

caused by inappropriate irrigation (the environmental stress) could contribute to population migration (the social effect). Economic decline, contributed to by inappropriate or unsustainable development strategies, in turn may be accompanied by several social ills such as unemployment and having large numbers of people at living in relative poverty. An important aspect and influence on the social effects is social responses. This is where proactive or reactive responses, such as educational opportunities or social safety nets, are undertaken to address problems arising from environmental, population, technological or economic change. The conceptual challenge with beginning to understand FEEEP is that nearly all variables influence each other, often in complex and uncertain ways. Annex 2 provides a list of illustrative FEEEP indicators.

APEC and FEEEP

While there are major uncertainties, there are also some stylized facts. With the global population and economic output reaching new levels there has been a greater use, often exploitative in nature, of energy, food, and the physical environment. Pollution, environmental degradation and resource usage rates and levels bring into question the livelihood of achieving sustainable growth in the long run. Globally this has generated a public and political concern, as witnessed by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and more recently its 5 year review in 1997. It is widely recognized that concerted action is required if sustainability is to be achieved. Yet political commitment to action, and a consensual understanding of what specific actions are required remain elusive. In fulfilling its vision of promoting a cooperative approach to sustainable economic prosperity, APEC has established a number of bodies to explore the challenges of FEEEP in respect to the APEC members. An overview report of FEEEP is to be prepared for the APEC Leaders meeting in Vancouver in November, 1997.

Population

Population levels, geographic and age distribution, and growth rates fundamentally influence food, energy, economic considerations and the environment. It is also true, that the environment, food, energy and economic considerations influence demographics and the current or future health of populations.⁴

⁴ For example, in terms of economic growth, population provides supply as labour and demand as consumers. Access to health services, such as family planning, and adequate sanitation, also influence population growth rates and health. Broader environmental conditions, such as climatic conditions, climate change and ozone depletion, are examples of other influencing factors. These