

Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

Green economy is a term which has generated much interest of late, particularly following the financial crisis and global recession and the “green stimulus” packages assembled by a number of governments. Also, in the run-up to Copenhagen, many countries developed plans and policies to promote low-carbon development, which can be encompassed by the term “green economy” or “green growth”.

The concept is used in several senses, to refer e.g. to promotion of structural change towards less energy-, resource- and pollution-intensive sectors, as well as to broad policies designed to shift all economic activities onto a more resource- and energy-efficient and less environmentally damaging foundation. Opinions differ on whether the economic adjustments involved will be gradual and small-scale or more transformational.

The newness of the concept means that many are still uncertain about how to interpret it and what its implications are for their own countries. Many countries have experience with policies which could be given a “green economy” label (e.g., eco-taxation, investments in green infrastructure, sustainable procurement, etc.). Some have pursued them more comprehensively and ambitiously than others.

- Does green economy offer a useful framework for capturing synergies among the three pillars of sustainable development, or are the trade-offs more apparent?
- What are the benefits, costs and risks of pursuing a green economy, green growth path?

Biographies of the Speakers

Professor Rehman Sobhan has served as a Professor of Economics, Dhaka University, Member, Bangladesh Planning Commission, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Visiting Fellow, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, Member, of the Advisory Council of the President of Bangladesh, Founder and Executive Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Executive Director, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Visiting Scholar, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, Senior Research Fellow, Ash Institute of Democratic Governance, Harvard University and is currently Chairman, CPD. Professor Sobhan has held a number of important professional positions which include President, Bangladesh Economic Association, Member, U.N. Committee for Development Planning, Member, Governing Council of the U.N. University, Tokyo, Member of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva, Member of the Executive Committee of the International Economic Association, Member of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed by the SAARC Heads of State to review the future of SAARC and Chairman of the Board of Grameen Bank. He is currently a member of the Board of SACEPS, and Chairman of the Pratichi Trust (Bangladesh) set up by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen. He has published a large number of books, research monographs and articles published in professional journals, relating to the political economy of development, public enterprise and privatization, foreign aid, petropolitics, agrarian reform, regional cooperation in South Asia, democracy and governance. His latest work, *Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Agendas for Inclusive Development in South Asia*, has just been released by Sage Publications.

A senior Korean developmental economist, **Dr. Soogil Young** has been President of the National Strategy Institute (NSI), an independent think tank on economic reform and national governance, in Seoul, since March 2006. Dr. Young has been a member of the Presidential Committee on Green Growth since its establishment in February 2009. He was appointed as the Civilian Chairman of the committee by President Lee Myung-bak on July 13, 2010. He co-chairs the committee with the Prime Minister. He is the

founding Chairman of the Green Investment Forum Korea, and runs a CEO Course for Green Business and Growth at NSI. He has also just accepted the invitation to serve as a member of the Green Growth Council being launched by The Monday Morning in Copenhagen with support from the Danish government. He also serves on the High-level Advisory Committee for the Financial Services Commission. He worked during the 1980s-1990s at four governmental think tanks, including as a senior fellow for the Korea Development Institute (KDI), President of the Korea Transport Institute (KOTI), and President of the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP). He served as Korea's Ambassador to the OECD in Paris during 1998-2000 where he concurrently served as Chairman of the Advisory Board on the OECD Development Centre. Dr. Young has been active on many blue-ribbon commissions for the Korean government on economic policy issues, including three Presidential Commissions, playing a key role in a number of Korea's epochal economic reforms since the early 1980s. In particular, he was the leading architect of Korea's 5-year program of unilateral import liberalization and 5-year tariff reform and reduction program toward the 8% 'central rate' in the mid-1980s. He also served as the coordinator of the secret preparatory work for the 'Presidential Emergency Decree on Real-Name Financial Transactions' introduced in August, 1993, that served as the foundation for all subsequent economic and political reforms undertaken by the then-President Kim Young-sam. Dr. Young has been participating actively in numerous international forums and conferences on trade, development and international economic relations, including in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC). He founded PECC's Trade Policy Forum in the 1980s and also PECC's Finance Forum in the 2000s. Since 2007, Dr. Young has been serving as Chairman of the Korea National Committee on Pacific Economic Cooperation (KOPEC). Dr. Young has written extensively on trade, development and cooperation in Asia-Pacific with focus on the challenges facing Korea. Recently, Dr. Young co-edited *Labor Mobility in the Asia-Pacific Region* (ISEAS Singapore, 2008) and *Competition among Financial Centres in Asia-Pacific* (ISEAS Singapore, 2009). Since 2009, he has been co-chairing the 'Asian G20 Roundtable' with Prof. Peter Drysdale of Australia. His current research interests focus on climate change, development, and global governance. Born in Seoul in 1943,

Dr. Young earned B.Sc. in chemical engineering from Seoul National University and Ph.D. in economics from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, the United States.

Professor Adil Najam is the Frederick S. Pardee Professor of Global Public Policy at Boston University. He also serves as the Director of the Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future and a Professor of International Relations and of Geography and Environment. He has served as a Convening and Lead Author for the Third and Fourth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IN5CcTJ18.ve

Commission on Sustainable Development from 1997 to 2001. He introduced Stakeholder Dialogues in 1996 through the UN General Assembly in November 1996 for Rio+5 and helped run some of the most successful ones at Bonn Water (2001) and Bonn Energy (2004). From 1985-1987 he was the chair of the UK Liberal Parties youth wing. From 1997-2001 he co-chaired the UN Commission on Sustainable Development NGO Steering Committee and has been a part of the Green Globe Task Force that advised the UK Foreign Minister on sustainable development issues from 1996-2005. He has written or edited a number of books. He is also a regular contributor to the BBC web site and enjoys blogging from Film Festivals. He is at present on the Advisory Boards for: The Collaborative Institute for Climate Oceans