

THE SECOND ASIA ENVIRONMENT LECTURE THE GREEN ECONOMY: WILL ASIA EMBRACE IT?

The Orchard Hotel

Tuesday 7 October 2014
5.00pm - 7.30pm

Dr Marco Lambertini
Director General of the World Wide Fund
for Nature (WWF) International

ABOUT THE LECTURE

The dawn of the 21st Century has seen our global natural environment under its greatest stress from human impact, and global civilization at its greatest risk of eroding the natural resources which sustain our well-being, our economy, our very lives. Today, we are far more aware of the problems, the drivers and the implications, as well as the solutions. Yet action is lagging far behind.

As a global community we cannot be passive by-standers in a world increasingly undermined by irresponsible human activities driven by greed and selfish pursuits. While there is growing academic acknowledgement of climate and environmental changes, there is still the need to educate sceptical politicians, government bureaucrats and the public, that Green issues need urgent attention.

By 2050 there will be 3 billion more consumers on the planet – one third of whom will join the over - 4 billion now resident in Asia. We are heading towards a disastrous 3 degrees C temperature rise by the end of the century, and losing biodiversity at an unprecedented rate – undermining the functioning of ecosystems and the provision of their crucial services. We are facing difficult choices in terms of cultural, behavioural and systemic change. Can we continue to be a reactive species, not well equipped to plan long-term nor to efficiently coordinate at a global level?

The world, and Asia in particular, is witnessing an extraordinary wave of innovation, accelerating growth in civil society mobilization, and fast-growing environmental awareness in all sectors. Are we reaching the tipping point for wide-scale change? As Asia is moving towards confirming itself as the demographic and economic world powerhouse, can it be the world's driver for sustainable living? Can the global community find a harmonious and balanced relationship between economic motives and sustainable green requirements?

Greater focus is needed to ensure that the region's natural capital is maintained to support long-term social and economic prosperity. Natural capital such as biodiversity, forests, freshwater, and coastal and marine ecosystems, is essential to making green economies a reality. Protecting natural capital will require a clear vision, careful stewardship, and tangible investments, to ensure effective protection, management, and wise use of the region's precious resources. Despite sounding overly utilitarian, we absolutely need a price tag attached to nature's services in order to make it an integral part of Asian economies. For example, WWF promoted sustainable commodities such as certified palm oil and fish that help reduce the world's footprint on the planet and provide better prices and market access for producers. We tested ideas for smart green infrastructure that address the need of the people for energy, water and transport and help sustain Asia's natural resources. We initiated payments for water services, whereby communities get paid for managing the forests to increase the lifetime and sustainability of hydropower plants.

What should an Asian "green economy" strategy look like? This lecture will discuss trends and roles of the three key sectors of the sustainable development agenda (public, private and civil society) vis-à-vis the environmental status of the Asian continent. We will explore the risks, challenges and reasons for hope – and how they link with the global picture.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Marco Lambertini became Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International in April 2014, to drive the achievement of the global conservation organization's critical mission to save life on Earth and lead the secretariat team based in Gland, Switzerland. With 35 years of conservation leadership, Marco Lambertini began his association with WWF as a youth volunteer growing up in his native Italy. Prior to joining WWF, he served as Chief Executive of BirdLife International. Marco's experience ranges from species action plans and private reserve management to international environmental policy, integrated conservation and development programmes, social marketing and communications, and the management of large international decentralized networks for most effective local-to-global conservation impact. Marco Lambertini has a degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of Pisa, and has published books ranging from Safari in Africa (Muzzio) to A Naturalist's Guide to the Tropics (Chicago University Press).

Highlights from Marco's top conservation achievements so far include:

- Large-scale changes of attitudes and practices regarding nature and wildlife in Italy;
- The establishment of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, the largest marine protected area in Europe;
- The Harapan Rainforest initiative in Sumatra, the world's first forest restoration concession.

REGISTRATION

Registration is complimentary & seats are limited. Your response by **30 September 2014** would be much appreciated. For Registration: URL <http://goo.gl/sRCgbc> or Scan on the QR Code

Venue: **The Orchard Hotel, Ballroom 3**
442 Orchard Road,
Singapore 238879



PROGRAMME

4.00pm	Registration of guests
5.00pm	Welcome and Introduction to the Asia Environment Lecture, Assoc Prof Lye Lin-Heng, Chair, NUS MSc (Env Mgt) [MEM] Programme Management Committee & Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL)
5.15pm	Second Asia Environment Lecture 2014 "The Green Economy: Will Asia Embrace It?"
6.00pm	Question and Answer Session Moderator, Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large
6.30pm	Tea Reception
7.30pm	End of Event

Email: lawapcel@nus.edu.sg

THE LECTURE SERIES

Environmental issues are constantly in the media forefront today. Countries and cities across the world grapple with climate change, which has brought unseasonal floods, droughts and wildfires, and caused severe economic losses, adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecological disasters and much human misery. Cities continue to face the challenges of population growth, inadequate clean water and energy supplies, deteriorating public health and hygiene, environmental degradation, and the pollution of air, land and water. While Asian states have made considerable economic progress in rapid time, they are finding it increasingly challenging to balance development and environmental sustainability. The current imperatives for national development, industrialization and a market economy should not be compromised. There is a need for sound, stable and sustainable environmental management practices. These can be found in the right environmental policies and laws, translated and implemented through effective governance and management. A holistic approach involving partnerships among stakeholders is necessary to address these challenges.

The AEL provides a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange and networking with world leaders with expertise and experience on environmental sustainability in Asia. Environmental Sustainability is multi-faceted and the event is organized by the two multi-disciplinary programmes on the environment at NUS -the Master of Science in Environmental Management (MEM) and Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES); together with the National University of Singapore (NUS) Law Faculty's Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), and the National Parks Board, which is a statutory board under the Ministry of National Development, Singapore.

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