

On Climate Change

Sustainable development is one of the key activities in achieving the development goals agreed internationally such as Millennium Declaration of the United Nations.

However, the most serious obstacles on the way to the sustainable development in the 21st century are climate change and environmental destruction.

Above mentioned issues spell innumerable disasters to humankind by causing the rise of temperature and water level, draining of land and water resource, food crises and natural disasters, and, thus, raises various challenges to the national and international efforts in achieving the MDG such as poverty reduction.

The reason that the environmental destruction, poverty growth, etc, which threatens the survival of human beings, are being raised as serious issues in the new millennium is because not only of natural elements but also the social-economic elements which interrupt the sustainability on environmental protection and development. Such problems require the international community to pay due attention and actively respond to the world environmental protection.

As is known, the sincere efforts of the international community are growing rapidly to implement the various international conventions like UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) adopted at the Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development-UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June, 1992, Kyoto Protocol adopted at the UNFCCC COP (Conference of Parties) in December, 1997 and MDG of United Nations. We understand that many international NGOs and their membership organizations are actively joining their efforts with international community.

We regard it important to keep the Rio Principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” in dealing with the challenges and threats from climate change.

The developed countries which have the main responsibility on the global warming should implement their commitments and duties faithfully in accordance to the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol and show their determined will to reduce the greenhouse gas emission.

In the meantime, they should encourage the preferential and environmentally clean technology transfer and the investment and financial assistance for the development and utilization of the new and renewable energy resources such as hydropower, wind power and

solar energy to the developing countries. The priority should be given to the capacity building of these countries.

The political will and practical measurements of the countries to implement the action programme and resolutions adopted at World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and other major UN Conferences are the most important to achieve the sustainability on environmental protection and development.

To save the environment in the sense of sustainable development, we consider the following issues to be given special attention.

Firstly, it is needed to improve the efficiency of the energy production and use at its maximum which is an important sector in implementing the “Agenda 21”, action plan for sustainable development, while actively encouraging the development and utilization of new energy relying on clean energy resources having no harm to environment.

Our delegation regard the Kyoto Protocol which restricts the greenhouse gas emission as a significant international convention to deal with the climate change, and the developed countries should take practical steps as early as possible to definitely reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emission as indicated in the Protocol.

Secondly, it is needed to strengthen the capability at national level to reduce the damage caused by natural disasters while establishing the early warning system for disaster prevention at international level and promoting the international cooperation.

The tremendous loss of life and natural damage caused by earthquakes and tidal wave swept over the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia in December, 2004 still remain vivid in our minds.

It is necessary to further strengthen the international cooperation to practically implement the international action plans for the reduction of natural disasters such as flood, draught, typhoon, tidal wave, earthquake, etc, like Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, which were discussed and agreed at several international conferences including World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

Thirdly, due attentions should be paid to create the favorable external circumstances for the sustainable development of the developing countries.

We are not able to even imagine about the sustainable development of our Planet without the one of the developing countries forming the absolute majority of the world.

The developed countries should recognize their main responsibility to the sustainable development and implement their commitments in good faith regarding the international cooperation on sustainable development.

We think it is necessary to encourage the initiatives and measurements to seek every available financial source internationally and regionally while the international monetary systems make contribution to the efforts of developing countries on sustainable development by providing development funds without additional condition.

The different kinds of political system and the right to select the way of development in each country and nation should be respected and arbitrary acts like unilateral economic sanctions which interrupt the sustainable development should be come to an end.

In April 2005, the DPRK government ratified the Kyoto Protocol to join the efforts of international community to reach the MDGs.

The DPRK concentrates its effort on the land management and environmental conservation as revealed in the resolutions from World Summit on the Sustainable Development, in accordance with its national plan set up for implementation of MDGs and in pursuit of achieving the sustainable development.

Several power stations which rely on clean energy resources such as water and wind are being constructed in large scale, and river improvement, tree-planting and afforestation are being highlighted nationwide so as to minimize the damages from natural disasters.

As for the implementation of Kyoto protocol, the DPRK has been preparing for CDM projects to be successfully implemented within its boundary, and last year, in 2008, "the National Coordinating Committee on Environment in the DPRK" was registered as the Designated National Agency (DNA) in the Executive Board of Kyoto Protocol.

Taking this advantage several social organizations are trying to keep the close contacts with the relevant organizations to implement the CDM projects with foreign NGOs and other entities.

As to CDM projects, any recommendations and even proposals from any participants of this Conference would be welcome and appreciated.

We will do our best to make contribution to the efforts of the international community to mitigate the climate change.

We are sure that this is the way to national prosperity, at the same time ensuring the successful fulfillment of its responsibilities to the world.