



UNITED NATIONS

JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002



WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA | 26 AUGUST-4 SEPTEMBER 2002

In preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs announces:

The Beijing Forum

ON NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A United Nations Forum for Business and Science

15-17 April 2002
Beijing, China

Hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China

To promote the role of business-science partnerships in utilizing new and emerging technologies for sustainable development.

The Forum's Goals

A major challenge in achieving the goals of sustainable development is finding a way for countries of the developing world to either acquire or develop, and apply new and emerging technologies. This is one of the important issues to be addressed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August- September 2002.

The principal objective of the Beijing Forum is to bring together leaders from academia, the scientific community, professional institutions, business and government to explore ways and means of harnessing the potential of new and emerging technologies for promoting technological cooperation and local capacity building through international partnerships.

Many such partnerships have been initiated in China with considerable success to date. Thus, China has much to offer as a venue for this Forum.

It will address a range of fields, including biotechnology, plant genetics, pharmaceuticals, information technology, electronics, renewable energy and clean environmental science. There is significant demand for these technologies, and global business can play a key role in providing investment to meet such demands, and thereby foster sustainable development.

The Forum's final report will be submitted to the Ministerial Session of the Preparatory Committee for the WSSD, to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in May 2002, and will contribute to shaping the Summit's work on these critical topics.

Participants are encouraged to establish business-science partnerships that can be announced at the WSSD. The report will include a Framework for such partnerships.

Proposed Agenda

The three-day Forum will include:

Opening Session: Welcoming Speeches

- Mr. Xu Guanhua, Minister of Science and Technology of China; and
- Mr. Nitin Desai, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and

Keynote Address: "China's Experience on Relying on the Progress of Science and Technology to Promote Sustainable Development"

Keynote Address: "New and Emerging Technologies and Sustainable Development: The Business-Science Linkage"

Session Two: New and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development Survey of New and Emerging and Their Uses for Sustainable Development

Session Three: Building National Scientific and Technological Capacity for Sustainable Development

Session Four: International Business Community and Capacity Building Models for Technology Enterprises

Session Five: A Framework for Business-Science Partnerships for New and Emerging Technologies

Closing Session: Discussion of Framework and Report to the WSSD process.

The Forum will explore the following areas:

- **New and emerging technologies**

What new technologies are needed for sustainable development? What modifications are needed to better adapt existing technologies to local conditions in developing countries? Examples might include using new sensors and wireless technologies to develop affordable instruments for disaster warning or instruments to provide information for improving agricultural productivity, small and low-cost health appliances to perform simple diagnostics, and new forms of e-commerce to help rural populations.

- **Building local scientific and technological capacity**

What local skills and infrastructure are needed for the development of such technologies? What mechanisms can harness the potential of the private sector to assist in the development of this capacity? How might partnerships be forged for research and development projects that focus on seeking technological solutions to the problems of developing countries?

- **International business community and capacity building**

What local scientific and technological capacity is needed to attract industries to developing countries? How could international partnerships be used to promote new approaches to technology enterprises? What role could the international business community play in helping developing countries participate in global scientific and technological development?

Invitations

Leaders from academia, the scientific community, professional institutions, business and government should find the Forum a valuable site for contacts and interchange, and an important vehicle for contributing to the forthcoming WSSD. It is anticipated that participants will include world-renowned scientists, Nobel laureates, and the CEOs of multinational corporations. As Forum participation is limited, attendance is by invitation only.

Venue

Kun Lun Hotel, Function Hall, 2nd Floor, 2 Xin Yuan Nan Lu, Beijing, 100004. Accommodations are available for participants at the Kun Lun Hotel at a rate of 85 US\$ per room per day (breakfast included).

Registration

The registration desk will be located outside the Function Hall in Kunlun Hotel from 1000 to 1700 hours on 14 April and daily for the duration of the Forum.

Papers/ Literature for Distribution

Participants desiring to circulate papers or literature at the Meeting are requested to consult the Forum Secretary.

Languages: The languages of the Forum will be English and Chinese, with simultaneous interpretation provided between them in all plenary sessions.

Interested parties are invited to contact:

Mr. Chen Kun, Under Secretary General, CSSD
No. 109 Wan Quan He Road,
Haidan District, Beijing 10089, China
Telephone: +86-10-8263-6200
Fax: +86-10-8263-6199
Email: chenkun@acc21.edu.cn

Mr. Kui-Nang Mak, Chief
Energy and Transport Branch, DSD, DESA
United Nations, DC2-2050,
New York, NY 10017, USA
Telephone: +1-212-963-8798
Fax: +1-212-963-9883/9886
Email: makk@un.org