

WORLD CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT 2012
7-8 JULY, NEW DELHI
CONCLUSIONS & SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Rio+20 UN Conference:

1. The Rio+20 UN conference declarations, titled “The Future We Want”, did not reflect the strategy to fulfill the needs of developing countries. It aimed at the lowest common denominator consensus, but to say nothing consequential about how the world will move ahead to deal with the interlinked crises of economy and ecology. The document only reiterates the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It is imperative, that India and other countries find their own pathways.
2. Rio+20 was an extraordinary trade fair of political, social, technological and commercial ideas. There were more than 3,000 events connecting new generation of business and political leaders. That reflects the role these stakeholders are playing. Business will have a crucial role for development of India.
3. US is in poor economic shape, and the Eurozone is in danger of collapse and Governments say that austerity and no-growth may not be the way to future. Europe has no time for global environmental issues. It is now well understood that the world is staring at financial recession on one hand and environmental catastrophe on the other. No financial or technical assistance can be expected from the developed world. Moreover, they are in the process of dismantling the existing global framework, established under the Kyoto Protocol. It is necessary to deliberate on new order on environment that will focus on inclusive sustainable development.
4. Collaborative R&D programmes provide a route for future technology development, under win-win situation. Regional and sub-regional programmes will provide cost-effective and socially acceptable solutions. However national funding for R&D will need to be supported.
5. Development is an overriding priority for developing countries. The developing world has to go a long way to catch up, alleviate poverty and meet the basic needs. The developing nations insist that the developed nations should contribute generously to the adaptation so that the developing countries can improve their technology and take other

measures to reduce GHG emissions. No such global commitment was accepted by the developed countries in Rio+20 declaration.

6. The agenda of green economy was floated without an agreement on its definition. It is viewed as new form of green protectionism and conditionality that would hinder growth. It is necessary for the govt to evolve a definition of green economy for India.
7. Adoption of green capital approach for long term low cost financing of capital for green project in developing countries.
8. Job creation is an important element of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Future manufacturing technologies and processes should focus on minimalist natural resource consumption and higher job creation. Intergovernmental technology transfer is a difficult option.

Climate Change:

9. Climate change provides an edge to a new frontier, opening huge opportunities for businesses and making fortunes by cleaning up the planet. Evidence shows that early movers in climate change businesses like renewable and low carbon technologies are creating wealth for both shareholders and investors.
10. Experience shows that self-regulation is inadequate to change behavior. We need statutory measures to make change happen to combat climate change. Market mechanisms are good but we must recognize that “the market is a good servant but bad master.” We need a combination of government regulation and market mechanisms to tackle the problem.
11. “Carbon labeling” of products should be legally enforced to encourage companies disclose their carbon footprint. Companies should be asked to disclose their carbon footprint in their annual accounts. They should specially emphasize the damage to environment, in the process of procurement, production, delivery, usage and disposal.
12. Measuring, reporting and sharing of GHG emission data locally, regionally & globally be encouraged.
13. Market driven strategies for taxing carbon emissions be adopted.
14. Modify present Accounting Model to also include carbon trading and pricing of Natural Capital in addition to Triple Bottom Line.
15. Sustainability and emission reporting be made essential with reporting system.

16. Business should be encouraged to move to product and services that enhance experience and promote emotional satisfaction, thus moving the economy consciously from an inquisitional to an experiential model of growth.
17. Government should introduce incentives to finance digitalization in all its aspects in a robust manner to dematerialize the world. It should stimulate investment and provide incentives for use of mobile, broadband and encourage telecommuting.
18. We need much greater use of external verification mechanism for Climate Change outcomes claimed by respective parties. There should be extensive use of auditing such as ISO 14064, as a form of external 3rd party verification of claims made by companies on carbon minimization.

Energy:

19. Media needs to play a proactive role in the climate change debate and create national awareness of the urgency of follow up action.
20. Climate change threatens to disrupt eco-activity & social stability. UN to develop a 'Global Model for Sustainable Growth & well being to control Climate Change, on the lines of Global Compact'. Encourage emission reporting through supply chain management.
21. Encourage organic farming and switching of crops.
22. Each house should be rated on its energy efficiency. Houses with solar panel be given special credits. Energy efficiency rating should be made a prerequisite for the purchase and sale of the house.
23. Research and development on wind, fuel oils, biodiesel, solar energy and hydrogen, as alternative fuel need to be given high priority.
24. Agricultural waste offers great opportunity. 65% of India's food crop turns into waste. 600 million tones of India's agricultural residue can be turned into 80,000 MW of electricity through lingo-cellulosic conversion. All efforts should be made to make the relevant technology accessible to rural areas.