

## MODE participates in ISDR 2009

MODE participated in the 15th International Sustainable Development Research Conference held in Utrecht, The Netherlands on July 5-8, 2009. The organization is represented by two members of its Board of Trustees, Aurora A. Regalado and Jocelyn F. Cajuat.

The conference was hosted by the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) and the Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development and Innovation.

The conference motto is ***"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analyzing the implementation of innovations and governance for sustainable development"***. The Conference



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focused on the scientific analysis of the key factors explaining successes (and failure) in the many practices of implementation of innovations and governance for sustainable development in the North, South, West and the East.

Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning said in her keynote speech that the transition to a sustainable economy requires a radical and historic shift.

As she stressed, "the various crises share common underlying causes. We live too extravagantly and we live on credit; globalisation and technology are developing faster than our ability to coordinate internationally. Global economic growth over the past 50 years has been accompanied by accelerated environmental decline. From 1981 to 2005, global GDP more than doubled – all while some 60 per cent of the world's ecosystems were being degraded or used in an unsustainable manner."

She underlined the need to adapt on all fronts and seize the opportunity to create a better, prosperous, fair and sustainable world.

Dr. Tariq Banuri of the United Nations, another keynote speaker, focused on Climate Change and Sustainable Development. He stressed the importance of access to electricity because no country has achieved 0.9 HDI (human development index) without 100% access to electricity. Another interesting point he raised is the definition of **true poverty line**. Dr.



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Banuri said that the conventional measures – US\$1 or \$2 a day do not indicate the true poverty line but these are measures of **destitution**. The **true poverty threshold is income of US\$30/capita/day**.

Various research papers presented in parallel workshops tackled the conference's five themes: Theme 1 - Sustainability Science: determining the need for transitions & assessing progress and trends; Theme 2 -Climate Change and Energy; Theme 3 - Sustainable Land Use & Regional approaches; Theme 4 - Innovation for Sustainable Production and Consumption; Theme 5 - Governance for Sustainable Development.

They tried to answer the main conference questions:

- What are the main lessons learnt about key factors determining success in implementation?
- Are these practices substantial and robust enough to meet the world wide challenge for the coming two decades? Is the speed and rate of developments fast enough?
- Is full society wide implementation achievable within the available time scope and what is needed for that?
- What are the views in Asia, Africa and Southern America on these issues?
- Are western approaches also applicable in the context of these countries? Are current macro-economic conditions for this fair?



In conclusion, both bottom up (community-based resource management, corporate social responsibility, multi-stakeholder cooperation, microfinance, local practices, agriculture, mobility and urban planning) and bottom down (Cap and trade, eco-tax, burden sharing, direct regulation, trade regulations) approaches have substantial contributions but not yet adequate to meet the global challenge.

### **Selected Papers:**

Abstract nr. 867

*Poverty Alleviation in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Comparative Analysis of Microfinance and Conditional Cash Transfers*

Author: Ana Pantelic, Boston University, Madrid, Spain

Abstract nr. 998

*Communities' survival and coping mechanisms in flood-prone KAMANAVA, Metro Manila*

Author: Karen Ann Jago-on, Hiroshima University, Higashi-Hiroshima, Japan

Abstract nr. 770

*The confluence of Fair Trade and organic movements: A small producers' perspective in South India*

Author: Rie Makita, University of Tokyo, Japan

Abstract nr. 943

*The Agrarian Reform: A Public Policy to Promote the Social Inclusion in Brazil*

Author: Arlete Salcides, Federal University of the Pampas, Jaguarão, Brazil