Green Growth, Green Economy
Towards Sustainable Development or New Protectionism

What Does This Mean?

9th ASEF Journalists’ Colloquium
Media and the Green Agenda
Reporting on Sustainable Development in Asia and Europe
Gurgaon
11 November 2013
The Need

Negative Consequences of Economic Development

Negative Externalities
i.e. Pollution of Air, Water, Soil

Unsustainable Use of Finite Resources
i.e. Air, Water, Soil, Minerals
Green Economy: UNEP Definition

An economy that results in improved human well being and reduced inequalities over the long term, while not exposing the future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities.
The Areas Covered: According to UNEP

1. Agriculture
2. Buildings
3. Cities
4. Energy
5. Fisheries
6. Forests
7. Manufacturing
8. Tourism
9. Transport
10. Waste
11. Water
What does it need?

**International**: market and legal infrastructure, trade and aid protocols

- develop market infrastructure
- improve trade and aid flows
- foster greater international cooperation
What does it need?

National: regulations, policies, subsidies and incentives

• changes to fiscal policy
• reform and reduction of environmentally harmful subsidies
• employing new market-based instruments
• targeting public investments to “green” key sectors
• greening public procurement
• improving environmental rules and regulations as well as their enforcement
Seven Tracks to a Green Economy

1. Investment in renewable energy, forest conservation, water management
2. Efficiency in production and utilisation of goods and services
3. Greening markets – Eco labelling
4. Investing in green infrastructure – BRTs, railways, water supply, sanitation, waste management
5. Restoration and enhancement of natural capital – agriculture, forestry, fisheries, land, water, air
6. Getting prices right – Including social & environmental costs of production; Payments for ecosystem services
7. Using polluter pays principle
Can This Lead to Protectionism Under a New Guise?

The Government of India Thinks So

At International Negotiations

- It opposes mandatory carbon emission caps for developing countries
- Seeks financing to deal with climate change and transfer of green technologies under favorable terms
Number of climate related disasters
1900-2009

Source: Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Leuven, Belgium
Emerging climate related risks - GLOFs

“More than 40 lakes in the Himalayas, formed from rapidly melting glaciers, are expected to burst their banks in the next five years, sending millions of gallons of water and rock cascading on to settlements in the valleys below”.

ICIMOD study, Feb 2010
Kedarnath after the mid-June 2013 disaster
What Do We Need?

- Improved collaboration between regional scientists, policy makers, and civil society including media on climate change issues
- Shift thinking from narrow national security concerns to broader perspective that includes ecological and social concerns
- Incorporate voices of poor and marginalised communities into policy debates
What Should We Do?

Make changes in other policy fields, such as:

• migration and settlement
• transboundary cooperation
• land use planning, especially for construction (e.g. avoiding high-risk and hazardous areas, specifications for the elevation of the lowest floor level, use of flood-resistant material)
• agriculture, especially irrigation development
• use of traditional knowledge (e.g. www.earik.in)
What More Should We Do?

Understand that adaptation to climate change isn’t only about specific response strategies. It is also about

• understanding the levels of certainty in climate trends, tipping points and stress indicators

• communicating and policymaking in an era of uncertainty
Our Solution

• Provide subject-focused online platforms for open discussion

• Catalyze discussion on various issues e.g.
  – climate change effects on water supply and agriculture
  – Effects of urbanization in different countries
  – Attempts at sustainable tourism in different countries
Our Solution

• Bring together all stakeholders, especially journalists, through
  – Media training workshops
  – Field trips
  – Sponsorship to conferences
  – Organizing competitions etc.