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

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Post 2015 Development Agenda & Sustainable Development

- 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)
## Levels of Governance

### Advantages & Disadvantages

<table>
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<th>Levels of Governance</th>
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| Global               | • Global cooperation often needed  
                      • Global cooperation is cumbersome | • Set overarching goals  
                      • Assist implementation, capacity building |
| Regional / Subregional | • Cooperation & coordination easier than global | • Assist implementation  
                      • Assist capacity building |
| National             | • Key powers to tax, spend, regulate | • Set national goals and targets  
                      • Regulation, taxing, spending  
                      • Responsible for implementation |
| Subnational          | • Close to implementation, knows local conditions  
                      • Limited power, sometimes problems aren’t local | • Develop local goals  
                      • Implementation  
                      • Greener local infrastructure |
| Non-gov’t (informal) | • Key actors: Individuals & businesses  
                      • Sometimes faster than gov’t  
                      • Sometimes difficult to coordinate | • Reduced/greener consumption  
                      • Reduced/greener production  
                      • Influence on governments |

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- One level can’t solve problems alone
- Need cooperation between & within levels
- Principle of subsidiarity: delegation to lowest appropriate level
Regional Integration & Sustainable Development

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
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.
Thank You!

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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