

## Making a difference: Interactive Discussions with Major Groups

15 May 2008, Thursday

11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth and Children

By: Loy Sye Yuet ( Singapore)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. We are speaking on behalf of the children and youth major group.

To address this year's thematic issues, the youth would like to emphasize the importance of education as a catalyst to solve these related problems.

The education system will have to adapt to the youth community context. An optimal studying environment will enable students to reach their fullest potential.

In addition, a positive image of agricultural should be promoted by widening the awareness amongst students about the potential and viability of training and skills.

A good agricultural educational system that is contextually practical should incorporate entrepreneurial approaches for it to stay relevant to the meet the practical needs of the areas in which they live. A successful case study worth investigating is the S.A.T system of rural education developed in Honduras. Please come by the youth desk for more information.

While we acknowledge the pressing need for increased food production, we recognize the important role of small farmers & livestock keepers in sustainable agriculture & rural development. We urge your support of responsible & sustainable water use.... organic & local farming to support rural livelihoods as we move toward increased food security.

On the issue of rural development, we call for governments to take action to assist in providing basic rural infrastructure. In implementing necessary policies & projects, we must institutionalize the participation of diverse sectors & stake-holders in decision making.

In order to achieve sustainable resource use, production but also consumption patterns must be changed. It is not enough to enhance production of developing countries as long as the industrialized countries go on consuming massively without considering environmental and social consequences. For example, by encouraging fair trade, Governments might have a more positive impact on the sustainable development of disadvantaged regions than through conventional development aid.