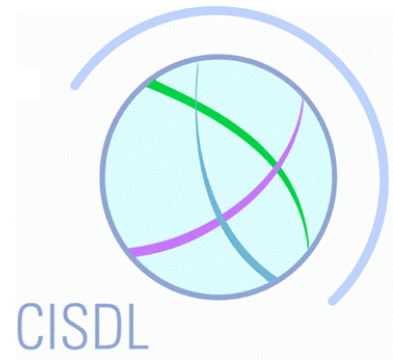


CISDL Doc. #: K1-QN.E	Session: Opening International Sponsors Keynotes
Date & Time: 2002-06-13 9:20 am	Speaker: Questions and Answers
Rapporteur: [Insert Name]	Language: English



Opening International Sponsors Keynotes

June 13, 2002, Montreal

1) **Leuprecht (re: Tung speech)**

- i) We must remember that social rights and human rights are integrated
- ii) Further, there is a concern that programs designed to eradicate poverty run the risk of wiping out the poor: it is not obvious that these programs alleging to alleviate poverty actually do so

2) **Hossain: (re: Gillwald speech)**

- a) International environment law has developed considerably through legislation, this process should occur in International Sustainable Development Law as well.

3) **Hossain: (re: Tung)**

- a) The World Bank's (WB) focus on sustainable development (SD) was a conscious decision. It recognized that respect for human rights must be a crucial foundation for development. This represented a very welcome change of policy
- b) Q: Do we not also need some guidance from the WB on "worst practices"? That is, the factors that created the East Asian crisis, the Mexican crisis, these "worst practices", need to be clinically diagnosed so that we know what to avoid in the future.

i) **Tung (response)**

- (1) Sometimes we learn more from failures. (This implies that the WB has had many failures).
- (2) There has been a paradigm shift to focus attention on the social dimensions of the work of the Bank. This has been evolutionary, though the impetus shifted with the new president and because of the aforesaid crisis.
- (3) Concerning Mexico, East Asia, IMF, ect: there is doctrine being developed regarding these failures
- (4) Of course there are many studies and theories regarding these failures, but we still don't have a full understanding of the problem
 - (a) Pre crisis, everyone was applauding the four Tigers. But then there was a realization that the soft infrastructure (laws, regulations, etc) was absent. So when there was a gush in of money and a similar gush out, there was a strain on the system. This made the WB turn their attention to the social side of their agenda
 - (b) Similarly, when the Post Soviet block began to privatize, there was a dissipation of assets into opaque private companies, and it was realized that there is a need for a legal framework.
 - (c) The common theme here is that a firm legal foundation is a MUST so that these crises are cushioned, and that a safety net for all people is in place.

(5) **Gillwald (response)**

- (a) We have become very good at problem identification and how we have failed. Internationally, however, there is very little capacity to identify actual solutions, rather than simply solutions in the abstract.
- (b) This is not only a Third World issue. There is often a clear vision of what is needed in the future. The capacity to transform this to the ground, to change this vision into concrete actions that can be implemented, is critical to solve these problems.
- (c) We need an integrated response, to synergize the good in each sector and to combine them.

4) **Ambassador Hurst**

- a) The WB is a small but important partner, and it is not an enemy of SD
- b) We do not believe that the law on its own can bring about necessary change.
- c) Public demonstration of disgruntlement is necessary to push forward legal change e.g., South Africa
- d) Q: can the WB be relied upon to dissuade the USA from unlawful courses of action, or does the WB only have power to influence small and dependent states?

(1) **Tung**

- (a) Is uncertain as to how the influence of the WB is felt.
- (b) On the environmental side, projects and monetary assistance go to poor

- (c) But the WB does act on a global level regarding common global goods such as the environment. On this level, hopefully the WB's influence is being felt.

5) **Leuprecht**

- a) Re: Rome conference: very few leaders from rich countries bothered to attend
- b) Re: Transition (regarding industrialization and development): what is often overlooked is the social and human costs of transition: ex. Countries of the Soviet Union (example of deterioration of public health). We must look at these issues in a global context
- c) While it is obvious that we must learn from past mistakes and that our failures can show us what not to do, Leuprecht is uncertain as to how much of this learning is actually occurring.