

**PL-12 Empowering Stakeholders and Spearheading Innovation for Sustainable Development:
Lessons from the Field and Future Perspectives**

14:35-16:35, Thursday 24 July 2014

This parallel event was aimed to discuss the achievements of the Asia – Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) Showcase Program and future perspectives, particularly regional cooperation for fostering innovative field activities toward achieving sustainable development. The event was co-organised by the United Nations Environment Programme through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP) and IGES.

Mr. Hideyuki Mori, IGES President, underlined the key feature of APFED to promote sustainability policies and actions through the multi-stakeholder and multifaceted approaches. Mr. Eisaku Toda emphasised the leading role played by the Japanese Environment Ministry in supporting APFED activities. A short video clip was played to show the achievements and future challenges of five out of 58 projects supported since 2005.

Prof. Emil Salim commended the leadership shown by the Japanese Government and Prof. Akio Morishima underpinned that the APFED programmes brought together knowledge and ingenuity to forge actions in the region toward achieving sustainable development. Dr. Pavez Hassan stressed the need for facilitating the development of regional and national policy and institutional frameworks on public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and judicial proceedings. Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, UNEP Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific highlighted the usefulness of APFED Showcase projects in supporting the post-2015 development agenda implementation and hinted the way forward by referring to an “SDG Showcase” as a possible follow-up to the APFED Showcase Program.

Dr. Maria Rosario Piquero Ballescas stated the advantage of field activities in mobilising communities and providing visible benefits. Ms. Smriti Felicitas Mallapaty expressed the usefulness of packaging good practices at the community level for protecting the environment and improving the people’s livelihood. Six other presenters spoke through a multi-media broadcasting system. Dr. Suneel Pandey emphasised that TERI’s involvement in project monitoring helped reinforcing its research work. Dr. Oleg Shipin underlined that the projects served as useful case studies for research and education, and Mr. Manesh Lacoul referred to a need for promoting information dissemination and stakeholder involvement in promoting replication of good practice arising from APFED Showcase projects.

Questions and comments were posed from the audience. Panellists responded by stating that the region still lacks the mechanisms to support innovative policy development and field actions in the context of achieving sustainable development. Multi-stakeholder engagement and partnership were also said to be critical factors for the success of sustainability activities. Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, moderating the discussions, expressed his hope that the multi-stakeholder partnership and movement for promoting sustainability field actions would continue with renewed support by partner organisations. Mr. 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.

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