

## **SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Peter Guthrie**

University of Cambridge, UK.

'PowerPoint' Slides from Colloquium Presentation

# Sustainability and Development

Peter Guthrie  
University of Cambridge

## Factor 10

- The excitement generated around Factor 10 is fully justified and radical change is possible

- For the developing countries of the world, the notions of development and sustainability are starting from very different viewpoints
- The reality of inequity is inescapable

## Apartheid in South Africa

- To the White population the solution to apartheid and its unfairness was complicated, intractable and filled with risk
- To everyone else in South Africa, the solution to apartheid was simple

## Sustainable Development

- To the developed nations sustainable development is a natural and logical step of adjustment to a new order taking “us” from a strong industrial and manufacturing base to a post industrial world which is globalised and inter-dependent

## Sustainable Development

- To the developing nations sustainable development could be seen very differently.

## Sustainable Development

- If we are moving into this new global society and we mean what we say about sustainable development, should the sustainability performance be used as a better measure of countries' standings than GDP?
- Can we measure our performance accurately when we export resource depletion, and import finished goods?

## Sustainable Development

Should there be a classification of

- Profligate nations
- High but efficient resource use nations
- Medium resource use medium efficiency nations
- Low resource use low efficiency nations
- Low resource use high efficiency nations

## Sustainable Development

The language of international development needs to change

- Knowledge transfer must be seen as a two way process
- Knowledge in the context of profligate countries may be unsuitable for low resource use countries

## Sustainable Development

New and high technology are vital components of sustainable development and Factor 10 is the embodiment of this.

But how are we incorporating

- Low resource use
- Resilience
- Flexibility

## Sustainable Development

We struggle to accommodate

- Design for partial success
- Design for allowable failure
- Design for different standards