

CONCLUDING REMARKS -- Ken Piddington

- ❖ Interesting range of responses to the question; don't expect me to be jury of one!
- ❖ But I will open with two quotations which I think might provide a key to the dilemma we are all in when we come to issues of balancing;
 - environment and development
 - social needs and forest use
 - provision for future generations
- ❖ All of which are crucial to sustainable forest management... or indeed any concept of sustainability

- ❖ Quotation 1; in the 2007 Reith Lectures, Jeffery Sachs (the economist) admitted he had had a conversion 'on the road to Damascus'; as a result, he now realized that "the environment is part of the economy".
- ❖ This is absolutely the opposite of the revelation by Herman Daly, and a whole school of environmental economists, who have asserted that the economy is internal to, and is ultimately governed by, environmental factors. Climate change will finally demonstrate this as a truth which is incontrovertible (rather than inconvenient).

- ❖ Quotation 2; the "Financial Times" last Saturday, reviewing the state of global markets, commented that the 'recovery' from recent turbulence had been driven by increases in commodity prices, but that if these increases proved to be due to resource constraints, the market would become even more volatile.
- ❖ For the editorial 'if', I would substitute 'when' – it is just not tenable to pretend that commodities such as oil and rice are not now experiencing material constraints relative to the increase in demand worldwide (which in itself is a function of growth).

- ❖ In order to bring these material truths back to the question of sustainable forest management, and to put the challenge faced by professional foresters in perspective, I would simply argue that since the emerging problems are holistic they can only be resolved by holistic thinking.
- ❖ Yes, I do have ideas which might assist in addressing that challenge, but first let me pick up directly on the issues of tenure and ownership to which the panel and the audience have given such emphasis. Norman put to me the question about the status of Maori in NZ. I would

respond that over the last twenty years NZ law and administration has been influenced in a material way by Maori views on ‘ownership’ – “the river owns us...”

- ❖ Looking back over the morning session, I believe the analysis of poverty dynamics presented by Mary Hopley was very valuable, because it showed how complex the issue is (and not only in developing countries). Her presentation certainly fits my prescription for holistic analysis.
- ❖ The material from the Philippines provided by our colleagues contributed what the military define as ‘ground truth’, and a fascinating range of case histories. They brought out very clearly the real-world significance of the power balance, or rather imbalance, between the organs of the state and the people they are in theory supposed to serve...
- ❖ Norman gave us an important overview of the issues faced by indigenous groups for whom community ownership operated under customary law, but were bulldozed by the pressure to assign land ownership to new commercial ventures, such as oil palm production.
- ❖ Now to the diagnosis; my painful conclusion is that the preconditions for sustainable forest management (or any other form of management) simply do not exist at the present time, with the exception of isolated cases where circumstances have combined with political will to create effective insulation from the pressure of commercial interests, such as Bhutan and (outside our region) Costa Rica. (But agree with Kari that private sector is part of the solution, once the playing field is not only level, but has clearly marked boundaries.)
- ❖ Elsewhere, for countries at all stages of development, the challenge ahead is to;
 - ensure that there is a clear provision to pay for environmental services
 - adopt the notion of servicing natural capital just as we service man-made capital, and
 - understand that the recognition of environmental rights within society is as fundamental as (and is indeed part of) the observance of human rights
- ❖ My personal conviction, based on some 3+ decades of involvement in the debate on climate change, is that we are – in the region and on the planet – close to what might be called the global end-game. This has happened precisely because the above pre-conditions have been ignored.

- ❖ But climate change also offers the key to how we should proceed. The name of the game is risk-management, which is well understood in the industry, and of course, in the military discipline. Scientific proof is not needed in order to act. Simple demonstration of risk is enough.
- ❖ The assignment of a value to the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and the imposition of a corresponding penalty on CO2 emissions, is in my view a logical mechanism to use in influencing the market economy, BUT
- ❖ It will never be, in and of itself, enough. Where costs can be passed on *without greatly influencing the behaviour of the consumer* profits can still be made, and future investment decisions taken, with total disregard for basic issues such carbon intensity, energy inefficiency and the construction of cities which will maintain existing carbon emissions for the major part of this century.
- ❖ Coming back to the forestry agenda, therefore, I conclude that sustainable management of a wide range of forestry resources is one of the few realistic opportunities for reducing the load on the atmosphere, *and it is one which can involve people as well as corporations and governments.*
- ❖ It remains to devise the financial mechanisms which might reflect the importance to the world economy of managing climate change risk. In my view, this is a technical challenge which requires lifecycle appraisal of the impact of a given investment (be it a motor vehicle, a housing development or a thermal power station).
- ❖ How to move towards this goal?
 - Empower local people – tenure by state should be trusteeship on behalf of future generations *which is not tradeable*
 - AND recognize their environmental rights (stressed by Marcus). I have always included the right to enjoy the spiritual and heritage dimensions of landscape and water)
 - While capturing the energy and enthusiasm of a generation which does not want to stay with the paradigms of the late 20th Century
- ❖ Don't ignore the need to document and enforce legal constraints, and I will suggest some new ways in which this might be achieved...

- ❖ UN reform must inevitably come in the next 20-25 years. Take a moment to envisage what might be possible...and what might be needed to deal with the problems of the 21st Century
- ❖ For example, we will on present evidence still need the 'Casques bleus', the forces assigned to peacekeeping. Might we also need the 'Casques vertes' – an image of an international force for facilitating truly sustainable use of natural resources?

- ❖ Add in technology; think of the instant exposure of injustice and breaches of fundamental principles of resource management which by then will be the dominant paradigm. In my grandchildren's generation this is how shifts in the exercise of power might actually take place. Look at the torch relay for a current example...

- ❖ Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important debate and I look forward to learning a great deal from my attendance at other sessions of the Conference in the days ahead.

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