquero Ballescas, Toyo University, Japan
- Oleg Shipin, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand*
- Smriti Felicitas Mallapaty, Freelance Journalist, Nepal
- Suneel Pandey, The Energy and Resources Institute, India*
- Yogesh Gokhale, The Energy and Resources Institute, India*

[Closing Remarks]

Kaveh Zahedi

4 Key Messages

• **Stakeholder empowerment is effective and indispensable to achieve sustainable development. Catalytic support is required in order to instigate stakeholder actions and institutionalise stakeholder groups.**

• **Multi-stakeholder collaboration is effective in resolving the problems of environmental degradation, eradicating poverty, developing sustainable livelihood and upscaling successful undertakings.**

• **Policy development must be facilitated in parallel with the pilot projects that demonstrate the actions effective in achieving sustainable development.**

• **Achievements, lessons learned and recommendations must be demonstrated to support the ongoing process on Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda.**

• **Asia and the Pacific must strengthen a regional platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration, and mobilise support from multiple partners including governments, the private sector and NGOs. A "SDG Showcase" Programme could be a way to follow the APFED Showcase Programme and strengthen linkages with ongoing relevant international processes.**

5 Summary of Presentation

Hideyuki Mori underlined the key feature of APFED to promote sustainability policies and actions through the multi-stakeholder and multifaceted approaches. He stated that APFED was launched as a Japanese government initiative in 2001 under the strong leadership of the late Ryutaro Hashimoto, former Prime Minister of Japan. The prominent experts had developed policy recommendations and pursued their implementation through policy dialogues and pilot projects. He expressed his gratitude over the achievements and continuous progress that emanates from APFED activities.

Eisaku Toda emphasised the leading role played by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) in supporting APFED activities. The MOEJ supported APFED as a follow up to the 2000 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific held in Kitakyushu. Over the past decade, APFED has been propagating policy recommendations for achieving sustainable development and supported policy dialogues and field projects in Asia and the Pacific. He expressed his hope that APFED achievements can be capitalised upon in the ongoing processes aimed at sustainable development.

A short video clip was shown which demonstrated the achievements and future challenges of five out of the 58 projects supported since 2005. The APFED Showcase Programme was intended to promote innovation in policy development, technology application, social mobilisation, market development and partnership building. The representatives who have implemented the APFED Showcase projects presented the project achievements and future challenges. The presented projects were (i) a microhydro project in Indonesia, (ii) a household water filtering project (Nadi filter) in Pakistan, (iii) green colleges in India, (iv) environmental right advocacy in China, and (v) wildlife conservation in Pakistan.

Masanori Kobayashi recapitulated the feature of the APFED Showcase Programme in supporting innovative actions at the field level, involving prominent experts and leading research institutes in the region. Questions were posed to the panellists about the lessons learned and ways forward to build upon the Programme achievements.

Emil Salim commended the leadership demonstrated by the Japanese Government. He stated that APFED was instrumental in undertaking assessment and policy recommendations for achieving sustainable development and supported policy dialogues, capacity development and stakeholder empowerment for advancing policy development and field actions in Asia and the Pacific. APFED addressed a wide range of sustainability policy issues ranging from climate change, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation to 3Rs or resource management. He stated that Asia and the Pacific still has unfinished tasks in promoting sustainable development.

Akio Morishima underpinned that the APFED programmes brought together knowledge and ingenuity to forge actions in the region toward achieving sustainable development. He emphasised that the APFED Showcase Programme allowed stakeholders in the region to experiment innovative actions and the leading research institutes to play an advisory role and monitor and evaluate the project. In addition, field actions were useful in catalysing policy and institutional transformation at the national level and creating conditions conducive to achieving sustainable development.

Pavez Hassan stressed the need to facilitate the development of regional and national policy and institutional frameworks on public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and judicial proceedings. He underlined that there is an impediment in the region to the public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and judicial proceedings over environmental matters. He advocated the idea of developing an Asia-Pacific regional convention on these access issues.

Kaveh Zahedi, UNEP Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific highlighted that the APFED Showcase projects demonstrated concrete attempts to resolve environmental degradation,

eradicate poverty and develop alternative sustainable livelihood in Asia and the Pacific. He stated that it is vital to disseminate information on good practices demonstrated under the Programme and to facilitate replication and upscaling of such practices taking into account varying local conditions. It was also suggested that the approach taken by the Showcase Programme was useful in supporting the post-2015 development agenda implementation and one way forward could be a “SDG Showcase” to serve as a follow-up to the APFED Showcase Programme.

Maria Rosario Piquero Ballescas presented a project for promoting environmental education and sustainable livelihood in the protected forest areas in Cebu, Philippines and stated the advantage of field activities in mobilising communities and providing visible benefits. She highlighted that various income generating activities have helped informal settlers in the protected forest areas in complying with the rule of tree protection, halting illegal logging and promoting sustainable livelihood relying on the use of non-timber forest resources. She hoped that some of the good practices demonstrated by other APFED Showcase projects could be replicated in their project site such as the domestic water filtering project in Pakistan.

Smriti Felicitas Mallapaty expressed the usefulness of packaging good practices at the community level for protecting the environment and improving the people’s livelihood. She explained that she had visited one of the APFED Showcase projects in Nepal that uses the solar power for drying silk worms. The project demonstrated the renewable energy application in the village that is linked with local productive activities. She suggested that it would be beneficial to combine some other good practices of the Showcase projects in order to facilitate livelihood changes toward sustainability.

Six other speakers participated through the multi-media broadcasting system. Suneel Pandey emphasised that TERI’s involvement in project monitoring helped reinforcing its research work. TERI has monitored projects not just in India, but also in neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Sri Lanka. Oleg Shipin underlined that the projects served as useful case studies for research and education and suggested that it would be useful to continue similar undertakings. Manesh Lacoul stated that the APFED Showcase Programme received over 1,000 applications from 51 countries and this was a reflection of the positive response from stakeholders in the region. He accentuated a need for promoting information dissemination and stakeholder involvement in promoting replication of good practice arising from the APFED Showcase projects.

Questions and comments were posed from the audience. Panellists responded by stating that the region still lacks the mechanisms for supporting innovative policy development and field actions in the context of achieving sustainable development. Multi-stakeholders engagement and partnership were also said to be a critical factor for the success of sustainability activities. Universities are important partners in developing human resources and supporting innovating activities toward achieving sustainable development. Future Earth, an international research programme on sustainability provides a useful platform to link field actions with global sustainability. Energy and a question of nuclear power generation require further research and policy dialogues with a view to building a common ground for establishing a sustainable society. Regional endeavours and collaboration require support from the government, but it would be important to mobilise support from the private sector and other non-governmental organisations and partners. It was announced that the revised casebook of the APFED Showcase Programme will be released later this year to support information dissemination and good practice replication.

Masanori Kobayashi, expressed his hope that the multi-stakeholder partnership and movement for promoting sustainability field actions would continue with renewed support by partner organisations. Kaveh Zahedi concluded the discussions by underlining the importance of reinforcing actions in Asia and the Pacific for achieving sustainable development and reassured the readiness and willingness of UNEP/ROAP in supporting endeavours in the region in the pursuit of sustainable development.