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UN Colloquia - Session IV, 11.01.2012: Green Economy and Development

By Theresa Neumeister

Heinz Leuenberger - UNIDO

The focus of Mr. Leuenberger's presentation was "**Development in the Industrial Sector in the Future**". Last years' target in this field was: sustainable development. Mr. Leuenberger pointed out, that industrialisation plays a central part in the creation of wealth and employment. At present, industries in developing countries and emerging economies have inefficient production, meaning misuse use of resources, old technologies, bad handling of new technologies, etc. Problems are: water emission, waste, co2, climate change, air pollution, land degradation, etc.

Consequently, consumption patterns need to be changed. Energy, material consumption and other is growing, which needs to be changed. The challenge is: to decouple economic growth from the use of natural resources. Less input - more output. Industrial production is growing by a factor of 4 till 2050, which is ecologically impossible or a disaster. Following problems are created by industries: water pollution, chemicals in water, waste, etc.

"Decoupling of tendencies." Green industry is the future: more products with less inputs. New technologies, environment practices, new policies, subsidies, change in investment patterns. Resource productivity will be important. Also, the consumption behaviour needs to be changed. Both, the greening of industries, e.g. the elimination of toxic chemicals, the redesign of production lines, business models, resource efficient and greener production, as well as the creation of green industries are all important. In many countries fresh and/or clean water needs to be bought due to water pollution. Rewards or penalties need to be set in place to motivate and support green economies.

Summary: industry (manufacturing) is key in the eradication of poverty. Business as it is today is no further option. Global challenge: decoupling of economic growth and growth in use of resources and pollution.

Philip Weller - ICPDR

Mr. Weller talked about "**River Basin Management**".

The Danube is an extremely diverse region. It reaches from extremely wealthy to poor countries, such as Austria and Moldova. Its water is used for drinking water as well as for waste disposal. Many human activities damage the quality of water. Management mechanisms need to be in place to ensure the use and the quality of the whole region. There is the "**Danube protection convention**" and an additional legal framework, signed by 15 contracting parties. Further, there are 21 observers, who are involved in the decision-making process. Significant water management issues are: organic pollution, nutrient pollution, hazardous substances pollution, and hydromorphological pollution. Clean water is essential for green economy.

The **Danube river basin management plan** is a report, which outlines the water status and joint programme measures (not entirely completed). Ministers of the region met in 2010. A sound arrangement needs to be elaborated. Examples for positive development are: A) process of establishing guiding principles of how environmental protection can be achieved. An inter-sectorial dialogue is key. Hydropower, and agriculture needs to be promoted and realized in different ways

than before. Climate change adaptation needs to be taken into consideration. B) public-private partnerships. E.g. cooperation with companies: "Business friends of the Danube". www.icpdr.org

Matthias Jurek - UNEP

Sustainable Mountain Development and Green Economy. Why do mountains matter? They are a source of water, energy (hydropower), biological diversity, as well as a source of minerals, forest production, income (tourism), cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, etc. Challenges are: A) some regions are difficultly accessible and climate change is effecting in various ways. B) difficult livelihood conditions, migration represents a source of conflict. C) natural disasters and extreme events. D) fragile ecosystems. E) increasing pollution (Mount Everest: waste pollution). F) urbanization. G) poverty and hunger among mountain population.

What is **sustainable mountain development**? Governance: global, regional, and national efforts. Call for global mountain convention, which does not exist at present. Right now, regional approaches are needed: trans-boundary approach to foster sub-region cooperation and minimize work-load. Current regional approaches and initiatives: A) Andean Community. B) Alpine Convention. C) Carpathian Convention, and others. Success stories: Costa Rica: forest protection enabled ecotourism.

Green economy report: broader focus. Upcoming **Earth Summit in Rio** de Janeiro, Brazil: Trying to mainstream mountains into discussion. Strategic meetings: international Conference on GE and SMD, Kathmandu, Sep 2011. Two other meetings in 2011. Messages and key issues for Rio from Mountain community: poverty in mountain region, strengthen institution, best use of all new and existing mechanisms, recognize the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems, provide enabling conditions and incentives for investment.

Gorazd Mesko - University of Maribor

Green Criminology and the exploration of environmental crimes in South Eastern Europe: scientific, policy-making and public awareness perspectives.

Research project: crimes against environment. Before the research project, there were various documents on topic, from public sector and NGOs. But information was controversial. Green crimes are mainly committed by elites of a society (industry). There is no protection, and police officers are not trained in this field. Already 3 years ongoing. Start 2009: literature review undertaken by 8 researchers (colleagues of university and students). Students went to study abroad in Australia to study on green topics. 2010: mapping of all reported green crimes in Slovenia. Then an application for a grant was sent to NATO (science for peace) and was approved. A workshop was held. Also, a conference on "Policing in Central and Eastern Europe - Social Control of unconventional deviance" was held. Later in 2010 the NATO advanced research workshop "Managing Global Environmental Threats to Air, Water and Soil", was held from 28-30 June 2010. A book was published in 2011: Understanding and Managing Threats to the Environment in South Eastern Europe, Springer.

Later, the goal of the project was expanded: A) Natural sciences were included, B) A network of scholars and other actors was created. Achieved Goals: 2011: Book was published, also a journal of Criminal Justice and Security, GERN workshop: green criminology and protection of environment. 2012: project will end in April: a publication will be published. Effects: existing cooperation among researchers, with experts, governmental agencies and politics. Furthermore, conferences were organized, and partnerships between universities in Europa, USA and Australia established. Three dimensions: I) research – II) policy-making (some policy documents) – III) public awareness (civil society, public events, changed university curriculum).

Questions by Audience:

Michael Platzer: Question for Mr. Leuenberger. The poor are affected the most. How is the most criminal? Leuenberger: I can't answer the question. However, it doesn't make sense to build up an inefficient industry. It is highly expensive to clean up an economy. Personally, I think all have a high level of responsibility since people want cheap products. As a consequence, the companies need to cut down costs. Leuenberger: Personally, the decoupling of consumption and the use of natural resources is a must.

Question by Prof. Leuenberger: Are there still endeavours to build up a court against environmental crimes? Mr. Jurek: There is a coalition against environmental crimes. There are initiatives with Interpol on trafficking in illegal species.