

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2016

“Regional priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”

3-5 APRIL 2016 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE . BANGKOK, THAILAND

Building Knowledge Partnerships: Academia and UN System Knowledge Platforms for Advancing the SDGs

Side event

Date: 5 April 2016, Time- 13.30-15.00

Venue: United Nations Conference Centre, room F

Co-organizers: UNESCO, Bangkok;
Chulalongkorn University Global Network (CGN), Bangkok; and
The Sustainability Platform (TSP)

Title: Dialogue on Building Knowledge Partnerships: Academia and UN
System Knowledge Platforms for Advancing the SDGs

Description:

Subsequent to the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations has established a [Partnerships for SDGs online platform](#) to promote partnerships and also to “inform all stakeholders on initiatives carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and for linking progress of those initiatives to various follow-up mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda, in particular to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)”.

The UN - Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform further states, that “Since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 - known as the Earth Summit, it was recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people.”.

Institutions of higher education and the academic community are critical partners and stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Universities, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), University Networks and professional bodies in the Asia Pacific Region have always played a role in supporting not only mainstream UN Agendas such as the MDGs but also contributed via research and academic support to enhance economic and social development, trade and development, social justice and made a difference to the advancement of the UN’s normative goals.

In the context of the 2030 Agenda and arrangements for implementation at the regional level, it is of great relevance and urgency that synergies and partnerships are established between Institutions of Higher Learning and the UN system in the Asia Pacific. Such partnerships can extend opportunities for learning to policymakers and strengthen the science-policy interface for a more effective implementation effort. Online platforms for e-learning are an example of the potential for such partnership. UN-ESCAP has already established a portal, viz The Asia Pacific Knowledge Platform for Sustainable Development.

This side event at the APFSD 2016, will identify ways of strengthening the knowledge cooperation between the UN system and institutions of higher learning in the region and look at concrete ways for assisting in the monitoring the progress and implementation of the SDGs and strengthening the science-policy interface and enlarging the constituency for the SDGs through innovative academic programs and student-faculty involvement in adding value to the SDG Agenda.

Key objectives:

1. Identify areas of Knowledge Cooperation between Academia and the UN system for advancing the UN SDGs;
2. Promote Interdisciplinary Cooperation across Academic Disciplines and UN System Agenda especially in the areas of i) Science, Technology and Innovation; ii) Macroeconomic policy; iii) Integration of the Three Dimensions of SD and iv) Trade and Development;
- 3) Explore Institutional arrangements for strengthening and taking forward Academia-UN Cooperation for promoting the SDGs.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderators: **Surichai Wun'gao**, Chula Global Network (CGN) and Director, Rotary Peace Centre, Chulalongkorn University;
Lawrence Surendra, Chairman, The Sustainability Platform

Speakers/discussants:

- Ramasamy Jayakumar, Chief Natural Resources Division, UNESCO, Bangkok
- Apichai Sunchindah, Former Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation
- Vithaya Kulsomboon, Director, Chulalongkorn University Research Institute, (CUSRI)
- Thanavadee Boonlue, President, Siam University and Asia Cooperation Dialogue
- Daniel Ray Lewis, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University
- Aradhna Agarwal, Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen Business School (via skype)
- Mia Mikic, Chief, Trade Policy and Analysis Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP
- Simon Hoiberg-Olsen, Senior Research Fellow, IGES

Q and A

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