

CSD-13
Closing Statement
By Scientific and Technological Community
April 22, 2005

Mr. Chairman

I am Lee Yee-Cheong from Malaysia, President of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) and Co-Chair of UN Millennium Project Task Force “Science, Technology and Innovation”.

On behalf of the Science and Technological Community Major Group, I would like to make the following points:

Good policies, good governance and best practices in regard to water, sanitation and human settlements must be based on sound science and appropriate technology. Research for knowledge and technology generation and a better sharing of best available knowledge and appropriate knowledge and appropriate technology is essential.

In order to be able to harness Science and Technology for sustainable development, countries must have a critical mass of well-trained natural and social scientists; engineers; health experts; and technicians in all S&T sectors; efficient national S&T and Research and Development institutions, especially in developing countries. However, R& D must not be confined to laboratories but must encompass the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

Long term water observations systems and other data collection systems must be strengthened everywhere. Open access to data and scientific and technological information is essential for sound decision making at all levels and for insuring an informed public.

The urgency of the deadline of 2015 for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries cannot wait for more R&D outcome. There are enough available science, engineering and technology for immediate implementation of the necessary cost effective infrastructure facilities on the ground.

Finally, I pledge my WFEO membership of some 10 million engineers to help implement the well-considered decisions of CSD-13.