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IPM Partnerships Fair

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IPM Partnerships Fair Thematic Discussion Local Action – Global Impact: Recognizing Contributions of Local Partners

The third and final interactive discussion session of the CSD-15 IPM Partnerships Fair was chaired by **Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado** (Brazil), Vice-Chair of CSD-15. He welcomed participants to the event, inviting them to engage in an interactive dialogue with the distinguished panelists on the subject of Local Action: Global Impact: Recognizing Contributions of Local Partners. He advised participants that the Partnerships in Practice Interactive Discussion sessions aim to explore innovative and practical solutions to challenges in implementing sustainable development goals and commitments.

Vice-Chair Figueiredo explained that the session would consider the important role played by local partners in the implementation of sustainable development. He added that the session would also address the advantages of working directly with local partners and would provide examples of significant contributions that local partners are making in the areas of energy for sustainable development, climate change, air pollution/atmosphere and industrial development. He suggested to the panelists that they identify challenges and opportunities associated with working with partners at the sub-national level.

Michael Kelly, Director of Market Development of the World LP Gas Association, representing the LP Gas Rural Energy Challenge opened his presentation with a brief introduction to the partnership and to some general comments regarding partnerships



Honorable Mary Jane C Ortega, Mayor of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines outlines the many international partnerships she leads on behalf of her city.

between private and public entities. He noted that there is an assumption in the private sector when entering a partnership with a public institutions that their objectives are obvious and do not need to be explained. From his experience, Mr. Kelly has learned that this is not always the case and that in the initial stages of a partnership process, both sides need to clearly identify their interests and objectives to each other so that the partnership can progress more quickly towards clear outcomes.

Mr. Kelly identified the primary challenges the LP Gas Rural Challenge aims to address: indoor air pollution from burning animal wastes and wood for cooking, which kills more people in

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Michael Kelly of the LP Gas Rural Challenge explains the benefits of LP Gas to rural economic and social development. Panelists (Left to right) Hon. Mary Jane C. Ortega, San Fernando, La Union, Philippines, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Vice-Chair CSD-15), Michael Kelly, LP Gas Association, Griet Verbeke, Flemish Dept. of Environment, Nature and Energy, Andrew Yager, UNDP.

the world than malaria. He stressed that LP gas (liquefied petroleum gas - combination of butane and propane) is a much cleaner, safer alternative, which is portable enough to reach even remote rural communities. He emphasized that it is an energy solution which is available now, which can have a huge and immediate impact on respiratory health associated with indoor cooking, as well as on deforestation and climate change. He cited a project with an NGO called Village Reach which helped distribute LP gas to rural health care facilities in northern

“Local governments and local consumer associations could help to expand the reach of the [LP Gas] program”

Andrew Yager, UNDP

Mozambique to refrigerate vaccines and to provide lighting in hospitals, making safer deliveries at night for the first time.

Mr. Kelly added that the developmental benefits of access to energy are significant, particularly for women. He

recognized that LP Gas is not a solution available to the world’s poorest people, but that these could also benefit with government or donor programs to promote rural access to energy.

Mr. Kelly concluded their presentation with an invitation to the 20th World LP Gas Forum, in Cape Town, South Africa, 24-26 October, 2007, with the first day devoted to LP Gas for African Development.

Andrew Yager, a Sustainable Energy Policy Adviser at UNDP, representing the LP Gas Rural Energy Challenge, added that the program targets this sector of moderately poor people because an additional energy source can significantly increase the earning potential of a rural family. He indicated that given the global reach of both UNDP and the LP Gas Association, they have the networks to develop projects throughout the world.

Mr. Yager explained that local private sector is already distributing LP gas within cities, but there is not a sufficient market to support expansion into rural areas and it is the role of UNDP, in partnership with governments, to help accelerate the accessibility to the technology in the rural areas. Mobilizing local partners is indispensable to raise awareness of the potential benefits of LP gas. UNDP is supporting these efforts by

working with regional and country offices to get into rural areas. He suggested that local governments and local consumer associations could help to expand the reach of the program. A next step for the partnership is to try to hire a local coordinator in each selected country.

The Honorable Mary Jane C. Ortega, 3rd term Mayor of San Fernando, La Union, in the Philippines, as an executive Committee member for Southeast Asia for ICLEI (International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives), presented a brief introduction to her city and the City Development Strategy process that they underwent with Cities Alliance. This process, she explained, not only engaged local stakeholders in the planning of urban development priorities, but it was a catalyst for a host of relationships with other international and donor organizations that have been supportive of their projects. She described how over the course of their work on the City Development Strategy they worked with or were supported by: the World Bank, the Ford Foundation, CIDA, DSE, JICA, SIDA, USAID, ADB, WHO, UN-Habitat, JSDF, UNITAR and sister city arrangements with Ansan City, South Korea; Langley, Canada; Kashiwara, Japan, Hezhou, China; Coatzacoalcos,

Local Action: Global Impact (continued)

VeraCruz, Mexico. Mayor Ortega has been actively engaged with international cooperation agencies and has been invited to several meetings totaling 68 trips in her 9 years of public service.

One of the partnerships that Mayor Ortega said was particularly successful

“It is my hope that additional assistance can be provided to advocacy efforts to encourage more local leaders.”

Hon. Mary Jane C. Ortega, Mayor of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines

was the partnership with the Township of Langley, Canada, a partnership to provide technical assistance on disaster preparedness, which was funded by CIDA through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. She explained that a key factor in the success was starting small, with a visit from the Langley fire chief to local schools, then expanding their activities, beyond man-made disasters to include natural disasters in their strategy, bringing in additional partners. She added that the partnership has been extended to seven years, and that CIDA is interested in funding South-South cooperation between other partner cities in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Mayor Ortega noted that many of the other sister city relationships began as being primarily for cultural exchange but expanding into technical. She added that the city has received grant assistance for reforestation and the development of the mountainside to be linked with San Fernando, La Union’s botanical garden biodiversity efforts.

Other partnerships she described were: a project with Japan Social Development for the upgrade of slums, aiming to provide employment opportunities to 95 fishermen and 200 residents, a Dutch-funded marine conservation program and water and sanitation project through an NGO, called WASTE, and a USAID ECO ASIA project to harness biomass fuel from slaughterhouses and waste water from the market and central business district.

Mayor Ortega briefly outlined the ICLEI Climate Change program which now has 680 member cities, requiring any city that joins to provide an inventory baseline on GHG emissions and forecast emissions growth, to establish an emission reduction goal and a local action plan, as well as to measure their implementation and monitor and verify progress.

Mayor Ortega described some of the challenges of being a pioneer in sustainable urban development, where international assistance programs are not always timely placed for the most proactive cities to benefit from them. She offered the example of San Fernando, La Union’s landfill, a ten hectare, Design, Build, and Operate project established with World Bank cross-regional assistance. She explained that the project is subject to 12% interest rates, which were the best available to the city at the time, but that now the GTZ and other institutions are offering rates of 9% for similar development projects.

A second example provided by Mayor Ortega referred to the CDM. She explained that the city has undertaken three important carbon reduction projects: the landfill, a project to replace two stroke engines on urban transit vehicles to more efficient four stroke engines, and a massive tree planting project. While investigating whether she could acquire carbon financing for the projects, she was told that the CDM could only be assessed for

larger projects and could not be applied retroactively. Mayor Ortega expressed her hopes that policies could better reward pilot projects rather than imposing higher costs on pioneers.

Mayor Ortega closed her presentation with the hope that additional assistance can be provided to advocacy efforts to encourage more local leaders to take advantage of the developmental assistance. Mayor Ortega stressed the need for development efforts in the future to be less top-down and to emerge instead from the communities they are intended to benefit, where stakeholders themselves would demand that sustainable development be part of their poverty alleviation and city development programs.

“Regions are close enough to people to tailor their action to the people’s needs, but strategic enough to make the links between areas of policy”

Griet Verbeke, Flemish Department of Environment, Nature and Energy

Griet Verbeke, from the Flemish Department of Environment, Nature and Energy began her presentation with a brief history of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, to which the Flemish Government is a founding member. The

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partnership was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with the goal of promoting cooperation among regional governments for sustainable development.

Ms. Verbeke outlined the objectives of the partnership, which aims to stimulate sharing of information and experience about sustainable development practices undertaken at the regional level of governance. She highlighted that regions are close enough to people to tailor their action to the people's needs, but strategic enough to make the links between areas of policy. She added that regional governments are therefore well placed to make sustainable development a practical reality.

Ms. Verbeke offered an example of the expertise her government can share regarding the implementation of sustainable development strategies and initiatives. The Flemish Climate Policy Plan 2006-2012, she explained, provides a detailed strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22.2 millions tones CO-2eq per year by 2010.

A key component of the plan, Ms. Verbeke emphasized, is its commitment to transparency. She indicated that comprehensive information about the Flemish government climate policy is available in a publicly accessible database. As a further measure, she explained, the plan also includes serious monitoring and coordination with other levels of government, including reports

every six months and a full progress report every two years.

Ms. Verbeke concluded her remarks by indicating that regional governments are making an important contribution to climate change. Through the nrg4SD partnership, she explained, they have the opportunity to maximize their efforts by sharing best practice models through regular dialogue.



Vice-Chair Figueiredo concluding the IPM Partnerships Fair Activities.

Participants in the session raised questions to the panelists about the criteria they use when selecting partners, while others asked how the international community can help to expand the reach of partnerships to more local leaders.

Patricia Chaves expressed her appreciation to the panelists and participants for their active involvement, and in particular to Vice-Chair Figueiredo, for his commitment

and leadership. She was pleased to see that partnerships are taking advantage of this forum offered by the CSD secretariat to enhance their networks, bring together partners and expand their partnership base, building bridges to new projects and providing practical contributions to implementation.

Partnerships Website Redesigned

The Partnerships Team is pleased to announce the launch of a redesigned CSD Partnerships Website in time for the opening session of the IPM Partnerships Fair.

The redesigned home page is intended to increase the visibility of active partnerships and to facilitate access to relevant information about CSD partnerships. It provides direct links to newly registered partnerships as well as to recent partnerships updates. An additional new element is a news section which links directly to recent news items posted on partnership's websites.



CSD Partnerships Website:
www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships

We welcome your Feedback!

The CSD Secretariat continues to work on improving its on-line services, including the CSD Partnerships website features and the database functions, to facilitate the consideration of partnerships in CSD discussions as well as highlighting the innovative contributions of CSD partnerships.

We welcome your feedback in order to improve the quality of our services on disseminating information on CSD Partnerships, as mandated by the CSD. Please feel free to send your comments at beyondwssd@un.org.