

Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals: Priorities and Solutions

7–8 November 2013

The Westin Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Office of the Science Advisor
Prime Minister's Office



Supported by



About the Workshop

Following the 2012 Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, world governments have embarked on a process to develop universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will promote an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet for present and future generations. The SDGs will come into effect in 2016 and build on the Millennium Development Goals. The UN General Assembly's 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals is currently preparing a proposal on the SDGs for consideration by the Assembly in September 2014.

The **Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals: Priorities and Solutions** aims to create a dialogue on the SDGs to ensure they reflect the sustainable development needs and priorities of the region. The workshop will engage a wide range of regional stakeholders from government, business, civil society and academia to explore key sustainable development challenges for the region, how sustainable development priorities differ among countries, and the implications of these for the SDGs. It will also examine the global and national processes critical to the success of the SDGs, including implementation, communication, the role of business, and the role of science and technology. The outcomes of the workshop will be provided as input into national and international processes to develop the SDGs.

Workshop Partners

The workshop is a joint initiative of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Malaysia Centre, the SDSN Australia/Pacific Regional Centre (hosted by Monash University, Australia), the Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MIGHT) and the Office of the Science Adviser to the Prime Minister, Malaysia. It is supported by the Harold Mitchell Foundation and the Australian Government.

The SDSN is a global network of universities, research institutes, civil society organisations, international organisations and other institutions and agencies that have a deep expertise in sustainable development and a deep commitment to finding and implementing solutions for sustainable development challenges. It was launched in August 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General and is led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs at Columbia University. SDSN aims to mobilise scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales.

Workshop Co-Chairs

The workshop is co-chaired by **Prof Emeritus Dato' Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid** and **Sir Bob Watson**.



Prof Zakri Abdul Hamid

Dr Zakri is the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. In January 2013, he was elected as the founding Chairman of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Recently, Dr Zakri was among 26 international experts appointed to the newly established Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Secretary-General, Ban-Ki Moon.

He is Chairman of the National Science and Research Council; the National Professors Council and the Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BIOTECHCORP). He is Joint-Chairman to the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and the Aerospace Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC). Dr Zakri has extensive experience in science governance at the national and international levels. He was the Founding President of the Genetics Society of Malaysia and was the Chair of the National Taskforce to formulate the 'National Policy on Biological Diversity' launched by the Government in 1998. From 2001 to 2008, he was the Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies at the United Nations University in Japan. He co-chaired the UN-sponsored "Millennium Ecosystem Assessment" (2001–2005). He was the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) for the Convention on Biological Diversity from 1997 to 1999. He was the Co-Chair of the UNEP High-level International Advisory Committee of the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law on Environmental Sustainability held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 and a member of the CBD High-level Panel on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Dr Zakri also sits on the President's Council of the New York Academy of Sciences and was the first Malaysian to be appointed as a council member of the prestigious STS forum in Kyoto.

Dr Zakri's academic interests lie in genetics, biodiversity and bio-diplomacy. He is a recipient of the Langkawi Award and is a fellow of several learned bodies: the Academy of Sciences Malaysia; the Academy of Sciences of the Developing World; the Islamic World Academy of Sciences; and the World Academy of Art and Science. Dr Zakri is a former Fulbright Scholar.



Sir Robert Watson

Sir Robert's career has evolved from a Ph.D student at London University; a post-doctoral fellow at University of California, Berkeley and University of Maryland; a research scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology; a program manager/director at NASA; a scientific advisor in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, White House; a scientific advisor, manager and chief scientist at the World Bank; the chief scientific advisor to the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to his present positions as a Professor of Environmental Sciences and strategic director for the Tyndall Center at the University of East Anglia, and the Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University.

He has chaired, co-chaired or directed national and international scientific, technical and economic assessments on stratospheric ozone depletion, biodiversity and ecosystems (the Global biodiversity assessment, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the UK National Ecosystem Assessment), climate change (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and agricultural science and technology (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development). He is currently a vice-chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Professor Watson's areas of expertise include managing and coordinating national and international environmental programmes, research programmes and assessments; establishing science and environmental policies - specifically advising governments and civil society on the policy implications of scientific information and policy options for action; and communicating scientific, technical and economic information to policymakers.

During the last twenty years he has received numerous national and international awards recognising his contributions to science and the science-policy interface, including the 2008 American Association for the Advancement of Science Award for International Scientific Cooperation and the 2010 Asahi Glass Blue Planet Prize.

Thursday, 7 November 2013

8:30–9:00 am – Registration (tea & coffee)

9:00–9:30 am

Opening Ceremony

Welcoming remarks

- **Prof Emeritus Dato' Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid**
Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, Malaysia and Chair,
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem
Services (IPBES)

Opening and officiating remarks

- **Honourable Dato' Dr James Dawos Mamit**
Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia

9:30–10:30 am – Session 1

Scene-setting

Chair: Prof Zakri Abdul Hamid

This session will set the scene for regional progress on sustainable development, including progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the United Nations and other political processes underway to develop universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2016.

Keynote Speakers

- **Dr Bindu N. Lohani**
Vice President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development,
Asian Development Bank
– Regional progress on the Millennium Development Goals and the
achievements to date
- **Sir Bob Watson**
Sir Louis Matheson Fellow, Monash University
– International processes to develop universal SDGs by 2016, including
current proposals and unresolved issues in the negotiations

10:30–11:00 am – Morning tea

11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Session 2

How to incorporate key themes into the SDGs

Chair: Sir Bob Watson

This session will consist of a panel discussion on a range of key themes. It will focus on how well current proposals for SDGs capture these themes and the interactions between them, and where there are gaps that need to be addressed.

Panel 1

- **Rosemarie Edillon – Poverty**
Assistant-Director General, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines
- **Dr William Padolina – Food and agriculture**
President, National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines
- **Mr Ho Long Phi – Water**
Director of The Center of Water Management and Climate Change, Viet Nam National University HCMC
- **Academician Dato' Ir (Dr) Yee Cheong Lee – Energy**
Chairman of the Governing Board, International STI Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC), Malaysia

Panel 2

- **Prof Yongyuth Yuthavong – Health**
Senior Scientist, National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand
- **Prof Pascale Allotey – Gender**
Professor of Public Health, Monash University Malaysia
- **Prof Leo Tan Wee Hin – Education**
Director (Special Projects), Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore
- **Prof John Thwaites – Cities**
Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute & Chair, National Sustainability Council, Australia

1:00–2:00 pm – Lunch

2:00–3:30 pm – Session 3

What are the sustainable development priorities for the region

Chair: Prof Zakri Abdul Hamid

This session will present country perspectives on sustainable development priorities from across the region. Given the wide social, cultural, economic and environmental diversity that exists within the region and issues such as the right to develop and respecting diversity, does this translate into very different priorities for the SDGs or is there a high degree of commonality.

Panel

- **High Commissioner Ong Keng Yong – ASEAN and Singapore**
High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia
- **Prof Dr Awg Bulgiba Bin Awg Mahmud – Malaysia**
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), University of Malaya
- **Dr Vu Quoc Huy – Vietnam**
Dean, Faculty of Development Economics, Vietnam National University
- **Wilas Techo – Thailand**
Vice-President, Population & Community Development Association (PDA), Thailand
- **Rosemarie Edillon – Philippines**
Assistant-Director General, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines
- **Prof Dr Sein Myint – Myanmar**
Chairman, Supreme Group of Companies; Senior Fellow & Council Member, ASEAN Academy Engineering Technology; Member, Governing Board, International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre, (ISTIC), Myanmar
- **Prof Jatna Supriatna – Indonesia**
Chairman, of Research Center for Climate Change, University of Indonesia & Chair, SDSN Indonesia
- **Dr Ouk Makara – Cambodia**
Director, Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- **Prof John Thwaites – Australia**
Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute & Chair, National Sustainability Council, Australia

3:00–3:30 pm – Afternoon Tea

4:00–5:30 pm – Session 4

SDGs and the role of business and finance

Chair: Prof Helen Bartlett (Pro Vice Chancellor and President, Monash University Malaysia)

This session will examine why sustainable development is important for business and why business has an important role to play in achieving SDGs

Panel

- **Datuk Hong Lee Pee**
President, ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology, Malaysia
- **Harold Mitchell**
Former Chairman, Aegis Media Australia and New Zealand, Australia
- **Faroze Nadar**
Manager, Corporate Sustainability, Emery Oleochemicals Group, Malaysia
- **Dr Gabrielle Walker**
Chief Scientist, Xyntéo; author, “The Hot Topic,” on business strategy, energy and climate change
- **Ngian Siew Siong**
Advisor to Group Managing Director, Mah Sing Group; previously Managing Director, Sunway Group, International Division, Malaysia
- **Prof Dr Sein Myint**
Chairman, Supreme Group of Companies; Senior Fellow & Council Member, ASEAN Academy Engineering Technology; Member, Governing Board, International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre, (ISTIC), Myanmar
- **Paul Finn**
Global Head, Project and Structured Finance, ANZ in Singapore

6:00 pm (for 6:30 pm start) to 8:30 pm

Workshop dinner hosted by MIGHT

Grand Ballroom Westin II (Level 2), The Westin Hotel

Featuring

- Welcoming Remarks by **Prof Zakri Abdul Hamid**
- Speech by **Harold Mitchell**, Former Chairman, Aegis Media Australia and New Zealand
- Speech by **Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah**, Founder and chairman of The Sunway Group of Companies, Malaysia
- Musical Performance by **ASWARA**

Day 2: Friday 8 November 2013

8:30–9:00 – Registration (tea & coffee)

9:00–10:30 am – Session 5

How should implementation issues be dealt with in the SDGs

Chair: Academician Dato' Ir (Dr) Yee Cheong Lee, Chairman of the Governing Board, International STI Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC), Malaysia

The discussion will consider how issues such as common but differentiated responsibilities, financing, technology transfer, debt relief, intellectual property rights, trade reform, and capacity building should be incorporated into the international SDG framework.

Panel

- **Sir Bob Watson**
Sir Louis Matheson Fellow, Monash University
- **Dr Jayant Menon**
Lead Economist, Trade & Regional Cooperation, Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- **Prof Dr Tham Siew Yean**
Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
- **Dr William Padolina**
President, National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines
- **Prof Yongyuth Yuthavong**
Senior Scientist, National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand

10:30–11:00 am – Morning Tea

11:00 am – 12:30 pm – Session 6

The role of science and technology in sustainable development

Chair: Datuk Hong Lee Pee (President, ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology, Malaysia)

This session will explore the role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in achieving SDGs and how universities can stimulate this. Does STI open up new development pathways that break out of the current paradigm of exploiting the natural environment for development gains? Are there potential breakthrough technologies that could greatly accelerate the achievement of the SDGs?

Panel

- **Dr Shiv Someshwar**
Director Climate Policy, Earth Institute, Columbia University
[Replaced by Prof Zakri Abdul Hamid]
- **Prof Dave Griggs**
Director, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University, Australia
- **Dr Ahmad Ibrahim**
Chief Executive Officer, Academy of Sciences Malaysia
- **Prof Dr Shahbaz Khan**
Deputy Director, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia Pacific, Jakarta
- **Prof Tony Capon**
Director, International Institute for Global Health (KL), United Nations University

12:30–2:00 pm – Lunch

2:00–3:30 pm – Session 7

How will countries communicate and implement SDGs

Chair: Prof Dr Nik Meriam Binti Nik Sulaiman (Dean, Sustainability Science, University of Malaya, Malaysia)

This session will look at how the SDGs can be translated into national targets and hence be built into national economic and development plans. It will consider how to get the message about sustainable development and SDGs understood and its importance recognised and acted on by government, business, civil society, academia and the public.

Panel

- **Prof Wing Thye Woo**
Executive Director, Penang Institute, Malaysia
- **Prof Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak**
Vice-Chancellor, Albukhary International University, Malaysia, and President, International Association of Universities
- **Delia Paul**
Writer/Editor Earth Negotiations Bulletin, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Thailand
- **Prof Agnes Rola**
University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Philippines
- **Mr Asfaazam Kasbani**
Assistant Resident Representative, Environment & Energy, United Nations Development Programme Malaysia

3:30–4:00 pm – Afternoon Tea

4:00–5:00 pm – Session 8

The way forward

Chairs: Prof Zakri Abdul Hamid and Sir Bob Watson

This session will consider the findings that have emerged over the two days of the workshop and how they can feed into the international process negotiating the SDGs and into national sustainable development policies.

5:00 pm Close