

OUTREACH 2015



BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD 11 - ISSUE VI

SOMETHING **I**NTERESTING **D**EVELOPING **S**OON

The Fate of the World in a Microcosm?

Interview with H.E. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul

Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States & Ambassador of Mauritius to the United Nations

Ambassador, here at CSD 11 many issues are vying for attention. Why should the world care about SIDS?

Small Island Developing States represent individual and collective microcosms of the world. We need to try to reconcile SIDS problems to help us understand the problems the whole world will have to face. It is imperative that the international community, for its own sake and sustainability, focuses on the plight of SIDS.

CSD 11 is looking at the next 10 years, Barbados +10 at the last decade. What are the links?

There is a close link between the two processes. The Barbados Programme of Action is almost 9 years old. We need to look at what was proposed, what has been achieved, what has not been achieved and to find out why. The CSD presents us with an opportunity for the international community to go through this process and to alert itself of the problems still to be faced.

Within this process of review, what are the key issues for SIDS?

Well, there are number of issues. Climate change and rising sea levels critically affect the future of SIDS. Trade is also important. SIDS are often not treated fairly on this issue. Because of their specific nature, and distance from markets, there is a heightened need for them to be treated sympathetically by other countries who hold trade advantages.

Also, there is a need for greater Capacity Building efforts as well as more focussed Foreign Direct Investment which often does not get channelled to SIDS. The international community must acknowledge the efforts of SIDS and contribute more effectively to them.

What would be the perfect outcome of the Barbados +10 process?

To focus on some issues with concrete results. We must have a plan

that is implementable, rather than another long declaration. The focus must be action orientated with delivery mechanisms.

Where will the resources come from to take action on these issues?

It seems that the attention of the International Community is moving on to other areas. So it is critical that we use all opportunities available to us to alert governments to these problems.



More than just a dot on a map

The watchword at CSD 11 is integration. Drawing from some of the comments you have made, how do the Barbados +10, Millennium Development Goals and Doha trade agenda relate?

There are so many cross cutting issues, not forgetting Monterrey also. We need to have more effective mechanisms for implementation. The Barbados Programme of Action is very long and currently lacks the proper means of implementation. Concerning the MDGs, some countries are better positioned than others. We need to look at all SIDS to ensure than some don't get left behind.

Trade has been somewhat of a sticking point for SIDS over the last decade. Will Cancun be any different?

Indeed trade is a concern. SIDS should not be lumped together with other states who have more and better resources available to them. Again, due to their distance from markets, SIDS deserve to be viewed in a different perspective. Due to the affects of globalisation, reflected in the rules of the WTO, SIDS ought to be given preferential terms in order to create some balance.

There is all too often a link between SIDS and vulnerability, on all 3 columns of Sustainable Development. Is it all too late?

It is never too late to do something good, as the saying goes. There has been extensive studies on the vulnerability. Island countries need to look at a variety of factors: Natural Calamities, should a cyclone hit Mauritius, the country would be set back 20 years; Vulnerability to events such as SARS scares, or war in the gulf, the effect of which upon tourism is potentially highly significant. We must widen the scope.

Ambassador, thank you very much.

Thank you.

Comments by Major Groups on the Chairman's Draft Paper

Friday 2nd May 2003 - 10 am -11.30 am

Major groups were invited to respond to the Draft decision by the CSD 11 – ‘*Future Programme, Organisation And Methods Of Work of The Commission*’, submitted by the Chairperson Mr Valli Mossa on 1 May. The decision is broken down into eight areas; Preamble (un-drafted); Future organisation of Work Of the CSD; Multi-Year Programme of Work of the CSD for the period after 2003; Reporting; Enhancing contributions of funds, programmes, specialised agencies and other organisation of the United Nations System; Enhancing Contribution of Major Groups and the participation of other constituencies; CSD as the focal point for partnerships that promote sustainable development; Bureau (un-drafted).

The key theme of the Draft Decision is the adoption of a two-year work cycle - a policy year and a review year. It is recommended that one issue be dealt with in each cycle, with water as the focal point for the first cycle, and energy for the second. It is suggested that a flexible approach be adopted to allow for emerging issues to be addressed. The Draft Decision “Decides to adopt the overriding them of “Sustainable Development for Poverty Eradication” for all implementation Cycles identified in the CSD Multi-Year Programme of Work.” (para 8).

Despite being urged to attend the Major Groups session, governments were conspicuous by their absence, and despite the Secretary General heralding CSD 11 as a session to discuss the adoption of a fully participatory approach, the Draft Decision is substantively weak in it’s discussions on enhancing contributions of Major groups and participation of other constituencies. Questions can only be asked of the Commission’s and government’s commitment to the effective involvement of the Major Groups and other stakeholders.

As requested, each of the Major Groups responded to the Draft Decision, reflecting on it’s strengths and weaknesses, and offering recommendations to further improve the functionality of the CSD. There were clear areas of commonality in the interventions, which are alluded to below.

The Two-year cycle (Para 1)

Women and Indigenous Peoples indicated support for two-year cycle, with future cycles building on the past sessions. Women also agreed with the proposal for water in the first two years and energy to be addressed in the second cycle.

Ministerial representation – (Para 2)

Women proposed that regardless of the Ministers that attend a policy / review session - they should present a coherent picture of their country’s national policy. Similarly Youth called for relevant Ministers to be engaged in the process.

Regional processes – (Para 2.(a)(i))

Trade Unions spoke briefly about the regional process, calling for a stronger reference to Major Groups in the text, particularly with regards to ensuring capacity building to support the regional process, especially in developing countries. In additional they felt there should be a stronger reference to the need for coordination of regional bodies. Youth asked for partnership fairs to take place at the regional level as well as at the international meetings.

Experts – (Para 2.(b))

Women noted the reference to “Experts” needed to allow space for both policy and practitioners to inform the dialogue. On a similar note the Trade Unions indicated they had expert views of a number of key topics, such as regarding the privatisation of water and maritime issues, and therefore trade unions would need to be included within relevant expert processes. The Scientific & technical group supported the draft text to draw on scientific experts and strengthening the scientific basis of the CSD. NGOs called for a transparent process of selecting experts, utilising public announcements with clear selection criteria and description of the tasks involved. The Indigenous Peoples also supported involvement of Major Groups in the process of selecting experts.

Overriding themes – (Para 8)

Almost all the major groups indicated that paragraph. 8 on the overarching issue of Poverty Eradication was not sufficient. That the paragraph needed to reflect the Johannesburg Plan of implementation's Para 2 which also refers to the importance of changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, plus protecting the natural resource base of economic and social development. Youth noted that Poverty Eradication activities should also seek to tackle poverty in developed countries.

Crosscutting issues – (Para 10)

Women called for additional reference in the decision to the peace, gender, education and human rights as essential crosscutting topics that need to be addressed each cycle. Business discussed the concept if designating all the chapters of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as the crosscutting themes and supported women in terms of including gender as a crosscutting topic. Youth called for Corporate accountability to be a topic that was run throughout the CSD. NGOs agreed with the women's groups on the crosscutting topics, particularly education, but called for the establishment of a CSD task force to agree what these topics would be.

Special areas – (Para 10.f)

Regarding areas of special concern (Para 10.f) NGOs wanted to see ‘large consumer countries’ included as a special focus area. Indigenous Peoples called for para 5 of the JPOI regarding the values of sustainable development (peace, respect of human rights etc) to be exported into para 10 of the Draft Decision.

Monitoring and reporting of partnerships – (Para 11 – 13)

Business requested guidance for the framework for voluntary reporting. On a different approach NGO's called for mandatory reporting - arguing that those groups who wanted to benefit from being associated to the UN should have to report as a minimum requirement - utilising independent monitoring.

Institutional Coordination – (Para 14)

The Trade Unions stated that the World Bank, IMF, ILO, and WTO all need to be more accountable and responsible for their impacts on social and environmental areas, and that the CSD should not be thought of as a subordinate body to these institutions. Such institutions need to incorporate the principles of sustainability into their decision-making progresses. NGOs were also concerned with the lack of reference to the WTO - suggesting that without this we would see an undermining of the sustainable development agenda. It is vitally needed to inject sustainability into trade policy, and that the CSD is the best place for this discussion to happen.

UN system – (Para 16)

Para 16 requests the Secretary General to submit, as a matter of urgency, as report outlining the response of the UN to the JPOI, identifying the role of major groups and other stakeholders. Women stated that although this paragraph supports the contribution of major groups, it could be enhanced through the inclusion of gender balance, as well as the regional balance already referred to. Support should be offered to enable engagement by Major Groups at the regional level, including the provision of new and additional resources.

Major Group contribution - (Para 17. & 18)

The Local Authority representative questioned the emphasis of Major Group involvement in CSD "sessions" alone and not the other processes that would take place over the two-year cycle. They were also concerned with the sentence: "*whilst respecting established rules of procedure*", that this might not allow for the rules to be enhanced or modified.

The Farmers' representative, agreed with Local Authorities, and did not want to see a Decision which merely reaffirmed the status quo. Both groups were also concerned with the overemphasis of participation in partnerships and implementation and not policy discussions, stating that the process should use implementation experiences to inform the policy formulation process.

Youth re-affirmed that partnerships should not be a substitute for policy and multi-lateral processes. Local Authorities proposed adding a sentence - creating a 17.f: "*Active participation in policy formulation and drafting of implementation guidelines*". The Scientific and Technical representative agreed that the paragraph could be improved, especially to ensure that educators are involved more regularly and fully in CSD processes. They suggested that

major groups should be involved in the further development of Type II's and reporting processes.

Farmers also agreed that Major Groups should be involved in the monitoring and reviewing processes. Youth called for a coherent response from ECOSOC in terms of enhancing Major Group participation in the UN. Unlike the other Major Groups NGOs were more concerned with Para 18, which talks about the involvement of non-major group actors. They felt that it might re-open Agenda 21 and thereby suggested that education should be recognised as a crosscutting issue and not brought in as a new group. Youth also stated that the Learning Centres approach should not be seen as a substitute to engaging the public outside the UN.

CSD Role – (Para 21)

The representative for Business and Industry called for the CSD role to be wider than indicated in the draft decision. In addition to monitoring it was suggested that the CSD should include capacity building and sharing of best practice. The Trade Unions agreed, stating that there should be more space for real dialogue - noting that governments often gave the impression of hearing but not really taking on board the messages that come out of Major Group dialogue processes.

Local level

Local authorities, supported by Scientists, Youth, NGOs, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples and Trade Unions, noted that implementation starts at the local level. They highlighted numerous references in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI) to the local level and called for this to be reflected in the final CSD decision where there is reference to other levels of implementation and reporting, including para's: 1.(a)(i), 2.(a)(i), 2.(a)(ii) 12.(a), 14(a).

In closing the session, Chairperson Valli Moosa thanked the Major Groups for helping to enrich the discussion on the Draft Decision. The only government to comment, the Netherlands, said that they would like to see the continuation of the Major Groups discussion within the negotiations next week. The Chairperson responded, somewhat indistinctly, that the attendance of Major Groups would be determined by the co-chairs of the working groups. We will have to wait and see how open and participatory the discussions will be next week.

Rosalie Gardiner, Stakeholder Forum

VULNERABLE SIDS

The Growing Vulnerability of SIDS

Recommendations for Vulnerability Management

In an era of rapid change in the international economy -- the redirection of investment flows away from primary producing activities, the quick outflow of capital from troubled markets (for example, the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s), and the need for adjustment to external shocks -- the management of

vulnerability challenges SIDS immensely. This research concludes that two fundamental principles must guide the management of reduction in national vulnerability of SIDS:

- minimising the risks from external shocks; and
- maximising these countries' environmental, economic, and social resilience.

The recommendations are therefore directed foremost at governments, but also international and regional development assistance organizations, as well as bilateral donors. The recommended actions are at three levels: the national, regional and inter-regional, and international. Given the structure of most government systems, the actions are presented by sectors.

Sustainable Energy

Recommendation 1: National level – Assess the need for the establishment of a national energy advisory committee

Recommendation 2: Regional level – Feasibility of using regional development banks as facilitators for technology transfer.

Recommendation 3: Inter-regional level – Feasibility of ICT-based inter-regional energy graduate and specialized training and research programme.

Recommendation 4: Inter-regional level – Undertake a study to review the impacts of privatization on the character of electricity generation and distribution.

Recommendation 5: International level – Evaluate feasibility of an international SIDS

Investment Fund to finance investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Trade

Recommendation 1: Inter-regional level – Evaluate the viability and requirements for a common approach and capacity to the WTO negotiations.

Recommendation 2: Inter-regional level – Collaborative mechanism for exploring new export market niches.

Natural Resources

Recommendation 1: National level – Review current land use policies to ensure consistency with sustainable utilization.

Recommendation 2: Inter-regional level – Enhance Mechanism for integrated agricultural and land resource management.

Recommendation 3: International level – Joint partnership for the sustainable development of marine resources.

Environment

Recommendation 1: National level – Establish the capacity to provide advice and guidance to government in integrated resource management.

Recommendation 2: National level – Increase public education and institutionalize in the form of education curriculum, environmental protection and proper management of natural resources.

Recommendation #3: Inter-regional level – Establish a participatory project investment fund

Recommendation 4: Inter-regional level – Establish a task force to

evaluate the current level of food security and make recommendations as to improvement with particular emphasis on the influence of climate change.

Recommendation 5: Inter-regional level – Greater participation in the global environmental negotiations.

Natural Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness

Recommendations: National Level – Implementation of the following actions:

- Develop and implement an integrated approach to vulnerability reduction in key sectors, particularly agriculture, tourism and fisheries.

- Sustainable development planning, including physical planning at the local and national levels, establishing and utilising better tools such as Geographical Information System (GIS).

- Increased use of financial instruments and incentives for risk reduction.

- Initiate and review legislation, planning, building and development standards and codes.

- Proactive and participatory approaches, including incremental development, to achieve better planning, building and development.

- Improve public education and awareness and enforcement.

- Strengthen capacity and realise better use of existing resources to achieve the above.

- Review present system of donor coordination to improve effectiveness, and minimize duplication.

Recommendations: Regional Level - Increasing inter-regional

cooperation in order to:

- Strengthen regional networks for emergency preparedness, including GIS Hazard Mapping, up-to-date weather information, and early warning and emergency response systems.

- Implement regional approaches to disaster management, including coordinated responses, emergency relief funds and other potential cooperation mechanisms to face natural disasters.

- Facilitate inter-regional information exchange, including on regional policy initiatives such as Pacific CHARM and C-

We Are All Islanders

Almost a decade ago, small island states convened in Barbados at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States. The sense of Rio was still young and vibrant then, and the Barbados Plan of Action reflects the belief that the countries of the world were serious about the implementation of Agenda 21, and that commitments made were commitments meant.

The Barbados Plan of Action foreshadowed many of the lessons we would learn in the Rio Decade. It articulated the importance of "human resources" as the key element in developing sustainable responses to limited development options. It affirmed the essential roles of women and youth to societies that aspire to be sustainable and just. It called attention to the "special role" of major groups and non-governmental organizations in democratic societies where government and community and personal life are so evidently intertwined.

The substance of the BPA highlighted Climate Change, Energy and Tourism issues more clearly than Agenda 21 did, and demonstrated insights years ahead of continental counterparts with regard to the dangers of unsustainable consumption and production.

It anticipated the Johannesburg Summit with its wisdom concerning partnerships of all types, and created one of the most effective partnerships for sustainable development, the Alliance of Small Islands States.

It challenged all of us to move from rhetoric to implementation. And it asked the rest of the world to pay attention to their actions and the impacts on the world we share, and to the special needs of islands.

Barbados Plus 10 is a practical opportunity to demonstrate that the international community has been paying attention, that we have learned some lessons since Rio, and that we are willing to address the needs of real people in real places. It is a perfect opportunity for developed nations to act on the new rhetoric of implementation emanating from Johannesburg.

It is a Conference for all of us. Yes, island nations have special needs, but as the BPA and AOSIS have amply demonstrated, they have special gifts of insight into the critical challenges of the Twenty-first century, and of leadership in creating sustainable communities.

Barbados Plus 10 offers a window into the next decade just as Barbados did into the last. Through it we all can view our effectiveness at meeting our common responsibilities. In addition, its focus on islands is a lens through which all of us may see more clearly into our common fate.

It may well be that no human is an island, but we all live on one that is as precious as it is fragile.

David Hales, Stakeholder Forum

DERA from the Caribbean, capacity-building, model legislation, and planning and building standards.

- Operationalising of the environmental vulnerability index and other indicators to help measure and assess SIDS vulnerability to hazards.

Recommendations: International Level

- Encourage international donor assistance to local communities and appropriate national and regional organizations of SIDS, to support efforts in comprehensive hazard and risk management, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness and to help relieve the consequences of disasters, extreme weather events and other emergencies.
- Encourage international ratification and enforcement of agreements aimed at reducing human impact on the environment and climate.
- Encourage the establishment of a special fund to help finance disaster mitigation and preparedness and response activities in SIDS.

Investment

Recommendation 1: National – developing an enabling environment for FDI.

Recommendation 2: Inter-regional level – development of a policy exchange facility for FDI.

Recommendation 3: Inter-regional level – establish of a regional mechanism consisting of the private sector, government and NGOs to provide oversight of the financial sector.

Recommendation 4: International level - petition for waiver on constraints on investment incentives.

Recommendation 5: International level – pursue understanding with multilateral financial institutions as to SIDS’ special status

Cross-Cutting Issues

Planning

Recommendation 1: National level – Provide support to institute or enhance development resource use planning systems.

Recommendation 2: National level – Undertake an evaluation of the present institutional

framework with regard to improving donor relations.

Recommendation 3: National level – Institutionalise public participation in national planning activities.

Recommendation 4: Inter-regional level – Establish an inter-regional task force to look at current focus of academic training and research at the University of the West Indies, the University of Mauritius, the University of Papua New Guinea, the University of Malta and the University of the South Pacific on the relevance of their current curricula to the knowledge and skills requirements of the graduates who will, in the future, be providing professional expertise to SIDS.

Recommendation 5: Inter-regional level – Examine the feasibility of a SIDS collective approach to tertiary education and the development of SIDS-relevant core curricula for primary and secondary education.

Recommendation 6: Inter-regional level – Undertake an evaluation of present national development planning to see if it is structurally biased towards increasing vulnerability.

Recommendation 7: Inter-regional level – Donor support to finalise work on vulnerability index

Recommendation 8: Inter-regional level – Evaluating a possible mechanism of a SIDS Skills Bank to help address professional capacity needs.

Recommendation 9: National level – Improving data collection mechanisms to provide relevant information to support planning.

Human Resources Development

Recommendation 1: National level – Governments and donors need to significantly increase the resources allocated for human resource development consistent with the goal of the Social Summit and the in the spirit of Agenda 21. The incorporation of ICT should be given highest consideration in the formulation of strategies in this area.

Report prepared for the UNDP Capacity 2015 project by the University of West Indies Centre for Environment & Development

STAKEHOLDER VIEWS

Trade Unions Raise Alert About the Future of the Social Dimension

Trade Unions came to CSD11 with the understanding that it would serve as a transitional session, opening up a whole new era in the evolution of the Commission and its work. It was intended to move the CSD from a ‘Pre-Summit Programme’ to a ‘Post-Summit Programme’ that would lead all the way to Rio +20.

With this in mind, trade unions had an initial concern that so much

of the Ministerial Roundtables were related to ‘pre-WSSD’ subjects; i.e., the formation of policy of sustainable development. The post-WSSD CSD was, after all, supposed to deal with implementation; i.e., how to frame, promote and coordinate the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation (JPOI). As the Session progressed, however, it became apparent that a transition to a post-WSSD mode was, in fact, taking place, particularly with the release on Thursday of the Chairman’s draft paper on the Future Programme, Organisation and Methods of Work of the Commission.

What is even more troubling to trade unions, however, is the fact that the social dimension of sustainable development was being downplayed during the first week of this Session. It is particularly revealing that the International Labour Organisation, which was

highlighted at the WSSD as a main agency employment and the Social Pillar, was hardly mentioned at all; neither was the ILO Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation.

Since Rio, trade unions have focused attention on the Social Dimension, and particularly on its employment aspects, as crucial to the fully-integrated implementation of sustainable development. They have expressed concern about the tendency at the CSD to focus mainly on environmental concerns, and explained why strategies must target the workplace as a focal point for change, with the understanding that it must include the engagement of workers and employers.

Trade unions were therefore gratified by the amount of attention to the Social Dimension received in WSSD text, and to the overriding theme proposed for the new Programme of Work, 'Sustainable development for Poverty Eradication'. Poverty-eradication can only be achieved, however, through coherent policies in Member States that lead to decent, income-producing employment and sustainable natural resource management.

Workplace Assessments

Poverty eradication also provides a good theme for the development of the Workplace Assessments, which have been proposed by trade unions during this Session. These work-based partnerships could potentially involve millions of workers around

the world in efforts to bring about concrete changes to patterns of production and consumption. They can also serve as springboards to sustainable consumption in personal and community life, as part of a strategy to win the hearts and minds of the public-at-large, especially on the importance of modifying their individual life style patterns

In this regard, trade unions question some of the Type II Partnerships that have appeared since the Summit, including a good number that were displayed at the Partnership Fair during this CSD Session. Few of these appear to devote sufficient attention to employment or community impacts, or to the effects on basic socio-economic security, generally. It is also a matter for concern that there is yet little consistency or evidence of framework amongst the projects that were discussed.

Trade Unions call on Member States and other Major Groups to renew their efforts to promote the social dimension in the new Programme of Work, and its outcomes. Amongst other things, all stakeholders must have an opportunity to play an active role in the development of standards and guidelines for CSD-approved Partnerships, and in monitoring them to make sure that they produce these results.

Lucien Royer, ICFTU

SIDE EVENTS

Training for a Sustainable Future

The Institute@CSD

The Institute builds upon the Summit Institute for Sustainable Development (SISD) at the Johannesburg Summit, and is a capacity building process that harnesses the knowledge and experience of CSD participants. The Institute@CSD is being held in support of the CSD 11's Learning Centre.

At the institute@CSD, attendees will receive training in practical, how-to courses taught by experienced practitioners from around the world. The Institute is presented by the Smithsonian Institution and UNDP, with support and assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, IUCN and the Nando Peretti Foundation.

Courses are free and based on first-come registration basis. You can register either adjacent to the Johannesburg exhibit near the Vienna Café, at the UNDP Learning Resources Centre (304 45th St., 11th Floor with Ms. Varsha Redkar-Palepu or Ms. Lee Davis (dail ext 6507 or 6467 for entrance) or email: lee.davis@undp.org

Schedule

Courses are offered in half-day segments. Classes start promptly at 10.15am and 3pm. The location is less than a block away from the UN delegate entrance on 45th Street.

Tuesday May 6th

Green Infrastructure: A strategic Approach to Green Space Planning and Conservation.

10.15 - 1.15 and 3.00 - 6.00

Administered by: Avery Patillo, USDA et. al. This course will provide participants on implmenting interconnected green space systems and peri-urban environments.

Developing Capacities for Sustainable Communities

10.15 - 1.15

Administered by: Ndey Njie and Lina Hamadeh Banerjee, UNDP. This course will provide participants with a hands-on and practical approach to capacity development implementation.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) and working for a sustainable environment

10.15 - 1.15 or 3.00 - 6.00

Administered by: Frank Pinto, UNDP. This course will provide participants with a practical case-study approach to sustainable environmental programmes drawn from GEF small community grants.

Gender Mainstreaming towards Sustainable Development

10.15 - 1.15

Administered by: Aster Zaoude, UNDP. This course will provide participants with a wide range of practical examples and dialogue on best practices and lessons learned in gender mainstreaming.

Global Issues in Human Development

3.00 - 6.00

Administered by: Omar Norman. This course offers a results-based approach to analysis of indicators and sustainable advocacy of the Global Human Development Report, the Arab and Iraq Reports.

Wednesday May 7th

Learning ho UNDP strategies for development results (RBM) in your country

10.15 - 1.15

Administered by: Abdul Hannan, UNDP. This course helps to develop an understanding of how UNDP strategises for development results in over 145 countries, joining with partners to achieve shared aims.

Organising Grassroots Councils for Resource Conservation.

3.00 - 6.00

Administered by: Sharon Ruggi and a panel of local, state, regional and national Resources Conservation and Development leaders.

This course will focus on public/private partnerships in making the best use of limited resources and the value of grass-roots involvement in making decisions about local areas.

Details of Thursday's programme in Tomorrow's Outreach 2015...

S.D. PARTNERSHIPS

Cement Sustainability Initiative - Partnering with Stakeholders

Partnering – fundamental to sustainable development solutions

Partnering has played a crucial role in the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) – a global initiative by ten of the world's leading cement companies to further a truly sustainable cement industry. Without the involvement of key stakeholders and their input and feedback at local, national and international level from the outset, the Initiative would almost certainly have failed at the first hurdle – the initial three year independent scoping and research study into the long term sustainability of the global cement industry.

World-wide dialogues in countries as diverse as Brazil, Thailand, Portugal and Egypt with key stakeholders - including residents groups, employees, consumer organisations, local NGOs and suppliers - were an essential component of the initial research. Ongoing consultation was also an integral part of the process – meetings were held in Beijing, Brussels and Washington with both Government and NGO representatives aimed at policy-making and multilateral financial and development organisations and global environmental interest groups. Details of the study's progress were available online to enable all NGOs and special interest groups world-wide to register their views.

Third party views are crucial in reaching sustainable solutions, as engagement with stakeholders as well as shareholders and financial institutions are an important learning opportunity for the industry in moving towards sustainability.

The CSI's Agenda for Action acknowledged that understanding the needs and expectations of local stakeholders, and then responding appropriately, is crucial to the industry's ability to do business and maintain its 'licence to operate' in communities across the world. It is a fundamental first step in working effectively with local communities - which each, quite rightly, expect to be dealt

with on an individual basis. The Agenda committed member companies to individually establish a systematic dialogue with stakeholders to understand and address their expectations and then to report on progress – on the development of stakeholder engagement programmes and on key issues to relevant stakeholders. Almost all the Agenda's commitments require them to work with stakeholders in some way, from developing Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines to social investment programmes.

Member companies know external stakeholders want a proactive approach to sustainable development coupled with greater transparency and evidence of significant actions, leading to real and lasting changes.

RMC Group, one of the driving forces behind the Initiative, is well aware that its own "licence to operate" depends on listening carefully to its stakeholders. In 1999 RMC undertook extensive research amongst its stakeholders to determine external perceptions about its environmental impact, highlighting a set of priority issues which the Group is now tackling.

RMC's commitment to sustainable development is reflected in its work over the past decade with stakeholders worldwide. RMC has participated on projects ranging from the donation of 1,105 acres of Everglade wetlands in the USA to Florida International University (FIU) in 2001 following an aggregate extraction programme to collaboration with six French regional NGOs (including ProNatura and les Naturalistes Orléanais) since 1995 on restoration techniques and scientific research by the aggregates business of RMC France.

Noel Morrin, International Environment Director at RMC Group points out,

"We recognise that our reputation and business success quite rightly don't just depend on the quality of our products, services and financial performance – but also on the way we meet our environmental responsibilities. But with 2400 sites world-wide our experience has shown that a 'one size fits all' approach does not provide local communities with the best links to RMC business units. Ensuring a diverse approach at local level is vital - the only common factor is that it must be effective."

STAKEHOLDER FORUM

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David Hales & Gwen Malangwu

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AM	Consideration of draft decisions. Conference Room TBA
10.00 - 10.40	A Network of International Model Scientific-Educational Production Centres of Sustainable Development. Conference Room B
10.45 - 11.25	Centres of Excellence for Technology Innovation for Sustainable Africa. Conference Room B
11.30 - 12.10	Partnership for Principal 10. Conference Room B
PM	Discussion on Preparation for the 10 Year Review of the Plan of Action for SIDS. Conference Room 4
1.15 - 2.45	Sustainable Development & HIV/AIDS. Conference Room B
1.15 - 2.45	Integrating Economic, Social & Environmental Aspects of Sustainable Development. Conference Room 6
3.00 - 3.40	Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean: Policy & Tools. Conference Room B
3.45 - 4.25	SARD Initiative (Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development. Conference Room B
4.30 - 6.00	Building the Mountain Partnership: Lessons Learned on Networking and Information Management. Conference Room B

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