

Annex A

PATHWAYS TO ALTERNATIVES

An ecological perspective

SOCIAL WATCH PAN ASIAN CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP Pathways to Regional Development: Setbacks, Alternatives and Cleaner Participation, November 25-27, 2010, Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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A thought on building alternatives

"The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating; the paths to it are not found but made; and the making of those pathways changes both the maker and the destination."

Australian Commission for the Future:

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A continuing development dilemma

What makes us 'rich'(!) now beggars us later.

The forces that produced the 'miracle' and lifted >270 million Asians out of poverty in one generation are the same ones (creating all the inequalities between and within countries) damaging Asia's environment, compromising long-term sustainability.

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So many left behind



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Ecological mess left for others to clean up



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Growth & degradation

Asian growth story, the most impressive growth record ever, created the Asian Brown Cloud—a phenomenon caused by deforestation, factory and vehicle emissions and other man-made sources of smog causing respiratory illness and weather extreme events of droughts in some areas and floods in others.

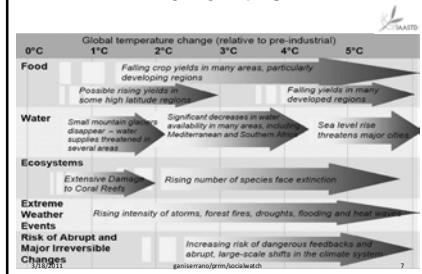
All but one of the 25 most polluted cities of the world are in Asia: 17 in China, 5 in India, one each in the Philippines and Indonesia.

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And now this?



Just too big for us?



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What to do with over 40 billion of this up there?



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How on earth can we do it?

- 47 billion tons of CO2 up for reduction
- Must peak by 2015
- Must come down to 44 billion by 2020
- Down to under 35 billion by 2030
- Further down to below 20 billion by 2050
- For a 50:50 chance to keep GW at <2°C
- Numbers are from Sir Nicholas Stern, British MP and economist.

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Others see it differently



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Who really knows?

- Believers and skeptics agree there's global warming. They differ on what's causing it and whether it's good or bad news for us.
- Nature knows best, we know only so much about how it would behave.
- But we're sure about the injustice done to people and nature.

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They say, 'There is no alternative'

- If you want to end poverty, do it the China way. No substitute to growing the economy. Ecological damage can be fixed later as wealth increases and there's prosperity.
- Regardless of who leads—government or business or both—economic growth expands the middle class who then keeps the system rolling and stable.
- Prosperity, real or imagined, appeals to the masses and 'lulls' them away from revolution.

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We say, 'There is, and another (Asia) world is possible.'

- But what does that world look like?
- How is it to be built? Who's going to build it?
- Can it replace the dominant model? What would it take? At what cost?
- Will the middle class buy into it? Will the masses gun for it?

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It could be a world like this one...



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Starting with some indicators

1. % food supply grown organically
2. % streams you can drink from safely
3. Average age of trees in the forest
4. Population trends of migrating songbirds
5. Shortened food miles (distance between where food is grown and consumed)
6. Average distance travelled by a person each year
7. % elections when you vote for a politician you really trust and like
8. Average distance between living places of members of extended family
9. Average number of minutes spent everyday in prayer, meditation, or quiet time
10. % of "clowns" or people with sense of humor in a village or community
11. % of people who say they have "enough"

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With a global complement: e.g. Cochabamba 2010

- A binding agreement on a "Universal Declaration of Mother Earth Rights"
- A "Climate Justice Tribunal" to hear cases and try violators
- "Climate Debt" of rich countries to poor countries who had little responsibility for the climate crisis
- "World People's Referendum on Climate Change" as the means to air people's views and legitimizing decisions

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No more aid as usual

- Aid for environment and climate change adaptation on top of existing ODA commitments.
- Examples of Spain funding of MDG-F, German aid for climate change adaptation, and others.
- More funding for community-based projects on reforestation/watershed protection, coastal resources management, sustainable agriculture.

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Global solidarity

- No unfair strings attached on climate financing, eg Copenhagen Green Climate Fund.
- Grants not loans, more public resources for climate & environmental spending.
- Avoiding privatization of environment and climate funds raised from public sources.

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Global cooperation

- Trade openness with environmental safeguards.
- Capping resource extraction and promoting nature conservation
- No proxies please: carbon offset & flexible mechanisms, like CDM, if at all necessary, must never substitute for emissions cutback at home.
- REDD –reducing emission from deforestation & forest degradation cannot substitute for CO2 emission reduction at home. Commercialization of REDD could lead to more deforestation.

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For a transition...

- If every problem translates to work, there's more than enough problems around for anyone to be out of work.
- For every environmental problem, a green job.
- China and South Korea have it as national policy to create green jobs.

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Greening in China

- China: committed \$140 billion of its \$586 billion stimulus package to the promotion of renewable energy, which already employs 1 million people. Internal aid flows: about \$10B annually from central to outlying ('poorer') regions.
- Internal aid flows 'Robin Hood style': about \$10B yearly transfer from rich regions to outlying ('poor') regions

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Greening in Korea

- Korea: a stimulus package, about 3 per cent of GDP, dedicated to 'greening' the economy, of which 80 per cent focused on generating 1M green jobs in next 4 years.
- \$5.8 billion investments in energy conservation in villages and schools to generate 170,000 jobs; \$1.7 billion in forest restoration to create about 130,000 jobs; \$690 million for water resource management and over 160,000 jobs; and, \$10 billion for river restoration to produce about 200,000+ jobs.

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A climate-sensitive national development

Addressing the dilemma of "Growth without development"

What poverty-and-climate-sensitive plans and budgets should consider:

- Ensuring basic capabilities: universal education & health care
- Ensuring food security through sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries
- Green jobs and full employment
- Shifting to renewable/sustainable energy systems.
- Clean production and clean consumption (full cycle greening)
- Ecological waste management
- Policy of stabilizing population levels
- Community participation in addressing environmental problems and finding local solutions
- Good governance and people's participation at all levels
- Budgeting and financing for these priorities

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Green development planning & budgeting

- Policy-action match: money where the mouth is
- Addressing vulnerabilities & risks, building high adaptive capacity toward achieving sustainable development
- Citizen/people/women participation in government planning & budgeting processes top-down, ground-up, and alternative processes (e.g. shadow reviews, Alternative Budget Initiative or ABI)

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What if...

- If we did all that?
- Surely, it's a much better world than the unfair and fragile one we have now.

THANK YOU.

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