

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

How should Canadians promote sustainable development in Asia-Pacific and where. What should we contribute. Is there a minimum level of economic/industrial development needed before advancing sustainability and how can Canada best work with like-minded countries to promote sustainability.

Internationally, Canadians should promote the development and use of clean technology, provide support to the region through the dissemination of environmental planning expertise, encourage ISO 14000 certification as well as foster educational links between Canada and Asia-Pacific. Canadians should also support sustainable development in the region by establishing linkages with like-minded countries through efforts at collaborative, non-competitive research and development.

Canadian business can play a role in fostering sustainable development through the demonstration of best practices and technology transfer, recognizing that the learning process is two-way. The cost effectiveness of good corporate environmental practice is recognized by Canadian companies, a lesson to be shared with Asia-Pacific counterparts and could be accomplished by promoting environmental success stories in an Asia-Pacific context. Recognizing that sustainable development policies and goals are long-term in nature, Canada can play a positive role through foreign aid and education.

Policy Options

1. Develop Sustainable Development policy from the following principles:

- (a) accountability based on assessment, indicators (e.g.. food security), and qualitative and quantitative measures, and the engagement of Canadians in policy development and measurement;***
- (b) use of different and evolving policies which take into account diversity in world communities (i.e. social/cultural);***
- (c) critical evaluation of Canada's practices/policies including a commitment to ecological and socially responsible consumption (with equity in mind);***
- (d) inclusion of account policies, local knowledge, science and technology, and implementation capacity;***
- (e) recognition of the following elements of sustainable development: common security, ecological and social and economic well-being, temporal body, and an ecological imperative.***

2. Review all Canadian policies and international agreements for their contribution to human and ecological security and sustainability.

3. Review all international agreements which relate to or impact on sustainability to ensure accountability by Canada.