

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Sustainable Development**

**REPORT**

**SHARED LEARNING AND REVIEW OF  
THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**12-16 March 2007**

## **NOTE**

The recommendations of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) of the Republic of Korea agreed by invited participants from China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam at the Shared Learning and Review workshop March 2007 are given in full in Chapter 6.

The remaining text of this final report has been prepared by Dr. Young-Keun Chung (Sun moon University) and Dr. Kumju Hwang (Ewha Womans University).

## PREFACE

Sustainable development can be realized when each stakeholder including government, business, civil society and the individual becomes a responsible actor. The National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD), which may take different forms depending on national and local conditions, are prerequisites for organizing ourselves to meet our collective responsibility for our common fate. They are also important tools for responding to the needs of present and future generations in a sustainable manner and fulfilling our shared international commitments, such as those made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Millennium Development Goals.

The official launch of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development in October 2006 demonstrated the Republic of Korea's strong commitment to sustainable development. Our current NSSD holds great significance in that it is a truly integrated national plan aimed at achieving balanced development in the economy, society and the environment. It is the culmination of long-term concerted efforts of a multitude of stakeholders, led by the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD) of the Republic of Korea, which is a democratic participatory governance structure.

There is no single answer to sustainable development that can be defined in advance. Rather, sustainable development can be achieved through processes of sharing, learning and adapting knowledge and experience. For the first time in Asia and the Pacific, the Republic of Korea organized the Shared Learning and Review process of its NSSD, in cooperation with the UN Division for Sustainable Development. Eight countries from the Asia-Pacific region actively participated in the process: China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The UNESCAP, the UNEP and the OECD have also made valuable contribution. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them for their remarkable participation and input in this unprecedented Shared Learning and Review process in the pursuit of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Our grateful thanks also go to our co-organizers of this fruitful process, the UN Division for Sustainable Development, for their excellent cooperation.

This Shared Learning and Review provided an incredible opportunity to all of us to identify our common and country-specific challenges with regards to the development, implementation and monitoring, and continuous improvement of NSSD and explore ways to resolve the relevant issues. The recommendations made by our peer countries will help us improve the current NSSD of the Republic of Korea, while the participating countries were able to identify the good practices of the Korean experience and gain lessons to benefit their own NSSDs.

The Republic of Korea will continuously strive to enhance its sustainable development efforts and practices, recognizing its important role at regional and international levels. We will also continue to be strongly committed to cooperating with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and other regions, in their efforts to advance their NSSDs, by sharing the lessons and good practices we have learned.

Sang-Hee Kim, Chairperson  
Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development  
Republic of Korea  
2 April 2007

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## Chapter 1

# PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SHARED LEARNING AND REVIEW OF THE NSSD OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### 1.1 International Context

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002 recommended that all countries adopt sustainable development as a basic direction for national development strategies in the 21st century. In this context, the WSSD stated that all countries should take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) and begin their implementation by 2005. Most recently, at the World Summit in 2005, world leaders confirmed their commitment to development and stressed that “the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development.”

It has been noted that underdeveloped and newly developing countries in the Asian and Pacific area have had problems in establishing their NSSDs and their implementation plans/action programs as compared to advanced countries. The United Nations (UN), therefore, has emphasized and initiated the Shared Learning and Review Workshop to promote establishing and implementing NSSDs in those countries. The UN suggested that the Republic of Korea is an appropriate nation for organizing the Shared Learning and Review of its NSSD.

The Republic of Korea is ready to be the first of the Asian and developing country to have her NSSD evaluated. This should be a good opportunity for other countries to learn the challenges, issues, and experiences involved in establishing an NSSD, when the approach is found to have broad value. It is hoped that such Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD will be of help to other countries as they seek to meet the UN target for NSSDs set out in the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

The East-Asia National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) workshop was organized in 2002 in Seoul to bring together five East-Asian countries (China, Japan, Mongolia, Philippines, and the Republic of Korea) for shared learning on the sustainable development experience and methodology, and to cooperate in the promotion of sustainable development. At the subsequent workshop in October 2005, these five East-Asian countries, together with the Netherlands and the UN, discussed strategies for sustainable development, and adopted a "Seoul Declaration." The 14th UNCSD held in May 2006 adopted and disseminated the second East-Asian NCSD workshop report as its official meeting agenda.

The Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea also aims to share the experiences of the Republic of Korea as well as other participating countries in the process of developing an NSSD, its content, implementation, and monitoring, using the NSSD of the Republic of Korea as a pilot model for the Asian and Pacific region, and to make recommendations for further improvement, implementation and monitoring of the current NSSD of the Republic of Korea.

The Government of the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), organized the Shared Learning and Review of its NSSD. This Shared Learning and Review involved participation in a Technical Meeting, which took place 19-20 December, 2006, as well as in a Shared Learning and Review Workshop, which took place 12-16 March, 2007. Government experts from China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam were invited to participate, as well as a number of international organizations of particular relevance to this process. The outcome of the Shared Learning and Review was a set of recommendations to the Government of the Republic of Korea, concerning its NSSD. These recommendations are in turn expected to feed into future revisions of the NSSD as well as influence, as appropriate, the further implementation and monitoring of the current Strategy.

## **1.2 NSSD of the Republic of Korea**

The economic growth of the Republic of Korea has been extremely rapid and development-oriented, thus it has been unbalanced and weak in terms of sustainability. Its large population relative to its land mass, and its high consumption of energy and resources has made it vulnerable to pollution problems amidst national conflicts between development and preservation. As a result, the need to integrate the Republic of Korea's economic, environmental, and social sectors necessitates a national strategy for sustainable development. The process by which the Republic of Korea has pursued such a goal began with its 1996 National Action Plan for Agenda 21, followed by the establishment of the Presidential Council on Sustainable Development in 2000. More recently, the President declared a National Vision for Sustainable Development (NVSD) in June of 2005, which was later based on the NSSD. The NVSD had at its core the integration of the environment and development; balanced development of the economy, society, and the environment; measures for the prosperity of future generations; and the joint development of both the capitol and rural regions.

The PCSD, the driving organization behind NSSD development, set for itself strategic tasks, for which meetings were coordinated with and between relevant governmental departments. Twenty-two ministries and offices in the government participated in formulating the NSSD Implementation plan, including 5 core NSSD policy themes, 48 implementation tasks, and 230 detailed tasks. They agreed to put the NSSD implementation plan into effect beginning in 2006 and continuing through 2010. The formulation process for the 48 key tasks went through two stages: initially the implementation tasks were selected from the 2002 WSSD suggested implementation plans, and were presented as part of the national sustainable development vision, and then they were revised according to the Korean situation.

The formulation of the implementation plans/action programs reflects the governmental and political commitment to the accomplishment of the NSSD, and the concrete realization of the National Vision for Sustainable Development declared by the President. It also consolidates the national sustainable development vision with a five-year (2006-2010) governmental plan of execution. The next five-year plan will commence in 2010.

Additionally, the NSSD of the Republic of Korea and its implementation plans/action programs have been created based on issues and implementation tasks from the 2002 Johannesburg world summit agreement. Hence, the implementation plans function as a domestic implementation of that agreement.

The impetus for the Republic of Korea's pursuit of shared learning involving its NSSD comes from the fact that many Asia Pacific countries are having problems establishing their own NSSDs. In the meanwhile, the United Nations befittingly initiated the process of shared learning and cooperation between countries to promote NSSDs, and the Republic of Korea was suggested as an appropriate country to organize such an NSSD review.

### 1.3 Shared Learning Process

The steps in the Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea followed the UN methodology developed from the Shared Learning and Review Process of the French NSDS project. The three key steps involved:

- *Preparing a background report:* The report details a three-part process involving, first, analyzing the strategy processes, second, understanding the stakeholder meetings organized by the PCSD for setting up the NSSD, and finally, presenting the results of the interviews. A questionnaire based on the Shared Learning and Review exercise methodology developed by the French government was circulated to a range of key actors in the development of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea, including government officials, civil society representatives, and the PCSD (see Appendix 1 of the Background Report). Structured interviews were then undertaken and further interviews were conducted to address certain issues brought up at the technical meeting. Based on the document analysis and interview results, a draft report was prepared and revised, and this background report was provided as a baseline resource for the participating countries.
  
- *Technical meeting:* This meeting of the Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea, hosted in Seoul, arranged government experts from five partner countries (Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Thailand) and from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development (UN DESA/DSD), the United Nations Environment Program for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and particular relevance to this process. The meeting held an initial review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea development while sharing participant countries' own experiences of the formulation of sustainable development strategies. It facilitated the understanding of the methodology of shared learning and review of the NSSD, and its importance. The participants focused on four key strategy components: process, content, monitoring and evaluation, and outcomes, which have been used as the structure for the background report. The objectives of the Technical Meeting were to:
  - Familiarize all participants in the Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD with the methodology to be followed, including the process and scheduling, as well as the

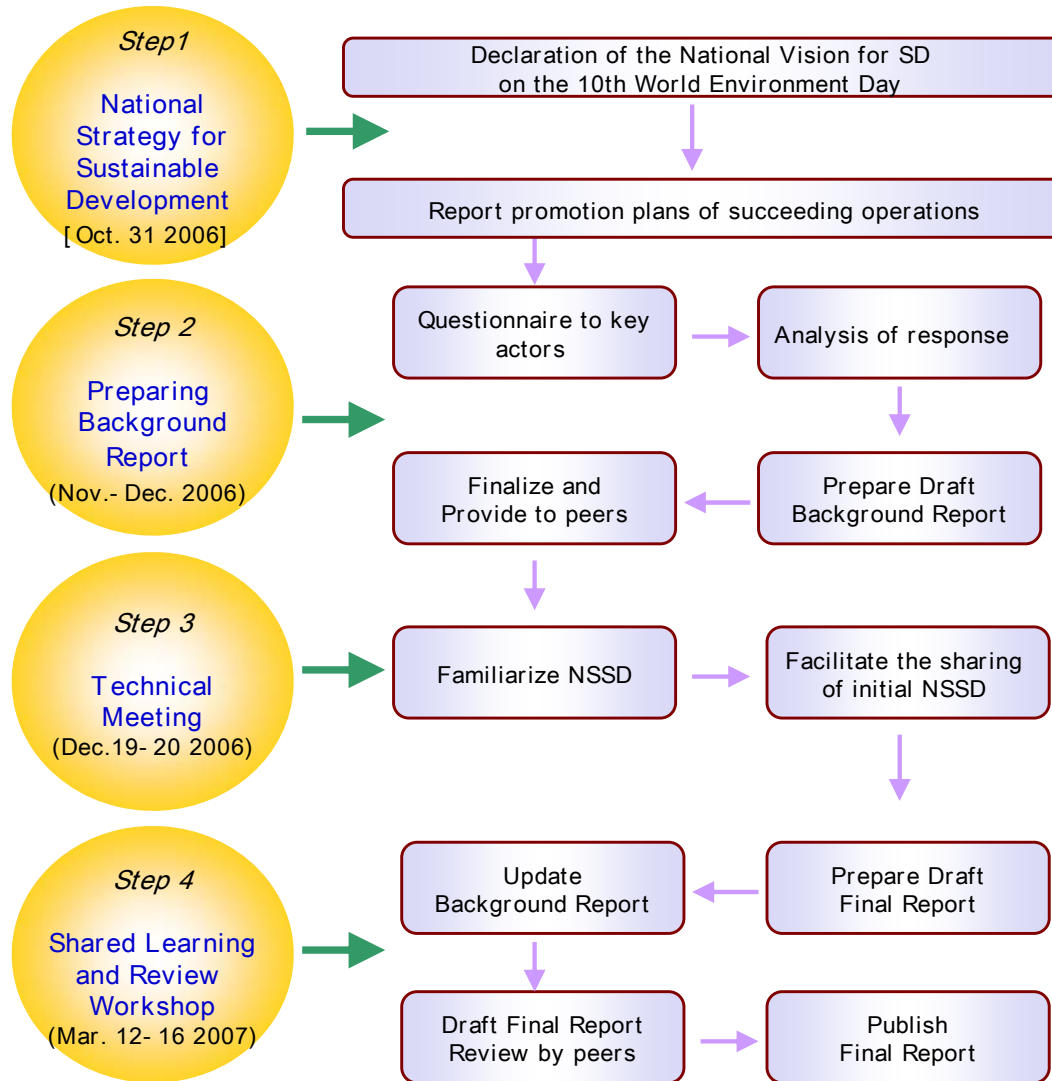
- preparations and expectations required of participants;
  - Facilitate the sharing of some initial NSSD information among participating countries;
  - Facilitate the sharing of information on the NSSD work of relevant international organizations in the area of NSSD review.
- *Shared Learning and Review workshop*: The workshop included the eight participating countries (one representative each from government and another from civil society); representatives from UN DESA/DSD, UNEP, and OECD, and numerous individuals from the PCSD : the driving organization behind the formulation of the Korean NSSD, government departments/agencies and civil society. The PCSD and Korean participants provided answers and commentary related to a set of key questions asked by the participating country representatives and they shared their own experiences by presentations. A day was set aside for the participating country representatives to discuss their observations and agree upon their recommendations. The recommendations were presented to the PCSD and the Korean participants at the end of the workshop, along with questions and answers about the recommendations.

The Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea workshop was organized to understand and explore important elements of NSSD development through exchanging questions and answers, and sharing the participant countries' own experiences, and views and opinions involved in NSSD development. The primary method of this workshop involved investigating questions based on a Background Report prepared by UN consultants presenting the analysis of structured interviews with key actors involved in NSSD development. The workshop had sessions focused on four main components of the development: process, content, monitoring and indicators, and outcomes. After finishing the presentations of particular relevance, the participants had one-day intensive discussions about their observations and recommendations based on the workshop method. The aim throughout was to demonstrate that the shared learning and review process has common benefits for all the countries involved.

As this workshop was the first held in the Asia-Pacific region, it should provide countries from within the region in particular with useful insights and sharing, as well as the Republic of Korea with constructive recommendations for future iterations of its NSSD. The Shared Learning and Review results of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea would be presented at the 15th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) between 30 April and 11 May 2007. This consolidated Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea could encourage other countries to materialize their NSSD development and provide a useful method to deal with similar exercises.



Figure 1: Steps in the Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea



The French shared learning and review methodology suggest four key components that can be used as a framework for reviewing and learning about a strategy: process, content, outcomes, and monitoring. Chapters 2–5 deal with these components, providing the findings which resulted from the Shared Learning and Review workshop and observations and recommendations from the participating country representatives. The Background Report on the NSSD of the Republic of Korea has the four key components structured to facilitate access to the information necessary to understand the NSSD strategy, development processes, and key issues and challenges related to the NSSD development.

**Process:** Chapter 2 discusses issues in the NSSD development process and the roles and contributions of key actors involved in the process.

**Content:** Chapter 3 explores the structure and content of the Korean strategy, and issues related to the integration and application of the three pillars of sustainable development in the content, themes and issues of the action programs implicated by the NSSD.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Chapter 4 deals with the monitoring structure, key actors of the monitoring, evaluation systems, and application and development plans for Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs).

**Outcomes:** Chapter 5 addresses outcomes derived from the results of the NSSD development processes and initiatives, and actions taken to actualize and facilitate NSSD implementation.

The recommendations of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea agreed by participants are given in full in Chapter 6. Detailed information on individual components related to developing the NSSD of the Republic of Korea is described in the Background Report.



**Table 1: Comparison of the NSSD for Participating Countries**

<b>Items</b>	<b>RoK</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Mongolia</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>
<b>National Sustainable Development Strategy</b>	National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Korea	National Strategy of Sustainable Development in China (China's Agenda 21)	Has National Development Plan	Has Basic Environment Plan	- Ninth Malaysia Plan - Third Outline Perspective Plan	Sustainable Development Strategy	The Philippine Agenda 21	Has National Economic and Social Development Plan	The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam's Agenda 21)
<b>Period covered</b>	2006-2010		2002-2007	2006-	- 2006-2010 - 2001-2010	1998-2006		2007-2011	
<b>Coordinating body/ Lead agency</b>	Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development	State Planning Commission/ State Science and Technology Commission	Planning Commission, Government of India	Ministry of the Environment	Economic planning unit, Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia	National Council for Sustainable Development of Mongolia	Philippines Council for Sustainable Development	National Economic and Social Development Board	Ministry of Planning and Investment
<b>Method of participation</b>	Multi-stakeholder participation (22 central govt. departments + major groups)	Multi-stakeholder participatory approach (central govt. local govt. local leading groups, NGOs)	N/A	Participatory approach involving govt. ministries and agencies	Multi-stakeholder participatory approach (government, private sector)	Multi-stakeholder Participatory approach (Gov., NGO, Business, Politicians, Academicians)	Multi-stakeholders (govt. civil society, business sector)	Multi-stakeholders (govt. NGOs/Civil Society, academic institutes)	Multi-stakeholders (20 line-ministries + 6 provincial local governments)
<b>National Council for Sustainable Development</b>	Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development		Indian Council for Sustainable Development	Japan Council for Sustainable Development		National Council for Sustainable Development of Mongolia	Philippines Council for Sustainable Development	National Committee on Sustainable Development	National Council on Sustainable Development

## Chapter 2

# PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE NSSD OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Participants from the eight invited countries were impressed with the NSSD development of the Republic of Korea. In particular, the NSSD of the Republic of Korea has a relatively long history when we consider that NSSDs in many countries have not been fully developed. In this respect, the trajectory of the Korean NSSD can be traced back to Rio Agenda 21 in 1992, while civil society and grassroots efforts have a longer history, and it is clear that civil organizations and grassroots concerns, campaigns and activities have greatly contributed to the environmental awareness and political commitment to sustainable development in the Republic of Korea. It should be noted that the NSSD of the Republic of Korea involved three turning points in the formulation of sustainable development policy, and eventually NSSD development: First, the Korean government formulated a National Action Plan to implement Agenda 21, and the 14th President, Kim Young-Sam, announced that he would be the President to improve the Environment. Second, the 15th President, Kim Dae-Jung, declared an environmental vision for the new millennium on World Environment Day in the year 2000, and a turning point in NSSD production was taken by the creation of the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD). Third, on the 4th of June 2005, the 16th President of the Republic of Korea, Ro Mu-Hyun, declared at the commemoration of World Environment Day "A National Vision for Sustainable Development," the goal of which is to continue the Republic of Korea's growth as "an advanced country while achieving balanced development of the economy, society and the environment."

The trajectory indicates that there was a strong political commitment behind the Environmental Vision and the National Vision for Sustainable Development. This was translated into an institutional commitment with the creation of the PCSD, and empowering the PCSD to mobilize governmental departments to participate in producing the NSSD and formulate implementation plans/action programs which could actualize the National Sustainable Development Vision.

### **Observations The PCSD's role and structure**

PCSD as government based multi-stakeholder coordinating body appears to be very effective. It has clear mandate, structure, financing and is supported by high level political commitment. Its function to review sectoral plans and policies is important. It appears to be in a better position to facilitate consensus and coordination than line ministries.

The participants from invited countries agreed that the PCSD, as the main driving organization in

NSSD production, played a pivotal role in formulating the NSSD of the Republic of Korea. Soon after its start, the PCSD highlighted the urgent need for producing an NSSD, and then the government and the PCSD decided in December 2000 to establish the NSSD as a mid-term policy task. The participating country representatives found the PCSD an effective leader, coordinator, organizer and manager of the NSSD development project. The PCSD has been financially supported by high level political commitment, which is a very important ingredient in the effective process of formulating sustainable development plans.

The democratic and participatory features of the PCSD were made possible by both top level governmental leadership, and the active involvement and participation of non-state actors in the creation and operation of the PCSD. The PCSD embodies multi-stakeholder participation in that the chair and two thirds of the committee members are from civil organizations, and all the functions and activities of the PCSD are fulfilled through multi-stakeholder participation. It acts as an interface for the government to take into account the views of civil society, and not only organizes and coordinates governmental departments for submitting action programs for sustainable development, but also reviews and recommends sectoral plans and policies regarding sustainable development.

The PCSD includes some distinctive features in terms of the participatory approach, membership structure and political leadership: First, more than half of the ministers in the government participate in the PCSD. This helped the PCSD actually mobilize governmental departments to participate in NSSD production and in formulating action programs. Secondly, the PCSD is composed of governmental officers, and representatives from industry and from NGOs. This allows the PCSD to take a broad view on the various issues, and to synthesize and integrate them into NSSD contents. Thirdly, the chair of the PCSD is designated from among the NGO representatives, which emphasizes the good governance of civil society, the private sector, and the government, and is one of the most important points in the objectives as well as the process of NSSD formulation. Lastly, since the current government upgraded the PCSD to become a national administrative committee, the President has been directly checking on the agendas of the PCSD. Thus the PCSD can promote presidential, governmental and political leadership in the progress of formulating the NSSD.

The UN DSD (2004) defined a Sustainable Development Strategy as "a coordinated, participatory and iterative process of thoughts and actions to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives in a balanced and integrated manner at the national and local levels." Additionally, the report specified components of the process include situation analysis, formulation of policies and action plans, implementation, monitoring and regular review. The participants from invited countries found the PCSD's participatory approach important, and recommended that the PCSD reinforce broad stakeholder participation through extending its good governance strategy to bring together various stakeholders and promote an integrated direction for their issues regarding sustainable development. This implies that the PCSD faces great pressure to coordinate and solve stakeholder issues and antagonism through consensus building, and to lead stakeholders in a proper direction to pursue and implement the NSSD. In particular, taking into account the importance of sustainable production and consumption patterns, the NSSD should clearly include and incorporate the business sector, and the PCSD should encourage and promote the business sector's participation in NSSD implementation.

**Observations  
Participatory Approach**

NSSD found to have been developed through a participatory approach with strong involvement of the business sector and other civil society representatives including NGOs.

However, they highlighted the observation that there appears to be a lack of transparency in the selection process of PCSD members, which is exacerbated by the fact that the PCSD chair and committee members are appointed at the political level. As environmental organizations have led environmental policy and integrated it into sustainable development policy, environmental organizations served as key actors from among civil organizations in NSSD development. This potentially causes the problem of a lack of balance across the three pillars and civil organizations which represent the three pillars. The integrity of the three pillars is particularly important, and it was emphasized that social and economic actors should be incorporated in PCSD membership and NSSD implementation.

It is clear that civil society has been a key actor in the NSSD development process, and actually required and pushed the government to act on establishing the NSSD, and went about producing it. However, the current Korean NSSD focuses on the government's role and implementation tasks, when instead it should include civil society implementation tasks/action plans and responsibilities as well. In this way, balanced development between social groups, and social solidarity as well as clarifying the role of civil society as an agent of change and as key actors in sustainable development can be fostered.

**Recommendations  
The PCSD's role and structure**

Ensure balance in the composition of PCSD (balance across environment, social, economic pillars as well as between types of civil society representatives).

Ensure transparency in the selection of PCSD members.

This issue is closely related to the issue of the ownership of NSSD development. The Korean government has actively shown initiative and leadership in NSSD development and implementation, and some NGOs felt uncomfortable with this strong policy-driven, top-down

NSSD process. They also felt that the government's assuming leadership may not have resulted in integrating NSSD exercises into Korean society nor in the continuous implementation of sustainable development. In spite of the fact that the PCSD has included significant NGO representation, which ensures that the ownership of NSSD development and activity actually includes the NGOs, the PCSD and civil organizations have not reached consensus on defining their roles and interactions in the process of implementing the several stages of the NSSD, the means and scheduling of engagement, and the various roles and responsibilities involved.

In spite of the participatory approach and the membership of the PCSD including civil organizations, the participants from invited countries noted the NGOs' claim that civil society's role and participation has been somewhat insufficient and unsatisfactory. They took this communications gap into account, and stressed that the transparency of civil society's involvement in NSSD implementation, and effective and sufficient communications may be necessary. They also noted that the PCSD is a government based organization, notwithstanding the participatory approach and governance.

Korean participants in the workshop, especially from NGOs pointed out that the process of NSSD establishment had actually involved a top-down rather than bottom-up process, because the President had required governmental departments to submit implementation plans. They felt the participatory approach in NSSD development was still somewhat insufficient.

The participants from invited countries found the approach to developing the NSSD seemed a good mix of both top-down and bottom-up processes to ensure constructive processes and good balance. They felt that the efficacy of the mixed approach might be important, and though the top-down approach, led by political and governmental leadership, worked well within the Korean administrative system, the iterations of NSSD implementation need to prioritize the participatory approach. Additionally, the involvement of local government seemed limited and ways to link the two levels and support local government should be pursued or at least considered in the NSSD process.

One of the key aspects of Agenda 21 dealt with the role of Major Groups, and Agenda 21 extensively identified the role of different stakeholders in the implementation of a global agreement. International experiences and agreements have highlighted that effective stakeholder participation is regarded as a key factor in the successful development and implementation of an NSSD, which entails identifying stakeholders and the roles of the government, civil society and private sectors in the process and implementation of an NSSD. However, identifying key stakeholders and defining their roles necessitates setting up a good framework, for example by using the 'major group' structure specified in Agenda 21 (women, youth, indigenous peoples, NGOs, business & industry, workers and trade unions, science and technology, farmers, local authorities), but this is sometimes difficult, because stakeholders vary as society changes. Participants from invited countries felt that including civil society and vulnerable groups both at the national and local levels in the policy-making and decision-making processes is an indispensable challenge.

### **Recommendations The PCSD's role and structure**

The role of non-governmental stakeholders could be strengthened, but without limiting the effectiveness of the PCSD.

Clarify role of civil society in NSSD implementation.



### **Recommendations Participatory Approach**

Ensure proper access of civil society and vulnerable groups to the policy-making and decision-making processes, including at the local level.

It is important to develop procedures, organizations and legal frameworks, and allocate limited resources to allow the NSSD appropriately to empower the nation to deal with comprehensive yet interrelated social, environmental and economic problems. The Korean government issued a Presidential Decree, Article 2 of which set up a legal framework for defining the main policy direction, and plans for achieving sustainable development. Article 2 contains matter regarding the establishment and enforcement of the NSSD implementation plans/action programs as adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The PCSD was also established and supported by Regulations (Presidential Decree No. 16,946) promulgated on 5 August 2005. However, participants from invited countries noted a lack of awareness and involvement at the parliamentary level in the course of strategy development, and were concerned about the vulnerability of the PCSD to political change.

The Republic of Korea is making steps to ensure continuity of the strategy beyond this particular government by enacting basic laws. The institutional basis for sustainable development in the Republic of Korea is now greatly strengthened, with the enactment of the Basic Sustainable Development Law which will aid in ensuring the continuous evolution of the NSSD for the future. The participants from invited countries recognized the importance of this legal framework, and emphasized finalizing the law. In spite of this progress, they could not find much evidence of the involvement of parliamentarians in the process of developing or debating the NSSD. The Shared Learning and Review process of the French NSSD (2005) stressed that parliamentary engagement could add perspective and considerable value to a strategy, particularly if organized in such a way that it seeks cross-party consensus. This also has the added value of helping to maintain commitment and momentum beyond elections and changes of government (p.22). In this regard, the Vietnamese and Chinese participants pointed out that their sustainable development strategies were approved by the government and the party with a firm legal basis. Due to the national governance and legal system, the Republic of Korea should make more effort to establish a legal basis for the strategy to guarantee that it is not susceptible to political change.

### **Recommendations The PCSD's role and structure**

Ensure continuity of PCSD and NSSD implementation by facilitating the enactment of appropriate legislation.

The process of developing an NSSD and the attendant implementation plans/action programs encountered enormous difficulties in coordinating responsibilities, authority and areas of expertise between governmental departments, due to the interrelated nature of the elements of sustainable development. The strategy also should ensure policy integration among social, economic and environmental policies, reinforcing the integration of preservation and development. It became important for the PCSD to lead and coordinate the activities of all governmental departments with regard to the Government's sustainable development policy. As an advisory body for the President on agenda setting and policy making, the PCSD seemed to be an appropriate organization for conducting this task, though some Korean participants pointed out certain limitations which the PCSD has in carrying out policy.

PCSD should be in a better position to facilitate the coordination of the various ministries, which participants from invited countries found desirable. The NSSD indicates that some ministries, for example the Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development, have not participated in the development process nor in PCSD membership or activities, and it seems that the PCSD membership has particularly sought collaboration with those ministries involved with the environment and economic development. It is, therefore, important to ensure adequate participation in PCSD activities by a broad spectrum of all the ministries. The PCSD recognized the shortcomings regarding some important ministries, especially the involvement of the education ministry, and that there was a plan to change this in the next round.

The participants from invited countries also paid particular attention to the role of economic actors in NSSD implementation, and the importance of economic actors' behavior and influence in the domestic and global context on the carrying out of an NSSD. They discussed as an important issue that the Republic of Korea ensure corporate participation and corporate social responsibility at the domestic and global levels in NSSD development, in particular when considering that the status of Korean corporations and their role in the Asia-Pacific region have become more influential. Overall, the PCSD should clarify its role in obtaining public consensus, and promoting inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation, and should play a decisive role in coordination and policy integration. For this it is vital to build up effective communications channels for stakeholders' consensus building and inter-governmental cooperation, as well as for mutual understanding and collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors to stimulate synergism in the course of sustainable development policy and decision-making.

### **Recommendations** **The PCSD's role and structure**

Ensure adequate participation by concerned ministries in PCSD activities.

Communication channels between PCSD and ministries as well as between government and non-governmental stakeholders, including the business community, could be made more effective.

It was noted that the implementation of the Republic of Korea's NSSD is proceeding not only on the level of the national government but also that of local governments. The PCSD and key actors participating in the NSSD development process recognized the importance of its promotion at the local government level, and legislation to bolster such a process is under way. Additionally, the PCSD is developing a road map for local sustainable development, and the participants from invited countries put emphasis on the finalization and effective implementation of this road map. This is also closely related to capacity building for effective implementation of the strategy for all of society.

An iterative process with a cyclical approach incorporating a continuous process of reviewing strategy progress and outcomes, and periodic revision through an improved process is essential for successful NSSD implementation. For this, they recommended that the PCSD should build up advocacy work through improving governmental and public awareness and participation. In effect, a successful strategy is one in which the capacity is built up to think and work strategically, as a product of all appropriate stakeholder groups in interaction. Practical and effective implementation of the NSSD entails capacity building on sectoral and broad stakeholder levels, which involves international linking and adopting good practices. Education and information circulation and distribution for the general public, in particular at the local level, is most necessary.

**Observations  
Participatory Approach**

Ensure finalization and implementation of the roadmap for local sustainable development strategies.

**Recommendations  
The PCSD's role and structure**

Strengthen role of PCSD in advocacy and capacity building

## Chapter 3

### STRATEGY CONTENT

The report on the Shared Learning process of the French National Strategy for Sustainable Development introduces the following main elements—which general international experience and guidance also suggest—for an NSSD:

- A formulation of the goals and principles of sustainable development and the vision of a sustainable national society;
- An assessment of the present situation in the country and how far it is already sustainable or where it falls short or is moving in the wrong direction;
- In the light of the above, identification of the main changes that will need to be undertaken by the different actors in society;
- Identification of the main policies and interventions that will need to be put into place to bring about the changes above. (IIED, 2005)<sup>1</sup>

As the diagram of the Korean NSSD indicates, it clearly includes the elements of general international experience and guidance introduced above. The strategy contains five main themes and each theme involves implementation tasks and detailed tasks, together with strategic objectives and goals. Each action program consists of objectives, action plans, performance indicators plus a budget, and a projected time-line.

Participants from invited countries recognized that the NSSD of the Republic of Korea contains a well-structured vision, goals, strategies and tasks, and clear targets. In particular, the 48 core tasks, selected from governmental tasks and the 2002 WSSD suggested implementation plans, and clear targets have been produced through intensive inter-governmental negotiations and consultations of various departments and agencies. In addition, securing a governmental budget for feasible and effective NSSD implementation is important. They put great emphasis on integrating the NSSD vision and strategies with sectoral plans, in particular economic development policy and associated plans.

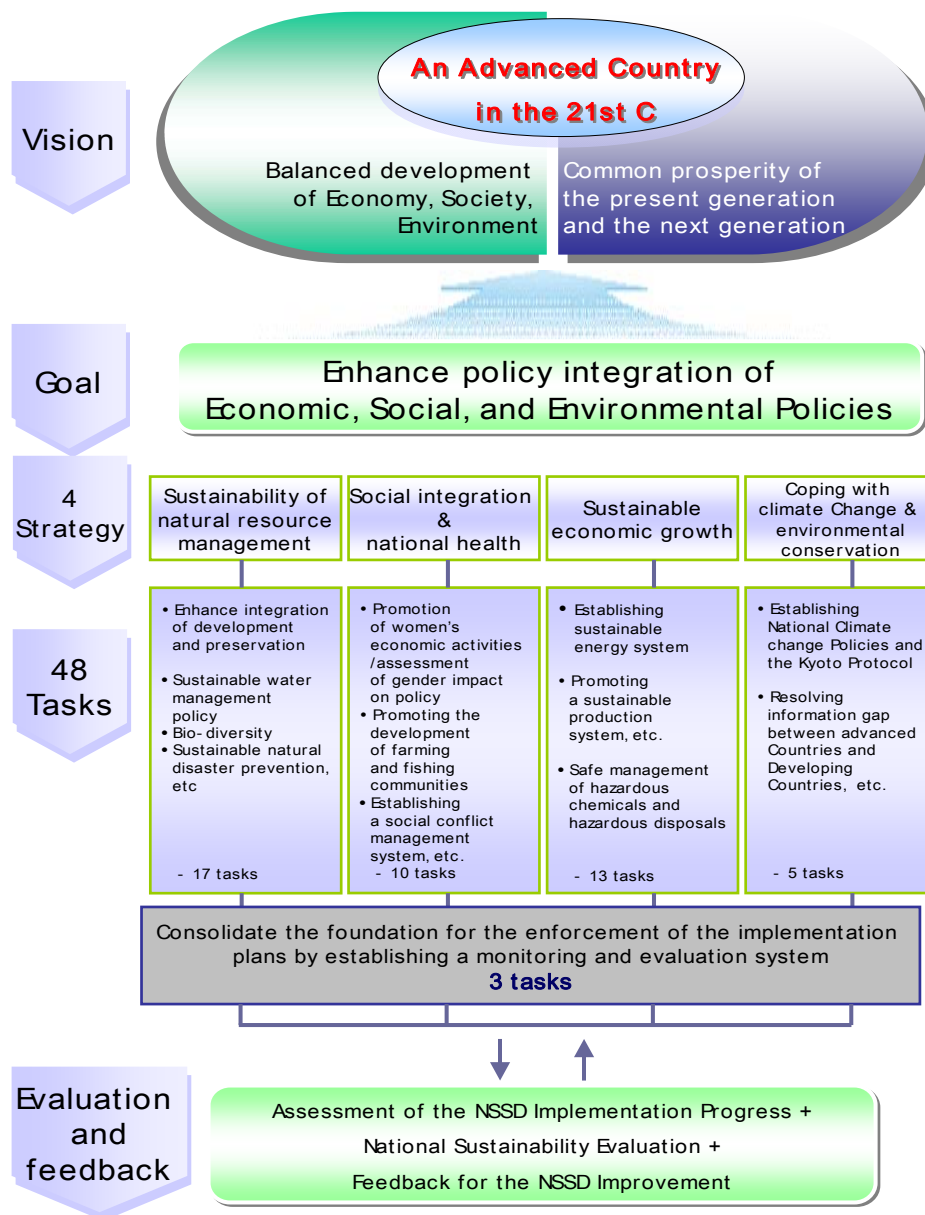
Participants from invited countries were particularly interested in integrating into cross sectoral policies the general approach of the regular ministries. The NSSD contents specified leading and collaborating governmental departments for the 48 individual implementation tasks. For example, the NSSD notes that the Ministry of Environment is in charge of the task "An increased supply of drinking water" from the first theme, "Sustainable management of natural resources," and collaborates on that task with the Ministry of Construction and Transportation. The participants from invited countries consider that this advances the feasibility of implementation as well as the crystallization of the interrelated nature of NSSD contents by clarifying the scope of responsibility and cooperation of the various governmental actors. Although coordinating departmental specialties and areas, and allocating work loads to governmental actors is complicated and controversial, the

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<sup>1</sup> The French National Strategy for Sustainable Development: Report on the Peer Review and Shared Learning Process, IIED, 2005, p. 27

PCSD managed to accomplish this challenging task and included the results in the NSSD contents. Nonetheless, participants from invited countries considered that this process of systematic integration could be taken further in future iterations. In this context evaluation and monitoring processes would be helpful.

**Figure 2: National Vision and Strategy for SD of the Republic of Korea**



### Observations

The inclusion of clear targets and detailed budget in the NSSD is very commendable.

Consistency and coherence between NSSD and existing sectoral plans are very important.

UN DSD (2004) defined the NSSD process as "a cyclical and iterative process of planning, participation, and action in which the emphasis is on managing progress towards sustainability goals rather than producing a 'plan' as an end product." The NSSD of the Republic of Korea contents will be regularly renewed every five years through the revision process. The PCSD felt that, as this NSSD is the government's very first systematic attempt, its selection of core tasks during content development was somewhat limited. Additionally, the PCSD issued assurances that during the five-year implementation period, departments that had not directly been involved in the current strategy development would gradually become involved in the continuous revisions and improvement of the NSSD through its evolving cycle.

However, the participants from invited countries felt that, though the NSSD of the Republic of Korea has a clear long-term vision (cf. figure 2), it does not include a longer-term road map which can prioritize contents and provide future guidelines for unforeseen agendas.

### Recommendations

Formulate a longer term strategy beyond 5 years (reflecting the long term vision for sustainable development).

It was noted that much of the debate during the writing of the strategy focused on environmental concerns. This is because the main focus of sustainable development in the Republic of Korea was initially derived from environmental concerns and increasing demands by stakeholders, particularly environmental organizations. As a result of this, social issues could not be fully integrated into the NSSD of the Republic of Korea. By no means is such a problem limited only to the Republic of Korea, for other countries including the UK and France have also had to deal with it, as pointed out in the French NSDS review and shared learning workshop. The "social" appears to be focusing on labor conditions, perceived earning differentials, political and economic corruption, and ideologies based on the North South relationship, etc. However, the Republic of Korea has confronted emerging issues, such as those concerning its foreign migrant worker population, and its low birth rate and aging society, all of which well indicate that issues change as society changes. Areas that could be further addressed in the content include deep-rooted or specialized social issues, since issues such as the Republic of Korea's foreign migrant worker issue may be swept aside by rhetoric that only speaks of sustainable development in general terms. In future iterations of the NSSD of the

Republic of Korea, it would be useful to address some of these and other social issues in more depth.

Participants from invited countries recognized that the integration and balance of the economic, social, and environmental pillars were a real challenge, and that individual countries' views and situations determine the approach to overcoming the problem. They witnessed that the Republic of Korea has faced sharp antagonism between advocates and supporters of economic centered development and those supporting environmental conservation, from the so-called IMF period to the present. However, the participants from invited countries felt that it would help to place more emphasis on integrating the three pillars in reviewing and revising the NSSD both at the governmental and public levels. For this, good governance between the government, civil society and the private sector is useful to integrate the three pillars through consensus building and enhanced stakeholder participation in implementing the strategy. This is particularly important in identifying emerging social issues, as well as in balancing economic development and environmental conservation. In this regard, communication and education are very important. Additionally, the integration and balance among the three pillars should be strengthened and enhanced in the evaluation of NSSD implementation and the revision processes of the strategy.

### **Recommendations**

**Enhance balance between three pillars of sustainable development in NSSD.**

As the Republic of Korea has continuously improved her economic and political influence in the Asia-Pacific region, she should recognize her status and role in this area. As achieving and integrating sustainable development entails close international cooperation as defined in the Agenda 21 implementation tasks and WSSD recommendations, the initial tasks for sustainable development include a thorough analysis of individual countries' emerging roles in sustainable development at the global level. The Republic of Korea's emerging role could be further recognized at both regional and global levels, and the NSSD should incorporate this. It is also important to evaluate and enhance the implementation of the JPOI agreed to at the WSSD in 2002, and the MDGs, which should be incorporated in NSSD contents, which can encourage and provide good practices for neighboring countries. In particular, the NSSD addresses the plan to improve the level of the Republic of Korea's ODA, as her ODA was less than the OECD DAC (Development Assistance Committee) member countries' ODA of GNI. Additionally the NSSD recognizes that ODA includes support for enhancing capacity in developing countries in Asian countries for sustainable development. There was a discussion about business sector involvement and contribution to ODA, but the NSSD does not address the role of the business sector in ODA.

The participants from invited countries also regarded science and technology as a salient tool to overcome challenges to sustainable development. Policy focusing on and developing environmental science and technology is vital to resolve issues and themes, including natural resources management, climate change, energy, production processes, etc. As the Republic of Korea has achieved great technological advancement, she should utilize her technological strength for sustainable development, which could provide a good practice to share in the Asia-Pacific region.

This also should be stretched to international cooperation including international technological collaboration and technology transfers.

### **Observations**

It is important to acknowledge the emerging role of the Republic of Korea regionally and globally in sustainable development.

The Republic of Korea's emphasis on the role of science and technology in overcoming challenges for sustainable development provides a very good example for other countries in the region.

Incorporate the internationally agreed development goals, including the JPOI and MDGs, in the NSSD as done by the Republic of Korea, is important and provides a good example for other countries.

Considering the theme of the external dimensions of an NSSD, the Korean policy and strategy can have great influence on the economies and environments of the Asia-Pacific countries. In particular, The Republic of Korea is expanding her economic activities in those countries, and issues like trade, foreign direct investment, and corporate behavior related to environmental and labor conditions, are emerging as having a tremendous impact.

In this regard, the participants from invited countries put a great deal of emphasis on the role and involvement of the business sector in NSSD development. They found a lack of international trade policy, sustainable trade policy or any FTA (Free Trade Agreement) related material in the NSSD contents. The PCSD explained that FTA negotiations were at that time under way, so the NSSD could not address this issue, but that it would be included in the next NSSD as a continuously evolving process. The issue related to sustainable foreign trade policy in NSSD from the perspective of WTO targets was also raised. Additionally, corporations are key agents of change in the move toward sustainable development. The Shared Learning and Review emphasized the need to further adapt the NSSD to changing situations, in particular the globalization of corporate activities and the FTA, alongside the relative lack of involvement by the Korean business sector in strategy development. Participants from invited countries suggest that the strategy should address international issues of sustainable development, and provide a mechanism to focus and organize partnerships between international actors to drive sustainable development.

### **Recommendations**

Ensure international aspects of sustainable development (such as trade, foreign direct investment, international cooperation and global environment) are adequately addressed.



## Chapter 4

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Participants from invited countries were very positive regarding monitoring and evaluation systems with Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs). In particular, they acknowledged that monitoring systems look transparent and the structure of the evaluation system is well designed with a multi-stakeholder approach, though some of the Republic of Korea participants from NGOs put emphasis on more multi-stakeholder participation in the evaluation process. They highlighted that the monitoring framework can serve as a model for many developing countries. The well designed monitoring systems can enable monitoring and evaluating degrees of achievement of the NSSD using a three tiered monitoring system. First, individual departments regularly carry out voluntary monitoring with performance indicators for action tasks. Second, NSSD implementation is monitored through evaluation plans by the Office for Governmental Policy Coordination under the Prime Minister. Finally, NSSD implementation is monitored and evaluated through the national sustainable development indicator system by the PCSD.

#### Observations

Monitoring and evaluation are critical for making necessary modifications to the NSSD content.

The monitoring system developed by PCSD is very good, useful and commendable.

The NSSD clearly states that a biennial white paper would be published and that national Sustainable Development Indicators should be developed. The National Sustainable Development Indicators system was set up in December 2006 by the PCSD. A pilot operation of the system was carried out by April 2007 and the results published on the fifth of June in 2007, on World Environment Day. The indicators will be supplemented and improved continuously taking into account international trends and changes in domestic conditions.

Participants from invited countries discussed the reporting period of individual departmental voluntary monitoring with performance indicators for action tasks based on the participants view that it was not practical to report annually and that some indicators are not designed to show progress from year to year. The issue that evaluation by task would be more effective than evaluation by ministry was raised. The PCSD recognized the practical difficulties with the ministries' reporting requirements for sustainable development. The PCSD will develop training programs for governmental officials to deal with the reporting and electronic tools to minimize the work load.

Participants from invited countries discussed who would be responsible for individual departments. The PCSD will collaborate with the KNSO (Korea National Statistical Office) which has researchers developing and producing sustainable development indicators and the web-based statistical service system. Individual departments will have a focal point for reporting, and that focal point will consist of a sustainable development officer and the reporting officer from individual ministries. Additionally, the PCSD prepared the organization of a working group for monitoring and evaluation and statistical information among 22 inter-ministerial working groups.

The applicability of sustainable development indicators was an issue for discussion in this review. Some indicators do not seem appropriate for evaluating sustainable development in each issue or field. Governmental departments may need to recognize the importance of the role of indicators in the progress of sustainable development and understand the contexts and conditions of the indicators. In addition, indicators can be produced at different intervals, and the PCSD recognized this issue and devised two different systems: performance indicators in progress and overall sustainable development indicators at the macro level.

### **Recommendations**

Better integration and explanation of the structure of indicators could address inter-linkages among indicators.

Indicators should address linkages between long- and short-term aspects of sustainable development.

In general, participants from invited countries acknowledged the good monitoring and evaluation system, but they contemplated that the actual selection of indicators and core indicator sets should be appropriately considered and developed. In line with the selection issue, the optimal number of indicators was discussed with considerations of context, situation, country and area specific issues. Due to this complexity, they agreed with the continuous development and adaptation processes of the selection of indicators. At the moment, 77 indicators are selected for monitoring sustainable development in the Republic of Korea, but a smaller core indicator set is necessary for effective communications with the public. The indicator set can be used as an effective tool to raise awareness of sustainable development in the government and local governments, and the core indicator set for public communication is particularly important for public awareness of sustainable development. The importance of the selection of indicators and a core indicator set should also be applied to the local level governments.

### **Observations**

Raising awareness of sustainable development through the use of monitoring and evaluation instruments is very important.

## Recommendations

Identify core set of indicators for raising public awareness.

Participants from invited countries raised the issue that the Republic of Korea may also pay more attention to monitoring and evaluation at the local level. The Republic of Korea is currently undertaking research to establish local level guidelines to be ready by the end of June 2007, as local indicators may differ according to local conditions and different levels of local government. The PCSD explained that local level governments produce their own indicators for the three pillars, and that the PCSD is trying to help them with integration and methods for using the indicators for monitoring sustainable development.

Some of the Korean participants from NGOs acknowledged that focal points in ministries have the information and knowledge concerning sustainable development, but that there exist different levels of sustainable development knowledge and information at the general level in governmental departments, which can cause inappropriate attempts at taking (or avoiding) responsibility. In this sense, an external monitoring system for each ministry may be necessary. In addition, the monitoring system should include incentive and penalty systems to maintain motivation.

Participants from invited countries discussed the internal and external evaluation system based on the view that monitoring of the government by the government may be problematic. Two independent, internal and external, monitoring systems could provide a more robust feedback system. A bottom-up approach is respected when a multi stakeholder approach is used to evaluate and analyze the results of the monitoring and assessment through the PCSD. Monitoring is a tool for upgrading the NSSD. Regarding bottom-up evaluation, there are opportunities for bottom-up participation in direction and vision formation, as well as participation by the legislative and judicial branches in handling critical feedback. The monitoring and evaluation process is a technical and involved process, with little room for creativity or dispute. No systematic relationship between SD indicators and socio-economic indicators has been established yet. The Republic of Korea also has two independent bodies for evaluation. The internal body for evaluation is under the Governmental Performance Evaluation Committee.

## Observations

The participatory approach to monitoring is crucial.

Self-monitoring is important and often cost-effective, but not sufficient.

Mechanisms to ensure follow-up to monitoring outcomes are important.

Independent evaluations can be valuable.

## Chapter 5

# OUTCOMES

Participants recognized that it is too early to discuss outcomes in detail, since implementation has only been underway for about four months, since the NSSD was submitted to the President at a Cabinet meeting, and publicly confirmed and presented only on October 31, 2006.

Defining the parameters of “outcomes” needs to be addressed, in particular, in countries where the implementation of an NSSD is relatively new. Setting the “expected outcome” at the outset of implementation might be a good way to address this problem. However, expected outcomes were not fully discussed during the preparation process nor throughout the NSSD development course, and participants from invited countries noted that this causes a lack of common understanding of outcomes, and that outputs and outcomes are somewhat ambiguous.

### Observations

Given the early status of NSSD implementation, it is too early to observe outcome and impact of the NSSD.

A common understanding of outputs/implementation and outcomes is important.

Participants from invited countries found that various institutional structures established during the strategy process appear to be working well. In particular, enacting a Basic Law on Sustainable Development and Sustainability-Enhancing policies, and creating the position of SD officer in 26 central administrative bodies provided good model practices for other countries. Self-monitoring systems by department, progress reports to the President by the PCSD, performance evaluations of each department on sustainable development tasks, and the SDI system led by the PCSD constitute an appropriate review and evaluation system, as well as a vehicle for the continuous enhancement of the NSSD. In addition, the strategy specifies a clear distribution of responsibilities and identifies leading and collaborating departments for the core tasks of the NSSD, and this can work as a framework for workload allocation, integration, collaboration and mutual understanding of responsibilities.

### Observations

The adoption and initial implementation of the NSSD are major outcomes of the NSSD process and this is commendable.

Many exercises and initiatives concerning sustainable development are being carried out at local/regional levels, and one important principle of the national strategies for sustainable development is to ensure integration and synergy between national and local planning and development. The PCSD has recognized the importance of local/regional promotion of the NSSD, and has made great efforts to set up an institutional foundation for local and regional sustainable development in partnership with local and regional self-governing bodies. In particular, establishing a budget is to be specified by the NSSD, for implementing the localization of sustainable development. The PCSD pointed out that 92% of 250 local governments in the Republic of Korea have established an Agenda 21, but that they are mostly focused on the environment. Local Agenda 21s are normally approved by local governments, but they need to include social and economic aspects for the localization of sustainable development. The PCSD recognized this problem, and is trying to create strong linkage between local and national sustainable development strategy, and is preparing inter-ministerial consultations to make the link.

The PCSD has geared up to foster the local/regional movement for sustainable development by developing local/regional sustainable development road maps. Since Busan Metropolitan City established its own Local Agenda 21 for the first time in 1995, 213 self-governing bodies have completed their own Local Agenda 21s, and sixteen more are now under way. Local governments, including Seoul, are converting their environment-focused action plans to action plans for sustainable development. This expansion of local sustainable development strategies has been acknowledged as an important outcome. Participants from invited countries emphasized that these local initiatives, and the objectives and actions of the NSSD should be integrated to ensure consistency in the implementation of mutually reinforcing strategies.

### **Recommendations**

**Ensure consistency in implementation of NSSD with implementation of local and sectoral sustainable development strategies and plans.**

The importance of educational and training programs to promote understanding of the NSSD as well as sustainable development was pointed out, since local self-governing bodies tend to lack concern for sustainable development. Additionally, the asymmetry of information as to the process of NSSD content development between localities/regions and the central government emphasizes the importance of producing an information flow system. The PCSD has recognized the significance of local/regional promotion of the NSSD, and is preparing and organizing local/regional educational tours and sustainable development fairs.

The driving organization was established in the Republic of Korea according to a PPP (Public-Private-Partnership), and plays a core role in the project of "creating a sustainable local society." Local government and local Agenda 21 associations will be involved and consulted in localization. In this process, the Korean Local Agenda 21s show that NGOs and civil society can distinctively participate in the practice of a Local Agenda 21 campaign. Accordingly, in the situation of the Republic of Korea, vulnerable to local residents' activities and participation in local self governing bodies, the driving organization of Local Agenda 21 campaigns serves as a role model for residents'

participation and governing themselves. The driving organizations in carrying out Local Agenda 21s are organized and working in about 100 locales/regions. They are composed of leading members of local society (about 100 people). It should be emphasized that NGOs actively participate in these organizations. Some local governments, such as those of Cheongju, Gyeonggi-Do, etc., are changing the driving organization to a Sustainable Development Council in order to devote themselves to local sustainable development.

As mentioned earlier, it is important to have consistent and substantial relationships between the NSSD and sectoral plans and strategies. Participants from invited countries pointed out that the very low linkage between environmental and economic sectors has often been observed. This consistent and synergistic implementation of the NSSD with local and sectoral sustainable development plans can be achieved by defining and improving the NSSD as an umbrella strategy.

### **Recommendations**

Ensure consistency in implementation of NSSD with implementation of local and sectoral sustainable development strategies and plans.

In most countries, the general public is becoming increasingly aware of environmental issues, and there are growing demands for proper action on environmental performance. But public understanding of sustainable development remains weak, particularly concerning the concept as the integration of three pillars (the environment, the society and the economy). Participants from invited countries felt that a challenge lies in how to improve the public's awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainable development, as well as in helping it to progress. This raises a communications issue for bridging the gap between comprehensive and political concepts of sustainable development, and the presentation of those concepts in a simple, meaningful and engaging way.

The Shared Learning and Review workshop found that public awareness and understanding of sustainable development in the Republic of Korea is low. Participants from invited countries emphasized that public participation is a key element for successful implementation of the strategy, and the outcomes should address promoting public participation.

### **Recommendations**

Encourage public participation in NSSD implementation, for example by creating public awareness on its role in achieving the outcomes.

## Chapter 6

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of participants from the invited countries are presented in four sections:

- Process;
- Content;
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Outcomes

### **CHAPEAU**

The Shared Learning and Review of the NSSD of the Republic of Korea is the first of its kind in Asia and the Pacific. The participants contributed their heterogeneous experiences from their own countries and shared valuable lessons.

Participating countries gained valuable insights and lessons to be brought home from the Republic of Korea experience, and the Shared Learning and Review itself.

The strategy is very laudable, so the implementation is now the focus.

### **PROCESS**

#### **PCSD role and structure**

##### **Observations:**

PCSD as government based multi-stakeholder coordinating body appears to be a very effective. It has clear mandate, structure, financing and is supported by high level political commitment. Its function to review sectoral plans and policies is important. It appears to be in a better position to facilitate consensus and coordination than line ministries which is desirable.

PCSD has a role in implementing the NSSD which is commendable.

##### **Recommendations:**

Ensure continuity of PCSD and NSSD implementation by facilitating the enactment of appropriate legislation.

The role of non-governmental stakeholders could be strengthened, but without limiting the effectiveness of the PCSD.

Clarify role of civil society in NSSD implementation.

Ensure balance in the composition of PCSD (balance across environment, social, economic pillars as well as between types of civil society representatives).

Ensure transparency in the selection of PCSD members

Ensure adequate participation by concerned ministries in PCSD activities.

Communication channels between PCSD and ministries as well as between government and non-governmental stakeholders, including the business community, could be made more effective.

Strengthen role of PCSD in advocacy and capacity building

### **Participatory Approach**

#### **Observations:**

NSSD found to have been developed through a participatory approach with strong involvement of the business sector and other civil society representatives including NGOs.

#### **Recommendations:**

Ensure finalization and implementation of the roadmap for local sustainable development strategies.

Ensure proper access of civil society and vulnerable groups to the policy-making and decision-making processes, including at the local level.

Ensure involvement of the legislative body in NSSD implementation.

### **CONTENT:**

#### **Observations:**

It is important to acknowledge the emerging role of the Republic of Korea regionally and globally in sustainable development.

The Republic of Korea's emphasis on the role of science and technology in overcoming challenges for sustainable development provides a very good example for other countries in the region.

Incorporating the internationally agreed development goals, including the JPOI and MDGs, in the NSSD as done by the Republic of Korea is important and provides a good example for other countries.

The inclusion of clear targets and detailed budget in the NSSD is very commendable.

Consistency and coherence between NSSD and existing sectoral plans are very important.



### **Recommendations:**

Formulate a longer term strategy beyond 5 years (reflecting the long term vision for sustainable development).

Ensure international aspects of sustainable development (such as trade, foreign direct investment, international cooperation and global environment) are adequately addressed

Enhance balance between three pillars of sustainable development in NSSD.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **Observations:**

Monitoring and evaluation are critical for making necessary modifications to the NSSD content.

The monitoring system developed by PCSD is very good, useful and commendable.

Raising awareness of sustainable development through the use of monitoring and evaluation instruments is very important.

The participatory approach to monitoring is crucial.

Self-monitoring is important and often cost-effective, but not sufficient.

Mechanisms to ensure follow-up to monitoring outcomes are important.

Independent evaluations can be valuable.

### **Recommendations:**

Better integration and explanation of the structure of indicators could address inter-linkages among indicators.

Indicators should address linkages between long- and short-term aspects of sustainable development.

Identify core set of indicators for raising public awareness.

## **OUTCOMES**

### **Observations:**

Given the early status of NSSD implementation, it is too early to observe outcome and impact of the NSSD.

The adoption and initial implementation of the NSSD are major outcomes of the NSSD process and this is commendable.

A common understanding of outputs/implementation and outcomes is important.

**Recommendations:**

Encourage public participation in NSSD implementation, for example by creating public awareness on its role in achieving the outcomes.

Ensure consistency in implementation of NSSD with implementation of local and sectoral sustainable development strategies and plans.

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## ANNEX I

### Programme

#### Shared Learning and Review Workshop (COEX, Seoul, the Republic of Korea)

Monday, 12 March 2007	
09:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>Opening Addresses by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Sang-Hee Kim, Chairperson of the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Korea</li> <li>- Ms. JoAnne Disano, Director for the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development</li> </ul> <p>Congratulatory Address by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Kyoo-Yong Lee, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment</li> <li>- Mr. Jun-Ha Yoon, Co-President, KFEM</li> <li>- Mr. Dong-Soo Hur, Chairman of KBCSD</li> </ul>
10:45-12:00	<p><b>Global Context</b></p> <p>Sustainable Development in the OECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Candice Stevens, Senior Sustainable Development Advisor, OECD</li> </ul> <p>Sustainable Development(SD) and the UN: Issues and Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Hyun Cho, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations</li> </ul> <p>National Sustainable Development Strategies in Asia and the Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Subrato Sinha, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNEP</li> </ul>
12:15-14:00	Official lunch hosted by Ms. Sang-Hee Kim, Chairperson of the PCSD of Korea
14:15-15:15	<p><b>Progress with developing or implementing NSSD</b></p> <p>National Strategy of Sustainable Development in China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Zhou Hailin, Director, Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21, Ministry of Science and technology</li> </ul> <p>Acknowledgement to PCSD of Republic of Korea and UN Division on SD for inviting and supporting Vietnam's Agenda 21 Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Nguyen Duc Thang, Deputy Director of National Office for SD, Vietnam Agenda 21, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam</li> </ul>
15:30-17:30	<p><b>Process Session</b></p> <p>Process of Developing the Korean NSSD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Eun-Kyung Kim, Secretary to the President on SD, PCSD, Republic of Korea</li> </ul> <p>The Main Finding of the Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Kumju Hwang, UN Consultant</li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A and discussions</p>
18:00-19:30	Official dinner hosted by the Minister of Environment

<b>Tuesday, 13 March 2007</b>	
9:30-11:00	<p><b>Process Session</b> continued  <b>Progress with developing or implementing NSSD</b>  National Strategy of Sustainable Development in Vietnam  - Mr. Le Duc Chung, Director, Vietnam Consultancy for Environment and Development, Company Ltd. (VCED)  National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD)  - Mr. R. K. Thapliyal, Research Office, Planning Commission, Government of India</p>
11:15-12:30	<p><b>Content Session</b>  Content of the Republic of Korea's NSSD  - Mr. Chong-Chun Kim, Director General of the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Korea  The Main Finding of the Content  - Mr. Young-Keun Chung, UN Consultant  Q &amp; A and discussions</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Content session continued
15:45-17:00	Content session continued
17:15-18:30	Country participants' discussion: Main findings on process and content
<b>Wednesday, 14 March 2007</b>	
9:30-11:30	<p><b>Monitoring Session</b>  Monitoring of the NSSD Implementation and the Sustainability of the Republic of Korea  - Mr. Jong-Hwan Kim, Director, SD Strategy Planning Division, PCSD, Republic of Korea  The Main Finding of the Monitoring  - Mr. Young-Keun Chung, UN Consultant  Q &amp; A and discussions</p>
11:45-12:30	Monitoring session continued
12:30-14:00	Official lunch hosted by Mr. Dong-soo Hur, Chairman of the KBCSD
14:00-15:00	<p><b>Outcome Session</b>  Outcomes of the Launch of the Republic of Korea's NSSD  - Ms. Seon-Mi Choi, Jong-Hwan Kim, Coordinator, SD Strategy Planning Division, PCSD, Republic of Korea  The Main Finding of the Outcomes  - Ms. Kumju Hwang, UN Consultant  Q &amp; A and Discussions</p>
15:00-18:00	<b>Field trip</b> to Corporate Sustainability Management of Yuhan-Kimberly
18:00-19:00	Official dinner hosted by Yuhan-Kimberly
<b>Thursday, 15 March 2007</b>	
Morning	Country participants' work day
12:30-14:00	Lunch
Afternoon	Country participants' work day continued
18:00-	Preview of recommendations to the PCSD of Korea

<b>Friday, 16 March 2007</b>	
9:30-11:00	<b>Presentation of recommendations to the Republic of Korea</b>
11:15-12:30	Presentation of recommendations continued
12:30-13:00	<b>Closing</b> of the Shared Learning and Review Workshop

## Technical Meeting (ICTC, Seoul, the Republic of Korea)

Tuesday, 19 December 2006	
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	<p><b><u>Opening</u></b></p> <p>Welcome Statement by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Chong-Chun Kim, Director General of the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Korea</li> </ul> <p>Opening Statement by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Kathleen Abdalla, Chief, National Information, Monitoring and Outreach Branch, United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)</li> <li>- Key NSSD Principles and Objective of NSSD Shared Learning and Review</li> </ul>
10:00-12:30	<p><b><u>Tour de table on progress with developing or implementing NSSD in the participating countries</u></b></p> <p>Status of NSSD Development and Implementation in the Republic of Korea by Government Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Chong-Chun Kim, Director General of the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Korea</li> </ul> <p>Japan: Outline of the Basic Environment Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Seiji Baba Counselor, Embassy of Japan</li> </ul> <p>Malaysia: Planning for Sustainability: Development Directions in Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Che Azemi Haron, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia</li> </ul> <p>Mongolia: Sharing Experience of Sustainable Development Strategy in Mongolia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Balganjav Khuldorj, School of Foreign Service, National University of Mongolia</li> </ul> <p>Philippines: Processes in the Formulation and Implementation of National Sustainable Development Strategies: The Philippine Agenda 21 Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Magarita Roque Songco Deputy Director General National Economic and Development Authority</li> </ul> <p>Thailand: Thailand's National Strategy for Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asdaporn Krairapanond, Chief, International Environmental Agreement Group, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand</li> </ul>
12:30-14:00	Official lunch hosted by Ms. Sang-Hee Kim, Chairperson of the PCSD of Korea
14:00-14:30	<p><b><u>Work of international organizations in the area of NSSD Shared Learning and Reviews</u></b></p> <p>Green Growth &amp; Eco-efficiency: National Strategy for SD in Asia Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director, Environment and Sustainable Development Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)</li> </ul>
14:30-15:30	<p><b><u>The Methodology for NSSD Shared learning and Review</u></b></p> <p>Shared Learning and Review: Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brigitte Alvarez-Rivero, United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations</li> </ul> <p>Status of Preparations for NSSD Shared Learning and Review in the Republic of Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Young-Keun Chung, UN Consultant</li> </ul>

16:00-18:00	<p><b><u>Step 1: Reviewing the Process</u></b>  Participation of Civil Society in the Process of Korea's NSSD  - Mr. Jin-Seok Choi, Korea Environment Institute  The Korean NSSD Background Report: Reviewing the Process  - Ms. Kumju Hwang, UN Consultant  Discussion and feedback from participants  Recommendations for additional investigation</p>
<b>Wednesday, 20 December 2006</b>	
9:30-11:00	<p><b><u>Step 2: Reviewing the Content</u></b>  The Korean NSSD Background Report: Reviewing the Content  - Ms. Kumju Hwang, UN Consultant  Discussion and feedback from participants  Recommendations for additional investigation</p>
11:15-12:30	<p><b><u>Step 3: Reviewing Monitoring and Indicators</u></b>  Monitoring Sustainable Development Strategies and the Role of Indicators  - Mr. Matthias Bruckner, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations  The Korean NSSD Background Report: Reviewing the Monitoring Indicators  - Mr. Young-Keun Chung, UN Consultant</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:45	<p><b><u>Step 4: Reviewing Implementation and Outcomes</u></b>  The Korean NSSD Background Report: Reviewing Implementation and Outcomes  - Ms. Kumju Hwang, UN Consultant</p>
16:15-17:30	<p><b><u>Preparations for the Shared Learning and Review Workshop</u></b>  Confirmation of dates  Sessions  Format and recording of recommendations  Other matters</p>
17:30	Closure



## ANNEX II

### List of Participants

#### Shared Learning and Review Workshop (COEX, Seoul, the Republic of Korea)

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Xu Jun	Director Resource and Environment Division Science and Technology Department of Social Development Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) China	+86 105888 1421	<a href="mailto:xujun@most.cn">xujun@most.cn</a>
Zhou Hailin	Director, Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21 Ministry of Science and technology China	+86 105888 8431	<a href="mailto:zhouhl@acca21.org.cn">zhouhl@acca21.org.cn</a>
A.N.P. Sinha	Senior Advisor Planning Coordination, Planning Commission Government of India	+91 112309 6712 / 6526	<a href="mailto:anp.sinha@nic.in">anp.sinha@nic.in</a> <a href="mailto:ansinha@yahoo.co.in">ansinha@yahoo.co.in</a>
R. K. Thapliyal	Research Office, Planning Commission, Government of India		
Masako Ogawa	Deputy Director, Environment Cooperation Office, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan		<a href="mailto:masako_ogawa@env.go.jp">masako_ogawa@env.go.jp</a>
Takashi Otsuka	Policy Researcher, Programme Management Office, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Japan		<a href="mailto:otsuka@iges.or.jp">otsuka@iges.or.jp</a>
Muthusamy Suppiah	Principal Assistant Director Environment and Natural Resources Economic Section Prime Minister's Department Malaysia	+603 8888 2835	<a href="mailto:muthu@epu.jpm.my">muthu@epu.jpm.my</a>
Dionysius Sharma	WWF Malaysia		<a href="mailto:dsharma@wwf.org.my">dsharma@wwf.org.my</a>
B. Khuldorj	Head International Relations Department School of Foreign Service National University of Mongolia and National Project Coordinator	+976 1 328151	<a href="mailto:khuldorj@sam.mn">khuldorj@sam.mn</a>
Oyun Ravdan	Counselor Trade and Economic Affairs Mongolia	+822 798 3464	<a href="mailto:Mongol3@kornet.net">Mongol3@kornet.net</a>
Margarita Roque Songco	Deputy Director General National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Philippines	+63 02 631 2196	<a href="mailto:mrsongco@neda.gov.ph">mrsongco@neda.gov.ph</a>

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Asdaporn Krairapanond	Director, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Thailand	+662 278 8624	<a href="mailto:Asdaporn@gmail.com">Asdaporn@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Asdaporn@Hotmail.com">Asdaporn@Hotmail.com</a>
Pongvipa Lohsomboon	Director Business and Environment Program Thailand Environment Institute	+662 503 3333 ext 302	<a href="mailto:pongvipa@tei.or.th">pongvipa@tei.or.th</a>
Nguyen Duc Thang	Deputy Director of National Office for SD Vietnam Agenda 21 Ministry of Planning and Investment	+84 4 747 4824	<a href="mailto:ndthangndt@yahoo.com">ndthangndt@yahoo.com</a>
Le Duc Chung	Director Vietnam Consultancy for Environment and Development Company Ltd. (VCED)	+84 49121 71422	<a href="mailto:vced@vecd.net">vced@vecd.net</a> <a href="mailto:vced4consulting@gmail.com">vced4consulting@gmail.com</a>
JoAnne DiSano	Director Division for Sustainable Development United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	+1 212 963 0902	<a href="mailto:disano@un.org">disano@un.org</a>
Kathleen Abdalla	Chief, National Information, Monitoring and Outreach Branch United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	+1 212 963 8416	<a href="mailto:abdallak@un.org">abdallak@un.org</a>
Birgitte Alvarez-Rivero	Sustainable Development Officer United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	+212 963 8400	<a href="mailto:alvarez-riverob@un.org">alvarez-riverob@un.org</a>
Matthias Bruckner	Associate Sustainable Development Officer United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	+212 963 2137	<a href="mailto:brucknerm@un.org">brucknerm@un.org</a>
Subrata Sinha	Environmental Affairs Officer United Nations Environment Programme	+9 011 662 288 2259	<a href="mailto:sinha6@un.org">sinha6@un.org</a>
Candice Stevens	Senior Sustainable Development Advisor Office of the Deputy-Secretary General OECD	+33 01 45 24 93 24	<a href="mailto:Candice.Stevens@oecd.org">Candice.Stevens@oecd.org</a>
Sang-Hee Kim	Chairperson Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development(PCSD), Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8255	<a href="mailto:shk17@president.go.kr">shk17@president.go.kr</a>
Eun-Kyung Kim	Secretary to the President on SD PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8256	<a href="mailto:ecofem@president.go.kr">ecofem@president.go.kr</a>
Chong-Chun Kim	Director General for National Task PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8257	<a href="mailto:cckim@president.go.kr">cckim@president.go.kr</a>
Jong-Hwan Kim	Director SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8281	<a href="mailto:sdkjh@president.go.kr">sdkjh@president.go.kr</a>

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Ki-Tae Kwon	Coordinator SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8283	<a href="mailto:kwonkt@pcsd.go.kr">kwonkt@pcsd.go.kr</a>
Kyung-Seok Park	Coordinator SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8266	<a href="mailto:parkks@president.go.kr">parkks@president.go.kr</a>
Seon-Mi Choi	Coordinator SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8285	<a href="mailto:choiseonmi@president.go.kr">choiseonmi@president.go.kr</a>
Mee-Ja Park	Director, General Affairs & Communication Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8259	<a href="mailto:pmja23@president.go.kr">pmja23@president.go.kr</a>
Pil-Hong Kim	Director Society & Health Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8260	<a href="mailto:phkim@president.go.kr">phkim@president.go.kr</a>
Dong-Sik Woo	Director Water & Nature Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8279	<a href="mailto:dswoo@president.go.kr">dswoo@president.go.kr</a>
Hyung-Pil Chun	Director National Land Management Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8265	<a href="mailto:hpchun@president.go.kr">hpchun@president.go.kr</a>
Kyoo Yong Lee	Vice Minister Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea	+822 2110 6502	<a href="mailto:lky1030@me.go.kr">lky1030@me.go.kr</a>
Dong Wook Lee	Deputy Director Global Environment Office Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea	+822 2110 6564	<a href="mailto:dwlee@me.go.kr">dwlee@me.go.kr</a>
Julia Kim	Interpreter Global Environment Office Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea	+822 2110 7924	<a href="mailto:Julia923@me.go.kr">Julia923@me.go.kr</a>
Hak-Kyun Maeng	Deputy Director Policy Coordination Office Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea	+822 2110 6662	<a href="mailto:maenghk@me.go.kr">maenghk@me.go.kr</a>
Hye-Kyun Jung	Deputy Director Finance and Policy Planning Office Ministry of Environment Republic of Korea	+822 2110 7912	<a href="mailto:tomiu77@me.go.kr">tomiu77@me.go.kr</a>
Dong-Chang Jung	Director Industrial Environment Division Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Energy (MOCIE) Republic of Korea	+822 2110 5131	<a href="mailto:dcjung@mocie.go.kr">dcjung@mocie.go.kr</a>

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Hyun-Cheol Kim	Deputy Director Industrial Environment Division MOCIE Republic of Korea	+822 2110 5132	<a href="mailto:hckim@mocie.go.kr">hckim@mocie.go.kr</a>
Hong-Yoon Kang	Research Fellow Korea National Cleaner Production Center	+822 6009 3511	<a href="mailto:kanghy@kncpc.re.kr">kanghy@kncpc.re.kr</a>
Chang-Mo Kim	1st Secretary Environment Cooperation Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Republic of Korea	+822 2100 7745	<a href="mailto:cmkim@mofat.go.kr">cmkim@mofat.go.kr</a>
Lisa Han	2nd Secretary Environment Cooperation Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Republic of Korea	+822 2100 7749	<a href="mailto:lisah@mofat.go.kr">lisah@mofat.go.kr</a>
Jin Lee	Vice President Woongjin Cooperation	+822 2172 1999	<a href="mailto:Leejin1713@naver.com">Leejin1713@naver.com</a>
Yong-Un Ma	Director International Cooperation Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM)		<a href="mailto:ma@kfem.or.kr">ma@kfem.or.kr</a>
Bo-Mi Lee	Programme specialist Education Team Korean National Commission for UNESCO	+822 755 1105	<a href="mailto:bmlee@unesco.or.kr">bmlee@unesco.or.kr</a>
Yong Shin Park	Co-General Secretary Citizen's Movement for Environmental Justice	+822 743 4747	<a href="mailto:yspark@eco.or.kr">yspark@eco.or.kr</a>
Hyun Suk Jang	Senior Researcher Strategic Business Team Korea Business Council for Sustainable Development (KBCSD)	+822 6336 0695	<a href="mailto:zestjang@kbcSD.or.kr">zestjang@kbcSD.or.kr</a>
Se-hong Yun	Executive Director Korean Council for Local Agenda 21 (KCLA21)	+822 358 1133	<a href="mailto:la21@la21.or.kr">la21@la21.or.kr</a>
Jae-Kyung Koh	Research Fellow Dept. of Environmental Policy Gyeonggi Research Institute	+8231 250 3136	<a href="mailto:kjk1020@gri.re.kr">kjk1020@gri.re.kr</a>

**Technical Meeting (ICTC, Seoul, the Republic of Korea)**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Seiji Baba	Counselor, Embassy of Japan 18-11, Junghak-dong Jongro-gu Seoul, Republic of Korea	+822 2170 5200	<a href="mailto:seiji.baba@mofa.co.jp">seiji.baba@mofa.co.jp</a>
Ryosuke Oka	First Secretary, Embassy of Japan 18-11, Junghak-dong Jongro-gu Seoul, Republic of Korea	+822 2170 5200	<a href="mailto:ryosuke.oka@mofa.co.jp">ryosuke.oka@mofa.co.jp</a>
Che Azemi Bin Haron	Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department 62502 Federal Territory Putrajaya Malaysia	+603 8888 3837	<a href="mailto:azemi@epu.ipm.my">azemi@epu.ipm.my</a>
B. Khuldorj	Secretary, Mongolian National Council for Sustainable Development (MNCSD) Government House No. 2 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	+976 1 328151	<a href="mailto:khuldorj@sam.mn">khuldorj@sam.mn</a>
Magarita Roque Songco	Deputy Director General National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Philippines	+63 02 631 2196	<a href="mailto:mrsongco@neda.gov.ph">mrsongco@neda.gov.ph</a>
Asdaporn Krairapanond	Director, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Thailand	+662 278 8624	<a href="mailto:Asdaporn@gmail.com">Asdaporn@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Asdaporn@Hotmail.com">Asdaporn@Hotmail.com</a>
Kathleen Abdalla	Chief, National Information, Monitoring and Outreach Branch United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	+1 212 963 8416	<a href="mailto:abdallak@un.org">abdallak@un.org</a>
Birgitte Alvarez- Rivero	Sustainable Development Officer United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	+212 963 8400	<a href="mailto:alvarez-riverob@un.org">alvarez-riverob@un.org</a>
Matthias Bruckner	Associate Sustainable Development Officer United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	+212 963 2137	<a href="mailto:brucknerm@un.org">brucknerm@un.org</a>
Rae Kwon Chung	Director, Environment and Sustainable Development Division, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	+662 288 1234	
Eun-Kyung Kim	Secretary to the President on SD PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8256	<a href="mailto:ecofem@president.go.kr">ecofem@president.go.kr</a>
Chong-Chun Kim	Director General for National Task PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8257	<a href="mailto:cckim@president.go.kr">cckim@president.go.kr</a>
Jong-Hwan Kim	Director SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8281	<a href="mailto:sdkjh@president.go.kr">sdkjh@president.go.kr</a>

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Ki-Tae Kwon	Coordinator SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8283	<a href="mailto:kwonkt@pcsd.go.kr">kwonkt@pcsd.go.kr</a>
Kyung-Seok Park	Coordinator SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8266	<a href="mailto:parkks@president.go.kr">parkks@president.go.kr</a>
Seon-Mi Choi	Coordinator SD Strategy Planning Division PCSD Republic of Korea	+822 2100 8285	<a href="mailto:choiseonmi@president.go.kr">choiseonmi@president.go.kr</a>

## ANNEX III

### Summary of Presentations by Country Representatives

#### **China: National Strategy of Sustainable Development in China**

Presented by Mr. Zhou Hailin, Director, Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21  
Ministry of Science and Technology, China

China suffered from great confusion concerning the concept of sustainable development, due to different understandings among different constituents. There is more confusion now than 10 years ago in China about the concept of sustainable development. Different understandings concerning SD exist among different constituents.

In 1992, the nation's 10-Point Strategy for Sustainable Development was adopted and stated that sustainable development is the inevitable path for China. China promulgated the White Paper for China's Agenda 21, in 1994, and confirmed Sustainable Development as China's National Strategy for development, in 1996. A national strategic goal of constructing a well-off society was established in 2000. The concept of Scientific Development became the principal and overall guideline for the whole Chinese nation, in 2003. China set the national goal of building a resource-saving and environment-friendly society and developing a recycling economy, in 2004. More recently, China emphasized the building up of a harmonious society as a national goal.

The main success of the NSSD lies in changing the traditional concept of development and way of thinking, and improving the entire society's awareness of sustainable development. China provides a primary example through its attitude of "Change the way of social and economic development from GDP-oriented to people-oriented!"

In China, national sustainable communities (CNSCs) have the objective to explore mechanisms and models for coordinated sustainable development implementation. CNSCs select representative and demonstrative districts of large cities, explore mechanisms and models for coordinated and sustainable development, and provide examples and experience for integrated local implementation of sustainable development strategies.

China seeks exchange with and input from advanced and new concepts, practices, mechanisms and technical assistance from other countries through close international SD cooperation. In its primary experience, China greatly relies on the power of science and technology as its "First Productivity." China needs to continuously stimulate SD dialogue to maintain interest and ensure SD policies are kept up. China wants to change the traditional concept of development and way of thinking and to improve the whole society's awareness of sustainable development.

### **India: National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD)**

Presented by Mr. R. K. Thapliyal, Research Office, Planning Commission, Government of India

India combats poverty by accelerating its growth rate, increasing its agriculture growth rate, and generating employment. In India, overcoming poverty is an overarching goal for sustainable development. Poverty and inequality are associated with malnutrition, deprivation, illness, illiteracy, lack of amenities and services, disempowerment and environmental degradation as people struggle to earn their livelihood. There are regional disparities and divides between different sectors of society hamper sustainable development. Increasing population contributes to poor health facilities, poor availability of basic amenities, food insecurity, illiteracy, energy insecurity, and environmental degradation.

India, as the world's third largest pool of scientific manpower, is harnessing its Scientific and Technological Prowess to solve complex issues of clean technologies in the power, coal and oil sectors, and for clean drinking water, etc. To harmonize the demands for development and protecting the environment in India, an Environmental Court was established in each state to deal with environmental disputes and to hear appeals under various Pollution Control Laws. India established an inter-Ministerial Consultative Group on "Trade and the Environment" to address increasing awareness and understanding of the complex linkages between trade and the environment, and to finalize India's position on trade and environmental issues in International Forums. Related to the global issue, India tries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and evaluate solutions offered by carbon sinks.

### **Japan: Outline of the Basic Environment Plan**

Presented by Mr. Seiji Baba, Counselor, Embassy of Japan

Japan's environmental policy has evolved somewhat over the years. In the past, it was primarily based upon the two sectors of pollution prevention and conservation of the natural environment. However, with the Basic Environment Plan (BEP) of 1993, the issue took a turn with the same document serving as Japan's national strategy for sustainable development. What the BEP has done was to add global environmental concerns to Japan's own environmental policy while introducing the issue of sound material recycling as well, for the purpose of creating a sustainable society. The BEP has been progressing in separate stages of development, and is now in the third phase. The first phase of the BEP started in 1994 and concentrated on developing environmentally sound material cycles, a harmonious coexistence with nature, and Japan's participation in international activities. From the efforts during this period a list of much more comprehensive environmental policies was developed. The second phase of the BEP, which started in 2000, saw the solidifying of strategic programs combined with monitoring to ensure its effectiveness. The key concepts during this phase were: the polluter pays principle, eco-efficiency, a precautionary approach to environmental policy, and management of environmental risks.



## Strategy process of development and improvement of the Basic Environment Plan

### The First Plan(1994)

- ❑ Four Long-term Objectives: Environmentally Sound Material Cycle; Harmonious Coexistence; Participation; International Activities
- ❑ Comprehensive list of Environmental Policies



### The Second Plan(2000)

- ❑ Concretization of strategic programs and Ensuring the effectiveness of the plan
- ❑ Concepts Forming Guidelines for Environmental Policies: Polluter-pays Principle; Eco-efficiency; Precautionary Approach; Environmental Risk
- ❑ Incorporation of Environmental Considerations into Every Activity



### The Third Plan(2006)

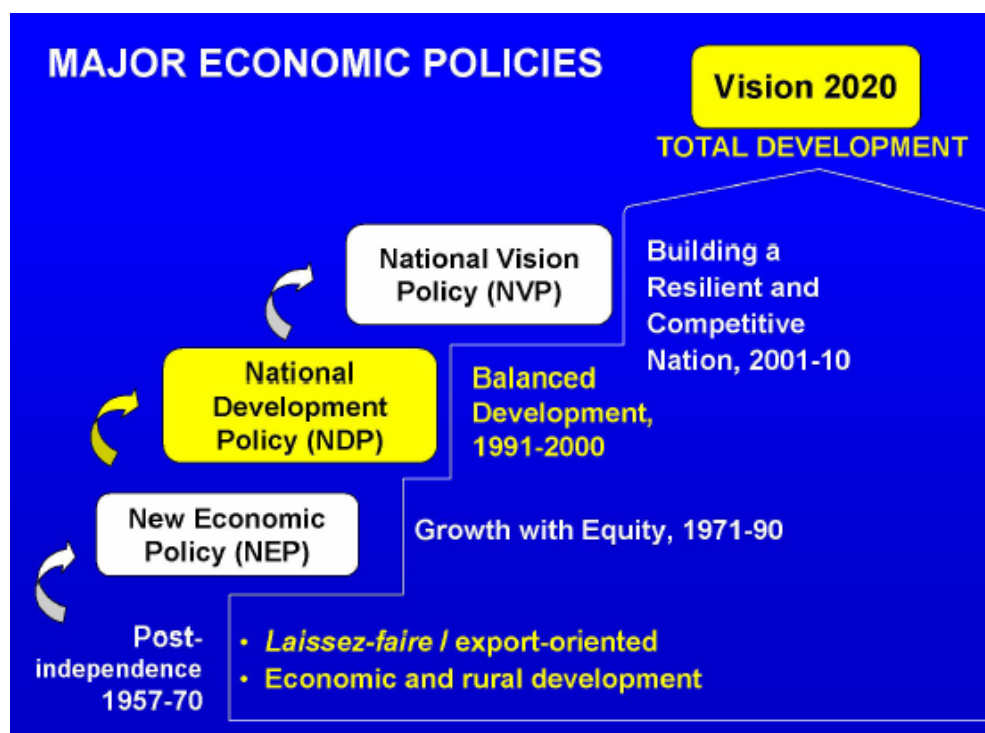
- ❑ The Theme - " Integrated improvements of the environment, economy and society "
- ❑ Presentation of a super long-term vision for 2050
- ❑ Monitoring the plan's progress of programs by numeric indicators
- ❑ Transmission of clear messages to each entity such as a citizen, a company

The end result was the incorporation of environmental considerations into a much wider scope of policy. The third phase of the BEP, just begun in 2006, aims to integrate the sectors of the environment, the economy, and society. Through such efforts, the objectives are to achieve sustainability for Japan's land and nature, to strengthen research and development for uncertain sectors, define new roles for the national and local governments as well as citizens, strengthen Japan's ties to international strategies on sustainable development, and develop a long term vision for the year 2050. The specific issue areas to be addressed during the third phase are anti-global warming, sound material recycling, urban air and water cycles, chemical substances' environmental risks, and biodiversity. The programs to combat these issues include market-based environmental values, human resource management, long-term infrastructure construction, and contributions to international frameworks and rules, development of numerical indicators to monitor the progress of programs, and clear communications with the Japanese citizens and companies regarding these programs.

## **Malaysia: Planning for Sustainability: Development Directions in Malaysia**

Presented by Mr. Che Azemi Haron, Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia

The context within which Malaysia pursues sustainable development is a multi-racial federation that is basically an open market-based, but mixed system economy. The notion of a mixed economic system can be described as follows: The private sector operates within a free enterprise atmosphere yet the government sets direction and provides support for the economy to ensure that socio-economic goals are met. The history of Malaysia's economic planning was detailed, starting with the New Economic Policy period of 1971-90. During this period, concentration was placed on economic growth with equity, national unity, and poverty eradication. During the National Development Policy phase of 1991-2000, core objectives evolved into those of balanced development in the sectors of not only wealth distribution, but between material and spiritual values, regional disparities, and intra-sector equity, as well as in the environment and ecology. Now, as Malaysia finds itself in the midst of its third phase, the National Vision Policy (2001-2010), the major theme is to achieve national unity to become a resilient and competitive nation. The objectives of the New Economic Policy and the National Development Policy have been continued. The national Vision 2020's environmental component was then explained as the conservation of natural resources; sustainable land, air, forests, and water; and not allowing the environment to fall victim to economic advancement. So far, results show that poverty eradication has been successful as the quality of life is improving. Further analysis reveals that these improvements have been much more incremental rather than involving sudden leaps, more qualitative than quantitative in nature, and based upon targeted intervention and good foundations.



### **Mongolia: Sharing Experience of Sustainable Development Strategy in Mongolia**

Presented by Mr. Balganjav Khuldorj, Secretary, Mongolian National Council for Sustainable Development (MNCSD); Professor, School of Foreign Service, National University of Mongolia

Mongolia's National Council for Sustainable Development was established in 1994, with its Action Program for the 21st Century under way since 1996. Mongolia's methodology for developing a sustainable development strategy was described as a bottom-up approach. In 1998, a Local version of Agenda 21 (MAP21) was developed and approved by local parliaments, and had among its core objectives the integration of policy documents, the development of plans and programs, as well as provisions to hold seminars and conferences involving stakeholders.

Mongolia's sustainable development strategy is among the key strategic development documents, and contains 17 social goals, 13 environmental goals, 15 economic goals, and 14 means of implementation goals. The most recent evaluation took place in July 2006 for the period 1998-2006, and found that the central and local governments are integrating MAP21 into their development plans. In conclusion, Mongolia has been implementing sustainable development by having established a permanent framework early on, while updating its policies in accordance with the world's contemporary development and changing modern development approaches. It also supports and strengthens cooperation with foreign bodies on sustainable development, and is willing to jointly develop, through regional cooperation, pilot projects on sustainable development issues.

	<b>Social goals</b>	<b>Economic goals</b>	<b>Environmental goals</b>	<b>Implementing means</b>	<b>total</b>
<b>Implicated indicators</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Left numbers</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Implication level (%)</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>61.0</b>

## **The Philippines: Processes in the Formulation and Implementation of National Sustainable Development Strategies: The Philippine Agenda 21 Experience**

Presented by Ms. Margarita Roque Songco, Deputy Director General, National Economic and Development Authority

The Philippine Council for Sustainable Development states as its mandate the attaining of a mechanism for reaching principles of sustainable development, and the assurance of its integration into national plans and programs. Its function is to monitor and facilitate the implementation of Earth Summit commitments in the Philippines, put into operation sustainable development principles coordinate with the UNCSD, while mobilizing international assistance and cooperation. After a detailed explanation of the development of legal mechanisms instituted in the Philippines for sustainable development, the Philippine Agenda 21 (PA21) was explained. The PA21 arose out of the Philippines' commitment to the 1992 Earth Summit, and features provisions for multi-stakeholder consultations, reviews, workshops, and confidence-building activities. Thus far, it has been successful in terms of establishing itself as a localized version of sustainable development initiatives abroad: establishing a Presidential Council on Sustainable Development; integrating environmental as well as socio-economic concerns; making it a multi-stakeholder process; creating increased awareness and understanding of sustainable development, and enhanced disaster management. The challenges for the future include the further placing of sustainable development into actual operation, and the need to continuously mobilize the commitment of hitherto non-involved actors.

## **Thailand: Thailand's National Strategy for Sustainable Development**

Presented by Ms. Asdaporn Krairapanond, Chief, International Environmental Agreement Group, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand

Thailand considered its sustainable development process to be different from other countries yet honoring United Nations guidelines as much as possible. The three pillars of the economy, the environment and society are now integrated into the NESDP with the 1975 Environmental Act. Since the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Thai government's commitment to the issue is evidenced by the Prime Minister's chairing of its National Council for Sustainable Development. Currently, the NESDB is the national focal point for sustainable development at the national policy level, with ad hoc committees composed of representatives from different stakeholders serving as the working body. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Agenda 21 have been localized into Thai for wider dissemination. As for review measures, surveys and interviews with stakeholders, including government agencies, are the most prevalent forms. National sustainable development indicators, which are currently being developed by the NESDP will aid the task of review. The NESDP's tenth phase (2007-2011) will focus on the concept of a sufficiency economy, which incidentally had been adopted for the past 20 years with support from His Majesty the King. This approach of a more balanced, holistic, and sustainable development is now set to become the driver of the Thai economy. The sufficiency economy also stresses the principles of moderation, reason, and compatibility, while emphasizing responsible consumption and production and acknowledging interdependency among people as well as between humanity and nature.

## **Vietnam: Acknowledgement to the PCSD of Republic of Korea and UN Division on SD for inviting and supporting Vietnam's Agenda 21 Office**

Presented by Mr. Nguyen Duc Thang, Deputy Director of National Office for SD, Vietnam Agenda 21, Ministry of Planning and Investment

In 2000, the Deputy Prime Minister assigned a task to the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) to formulate Vietnam's Agenda 21 for Sustainable Development. The Prime Minister approved a "Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam" also known as Vietnam's Agenda 21, in 2004. The National Council on Sustainable Development (NCSD) was established by the Prime Minister's Decision in 2005.

The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development (SOSD) in Vietnam is the framework strategy. The Minister of Planning and Investment (MPI) takes responsibility for organizing and guiding the implementation of the SOSD. The overall objective of the SOSD is that Vietnam should basically become an industrialized country by the year 2020.

The functions and tasks of Vietnam's Agenda 21 Office have resulted in producing a draft and action plans, both annual and five year plans, for implementing Vietnam Agenda 21. The office organizes and manages the implementation of Vietnam Agenda 21, and overall manages SD activities, including coordinating the development of SD programs and projects among the various ministries, and the 19 provinces, and supervising, monitoring, and evaluating the results of those programs and projects in the country.

The office convenes and cooperates with other ministries and the provinces to develop mechanisms, policies and measures for implementing Vietnam Agenda 21. It also cooperates with ministries, the provinces, and other organizations to organize workshops, communications and training, and to provide information and technical assistance in the field of SD.

The office acts as a focal point/coordinating unit for international cooperation programs and projects on SD, formulates and implements SD projects with its respective functions, collaborates with institutions to promote the establishment of a National Council for SD, and executes other tasks assigned by the Minister of Planning and Investment.