

GREEN ECONOMY,
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY
ERADICATION – some views

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DOUBTS ON GE, SD & POVERTY ERADICATION

- **NO Clarity on Green Economy;**
- **Fuzziness and little action on Sustainable Development, even as spelled out in Agenda 21;**
- **Poverty issues were ignored in Rio but addressed a bit in the MDGs but poverty eradication remains illusioary!**

CURRENT STATUS

- **Environmental issues have not been holistically addressed in Malaysia so far. Most of the recommendations of Agenda 21, which Malaysia signed up to in 1992, have yet to be reflected even in the current 10th Malaysia Plan.**
- **There is a lack of political will, absence of holistic planning, fragmented and overlapping agency responsibilities, checkered enforcement of regulations, and inequitable distribution of tax revenues between the Federal and state governments. Patronage dominates [with the attendant corruption] most activities in both the public and private sectors. Lack of public accountability and opaqueness in decision-making and the awards of contracts has been the norm for decades.**

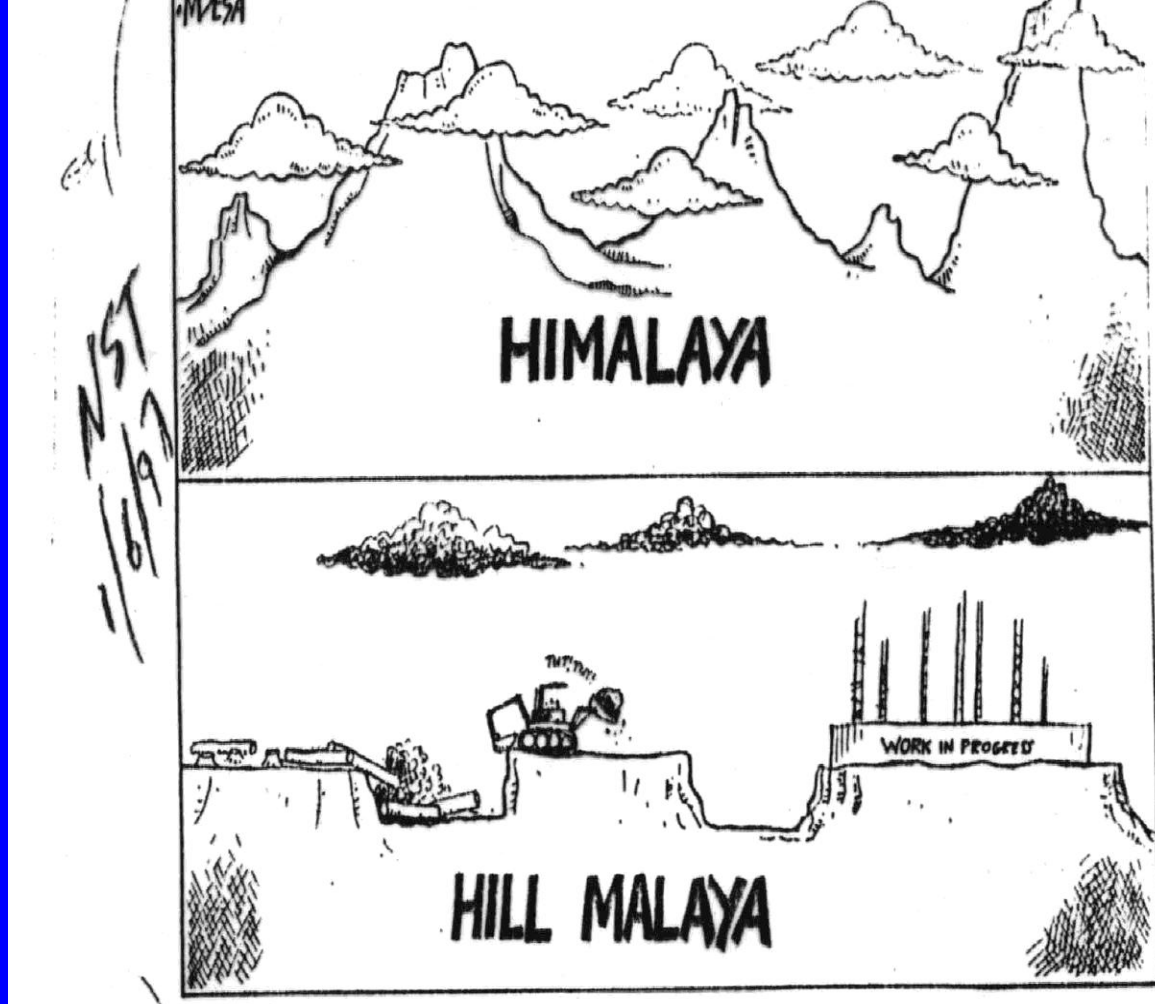
The Malaysian Scene



Disposing wastes!!

NEW STRAITS TIMES SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006





Developers & civil engineers just refuse to build along contours. Their levelling craze is worsened by the unwillingness to protect bare soil. Hence the ever common EROSION & SILTING-UP of drains & rivers

Floods, floods.....



HOW THEN WILL A GREEN ECONOMY SHAPE OUT IN M'SIA?

- **Assuming that GE incorporates both SD & poverty eradication, it will have to address some of the short term and long term actions listed in following slides;**
- **It will also involve a major paradigm shift – most paradigm shifts in the past including that in Rio failed to occur!**
- **Poverty eradication, especially in remote areas, will have to be overcome.**

SHORT TERM actions

- **Map out specific regulations and measures to minimize wastages in all sectors especially energy, transport, industrial & commercial operations, construction, and households, taking advantage of the current economic recession. The newly established National Solid Waste Department as well as the existing Energy Commission have the statutory duty to do so.**
- **Involve all stakeholders in the development of comprehensive Sustainable Transport and Energy Policies consistent with public expectations of more efficient services and need to cap GHG emissions from both these important sectors. They should be consistent with our commitments to the UNFCCC and other international environmental agreements.**

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- **Establish targets and timelines to map the remainder of our undocumented genetic resources while implementing effective measures for their urgent conservation. Vague statements in the past have not produced any tangible progress.**
- **Ensure that the 11th Malaysia Plan starts incorporating the Sustainable development recommendations incorporated in Agenda 21 and begins Malaysia's sustainable development journey. EPU should initiate consultations with civil society and other stakeholders in the preparation of these for the Plan.**

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- **Start systematic enforcement of all existing environmental and sustainable development laws and guidelines with publicly announced KPIs. This would show that there is political will and civil service commitment to the issues.**
- **Make the Climate Change Policy effective and get all stakeholders on board to work out relevant strategies, while preparing the ground to decarbonise the Malaysian economy. The opportunity exists through the implementation of the recommendations of the 2nd National Communication to the UNFCCC.**

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- **Ensure that the Public Land Transport Commission works well and develops good public transport Master Plan for all the major towns, starting with the Klang Valley and Penang.**
- **A comprehensive assessment of the entire Malaysian environment should be published by 2014 by a multi-stakeholder team and should be widely disseminated, including to general public. It should be repeated at 5-year intervals, preferably before the launch of each Malaysia Plan. But for this to be done, the Statistics Dept. and other government agencies must improve their data capture and processing methods**

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- **The national natural resource accounting system recommended in the National Environment Policy should be speedily implemented while the National Industrial Master Plan should be audited for its potential adverse environmental impacts. The audit exercise should weed out environmentally negative industries so that they are not EVEN considered by state governments.**
- **Since Malaysia is depleting her natural resources from the sea, the principle of Ecosystem based Management of Fisheries must be adopted by resources managers urgently who should make that paradigm shift. There is also a food security link to this. The Precautionary Principle has received practically no attention and has not been incorporated into decision-making.**

GREEN TECHNOLOGY goals

- **Sustainability** - meeting needs of society in ways that can continue indefinitely into future without damaging or depleting natural resources. In short, meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- **“Cradle to cradle” design** - ending "cradle to grave" cycle of manufactured products, by creating products that can be fully reclaimed or re-used.
- **Source reduction** - reducing waste and pollution by changing patterns of production and consumption.
- **Innovation** - developing alternatives to technologies - whether fossil fuel or chemical intensive agriculture - that have been demonstrated to damage health and the environment.
- **Viability** - creating a centre of economic activity around technologies and products that benefit the environment, speeding their implementation and creating new careers that truly protect the planet

IN THE MALAYSIAN GREEN TECHNOLOGY POLICY document

- first 3 objectives talk of minimizing energy consumption growth while enhancing economic development, growth of Green Technology Industry, and innovation in GT development.
- danger is that green technologies may only refer to sophisticated and cutting-edge ones – all developed by the North and subject to urgent search by developing countries for subsidized technology transfer. In reality, they need not be complicated and could already be in the possession of any number of developing countries. Their sharing for the global good should be facilitated.
- a possibility that many of the already polluting technologies may be “greenwashed” into green technologies, completely negating the green concept.
- weak on sustainable development commitments!!

LONG TERM action

- Ensure that sustainable development is entrenched in all aspects of Malaysian life and gets strengthened with every Malaysia Plan. By 2020 Malaysia should have attained sustainably developed status.
- The ecological footprint of industrial, commercial and government installations shall be reduced by 40% through the husbanding of resources, including energy, and minimizations of wastes. Physical travelling will be reduced by making more extensive use of video-conferencing for meetings.

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- **Full implementation of the newly agreed Climate Change, Sustainable Transport and Sustainable Energy Policies with better incorporation into physical planning. Robust adaptation and mitigation measures will be implemented in all sectors and all parts of the country.**
- **Increase public transport ridership in most major towns to 60% with a proportionate reduction in the use of private motorized vehicle. This should be achieved by reliable, affordable, clean and efficient public transport systems with optimum connectivity. Infrastructure should be cost-efficient, well managed and maintained. All state capitals in Peninsular Malaysia should be linked by high-speed trains while internal air-travel is reduced and redundant airports converted to other uses.**

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- **Separate Ministries of Energy, Environment and Transport will have full jurisdiction over all forms of energy, environment and modes of transport respectively. Only in this way can we implement sustainable energy, environment and transport policies.**
- **The Federal Constitution should be amended to give access to state governments over Federal revenue, especially from income taxes, proportionate to their income tax paying population. Concurrent with this, there should be restrictions against abuses in exploiting natural resources by state governments on the excuse of generating revenue**

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- **40% of total energy supply should come from a range of renewable sources while strict energy efficiency standards are applied across the board from construction to homes. Total energy consumption should decline while a moderate GDP growth is maintained – thus achieving a level of decoupling between the two.[PM's announcement in Cph is not enough]**
- **90% of the nation's genetic resources should have been documented and given an adequate level of protection, in accordance with the National Biodiversity Policy. All biotechnology work should be guided by the National Biosafety Act. Any patents utilizing indigenous knowledge should provide tangible benefits to the indigenous groups concerned. A Natural History museum should be fully functional.**
- **Enforcement of all relevant laws will be fair and uniform as public accountability, transparency and good governance becomes the norm with the full implementation of the Freedom of Information Act as well as effective people participation within strong democratic institutions**

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- **The Klang River should be fully cleaned and restored to its natural state while providing recreational amenities to Klang Valley inhabitants along its entire stretch. No buildings should exist within its reserve areas and pollutants should be prevented from entering the river.**
- **The environmental parameter monitoring network should have been made comprehensive so that data reflecting the true nature of environmental quality is available in the public domain. This should be the basis on which strategies and actions are modified to ensure an adequate quality of life for ALL Malaysians. It will also make the 5 yearly State of the Environment Reports more accurate.**

HOW WE SHUN THE BETTER OPTION!



BUT CAN WE HAVE A GREEN ECONOMY

- **Without the commitment of all Malaysians?**
- **Without the active involvement of the private sector?**
- **Without an efficient & impartial civil service that only serves the public good – not any particular political party?**
- **WITHOUT CLEAR AGREEMENT on what GE entails?**