

Session 3: North-East Asia partnership for implementing SDGs

Multi-stakeholders, Multi-Layered Partnerships

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have enormously addressed global issues, which were missed out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) along with unfinished businesses. In turn, the goals which we have to achieve by 2030 have been much more numerous, complex, and thus, challenging to implement and monitor. At the same time, the SDGs require multi-layered partnerships due to an increased number of stakeholders at multi-levels. Accordingly, as President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim once stated, we will need trillions of dollars to achieve SDGs, compared to that of billions for MDGs. However, as we have only achieved almost half of success for MDGs, we can easily think that those billions were not successfully collected and invested when we look at the financial aspects.

Hence, in my presentation, I argue that we need to begin thinking out of box when we discuss the engagement of the private sector in SDGs implementation. At the same time, we need to define our regional key words to focus on as a starting point, such as capacity building for both soft and hard, and financial and non-financial terms. To this end, my presentation provides a practical suggestion: establishment of the “SDGs Implementation NEA Regional Action Group” within the region. In more detail, the presentation suggests us using an existing platform of NEA Development Cooperation Forum, but in the newly designed form of Trust Fund. It will need to integrate parts of each countries large initiatives (Belt and Road Initiative, Eurasian Initiative, Partnership for Quality Infrastructure, and Eurasian Comprehensive Partnership) along with academics, practitioners, government officials and the private sector. Finally, it is also suggested considering the North-East Asia (NEA) Peer Review Mechanism and the Regional Survey (possibly, led by the UNESCAP) for the progress monitoring and evaluation.

Keywords: SDGs, Implementation, Partnership, Private Sector, Capacity Development, Regional Action Group