

# Sustainable Development and Public Administration

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7th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public  
Administration  
New York  
17 April 2008

# Outline of Presentation

- DSD thinking on this year's AMR theme: environmental sustainability
  - National sustainability challenges
    - Areas of concern for governance, public administration: woven into discussion
  - Global sustainability challenges
    - Latest concerns related to climate change
    - Others: biodiversity, fisheries, oceans
- Upcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

# Challenges vary across country groups

- Rapidly industrializing countries
- Non-renewable resource dependent countries
- Renewable resource rich countries
- Resource poor, least developed countries
- Mature, post-industrial societies

# This year's AMR theme

What are the main sustainability challenges?

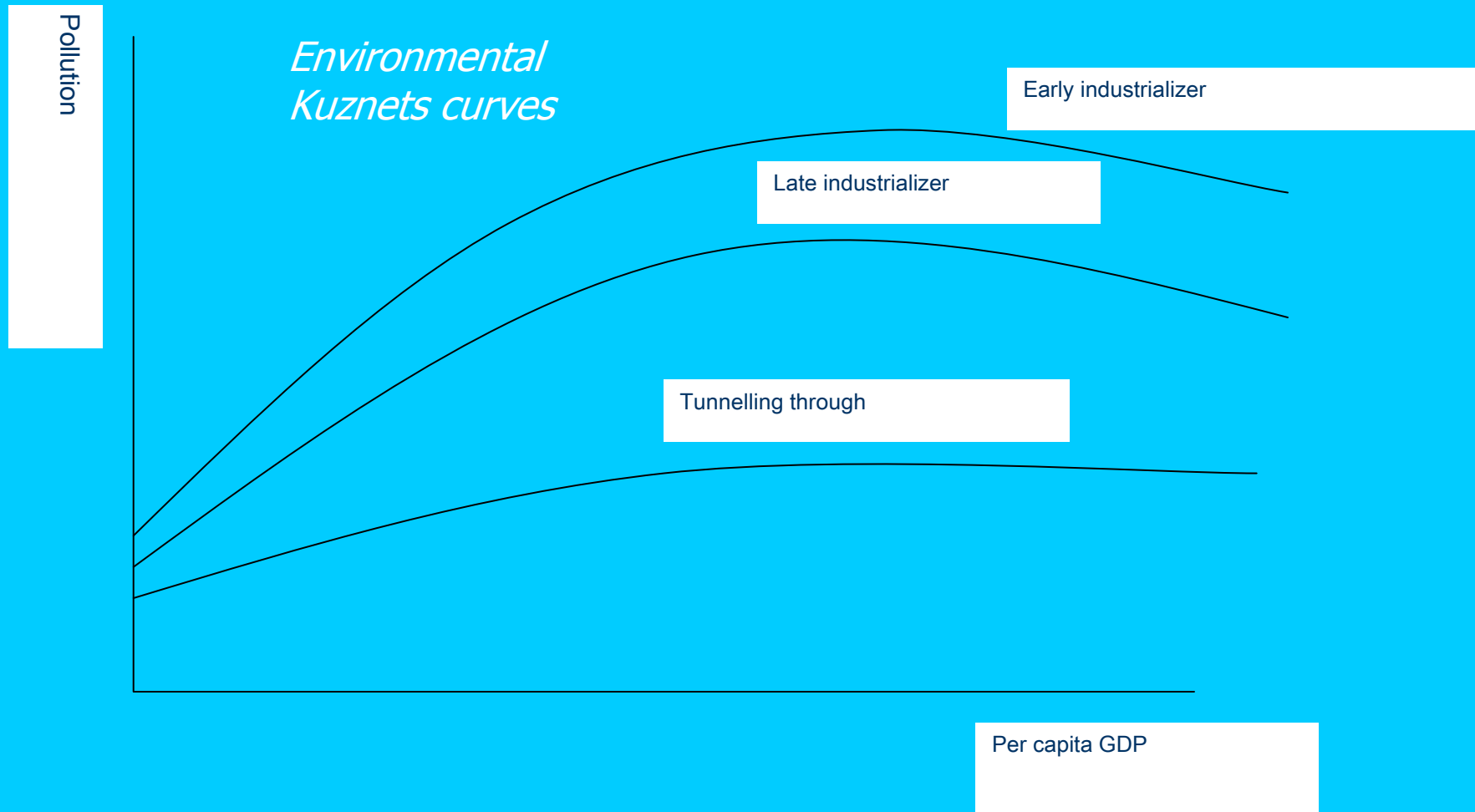
- Rapidly industrializing countries:
  - how to manage industrial and urban growth?
    - Building adequate infrastructure, including less polluting public transport and power generation
    - Providing water and waste treatment
  - Making polluters pay
    - Effective, efficient regulation
    - Greater use of eco-taxes
    - Information disclosure, right to know

## ...main sustainability challenges (cont'd)

- Rapidly industrializing countries
  - Historical lessons on the environmental costs of breakneck economic growth
  - But governments have learned relatively few of those lessons
  - May be able to bend the curve a bit but more difficult to “tunnel through”

Bending the curve, yes ...

Tunnelling through, not quite yet ...





# The challenges for late industrializers in a globalized economy

- Rising living standards, combined with globalization, have permitted transition of OECD countries to service-based economies
- Emerging economies are increasingly industrial suppliers not only to their domestic economies but to developed countries

# Implications for governance

- Ironically, emerging economies may face bigger challenges than developed countries making transition to lower resource intensity, energy intensity
- Rapid, resource and energy using growth is pulling their people out of poverty
- Policies conflicted – yes, environmental pressures mounting, but expectations also rising
- Grow now, clean up later – still alive and well



# Times are a changin'

- Growing middle classes demand quality of life improvements
- Rising incomes permit larger public investments in environment
- High profitability in private sector makes polluter pays more tolerable
- With higher incomes and education generally comes improved governance
  - Though this is not automatic
  - Depends on history, culture of professional civil service relatively insulated from vested interests

# ... main sustainability challenges?

- Non-renewable resource dependent countries
  - Managing and utilizing natural resource revenues efficiently
  - Utilizing resource rents to invest in human and physical capital
  - Diversifying economies to reduce resource dependence, esp. where resources are fossil fuels

# ... main sustainability challenges?

- Renewable resource rich countries
  - Loss of environmental resources
    - Biodiversity loss
    - Deforestation
  - Climate change financing mechanisms
    - Offer opportunity to fund avoided deforestation
    - Knock on benefits for biodiversity if well designed

# ... main sustainability challenges?

- Resource-poor, least developed countries
  - Investing to boost productivity of subsistence agriculture
  - Managing scarce natural resources, notably water; avoiding further resource degradation
  - Investing in health and education to:
    - improve life expectancy
    - provide incentives to reduce fertility
    - raise productivity of human labor, incomes

# ... main sustainability challenges?

- Mature, post-industrial societies
  - Living stds locked in to resource intensive consumption patterns
  - High impact on global commons (GHGs)
  - Disconnect between:
    - awareness of problems and of historic responsibility
    - willingness to pay
  - 'Polluter pays' sounds good in principle



# General areas of governance concern

- Proliferation of national sustainable development strategies
  - But continuation of resource depletion, degradation, other unsustainable trends

# This year's AMR theme

- Global sustainability challenges
  - Climate change
    - Bali Roadmap
    - Bangkok meeting on program of work
      - Still talking about talking or, more charitably,
      - Warming up ...
    - Clock ticking towards Copenhagen 2009
      - Fundamental questions still need to be resolved:
        - What is the international community's long-term vision/goal? ppm stabilization? at what level?
        - How are we going to get there?
        - What role will Annex 1, non-Annex 1 countries play?
        - How will the financing and technology needs of the latter be met – for mitigation? for adaptation?

# What are the precedents?

- Montreal Protocol:
  - One successful model of global governance
  - Much ink spilt on the lessons for Kyoto
  - But how relevant?
- Financing:
  - CDM: pros and cons
  - Multilateral Fund?
- Technology transfer: key constraints:
  - costs; complementary investments; absorptive capacity
  - High Level Conference on technology for climate change, planned for Beijing, Nov of this year

# Other global governance challenges

- Biodiversity: no powerful natural constituency
  - Yes, pharmaceutical companies (but how far do their 'killer drugs' depend on natural products?)
  - Children, and the rest of us, but the collective action problem is real
  - Also, the dilemma:
    - Conservation requires action in tropical countries
    - WTP tends to be highest in temperate countries
    - Two key governance issues:
      - Sovereignty (tropical perspective)
      - Trust (temperate perspective)



# Fisheries and oceans

- Classic open access resource problem
- Compounded by technologies
  - Which permit intensified exploitation
  - Which make depletion of ocean fisheries appear less critical
    - As countries become more dependent on aquaculture
    - Though the latter depends importantly on the former for inputs
- Are governance arrangements adequate?



# Upcoming CSD: A few key issues

- Agriculture
  - Rising food prices: food, feed, fuel dynamic
  - A green revolution for Africa
- Rural development
  - Infrastructure needs, notably in Africa
  - Generating off-farm employment
- Land
  - Access, scarcity, degradation
  - Conversion of land: agricultural to urban; forests, other ecosystems to agriculture

# Upcoming CSD: A few key issues

- Peoples living in drylands often have the worst human development indicators (mortality, per capita income)
- Drought
  - Prospects for worsening drought in certain hotspots with climate change
- Desertification
  - Climate change could also intensify, though in some cases – e.g. parts of Sahel – changing precipitation in recent decades has meant a greening

# Upcoming CSD: A few key issues

## ■ Africa

- Good growth performance in new millennium
  - Improved macroeconomic stability, governance
  - High commodity prices almost across the board
- A host of sustainable development challenges
  - Endemic disease one of biggest
  - Poor infrastructure in rural areas to help develop agriculture
  - Continued conflicts, governance problems in some countries, regions

# A few concluding thoughts on governance and sustainable development

- Globalization: a mixed story for the environment and sustainable development
- Social development: China, India – many millions emerging from poverty; strong growth in Africa for 1<sup>st</sup> time in decades
- Environment: cleaner technologies can move across borders, but so can pollution
  - Former priced; latter not.
  - At least not always, not yet ...
- Carbon markets: symbolically significant --international community agrees the atmospheric commons is no longer a free resource.



# International governance institutions

- Are markets up to the task of governing the global atmosphere?
- Or are other governance structures also needed?
- If so, what? Other models include:
  - technology standards
  - fiscal measures (carbon taxes)
  - public trusts and trust funds