

Sustainable Development and Public Administration

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Outline of Presentation

- DSD thinking on this year's AMR theme: environmental sustainability
 - National sustainability challenges
 - Areas of concern for governance, public administration: woven into discussion
 - Global sustainability challenges
 - Latest concerns related to climate change
 - Others: biodiversity, fisheries, oceans
- Upcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Challenges vary across country groups

- Rapidly industrializing countries
- Non-renewable resource dependent countries
- Renewable resource rich countries
- Resource poor, least developed countries
- Mature, post-industrial societies

This year's AMR theme

What are the main sustainability challenges?

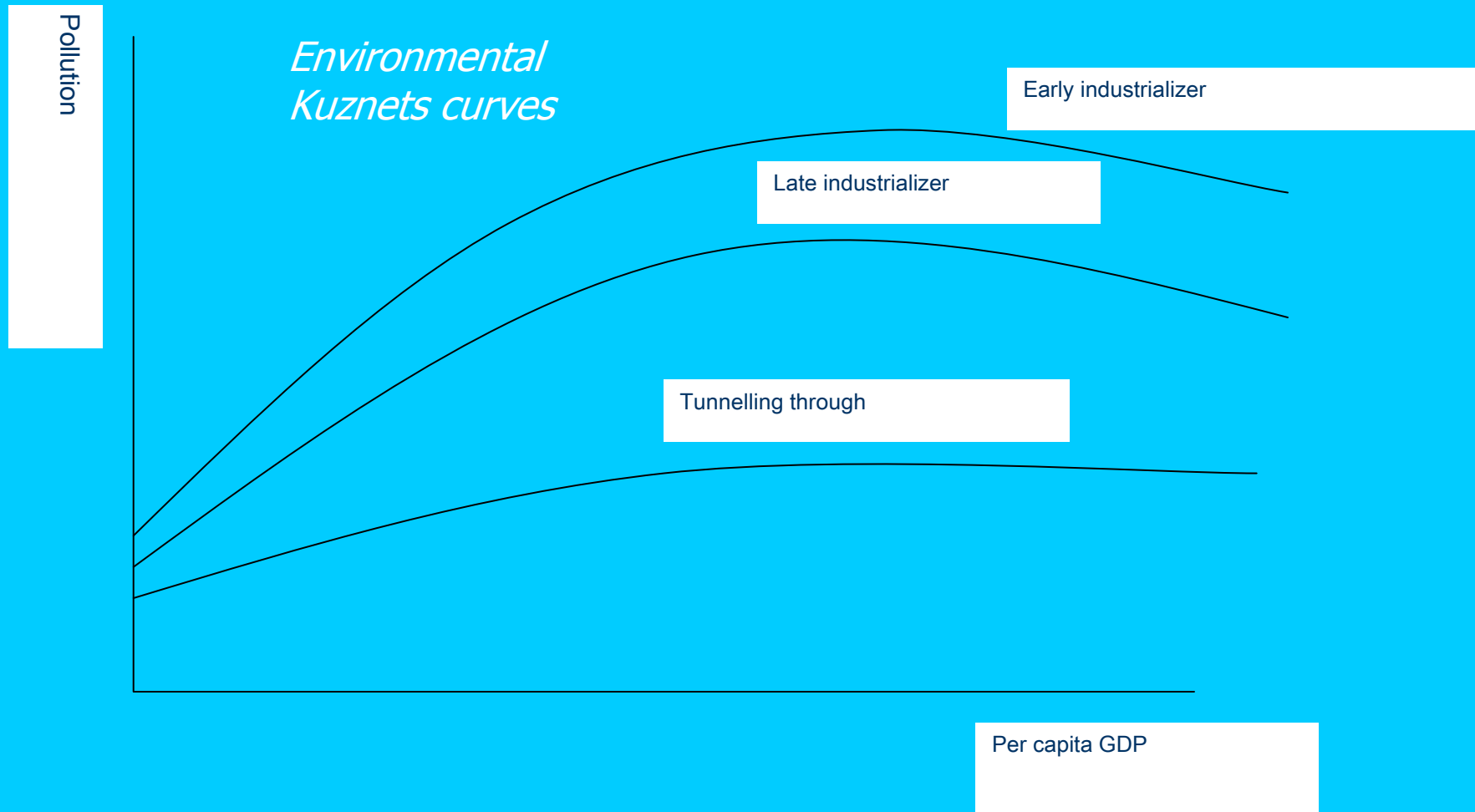
- Rapidly industrializing countries:
 - how to manage industrial and urban growth?
 - Building adequate infrastructure, including less polluting public transport and power generation
 - Providing water and waste treatment
 - Making polluters pay
 - Effective, efficient regulation
 - Greater use of eco-taxes
 - Information disclosure, right to know

...main sustainability challenges (cont'd)

- Rapidly industrializing countries
 - Historical lessons on the environmental costs of breakneck economic growth
 - But governments have learned relatively few of those lessons
 - May be able to bend the curve a bit but more difficult to “tunnel through”

Bending the curve, yes ...

Tunnelling through, not quite yet ...



The challenges for late industrializers in a globalized economy

- Rising living standards, combined with globalization, have permitted transition of OECD countries to service-based economies
- Emerging economies are increasingly industrial suppliers not only to their domestic economies but to developed countries

Implications for governance

- Ironically, emerging economies may face bigger challenges than developed countries making transition to lower resource intensity, energy intensity
- Rapid, resource and energy using growth is pulling their people out of poverty
- Policies conflicted – yes, environmental pressures mounting, but expectations also rising
- Grow now, clean up later – still alive and well

Times are a changin'

- Growing middle classes demand quality of life improvements
- Rising incomes permit larger public investments in environment
- High profitability in private sector makes polluter pays more tolerable
- With higher incomes and education generally comes improved governance
 - Though this is not automatic
 - Depends on history, culture of professional civil service relatively insulated from vested interests

... main sustainability challenges?

- Non-renewable resource dependent countries
 - Managing and utilizing natural resource revenues efficiently
 - Utilizing resource rents to invest in human and physical capital
 - Diversifying economies to reduce resource dependence, esp. where resources are fossil fuels

... main sustainability challenges?

- Renewable resource rich countries
 - Loss of environmental resources
 - Biodiversity loss
 - Deforestation
 - Climate change financing mechanisms
 - Offer opportunity to fund avoided deforestation
 - Knock on benefits for biodiversity if well designed

... main sustainability challenges?

- Resource-poor, least developed countries
 - Investing to boost productivity of subsistence agriculture
 - Managing scarce natural resources, notably water; avoiding further resource degradation
 - Investing in health and education to:
 - improve life expectancy
 - provide incentives to reduce fertility
 - raise productivity of human labor, incomes

... main sustainability challenges?

- Mature, post-industrial societies
 - Living stds locked in to resource intensive consumption patterns
 - High impact on global commons (GHGs)
 - Disconnect between:
 - awareness of problems and of historic responsibility
 - willingness to pay
 - 'Polluter pays' sounds good in principle

General areas of governance concern

- Proliferation of national sustainable development strategies
 - But continuation of resource depletion, degradation, other unsustainable trends

This year's AMR theme

- Global sustainability challenges
 - Climate change
 - Bali Roadmap
 - Bangkok meeting on program of work
 - Still talking about talking or, more charitably,
 - Warming up ...
 - Clock ticking towards Copenhagen 2009
 - Fundamental questions still need to be resolved:
 - What is the international community's long-term vision/goal? ppm stabilization? at what level?
 - How are we going to get there?
 - What role will Annex 1, non-Annex 1 countries play?
 - How will the financing and technology needs of the latter be met – for mitigation? for adaptation?

What are the precedents?

- Montreal Protocol:
 - One successful model of global governance
 - Much ink spilt on the lessons for Kyoto
 - But how relevant?
- Financing:
 - CDM: pros and cons
 - Multilateral Fund?
- Technology transfer: key constraints:
 - costs; complementary investments; absorptive capacity
 - High Level Conference on technology for climate change, planned for Beijing, Nov of this year

Other global governance challenges

- Biodiversity: no powerful natural constituency
 - Yes, pharmaceutical companies (but how far do their 'killer drugs' depend on natural products?)
 - Children, and the rest of us, but the collective action problem is real
 - Also, the dilemma:
 - Conservation requires action in tropical countries
 - WTP tends to be highest in temperate countries
 - Two key governance issues:
 - Sovereignty (tropical perspective)
 - Trust (temperate perspective)

Fisheries and oceans

- Classic open access resource problem
- Compounded by technologies
 - Which permit intensified exploitation
 - Which make depletion of ocean fisheries appear less critical
 - As countries become more dependent on aquaculture
 - Though the latter depends importantly on the former for inputs
- Are governance arrangements adequate?

Upcoming CSD: A few key issues

- Agriculture
 - Rising food prices: food, feed, fuel dynamic
 - A green revolution for Africa
- Rural development
 - Infrastructure needs, notably in Africa
 - Generating off-farm employment
- Land
 - Access, scarcity, degradation
 - Conversion of land: agricultural to urban; forests, other ecosystems to agriculture

Upcoming CSD: A few key issues

- Peoples living in drylands often have the worst human development indicators (mortality, per capita income)
- Drought
 - Prospects for worsening drought in certain hotspots with climate change
- Desertification
 - Climate change could also intensify, though in some cases – e.g. parts of Sahel – changing precipitation in recent decades has meant a greening

Upcoming CSD: A few key issues

■ Africa

- Good growth performance in new millennium
 - Improved macroeconomic stability, governance
 - High commodity prices almost across the board
- A host of sustainable development challenges
 - Endemic disease one of biggest
 - Poor infrastructure in rural areas to help develop agriculture
 - Continued conflicts, governance problems in some countries, regions

A few concluding thoughts on governance and sustainable development

- Globalization: a mixed story for the environment and sustainable development
- Social development: China, India – many millions emerging from poverty; strong growth in Africa for 1st time in decades
- Environment: cleaner technologies can move across borders, but so can pollution
 - Former priced; latter not.
 - At least not always, not yet ...
- Carbon markets: symbolically significant --international community agrees the atmospheric commons is no longer a free resource.

International governance institutions

- Are markets up to the task of governing the global atmosphere?
- Or are other governance structures also needed?
- If so, what? Other models include:
 - technology standards
 - fiscal measures (carbon taxes)
 - public trusts and trust funds