



Regional Workshop Report

Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

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Partners



UNDGO



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BDP	Bureau for Development Policy
CB	Capacity Building
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CO	Country Office
CP	Country Programme
CPD	Country Programme Document
CPRGS	Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Growth Strategy (Viet Nam)
CRPRID	Centre for Research on Poverty Reduction and Income Distribution (Pakistan)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DBM	Department of Budget Management (Philippines)
DCS	Department of Census and Statistics (Sri Lanka)
DFID	Department for International Development (Britain)
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government (Philippines)
DIS	Development Information Staff (Philippines)
DOE	Department of Environment (Malaysia)
DOH	Department of Health (Philippines)
DOS	Department of Statistics (Malaysia)
DS	District Secretariat (Sri Lanka)
EPU	Economic Planning Unit (Malaysia)
FNRI	Food and Research Institute (Philippines)
FTAs	Free Trade Areas
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOP	Government of Pakistan
GOSL	Government of Sri Lanka
GSO	General Statistics Office (Viet Nam)
HES	Household Expenditure Survey (Malaysia)
HIPCs	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIS	Household Income Survey (Malaysia)
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGOs	International Nongovernmental Organisation
KCOC	Korea NGO Council for Overseas Cooperation (Korea)
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LDCCU	Least Developed Countries Coordination Unit
LFS	Labour Force Survey (Malaysia)
LGA	Local Government Academy (Philippines)
LGUs	Local Government Units

LLDCs	Landlocked Least Developed Countries
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Viet Nam)
MC-IHDC	Multisectoral Committee on International Human Development Commitments
MD	Millennium Declaration
MDGR	Millennium Development Goals Report
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (China, Iran)
MOCI	Ministry of Culture and Information (Viet Nam)
MOE	Ministry of Education (Thailand, Malaysia)
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Thailand)
MOH	Ministry of Health (Malaysia)
MOI	Ministry of Interior (Thailand)
MOICT	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (Thailand)
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs (Viet Nam)
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health (Thailand)
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment (Viet Nam)
MPO	Management and Planning Organisation (Iran)
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (Thailand)
NA	National Assembly (Viet Nam, Pakistan)
NCC	Net Contributor Country
NCED	National Council for Economic Development (Sri Lanka)
NCPAG	National College of Public Administration and Governance (Philippines)
NEC	National Economic Council (Pakistan)
NEDA	National Economic & Development Authority (Philippines)
NESDB	National Economic & Social Development Board (Thailand)
NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation
NHDR	National Human Development Report
NSCB	National Statistical Coordination Board
NSO	National Statistics Office
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
P&D	Planning and Development (Pakistan)
PAPs	Project Affected Persons (Philippines)
PLCPD	Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development
PLI	Poverty Line Index (Malaysia)
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
PS	Private Sector
PYEN	Philippine Youth Employment Network
RBA	Rights-Based Approach
RBAP	Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific

RC	Resident Coordinator
ROK	Republic of Korea
SCI	Statistical Centre of Iran
SDC	Social Development Committee (Philippines)
SDC-CL	Social Development Committee–Cabinet Level (Philippines)
SIAP	UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SOMIS	Social Development Management Information System (Philippines)
TA	Technical Assistance
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDGO	United Nations Development Group Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSIAP	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VCCI	Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
VDGs	Viet Nam Development Goals
VOV	Voice of Viet Nam
VTV	Viet Nam Television
WB	World Bank
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The UN Millennium Summit in 2000 adopted the Millennium Declaration, which reaffirmed and synthesised the goals and targets set by previous global conferences. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration was a defining moment for global cooperation—it brought poverty eradication on to the global map through collective consent of the international community.¹ Progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) contributes to improving the lives of the poor and disadvantaged and, more broadly, to human development. The MDGs are particularly significant in Asia and the Pacific due to the region's diversity. In this region, addressing income poverty does not necessarily result in successfully addressing issues of human poverty. Therefore, stakeholders in the region have been collaborating and evolving partnerships to harness the synergies among the different MDGs. A number of initiatives in the region are successfully taking the MDG agenda forward.

After the success of the first phase of the regional initiative on *Supporting the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals*, a follow-up phase was initiated in collaboration with UNESCAP. The first Regional MDG Report, launched in 2003, was a key output of this partnership. It was followed by a second Regional MDG Report in 2005. Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam were the first nine countries to launch their national MDG Reports. Others followed soon after. By the end of 2004, 21 out of 39 countries in Asia and the Pacific completed their MDG Reports.

Other regional initiatives supporting the MDG agenda include the *Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction*; *Regional Trade, Economic Governance and Human Development*; and the *Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Human Development Reports*. In collaboration with UNDG, RBAP organised three regional workshops on the MDGs in which most UN or UNDP country offices in the region participated. Vientiane, Dhaka and Nandi hosted the workshops in October 2002, February 2003 and March 2003, respectively. The workshops resulted in the preparation of country action plans for achieving the MDGs at the national level. The *Regional Initiative on the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific* draws extensively from the workshop recommendations. The initiative supports countries in implementing their MDG action plans in the following areas: monitoring and reporting, advocacy and campaigning, policy-making and strategising, and capacity-strengthening in statistics and data collection (in collaboration with UNSIAP).

The 2004 MDG regional workshops, which followed the workshops held in 2002–2003, were an essential part of the above initiative. UNDG and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) partnered with UNDP in these workshops and have helped further the work on MDGs in the region. These activities assumed even more relevance and urgency following the UN Secretary-General's presentation of the MDG Progress Report five years after the Millennium Summit, at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly (called the Millennium +5 Summit) in 2005.

The concept note for the workshop is included in annexure I.

¹ UN (2001) *Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General, Document A/56/326* (New York: UN).

1.2 Workshop objectives

The regional workshop aimed to accomplish the following:

- Provide a forum for discussions and experience-sharing, and get updates on global, regional and Millennium +5 Summit issues.
- Examine country action plans and their implementation.
- Review MDG reporting in participating countries and its effects on policy planning, resource allocation, public awareness, external assistance and operational implementation.
- Develop a work plan for participating countries to move forward on the MDG agenda, especially in light of the Millennium +5 Summit and with a specific focus on LDC and LLDC issues.
- Enable countries to identify specific areas where the Regional Asia Pacific Initiative on the MDGs could provide additional support.
- Build capacity at the national level to achieve the MDGs, keeping in view the specific context of the region.

The workshop's agenda is included in annexure II.

1.3 Participants

Participation was drawn from 12 countries: China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Each delegation was composed of representatives from UNDP, the UN Country Team, governments and civil society organisations (CSOs). A total of 120 delegates from the region attended the workshop, in addition to around 70 observers from host country Philippines.

A complete list of participants is given in annexure III.

2. DAY ONE

2.1 Opening Session and Session I: MDGs, an update

In the opening session, Ms Deborah Landey (UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Philippines) welcomed the participants and set the tone for the deliberations. Mr Jan P.M. Van Heeswijk (Director General, ADB) and Mr Arthur Erken (Associate Director, UNDO) delivered their addresses and highlighted the importance given to the MDGs by their respective organisations. Dr Hafiz A. Pasha (UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator) made his opening remarks, and the Hon. José C. de Venecia, Jr., (Speaker, House of Representatives of the Philippines) highlighted the commitment of the Philippine government to the MDGs. The insights provided by the addresses set the tone for the discussions that followed.

The first business session reiterated the objectives and spelt out the scope of the workshop. The workshop's structure was presented:

- National perspectives and the MDGs (session II)
- Millennium +5 Summit (session III)
- MDGs and the Millennium Development Project (special session III, through video link)
- Achieving the MDGs: Policy and programming challenges – part I and part II (session IV)
- Achieving the MDGs: Monitoring and statistical capacity-building (session V)
- Strategic communication plans and regional support mechanisms (session VI)
- Developing country action plans (session VII)
- Media panel (special session)
- The way forward (session VIII)

2.2 Session II: National perspectives and the MDGs

In this session, delegates from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, Japan and the Republic of Korea shared their national perspectives on the MDGs. The session was conducted in two parts: (a) country presentations and (b) working groups.

In order to highlight the common challenges and opportunities faced in achieving the MDGs, three country-cluster groups were created. Group 1 comprised delegates from China, India and Indonesia; Group 2 comprised delegates from Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; Group 3 comprised delegates from Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

2.2.1 Highlights of country presentations

China

Chan Chuandong, Deputy Division Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Plan of Action on National Development

In 2003, China's per capita GDP exceeded US\$ 1,000. The population living in poverty has been reduced from 250 million in 1978 to 29 million in 2002. The enrolment rate of school-age children stands at 99.3 percent, and the adult illiteracy rate has been brought down to 4 percent. Child and maternal mortality rates are down to 28.4 per 1,000 people and 50.2 per 100,000

people, respectively. The nation has launched a robust campaign to combat HIV/AIDS. China is the first among developing countries to adopt Agenda 21, and it has also developed a plan of action on sustainable development following the World Summit on Social Development.

A recent report on China's implementation of the MDGs, prepared by the UN Country Team in China, set a positive tone regarding the country's progress. Yet, there are several challenges ahead.

China has 22 percent of the world's population living on less than 10 percent of the world's arable land. The problem of growing regional disparity has yet to be addressed. People who have recently come out of poverty are still vulnerable to diseases and natural disasters. The number of poor people increased by 800,000 in the past year; this is a wake-up call for us. The public health system needs to be revamped to better meet the needs of a more mobile society and more effectively respond to public health emergencies. HIV/AIDS is spreading from high-risk groups to the general population. Rapid economic development and industrialisation have put great stress on China's environment and natural resources. Scarcity of water resources and poor water quality remain the biggest hurdles in providing safe drinking water for all.

China will scale up its fight against poverty by comprehensively addressing the problems in rural areas where pockets of hard-core poverty exist. Poverty-alleviation programmes are designed to better target the needy. Equal opportunities for education are given to children of the migrant population in cities. A national task force, spearheaded by Vice Premier Wu Yi, is coordinating all government agencies in combating HIV/AIDS. Green GDP is being introduced in evaluating the performance of local government officials. Water-resource authorities are being established in cities to better integrate water into urban development and management systems. China will continue to maintain fast and sustained economic growth in order to develop effective tools to root out poverty and attack unemployment. The government will take a human-centred approach and invest more in such public services as poverty reduction, public health, education, women's empowerment and environmental protection.

The government will also better incorporate the MDGs into its national development strategies and improve its monitoring and reporting capabilities. It will encourage broad public participation and forge partnerships with the business community, the media and CSOs, and it will strengthen international cooperation. We call on industrialised countries to deliver on their commitments to help developing countries on their road to achieving the MDGs. UNCT prepared the first MDG Report on China in close consultation with the government. The report was successfully launched at the International Conference on MDGs, which was attended by over 400 participants from both China and abroad.

A memorandum of understanding on establishing the International Centre for Poverty Reduction was signed between the Chinese government and UNDP last May during the Global Conference on Scaling-up Poverty Reduction in Shanghai. UNDP China is undertaking a *Xiaokang* MDG programme with the National Development and Reform Commission and has developed a leadership programme as well. UNDP China has also collaborated extensively with CSOs in China.

India

Ajay Seth, Director, Department of Economics, Ministry of Finance

India sees the MDGs as a subset of a larger national development agenda based on people's needs and aspirations and national resources. MDGs are crucial, but progress in other sectors, specifically infrastructure, is equally critical.

National goals that relate to the MDGs have a much shorter time frame for achievement, ahead of 2015, but there are financing gaps. As per the World Bank's assessment, India should achieve goals relating to income, hunger, poverty and drinking water rates if current trends continue. With improved policies and institutions and additional external resources, India could achieve all MDGs except maternal mortality, sanitation and HIV/AIDS control. India, as a whole, may achieve the MDGs, but there are interregional variations in development within the country.

India is on track for further improving its policies and performance. It is already assessed as being in the top 20 percent of developing countries. External assistance does not play a dominant role in public expenditure but has a strong catalytic and supplementary role. The MDGs require public investments over a long period. External assistance depends on a country's capacity to attract private capital and should be allocated based on needs and performance, not artificial capping.

All components of the MDG Global Compact should be mobilised. If industrialised countries and international financial institutions provide a helping hand by fulfilling their part of the Compact, India could reach the goals earlier. Industrialised countries should 'walk the talk'. There is no uniform prescription for all countries—balancing growth and equity is important. Sustaining high growth rates and providing direct investments for the poor are essential to achieving the MDGs.

Indonesia

Karlina Sutaprawira, Assistant to the UN Special Ambassador

On 17 May 2004, Indonesia launched its first progress report on the MDGs. The report provides data on the MDGs by province. Indonesia has made progress over the years in achieving many MDGs but is lagging in reducing child malnutrition, reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal health, increasing immunisation coverage, combating diseases such as TB and malaria, and improving access to clean water. MDGs do not belong to governments alone. The goals and processes must be owned by civil society as well and achieved through strong partnerships and alliances. In Indonesia, civil society is taking the lead in sensitising the public, local governments and the parliament. The challenges ahead for Indonesia are huge, but with existing partnerships and alliances, the country can overcome these obstacles and make the most of the opportunities it has.

Iran

Majid Hamedani, Counsellor and UNDP Desk Officer, MFA

Iran's UNDAF has concentrated on strengthening capacities and capabilities for achieving the MDGs, which are integrated into the midterm of the third and fourth National Social Economic Development Plan. The capacity-building strategy aims to create jobs, develop resources for women and youth, improve conditions in rural areas, improve education and basic services for the needy, and integrate the poor in the poverty-reduction process through empowerment and participation.

Iran has made progress in education, moving towards the achievement of universal literacy and universal primary education (Goal 2). Women's participation in economic life (Goal 3) and controlling and reversing HIV/AIDS (Goal 6) are challenges that Iran continues to face. Creating a global partnership for development (Goal 8) is a priority for the government. The first draft of the MDG Progress Report was prepared by the Management and Planning Organisation of Iran.

Malaysia

Datin Shamsiah Dahaban, Director, Social Services Section, Economic Planning Unit

Malaysia has a history of successful five-year development plans since the 1960s. The plans have included development goals aimed at advancing economic and social well-being. Many of these national goals foreshadow international development goals, including the MDGs.

Malaysia has reached most MDG targets, but challenges remain. These include the following:

- To reach the remaining pockets of hard-core poverty so that the most disadvantaged can benefit from development measures
- To define new indicators to identify and target marginalised groups
- To further reduce spatial and ethnic inequities
- To ensure sustainability of development gains in a competitive global environment

Pakistan

Pervez Tahir, Chief Economist, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan

Progress has been slow for Pakistan. The government aims to build on existing mechanisms to achieve the MDGs but recognises that additional resources are required.

The constraints facing the country are complex. They are both intra- and inter-sectoral in nature and depend on specific contexts. These constraints include challenges brought about by the devolution process: political changes, administrative changes and fiscal reforms; the need to improve monitoring and evaluation systems; and the need for cross-sectoral efforts to achieve education, health, nutrition and population targets.

Philippines

Erlinda Capones, Director, National Economic and Development Authority

The Philippines faces the following challenges in achieving the MDGs:

- Financing the MDGs
- Improving database and statistics
- Firming up strategic action plans of lead agencies
- Sustaining communications and advocacy campaigns
- Localising the MDGs
- Pushing for legislative measures
- Strengthening, monitoring and evaluation

However, the following opportunities can support the achievement of the goals:

- Strong support from both the executive and legislative branches
- Strong support from the donor community
- Initiatives at the local level

- Participation of the business sector and NGOs
- Data availability
- Functioning structures and mechanisms

Sri Lanka

Louise Chamberlain, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP

The first MDG Report for Sri Lanka was being drafted at the time of the workshop and was released soon after. In 2003, information workshops and national campaigns were held. Awareness-building campaigns and baseline studies for particular goals were conducted. The country is committed to meeting the MDGs, with civil society participation and local MDG action plans in place. In conflict-affected areas, peace negotiations need to be conducted before social development can be achieved. Adapting the MDGs to Sri Lanka's specific needs is a challenge. The country is particularly concerned about gender and wants to study how it will cut across the other goals. Sri Lanka has made strong progress in achieving the goals of primary school enrolment, gender development, and maternal and child mortality. The key challenges are: not to become complacent with national averages, to seek the reintegration of refugees, to achieve peace and security, and to resume peace negotiations.

Thailand

Priyanut Piboolsravut, Director, NESDB

The first MDG Report for Thailand was released in 2004. Thailand has made remarkable progress in meeting most of the internationally agreed MDGs. The internationally set targets for poverty, hunger, gender, HIV/AIDS and malaria have been achieved more than 15 years ahead of schedule. The education goal is likely to be achieved soon. And progress is being made in reaching the targets of child and maternal health as well as environmental sustainability. Thus, Thailand has committed itself to a set of more ambitious targets, the MDG Plus, that go beyond the MDGs.

Thailand's scorecard on the MDG Targets (Goals 1 through 7) is as follows:

- Targets 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 10: already achieved
- Target 3: highly likely to be achieved
- Targets 5 and 6: not applicable
- Target 9: can potentially be achieved
- Target 11: likely to be achieved

In addition to specific measures aimed at achieving each MDG/MDG Plus target, a number of cross-cutting priority issues need to be addressed. The following actions are essential:

- Address disparities of opportunities and outcomes.
- Promote inclusive economic growth that benefits the poor.
- Strengthen property rights and improve the investment climate.
- Improve the quality of social services and extend the coverage to nearly all the population (especially education and health care).
- Support decentralisation to build local ownership and capacity around the MDGs.
- Ensure data analysis and policy linkage.
- Build on the momentum of the MDG process to improve integration.

Thailand, as a development partner for the MDGs, has taken the following actions:

- Supports a global partnership for development, focusing on sustainable human development
- Encourages regional and sub-regional cooperation in support of MDGs
- Promotes trading and investing for MDGs
- Is a player in global multilateral cooperation
- Is a member of the Commission on Human Rights (since 2001)
- Was president of UNCTAD X in 2000
- Is a regional and global hub for meetings and conferences on development issues (Thailand hosted the XV International AIDS Conference in July 2004.)

Viet Nam

Ho Minh Chien, Director General, Ministry of Planning and Investment

Viet Nam's progress towards the MDGs is largely due to the *Doi moi* reforms process launched in 1986. Poverty has already been reduced by more than half since 1990, well ahead of the MDG schedule. But there are emerging challenges that will need to be met in order to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Viet Nam prepared its third MDG Report, *Closing the Millennium Gap*, in 2003. This report builds on the first two MDG Reports prepared for Viet Nam, *Bringing the MDGs Closer to the People* (2002) and *International Development Targets: MDGs Progress Report in Viet Nam* (2001).

The MDGs have also been localised in the form of Viet Nam Development Goals (VDGs), with their inclusion in the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Growth Strategy (CPRGS) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). If Viet Nam achieves the VDGs by 2010, it will likely achieve the MDGs by 2015. An MDG policy conference was organised in Hanoi in February 2004. Participants included Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan; representatives from the National Assembly (NA), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD); and officials from provinces, NGOs and UN agencies. The conference raised awareness and provided additional policy perspectives and insights for enriching the latest MDG Report.

Several workshops were organised at the provincial level to integrate MDGs into the local planning processes. Training on MDGs has been organised for selected officials and professors at the Ho Chi Minh Political Academy. The nascent UN CCA in Viet Nam as well as the new UNDAF are being based firmly on the Millennium Declaration and on the findings of the MDGRs. The key findings and recommendations of MDGR 2003 are being used for Viet Nam's new Five-Year Socio-economic Development Plan 2006–2010. A wide range of MDG awareness-raising activities have already taken place across the country, with many more planned for the future.

In line with the importance given to the MDGs, the President of Viet Nam, Mr Tran Duc Luong, wants to do the following:

- Streamline the MDGs into the Five-Year Socio-economic Development Plan.
- Support the preparation of a special report on MDGs for the Millennium +5 Summit (prepared jointly by the government and the UN, under the overall leadership of the MPI).

Japan

Michio Ito, Board Member, Director for International Affairs and Special Programmes

Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter (revised in August 2003) has no MDGs as such, but poverty reduction was identified as a top-priority issue. Japan believes that achieving the MDGs in developing countries will depend on sustainable economic growth through the promotion of trade and investment, improvement of economic infrastructure, and strengthening of institutions and capacity. Significant measures have been taken in areas such as education, HIV/AIDS, environment, water and sanitation, human security, and debt-cancellation for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC).

Japanese CSOs have made the following efforts:

- Established an Asia–Japan partnership network for reducing poverty and enhancing capacities for sustainable agriculture
- Started PRSs in India, Indonesia and the Philippines (However, UNDP took three years to give funding due to bureaucratic delays.)
- Held an NGO–CSO open forum on MDGs
- Developed partnerships for achieving MDGs
- Formed an NGO–trade union international collaboration forum for MDGs
- Shared information and advocacy

Republic of Korea

Hyun Bong Yoon, General Secretary, Council for Overseas Cooperation

Korea supports other countries by transferring technology, which is in line with MDG 8 as well as the new country programme.

KCOC's main activities are the following:

- Coordinating and integrating the work of its 39 member organisations
- Supporting and supplementing the government on current global issues
- Advocating for national participation in NGO assistance
- Promoting international development through nongovernmental cooperation in 30 countries in Asia and nine countries in Africa, specifically in childcare, scholarship, medical services and health care. Supporting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is essential to solving the problem of world poverty and famine and building a better world for everyone.

2.2.2 Working-group presentations by country clusters

Each working group discussed common challenges and opportunities for the countries in that group and also identified critical country-specific concerns. Participants were divided into three groups.

Working Group 1: China, India and Indonesia

Table 2.1 China–India–Indonesia Common Highlights	
Challenges	Opportunities
1. Regional disparities	1. Democracy, participatory development models
2. Sustainability of social services	2. Civil society participation
3. Vulnerability of people just above the threshold of poverty; a single catastrophic event can send them back into poverty	3. Sustaining economic growth
4. Equity among groups: rural vs. urban, infrastructure vs. social sector	4. Role of private sector, partnerships with private sector
5. Need for resources	5. Microcredit
6. Gender disparities	6. External finance
7. Delivery mechanism of basic services	
8. Convergence, interaction and interplay of MDGs, national development goals and local aspirations	
9. Monitoring through regional statistical data collection. Disaggregation of reliable data, gender-sensitive indicators, regional bias within countries	
10. Financing	
11. Decentralisation	

In addition, a few issues were raised regarding individual countries:

- **Indonesia:** The country has high public debt. Sufficient funds are not available for development because a large share of available resources goes towards repaying the debt. Despite most of the domestic budget going towards this repayment, debt rescheduling is often required. The utilisation of external resources, however, has political implications.
- **India:** The government sees external funding as assisting domestic public spending. The following issues are of particular concern:
 - Transparency: Because of decentralisation, budget allocations may be inadequate.
 - Public funds for development: Focus on infrastructure or economic growth.
 - The social sector would benefit from focusing more on the deprived.
 - Trade-off between economic imperatives and social needs is needed.
 - Market-based service delivery has limited reach to the poor.
 - The social dimension of globalisation needs more attention.
 - The impact of trade commitments needs assessment.
 - OECD countries should make concrete contributions.
 - Growth policies need to be pro-poor.
 - Changing demographic structure needs attention.

- **China:** Balanced development requires technical assistance, global experience and capacity building. Funding is not a problem. The country supports a policy environment for balanced, equitable development (both social and economic).

Working Group 2: Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Table 2.2 Iran–Pakistan–Sri Lanka Common Highlights	
Challenges	Opportunities
1. Human resource capacity to implement MDG initiatives (especially health-related MDGs) 2. Weak governance: limited and inadequate statistics and information; coordination and communication constraints; human rights; security and terrorism 3. Even experts are unaware of MDGs; awareness has to be promoted 4. Unequal income distribution 5. Financial constraints 6. Ambivalent relationship between government organisations and CSOs	1. Country-specific MDGRs can be used for advocacy 2. Seeds exist for corporate social responsibility. They have a strong private sector, well-educated population and vibrant academe. 3. Strong spirit of volunteerism: philanthropy, service 4. Young population (Sri Lanka an exception) 5. Growing economies

The following country-specific issues were raised:

- **Iran:** displaced persons, refugees
- **Pakistan:** rising oil prices (not a problem for Iran)
- **Sri Lanka:** external debt rescheduling; write-off needed to support MDGs

Working Group 3: Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam

Table 2.3 Malaysia–Philippines–Thailand–Viet Nam Common Highlights	
Challenges	Opportunities
1. Sustaining achievements 2. Getting reliable data and teaching people how to use data 3. Identifying and targeting the poor 4. Meaningful participation of the poor 5. Financial resources 6. Localising MDGs	1. Further decentralisation of decision making and finance: reaching out to rural areas 2. The need to develop local capacities and safeguards, i.e. CSOs 3. Familiarity with MDGs, which can lead to widespread cooperation 4. Supplement official assistance by covering areas that the government cannot reach, i.e. the grass roots 5. Further involvement of the private sector

In addition, the following issues common to all four countries were raised:

- Decentralisation: It is inevitable and can be both a challenge and an opportunity. A decentralised structure, capacity-building programmes and safeguards must be put in place.
- Data availability and quality: Not all information is available and reliable.
- Tension between rapid economic growth and the need to protect the environment

Floor discussions after the working-group presentations highlighted the following points:

- Learning from the experiences of other countries in the region is important. For example, China's ability to depend only partially on foreign investment highlights the importance of promoting growth through internal policies and resources. China addressed the issue of food security, especially in rural areas, where 80 percent of the population still lives. It increased production and promoted economic growth to solve problems that it has faced for the past 25 years. China experienced economic growth but made inadequate social investments. It now recognises that a balance needs to be struck between developing economic sectors and social sectors.
- Evidence of private, domestic investment varies across countries. For example, Viet Nam is not strong on domestic savings due to differences in policies, while Malaysia relies quite extensively on domestic sources of funds, although foreign investments are quite substantial. Capacity and contribution come from foreign direct investments (FDI). A country like India has limited resources for investment in backward areas.
- When political commitment to fulfilling the MDGs is high, the goals get all the attention and other areas under the Millennium Declaration get neglected (i.e., issues such as reproductive health and labour protection).
- Policies that encourage private investments in backward areas are required to promote equitable development across different regions within a country.
- The following strategic issues need to be addressed in the Asia-Pacific region:
 - Disparity in the MDGs among Asian countries
 - Vulnerability to policy changes
 - Sustaining efforts to achieve MDGs
 - Cost of the MDGs, and investments required
 - Role of expenditure, both public and private
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Role of CSOs
 - Delivery mechanisms
 - Human resources
 - Building local capacities
 - Role of information (availability and use of data)
 - Facilitating environment: multilateral trading system; bilateral and free trade areas (FTAs); debt cancellation, not debt relief
 - Economic policies of OECD, especially with respect to developing countries
 - Role of private sector
 - Role of youth and volunteerism

2.3 Session III: Millennium +5 Summit

Turhan Saleh, Director, UNDP, MDG Unit

The Millennium +5 Summit, a five-year review of the Millennium Declaration, would take place in September 2005, at the beginning of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly. Such reviews are necessary because we need at least a decade to achieve the MDGs. If we do not have basic conditions in place by 2005, we will struggle to meet targets by 2015.

Though not officially called a summit, it would nevertheless be a meeting at the level of heads of state. Its objective would be to examine how countries accomplish the MDGs rather than to set new goals or to revise existing goals. The focus would be on implementation—on adopting concrete measures—not on making rhetorical statements.

The summit would be a turning point for the Country Teams, other UN development agencies, governments and CSOs as they mobilise to make changes in the way they achieve the MDGs. The Millennium +5 Summit would be a top priority in 2005, particularly for UN agencies. Many changes would take place, directly affecting work at country level and having significant global impact.

The following two issues would be assessed: (1) evidence of policy impact and (2) evidence of political mobilisation. Both issues bring forward some relevant questions:

- Evidence of policy impact: Are the MDGs being integrated into national development plans, PRSs, budgets and medium-term expenditure frameworks? Are these global commitments resonating at country level? Are they leading to substantial changes?
- Evidence of political mobilisation: Are countries prioritising the MDGs? Will the MDGs remain a top priority in the long term, regardless of who holds power in a country? Can countries sustain the achievement of the MDGs over a 10-year period? Are we using sub-regional, regional or global mechanisms to demand action in the international system? Developing countries would need to have their voices heard in the build-up to the 2005 review, since the G8 Summit would also be taking place the same year in June. The Millennium +5 Summit would be an opportunity to show that developing and industrialised countries are serious about the MDGs.

2.4 Special Session: MDGs and the Millennium Project

This session, through video link, was a live, face-to-face interaction between participants and Prof Jeffrey Sachs, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on MDGs and Director of the UN Millennium Project. Prof Sachs recognised the need for setting up a task force to implement the overall strategy of poverty reduction. MDGs are achievable in the next decade, between 2005 and 2015. While the poorest countries are off track, most are on track in achieving one or several of the goals.

He mentioned two factors that are necessary in achieving the MDGs. The first factor is increased dedication and support from governments and international institutions to transform the MDGs from general and vague aspirations into operational and achievable targets. Second, perceptions need to be changed in order to replace a 'business as usual' attitude with serious planning focused on the MDGs. For country-level situation analyses, Prof Sachs highlighted important issues related to government priorities, geography, cultural specificities, social context and the health sector. Does the country have irrigation and electricity problems? Does it have adequate roads? Is it vulnerable to natural disasters? UN project staff can work with governments to identify problems and solutions and assess the extent to which local priorities are also global priorities.

He asked governments to develop strategies for the remaining 10 years of the Millennium Declaration, keeping in view two points: (1) Focusing on economic growth is insufficient—the quality, composition and nature of growth influences the achievement of the MDGs; and (2) targeted public investments and infrastructure-building are important. The private sector can set the stage for economic growth, but it is not wise to reduce the size of the public sector in health, education, power, roads, water and sanitation, and environment and biodiversity conservation.

Borrowing, project financing and increasing tax revenues are easily achievable ways for richer countries to raise resources for the MDGs. Poorer countries need a programme indicating how much domestic resources and how much donor assistance is necessary to finance MDG-driven projects. At present, 0.7 percent of the GNP of donor countries has been committed as ODA funds in accordance with Agenda 21 Summits in Mexico and South Africa. Only 10 donor countries have fulfilled their promise, with very strong commitments from the UK, Canada and Ireland. USA is US\$ 60 billion short on its promise. At the 2005 World Summit in New York, rich countries were asked to double their commitments, which means an increase from US\$ 60 billion to US\$ 120 billion annually.

Prof Sachs said he and his staff are willing to review ideas from countries, give comments on projects and provide technical assistance. But a high level of commitment from governments is the most important factor in achieving the MDGs.

3. DAY TWO

Building on the insights of the first day of the workshop, delegates brainstormed issues related to policy and programming challenges posed by the MDGs. They discussed the need to build statistical capacity to monitor progress, the need for a strategic communication plan and the role of the media.

3.1 Session IV: Achieving the MDGs: policy and programming challenges

The session began with a panel discussion, chaired by Dr Zahidul Huque (Resident Representative, UNFPA, Philippines). Panelists included Omar Noman, Adrian Panggabean, Aynul Hasan and Leonor Briones. Delegates from Iran and the Philippines presented their country experiences.

Omar Noman (Senior Adviser, UNDP, RBAP) said that Japan's revival because of China is the most significant economic development in recent times. Following that trend, the next Asian tiger could be North Korea—that is, if the nuclear issue is resolved.

There are other positive developments as well. India has a Muslim president and a Sikh prime minister, which is a first for a predominantly Hindu population. Afghanistan has the highest mortality rate for women giving birth ever recorded in history, but despite that, the country has an optimistic MDGR. Asia has some great success stories, and countries are using the MDGRs creatively. For example, the Afghanistan MDGR is a policy-oriented document that identifies opportunities. It does not dwell on the dismal social and political situation of the country. The document, which has a broad framework and a gender-based development strategy, proposes to meet the opportunities and challenges faced by the first generation of Afghans seeing relative peace. China is another example, where economic progress has skyrocketed, taking the country 25 years ahead of India.

Adrian Panggabean (Economist, ADB) said that the Asia-Pacific region had made considerable progress. He assessed the sub-regions—East Asia, South-east Asia, South Asia, Central Asia and China—and compared them with other regions of the world. The results showed that the Asia-Pacific region is far better off compared with Africa, where about two-thirds of the MDG problem exists. However, sub-regional variations exist.

Three issues need to be considered:

- Striking a balance between ambition and realism in achieving the MDGs. Mobilising funds is important—the donor community needs to complement internal resources.
- Striking a balance between long-term and short-term objectives and
- Domestic capacities.

To move forward, the following steps are required:

- Putting sufficient emphasis on the MDGs
- Translating medium-term goals into year-by-year goals
- Reviewing government expenditure and revenues to adjust policies and decide where to place resources to meet the goals
- Adopting unconventional approaches as needed, recognising the complexity of problems on the ground

Aynul Hasan (Chief, LDCCU, MDG Centre, UNESCAP) noted that poverty in the region is being successfully reduced. Already 150 million people are out of poverty, compared with 1990 levels. Yet, child mortality, universal primary education, gender equality and maternal mortality ratios have seen little progress. The results are uneven—some countries are on track in meeting their goals, while others are far behind. In addition, external shocks such as the Asian Crisis have made progress even more fragile.

Policies that boost economic growth and avoid increases in income inequality are needed. Growth should also be sustainable—modest but sustained growth is preferable. However, growth and aid, although necessary, are not sufficient to achieve the MDGs. The environment needs to be considered, too. An increase in oil prices, for example, has major implications. Paradoxes such as declining poverty and continuing hunger also exist. Countries in the region need to focus on the demand and the supply sides of the food issue. Innovative, non-formal institutions could help by taking steps such as promoting rural mobile telephones, small enterprises and self-employment.

Leonor Briones (Director, Centre for Policy and Executive Development, NCPAG, Philippines) said that CSOs should be partners, participants and stakeholders in the planning and implementation process. In reality, the roles of CSOs vary across countries due to differing social, economic and political situations, which have direct and indirect bearing on these organisations. There is a direct relationship between the degree of CSO participation and the degree of success in achieving the MDGs. Ideally, CSOs should be part of national planning regardless of unfavourable economic and political conditions. In the Philippines, CSOs have been actively participating in planning since the 1990s. Now they are involved in local government units.

Arthur Erken (Associate Director, UNDGO) said that the UN system should coordinate its country assessments and create an integrated development-assistance framework. CCA and UNDAF can be used as tools. CCA combines the analysis of UN agencies and national authorities on the national development situation. Since it already identifies key development issues, an assessment of MDG progress in the country can be easily included as well. UNDAF is the UN's business plan. It presents a common strategic framework for UN operational activities. UNDAF provides an integrated response to national priorities, needs, modalities and the UN system's support content.

UNDGO revised CCA and UNDAF guidelines in 2003 to better reflect the UN's collective contribution to achieving national priorities. The UNDAF Results Matrix, which is at the heart of UNDAF, was developed using the logical framework approach to identify this contribution. The matrix pinpoints areas for joint programming and holds the UN accountable for delivering concrete results in relation to national priorities and the MDGs. In fact, it shows exactly how the outputs of UN projects contribute to the MDGs.

Amir Hossein Barmaki (UN Coordinator Analyst, Iran) said that substantial progress had been made in Iran towards achieving social and economic development targets. The government is committed to achieving the MDGs, which are embedded in national development plans. The experience of UNCT in Iran shows that it is possible for the government and UNCT to work closely on MDG-related programmes and activities. A well-planned CCA–UNDAF–CP process with MDGs as the central goals helps in building national capacity in relevant areas. All country programmes of UN agencies incorporate the MDGs.

Alongside China and India, Iran is one of the leading developing countries in Asia and the Pacific in successfully reducing poverty. The poverty rate (based on the proportion of the population below US\$ 1 per day) fell from 1.4 percent in 1995 to 0.1 percent in 2001. Substantial progress and achievement have been recorded in universal education, health care, access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Net enrolment in primary education reached 97 percent in 2002, up from 85 percent in 1990. Yet, challenges remain with regard to the environment, efficient uses of energy resources, HIV/AIDS, rural-urban migration and urbanisation, high unemployment (among youth), and technical and human resource capacity.

The emphasis is on evolving a participatory and consultative process, which is being done through the following mechanisms:

- MDG theme groups and working groups
- Regular consultations by the UNCT, within the team as well as with the government
- Advocacy, networking and national MDG workshops and forums
- Partnering with NGOs, CSOs and other development partners, including academic institutions

Iran completed and launched its first MDG report in September 2004. It emphasises the role of national leadership and the ownership and participation of all stakeholders. Drafting the report, however, was difficult because of the lack of adequate data, limited national technical capacity and limited financial resources.

Zahidul Huque (Resident Representative, UNFPA, Philippines) said that the UN Country Team in the Philippines was focusing its operational activities on the MDGs. CCA, a highly consultative process, was conducted through a multisectoral analysis of the challenges faced in achieving the MDGs. Thematic groups were created around the MDGs to ensure in-depth analyses of issues. An analytical framework was developed to make sure that the analyses are gender- and rights-based and that constraints to achieving the MDGs are discussed.

The Philippines UNDAF was developed by linking the MDGs with the Philippine medium-term development plan and the areas of development cooperation identified in CCA. The result was a consensus around five UNDAF outcomes based on five areas of cooperation: macroeconomic stability and equitable development, basic social services, good governance, environmental sustainability, and peace and security.

Drawing from the UNDAF, each UN agency developed Country Programme Documents (CPDs). UNFPA CPD, for example, has the following priority programmes linked to the MDGs:

- Reducing fertility
- Improving maternal health
- Promoting adolescent reproductive health
- Prevention and care for HIV/AIDS

The UN family in the Philippines delivers the following messages in one voice:

- The Philippines is broadly on track in achieving the goals at the national level. It will have to sustain its successful programmes while redoubling efforts to reach unmet goals, such as hunger and maternal mortality targets.
- Additional resources are needed to fund the MDGs; special services should be given priority in national budgeting.
- The Philippines needs to address regional disparity within the country in achieving the goals.

- The high population rate is diluting economic gains.
- Situations of conflict make it difficult to achieve the MDGs.
- The country needs to improve data collection and progress-monitoring for the MDGs.

The Philippines has learned the following lessons and best practices:

- Speaking in one UN voice has great impact.
- Private sector and CSO ownership of the goals is important in MDG advocacy.
- Media support for the MDGs needs to be enhanced.
- This is a crucial time for MDG advocacy since there is a new administration at the national level and at local levels.
- The strategy to localise MDGs needs to be institutionalised.

The floor discussions led to the following recommendations:

- Analysis should be within the broader perspective of the Millennium Declaration rather than only within the framework of the MDGs. If the focus is limited to the eight goals, the activities of UN agencies such as ILO, UNICEF and UNESCO may be left out.
- CCA and UNDAF should not be limited to the MDGs. The UNDAF is a combination of the MDGs and commitments made at other summits and conferences.
- The CCA working group should examine relevant operational questions.
- Issues of governance and management of conflicts and disasters need to be considered.
- UNDGO should develop a rights-based checklist.
- Aid should be increased.
- The MDGs provide a framework for the use of aid.
- Cost estimation for the achievement of the MDGs should be done at the national level.

3.2 Session V: Achieving the MDGs: monitoring and data

In this session, delegates shared experiences concerning the need for relevant, reliable and timely statistics to monitor progress and evaluate results. Despite considerable improvements in recent years, meeting the demand for data remains a major challenge. Three presentations were made, followed by floor discussions.

Nicolas Pron (Senior Project Officer, DevInfo) said that DevInfo is a useful system for MDG monitoring. DevInfo is a single and central repository of data from various sources, making information retrieval easy. It analyses trends, highlights gaps and discrepancies, and has user-friendly features that facilitate presentations such as map- and table-creation and zooming into geographical areas. The possibility of standardising the use of DevInfo in MDG reporting is being explored in India, Tanzania and Cambodia. In the new version of DevInfo, users can define their own regional and sub-regional groupings.

Lyn MacDonald (Statistics Adviser, UNDP BDP) said that UNDP, recognising constraints in data availability, accessibility and the need to improve statistical analysis, has embarked on a project to support statistical literacy training. Target users are government officials, local government planners and policy-makers, NGOs, NSOs, donors, CSOs and the media. The objectives of the project are to teach users basic statistical analysis, increase the use of data for policy design and implementation, formulate a set of priorities, stimulate public monitoring of policy and improve social communication.

Tomas Africa (Director, UNSIAP) said that gaps in data availability for MDG monitoring were being identified. For the short term, countries have to use available data, recognising the gaps. They have to make do with data such as small sample estimations and area-specific epidemiological surveys. Labour-force surveys, purchasing power parity (PPP) estimates and gender monitoring need to be improved in the short to medium term. Civil registration systems need to be improved in the medium to long term. Institutional issues such as the limited participation of NSOs and the need to enhance partnerships for system development and human-resources capacity development for MDG monitoring also arise.

Floor discussions led to the following suggestions:

- Alternative methods such as rapid assessments and epidemiological surveys can be used for situations where data on malaria and TB are difficult to obtain.
- Proxy indicators can be used, for example, in the case of disease incidence.
- Stakeholders should agree on the common norms of data use and collaborate at country level to get more reliable and comparable data.
- All major stakeholders, such as the World Bank, should agree on data and indicators.
- Statistical data should be linked to planning and programming.
- Investment in data, indicators and methodologies for global and national-level initiatives, should be promoted.

3.3 Session VI: Strategic communication plans and regional mechanisms

In this session, delegates discussed communication issues in promoting the MDGs. Four presentations were made (by Erna Witoelar, Turhan Saleh, B. Murali and Juan B. Santos) before opening the floor to discussion.

Erna Witoelar (UN Special Ambassador on MDGs) said that countries need participatory processes to build multisectoral consensus on MDG reporting. They need to present both positive and negative results and ensure national ownership in MDG progress. The MDGs are not just an obligation to the UN system, they are also a commitment to meeting people's needs. Thus, national ownership is important.

The following challenges are involved in promoting the MDGs:

- Creating awareness of the whole 'MDG package'
- Keeping the media interested
- Sustaining high growth but avoiding increases in inequality
- Harmonising donor assistance to avoid duplication of efforts and to create synergy
- Integrating MDGs into national and local poverty-reduction efforts to ensure more proactive and pro-poor policies

Throughout the Millennium Campaign, developing countries will implement more pro-poor policies and the private sector will be more involved in achieving the MDGs. Today's world has the resources, technology and knowledge to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Wiser spending, better public management of resources and wider participation can make it possible. We are the first generation to have a real opportunity to eradicate poverty, and we should seize this opportunity.

Turhan Saleh (Director, UNDP MDG Unit) said that the development of a strategic communication plan can provide a framework for the MDG campaign. Everything that we do involves communication, and everyone is involved in it. Building and managing coalitions to communicate MDG messages is important. MDG reports are important communication tools. They should be drafted in a way that will cater to the general public and create awareness and ownership of the MDGs.

B. Murali (Programme Specialist, UNDP, RBAP) said that the new regional programme on MDGs can provide support at country level for (a) action plan implementation; (b) monitoring, advocacy and campaigning; (c) policy research and strategising; (d) data and information collection. MDG funding has to be a national effort. Catalytic support triggers governments to reallocate national resources and attract external funding. The communications unit at UNDO, New York, where all MDG-related information as well as regular updates and bulletins can be accessed, could serve as an information-sharing base. In addition, networks could be created.

Juan B. Santos (Chair, Nestlé Philippines and Trustee, Philippine Business for Social Progress) said that corporate responsibility has been practised for a long time in the Philippines, where about 100 corporate foundations and 6,000 NGOs exist.

The MDGs provide a road map, a structure for businesses to assess completed work and identify future priorities. The lack of awareness about the MDGs among businesses, NGOs and the public is a major challenge. An environment of collaboration needs to be created among business

leaders, with a focus on 'ownership' rather than 'imposition' of the MDGs. All stakeholders need to be involved, engaged and included in the process.

The private sector in the Philippines consulted business groups on their contribution to health care, the environment, poverty alleviation and education. An advisory committee was also organised to manage the process. The MDG campaign was then launched to attract the business community.

The floor discussions led to the following recommendations:

- Start a policy dialogue involving multiple stakeholders.
- Create awareness through a two-pronged approach:
 - Campaign on the MDGs in academic circles, NGOs and universities; spread specific messages.
 - Engage in a more detailed nationwide campaign on a few selected MDGs.
- Encourage volunteerism and partnerships between businesses and the government.
- Identify core partners, for MDGs as a whole and for individual goals.
- Identify strategies to raise public awareness and enthusiasm; identify a 'hook', using social marketing techniques, to engage the public over time.

3.4 Session VII: Developing country-action plans

In this session, delegates formed individual country action plans. Participants were divided into country teams. Each team discussed themes and prepared a draft action plan for 'The Way Forward' presentation in session VIII.

3.5 Special Session: Media panel on the MDGs

In this session, delegates discussed how the power of the media can be used to achieve the MDGs. Collaboration between the media and the development family is critical.

Sylvia Inciong (National Information Officer, UN Information Centre, Philippines) introduced the subject and initiated the discussion. The media, like civil society and other stakeholders in development, should be active participants in the campaign to promote the MDGs.

B. Murali (Programme Specialist, UNDP, RBAP) highlighted the importance of engaging the media on the MDGs. Governments need to play a leading role as well and encourage civil society to come on board. The process has to be interactive. He asked the media to be frank and guide governments in carrying the MDGs forward.

Deborah Landey (UN Resident Coordinator, Philippines) gave an overview of the history of the MDGs and the UN Secretary-General's strategies to support countries achieve the goals.

Zahidul Huque (UNFPA Resident Representative, Philippines) reported on MDG progress in the Philippines. The country is broadly on track in achieving the goals but will have to address hunger and maternal-mortality targets. The country faces some challenges in achieving the goals: lack of resources; prioritising social services given the available resources; high population growth rate diluting economic gains; conflict in some areas; and enhancing the monitoring system.

Florangel Braid (Columnist, *Manila Bulletin* and Dean, Asian Institute of Journalism and Management) emphasised the need for the media to be included in the MDG consultation process. The media's role as a partner in implementing the MDGs includes the following:

- Building awareness
- Acting as a catalyst in stimulating debate on contentious policies and programmes
- Building consensus
- Popularising MDG-related issues
- Acting as a watchdog and keeping track of performance
- Providing options and alternatives
- Promoting greater transparency and accountability
- Enabling public acceptance and participation

The following suggestions were made on how the UN can engage the media:

- Drop the UN language
- Focus less on statistics (unless they are dramatic)
- Clarify benefits (especially tangible ones)
- Launch a high-impact campaign for a limited period

- Focus on one topic per campaign
- Avoid general campaigns
- Focus more often on negative effects, since this leads to higher motivation to undertake positive action
- Link the MDGs to terrorism, unemployment and poverty
- Give a 'human face' to stories on the MDGs
- Show best practices
- Demonstrate cause and benefit

However, the following limitations of the media should also be recognised:

- Dictatorship of commercialism
- Entertainment drives out alternative programmes
- Inadequate preparation of media persons in dealing with processes compared with investigative reporting and the reporting of important national and global development issues

Amado Jake Macasaet (President, Philippine Press Institute and Publisher and Chairman, *Malaya*) identified the fundamental structural problems faced by the media in the Philippines:

- The print and broadcast media are owned by the elite.
- The industry is designed to protect the interests of a few.
- The media are businesses.
- The media believe in giving consumers what they want instead of what they need.
- The media are scandal oriented.

Few people in the media understand the importance of economic reporting. For example, many do not appreciate the impact of consolidated budget deficits; thus they are not able to report it to the general public. The media should try to focus on development issues, but this is difficult because of the constant drive to increase distribution, readership and, ultimately, profits. The media fail to educate people, as do politicians.

Leonor Briones (Co-convenor, Social Watch) described the experiences of Social Watch in working with the media. If the issue is good, the media will give their full support. The following media-related suggestions were made for the MDG advocacy campaign:

- Show that MDG issues are felt by people in their everyday lives.
- Show the importance of the MDGs for our collective survival.
- Link the MDGs to the needs of the people in regions, provinces and *barangays*.

Teresita Giron (Dean of the Northern Quezon Cooperative College) pointed out the following:

- The media should be provided with a complete set of MDG-related documents.
- Community media should be tapped, since big media are not as interactive.
- Alternative media—such as digitised learning modules for out-of-school youth in rural areas—should be explored.
- Media literacy should be promoted to encourage the general public to become social advocates.

The floor discussion led to the following suggestions:

- Media practitioners should be made more aware of the MDGs.
- The MDGs could be divided into thematic clusters, since selling all eight goals at once is difficult.

- The MDGs can be promoted through the development of a communication network (explaining, localising and popularising).
- Government-run media can set up information centres around the country to help disseminate information on the MDGs.
- The National Anti-Poverty Commission should also be active in promoting the MDGs.
- Partnering with the private media is recommended.
- Interesting storylines are needed.
- A rights-based approach (RBA) can be used by the media to come up with appropriate stories and reports.
- Media personnel should be given an MDG orientation.
- Tapping existing networks is important.
- The MDGs should be related to existing priorities and issues in each country.
- An integrated media plan for promoting the MDGs should be developed.

4. DAY THREE

4.1 Session VIII: The way forward

Delegates from 11 of the 12 countries presented their proposed country action plans, indicating an enthusiastic response from participating countries.

4.1.1 China

Jia Lusheng, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP China

What	Who	When	Support Required
Gender and MDGs assessment in China in connection with Beijing +10	UNDP, All China Women's Federation, academia	September 2005	US\$ 100,000 funding required from UNDP regional programme
<i>Xiaokang</i> ² MDG comparative study for preparation of Millennium +5 Summit	UNDP, MFA	August 2005	
Integration of MDGs into National Development Plan, (11 th Five-Year Plan)	UNDP and National Development and Reform Commission	September 2005	
Development of <i>Xiaokang</i> MDG indicators	UNCT and National Bureau of Statistics	2005	
<i>Xiaokang</i> MDG leadership programme	UNDP and the Organisation Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China	2004–2006	
Establishment of International Centre for Poverty Reduction to share experiences with other developing countries, provide training and run pilot poverty-reduction programmes	UNDP and Leading Office of Poverty Alleviation of the State Council	2004–2005	
Localising MDG Campaign in China through workshops and events at national and provincial levels in western China	UNDP, UNCT, local governments and journalists' associations		US\$ 250,000 funding required from UNDP regional programme
Media campaign on MDGs through media forums at national and provincial levels	UNDP, UNCT and media sector		US\$ 200,000 funding required from UNDP regional programme
Increasing awareness and engagement of CSOs and business community regarding MDG advocacy campaign through workshops, training	UNDP, UNCT, CSOs, private sector and business community		US\$ 200,000 funding required from UNDP regional programme

² The vision of a *xiaokang* society is one in which most people are moderately well off and [middle class](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiaokang), and in which economic prosperity is sufficient to move most of the population in mainland China into comfortable means, but in which economic advancement is not the sole focus of society. Explicitly incorporated into the concept of a *xiaokang* society is the idea that economic growth needs to be balanced with sometimes conflicting goals of social equality and environmental protection. Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiaokang>

activities and events			
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Someone asked why China needed extra funding, since it has already done a lot to achieve the MDGs (except for environmental targets). The delegate said that even though the economy is booming, China needs to focus on its people and their needs. The country aims to integrate the MDGs into its five-year plan, but it needs international experience, cooperation, collaboration and partnerships.

4.1.2 India

Ajay Seth, Director, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

The current status of India can be summarised as follows:

- India follows a five-year planning cycle.
- India's national goals subsume the MDGs.
- The national goals and the MDGs are in perfect harmony with each other.
- Prioritisation of goals is according to needs and available resources.
- India aims to achieve all national goals related to the Millennium Declaration ahead of 2015.
- Overall programmes, strategy papers and action plans are in place.
- Programmes are being implemented.
- Some sectors receive supplementary financing from external development partners.

India's national plan puts the MDGs at the centre of three important sectors: the economic sector, the social sector and infrastructure. The following table shows sector positions:

Sector	Strategy Paper	Action Plan	Programme
Education	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health	Yes	Yes	Within 6 months
Poverty alleviation	Yes	Yes	Coverage to be increased
Water supply	Yes	Yes	Coverage to be increased
Rural roads	Yes	Yes	Coverage to be increased
HIV/AIDS	Yes	Yes	Yes

The following are the details of the "Education for All" programme:

- Three-year programme
- Domestic resources US\$ 2.5 Billion
- External resources (ODA) US\$ 1 Billion
- Common financing, implementation, reporting and monitoring arrangements
- Fast Track Initiative sees it as a model for replication in other countries.

However, financing issues exist:

- There are financing gaps for MDG programmes and action plans.
- The roll-out has been slower because of these gaps.
- Incremental domestic public resources are being provided.
- Additional external assistance is needed to supplement domestic resources.
- India needs to find ways of raising and channelling additional ODA.

The following MDG financing options are available:

- Raising additional ODA

- Receiving direct contributions
- Borrowing from international finance facilities
- Using existing institutions
- Using new entities
- Using multiple agencies

Note: ODA allocation is based on 'need' and 'performance' alone. Private capital has a limited role in financing MDGs.

The UN system gives support as well:

- It provides strong advocacy for the following:
 - Additional ODA
 - Early consensus on raising, channelling and allocating ODA
 - Fair multilateral trade regime
 - Pro-global growth policies of industrialised countries
- It does sector-specific analytical work (in the Indian context) on the following issues:
 - Gender
 - Poverty in backward areas
 - Knowledge management
 - Capacity-building for the media

India's budget of US\$ 3.5 B covers four years. The target is to reduce poverty to 7 percent by 2012, a reduction of 12 percent with the same growth rate. This is an ambitious goal. The education target will likely be reached but not in backward areas.

4.1.3 Indonesia

Sugihartatmo, Coordinator, Ministry for People's Affairs

What	Who	When	Support Required
Mainstream MDGs into national and regional policies and programmes	Government	January 2004–December 2005	TA, CB
Adopt and modify relevant targets and indicators	Government, legislators, CSOs, PS	September 2004 onward	TA, CB
Conduct training on monitoring and evaluation at district level	CSOs, UN agencies, donors	December 2004 onward	Coordination, TA
Conduct coordination meetings between government, legislators, PS and CSOs	Government, CSOs, PS, legislators	October 2004 onward	Facilitation
Create synergies between MDGs and local PRS in five provinces as a pilot project	Government, CSOs, PS, donors, UNDP, legislators	May 2004–December 2004	TA, CB for legislature
Conduct training of journalists and media representatives to increase awareness and capacity of PRS and MDGs at national and local levels	Government	December 2004–January 2005	TA, CB
Conduct training on budget tracking and monitoring of resource allocations for MDGs	UNDP, CSOs	October–November 2004	Facilitation
Conduct donor meetings to build	Government, CSOs	February 2005	Facilitation

partnerships			
Millennium Development Campaign	Government, CSOs, UN agencies	September 2004	Facilitation
Build broad awareness at national and regional levels, and campaign for the MDGs	CSOs, government, UN agencies	September 2004 onward	Facilitation
Simplify the first MDG Report for public consumption (leaflets, CDs, brochures, etc.)	CSOs, government, UN agencies	September 2004 onward	Facilitation
Dialogue with parliament (national and province/district)	CSOs, government, UN agencies	September 2004 onward	Facilitation
Campaign through mass media (print, TV, radio)	CSOs, government, UN agencies		

On merging the MDGs with PRSPs, the delegate said that a draft strategy paper focusing on the poor is in progress. Its goal is to mainstream the MDGs into the medium-term plan. The targets come from the MDGs, and the aim is to integrate them into the poverty-reduction process.

4.1.4 Iran

Yuxue Xue, DRR, UNDP, Iran; Majid Hamedani, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran; Mahbobeh Abbasgholizadeh, CSOs; Amir Hossein Barmaki, UN MDG focal point

The UN system in Iran is working closely with the Iranian government to achieve the MDGs and fulfil the Millennium Declaration. As part of this close cooperation, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Iran has included MDG-related activities in its annual work plan in order to coordinate MDG advocacy and implementation among different stakeholders, such as the government, UN agencies, civil society, academia, the media and other groups.

Since 2003, based on the outcomes of the MDG regional workshops (in Dhaka and Manila), strategic action plans have been developed. These have been incorporated into the annual work plan of the RC Unit and guide the work of the UN system in Iran, supporting the government in MDG advocacy and implementation. Though small in scale, the plans are designed to sensitise different target groups to the MDGs.

The Iran team developed an action plan during the MDG Regional Workshop in Manila. The draft was further discussed and confirmed during a consultative meeting with UN representatives, civil society and the government. The plan, shown below, has two components: (a) stocktaking of the 2003–2004 country action plan; and (b) new strategic action plan for 2004–2005.

What	Who	When	Support Required
Follow-up activities to the launch of the MDG campaign in Iran. Activities could include nominating MDG ambassadors, briefing parliamentarians, essay and drawing competitions in schools, poster exhibitions, televised debates on the MDGs, production of promotional items such as posters, brochures, films.	Theme group on the MDGs and on external relations (RC lead)	December 2004	US\$ 4,000
Advocacy tour: conduct MDG briefing seminars for local government	Theme group on external relations (RC	December 2004	US\$ 3,000

officials, NGOs, CSOs, media, academia and public in all major cities, e.g. Esfahan, Shiraz, Mashad.	lead); theme group on the MDGs; UNCT		
Complete and publish the first MDG progress report for Iran	RC Unit (lead); theme group on the MDGs and on external relations; MPO, government, UN, CSOs	September 2004	US\$ 10,000, external technical support, consultants, study tour
Advocacy and awareness-raising workshops led by CSOs to offer context, feedback, management structure	CSOs, UNDP, RC	March 2005	US\$ 9,000
Establishment of a national MDG-monitoring mechanism	MPO, UNDP, CSOs, UN agencies, government	January 2005	US\$ 2,000
Total			US\$ 28,000

New strategic action plan for 2004–2005:

What	Who	When	Support Required
Developing MDG data collection and analysis (training support, consultancy, study tours)	UNCT, government, SCI, CSOs	December 2005	US\$ 25,000, technical support, consultants
Advocacy and campaign for MDGs in Iran (general advocacy activities)	RC, UNDP, CSOs	December 2005	US\$ 67,100, technical support from UNDP
Private sector and MDG initiative (advocacy, training seminars, workshops, national committee)	RC, UNDP, CSOs, UNCT	December 2005	US\$ 47,500, technical support from UNDP
Assessment of national capacities for MDGs implementation (survey)	UNCT, government	June 2005	US\$ 10,000
National survey, and preparation of a strategy paper on achieving MDGs (plus workshop)	UNCT, government, CSOs	August 2005	US\$ 12,000
Support to NGOs, MDG monitoring and advocacy initiatives	RC, CSOs, government	December 2005	US\$ 15,000
Total			US\$ 158,600

4.1.5 Malaysia

Chung Tsung Ping, Programme Officer, UNDP

The 2003–2004 country strategic plan for Malaysia can be summarised as follows:

What	Who	When
Preparing the final draft of the MDG Report	National steering committee (EPU), UNDP	7 September 2004
MDGR launch by the Malaysian Prime Minister	EPU, UNDP	December 2004

Malaysia has progressed rapidly towards achieving the MDGs and can now focus on individual goals. Some of the plans detailed here are tentative, pending discussions with stakeholders. The time frame of these various plans will work in consonance with the schedule of the Ninth Malaysian Plan (2006–2010), which will launch in 2006.

What	Who	Support Required
Poverty alleviation: Redefine the Malaysian PLI; enhance poverty measures (to extend into the P α measurements); target vulnerable groups. Measurements are currently income-based, but the issue of 'social exclusion' in poverty measures should be addressed in future.	EPU, UNDP, academia, various ministries	Technical assistance
Education and training: Look into quality of education and training (e.g. skills training, virtual learning); increase access to education and training, especially in selected states in Malaysia (to reduce the rural–urban gap)	EPU, MOE, UNDP	
Gender: Emphasise gender-based work, e.g. increase the representation of women in politics (in line with the government's 2004 declaration stating that 30 percent of decision-making positions in the public sector should be filled by women); deal with issues of gender-based violence.	Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development; EPU; UNFPA; UNDP; CSOs	
HIV/AIDS: Focus on particular features of the epidemic (e.g. a high number of people are infected through drug injection—therefore, study the effects of harm-reduction strategies.); be concerned about sexual transmission and the increasing incidence of infection among women and young people; integrate reproductive care into health services.	MOH, MOE, EPU, CSOs, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS	Technical assistance (e.g. communication specialist)
Environment: Achieve a coordinated, proactive and consistent approach among agencies	DOE, EPU, UNDP, CSOs	Technical assistance
Strengthening Malaysia's database on the MDGs: Develop DevInfo in the Malaysian context; enhance the existing HIS, HES and LFS	EPU, DOS, UNDP, UNICEF	Working with DevInfo
UN Millennium Campaign: Further dissemination of the MDGs to ensure wider coverage among stakeholders (government, CSOs, academia, parliamentarians)	EPU, UNDP, academia, CSOs, media	

The following are Malaysia's plans for the Millennium +5 Summit and beyond:

- Progress into MDG Plus objectives.
- Sustain the gains made with the current MDGs.
- Identify further MDG Plus objectives.
- Move beyond the MDGs with incremental progress.
- Identify the resources available to execute MDG Plus plans.

4.1.6 Pakistan

Nadira Khawaja, Resource Development Manager, Agha Khan Rural Support Programme

What	Who	When	Support Required
MDG campaign	UNCT	Ongoing	Regional MDG initiative
Strengthen understanding via dissemination seminars at provincial level as well as in 16 selected districts.	GOP	Provincial: October 2004; District: November 2004	UNCT
Media Forum	GOP, UNCT	August– November 2004	
Develop and distribute an easy	GOP	October 2004	UNCT, Regional MDG

language kit; create a Web site for the public.			initiative
Collectively prepare first MDG Report.	GOP	Draft: August 2004; Final: September 2004	GOP–UNCT joint thematic groups on poverty, education, health
Align PRSP with MDG.	GOP	March 2004	
Submit MDGR to government for approval.	GOP	Mid-September 2004	
Circulate MDGR to members of parliament and to provincial assemblies.	GOP	September 2004	
Circulate MDGR and information related to MDGs to all 120 district heads.	GOP	October 2004	
Hold briefings for parliamentary committees (NA committee on P&D, Senate committee on P&D).	GOP	October– December 2004	UNCT
Incorporate MDGs into Five-Year Plan (2005–2010); present to NEC.	GOP	May 2005	UNCT, DFID
Recommend that NEC adopt MDGs as a long-term perspective (2015) for human development.	GOP	September 2005	UNCT
Develop information exchange among GOP, UNCT and CSOs.	GOP and lead NGOs	January 2005	UNCT
Community-level advocacy for MDGs	Contact lead NGOs	January 2005	GOP, UNCT
Review DevInfo and other sources to validate MDGR database for further monitoring and tracking.	GOP, CRPRID	September–March 2004	UNCT, DevInfo, regional MDG institution, UNSIAP
Monitor progress towards MDGs	CRPRID	Ongoing	UNCT, DFID
Mobilise for-profit and private sectors on MDGs and align corporate social responsibilities with MDGs.	GOP	September 2004 onward	UNCT, Global Compact
Hold conference on gender components of MDGs.	GOP	October 2004	UNCT

4.1.7 Philippines

Erlinda Capones, Director, NEDA

The Philippines compared the achievements under last year's strategic action plans with this year's accomplishments.

What	Who	When	Support Required
Finalised the first Philippine Progress Report on MDGs.	MC-IHDC	2002	
Received SDC approval of the MDGR	SDC-CL	2003	
Conducted a workshop to refine costing methodology.	NEDA	2003	
Orientation of new cabinet secretaries and local government officials to	NEDA, DILG, LGA	Last quarter of 2004	P 10 M

generate awareness, understanding and commitment.			
Development and production of campaign materials: video, primer, Web site.	NEDA, DILG, LGUs	2004–2005	P 10 M
Detailed review of data adequacy and needs	NEDA, NSO, NSCB, FNRI, DOH	2004–2005	P 5 M
Database conversion from SOMIS to DevInfo	NSCB, NEDA	Last quarter of 2004	P 5 M
Drafting the second Philippine Progress Report on MDGs	MC-IHDC, NEDA	End of 2004	UNDP funding
Refining the methodology for estimating financial requirements to attain the MDGs	MC-IHDC, consultants	End of 2004	UNDP funding
Training of LGUs on local planning and budgeting incorporating MDGs	DILG, LGA	2004–2005	P 5 M
Replication of LGU MDG best practices	DILG, LGUs	2005	P 15 M
Roundtable discussions with legislators on MDGs	PLPCD	August–October '04	Funded by PLPCD and other donors
Identification of MDG-related projects for private-sector involvement	MC-IHDC, NEDA	2004	Private-sector funding
Orientation of all government information officers on the MDGs (including popularisation of the MDG through slogans)	NEDA-DIS	2005	P 500,000
Advocacy for the media (print, TV, cinema, radio)	NEDA-DIS	Last quarter of 2004	P 1.5 M
Issue a memorandum order to all government agencies and LGUs to integrate the MDGs in national and local development planning and budgeting.	NEDA, DILG	2004	
Youth advocacy campaign on the MDGs	Philippine Youth Employment Network (PYEN)	2004–2005	Funded by PYEN
MDG Song and Concert	NEDA	2004–2005	P 3 M
Popularisation of 'Wash Caravan' (Wash Sanitation and Hygiene for All)	Molave Development Foundation	2004–2005	P 2M
Engage DBM, implementing agencies and LGUs to ensure that budgetary resources are allocated to PAPs and are protected from any cutbacks.	MC-IHDC, NEDA, DILG	2005	

4.1.8 Sri Lanka

Louis Chamberlain, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka needs to strengthen institutional government mechanisms to achieve the MDGs:

What	Who	When	Support Required
Identify government and presidential champions of MDGs; ensure representation at high-level meetings.	GOSL with UNCT support	2004	
Consolidate MDG secretariat and policy-making body NCED.	GOSL	2004	
Establish interlinked MDG cells within NCED and key ministries (notably health, education, environment, Samurdhi–poverty alleviation, women's affairs); continue working with these cells to adapt the MDGs to Sri Lanka.	GOSL, MDG secretariat	Ongoing	
Link MDG-related policies with national budget.	GOSL with UNCT support	2005	
Develop MDG Plus action plan.	GOSL	2005	TA
Stimulate MDG local action plans at district level; pilot in four to six localities.	GOSL with UNDP support	2005	Resources request to RBAP; shared experiences
Multi-stakeholder monitoring; technical committees for MDG areas	MDG secretariat, UNCT	Ongoing	

The country needs to integrate specific MDG targets in its national poverty strategy and budget:

What	Who	When	Support Required
High-level support for developing new MDG-based PRS and implementation mechanisms; workshops and consultations	GOSL with WB and UNDP support	2004–2005	High-level participation; lessons from Millennium Project
Consultant mission to advise on institutional mechanisms, monitoring issues, linkages with PRS, demand for needs assessment and costing methodologies	UNDP	September–October 2004	Lessons from Millennium Project
Integrated PRS–MDG consultations and monitoring mechanisms	GOSL with UNCT support	2004–2005	How-to support from UNDP; lessons from Millennium Project

Strengthen national capacity for monitoring, reporting and analysis:

What	Who	When	Support Required
Complete MDGR and related baseline studies (1–6, 7, 8, Gender)	UNCT, MDG secretariat	2004	
Mobilise DCS (NSO) to assume leadership for MDG-related data collection and analysis	GOSL, UNCT		
Coordinate data collection and mapping for the North-east (conflict-affected districts)	UNCT		
Continued MDG progress reporting	MDG secretariat	2005	UNESCAP, UNSIAP

beyond first MDGR			
Targeted statistical capacity development for timely and adequate data collection and analysis in ministries, DCS (NSO), the MDG secretariat and policy-making bodies	UNCT	2005	UNESCAP, UNSIAP
Resource mobilisation and needs assessment for adapting and upgrading existing surveys	DCS (NSO)	2005	International exchange
Broad, inclusive statistical literacy and capacity-development programme	GOSL with UNCT support	2005	UNDG project, UNESCAP, UNSIAP
DevInfo roll-out to district and DS level; customise DevInfo to Sri Lankan conditions, with Web-based interface; Sinhalese and Tamil versions; harmonisation with local planning systems and GIS-based software	UNCT	2005 onward	Customisation support from CFS; financial support
Progress report for Millennium +5	MDG secretariat	June 2005	
Study why regions are lagging behind in MDG progress	UNDP	2005	Technical
NHDR	UNDP	2005	Technical

Ensure broad national ownership of Sri Lanka's national MDG campaign:

What	Who	When	Support Required
Complete and launch MDGR including country-wide public campaign (may be linked to a sports event)	GoSL, MDG secretariat, all UNCT agencies	2004–2005	Exchanges with other countries
Technical conference to launch underlying baseline studies	UNCT	2004–2005	
Table Millennium Declaration and launch MDGR in parliament; activities for Millennium +5	GOSL	2004	Exchanges with other countries
Develop long-term strategic communication plan for MDGs, addressing specific roles of CSOs, private sector, government, local government and media; devising messages and channels; appointing high-level advisory group for campaign	GOSL, MDG secretariat with UNCT support	2004	Messages, media management, coordination, leadership, funding
Develop trilingual communication tools for MDGs; fact sheets, cartoon CD-ROMs, slogans, logos, photos, graphic profiles	MDG secretariat with UNCT support	2004–2005	Exchanges with other countries
National MDG Web site with MDG data, campaign information, etc.	MDG secretariat with UNDP support	2004	
Conference to mobilise CSOs and stimulate CSO ownership of MDGs; followed by CSO-driven action plan	MDG secretariat with UNDP support	2004 onward	Support from CSOs with experience from other countries
Establish partnership with donor community and INGOs through existing UN–INGO–donor forum	UNV	2004	
Training and capacity development in media	MDG secretariat with UNCT support	2005	Support from media with experience from other countries

Public outreach campaign in schools, for youth, for local government, in the private sector; use newspapers, TV, radio	MDG secretariat with UNCT support	2004–2005	Exchanges with other countries; funding
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4.1.9 Thailand

Apichai Sunchindah, Programme Manager, Interagency Support Unit, UN. Note: The Interagency Support Unit assists the entire UNCT in Thailand..

What	Who	When	Support Required
Strengthening and monitoring statistics, capacity and reporting; new national poverty line	NESDB, NSO, UNCT, provincial authorities	2004–2005	Technical advice and capacity development from UNICEF, UNDP Poverty Centre, SIAP; US\$ 1.5 M
ThaiInfo roll-out	NSO, UNICEF	2004–2005	Technical support; US\$ 60,000 from UNICEF
Provincial MDG Reports and capacity development in Mae Hong Son, Nakhon Phanom, Southern areas	NESDB, provincial governments, UNCT, MOI	2004–2005	US\$ 200,000 from UNDP
Forging strategic alliances with MOFA, academic institutions, CSOs, youth groups, private sector	NESDB, UNCT	2004–2005	US\$ 50,000
Thematic MDG analysis and advocacy on gender equality, education, health, Thailand	MSDHS, MOE, MOPH, MOFA, NESDB, UNCT	2004–2006	US\$ 300,000
Develop MDG campaign strategy	NESDB, UNCT, marketing companies, MOICT, youth, MSDHS	2004	Advice from MDG campaign team; US\$ 50,000 from UNDP
MDG Report – the people's version	NESDB, UNCT	2004	Advice from UNICEF; UNDP funding
CCA UNDAF	UNCT	2005	US\$ 100,000 from UNDP

Thailand has already mobilised US\$ 2,260,000; it needs an additional US\$ 660,000.

4.1.10 Viet Nam

Ho Minh Chien, Director General, Ministry of Planning and Investment

What	Who
Initiate and support process for mainstreaming MDGs into Viet Nam's socio-economic development plan 2006–2010	MPI, UNCT
Continue integrating MDGs and VDGs into socio-economic development at national and provincial levels	Ministries and local authorities
Prepare for the Millennium +5 Summit and beyond	UNCT, MPI
Special MDG report for the Millennium +5 Summit focusing on implementation issues	UNCT, MPI
Promote communication and disseminate MDGs	MOCI
Expand media campaign (TV series for youth; broad-based newspaper, TV and radio coverage of MDG issues; photo contest on MDGs; more provincial workshops and advocacy events)	MOCI, VTV, VOV

MDG newsletter to all 5,000 members of People Representative bodies nationwide	National Assembly, UNCT
Continue efforts towards achieving the MDGs in Viet Nam	Ministries and local authorities
Ensure that the new CCA and UNDAF are committed to helping Viet Nam realise the Millennium Declaration and achieve the MDGs	MPI, UNCT
Organise the steering committee for the implementation of the MDGs under the leadership of Viet Nam's deputy prime minister	Government Office
Enhance the capacity of every administrative level, sector and ministry for implementing the MDGs	MPI, UNCT
Build a mechanism to monitor, supervise and evaluate the implementation of the MDGs; at the provincial level, use the provincial statistical office for monitoring and supervision	GSO
Support the collection of high-quality data to help guide the achievement of MDGs via additional capacity-building support to the General Statistics Office, at central and provincial levels	GSO, UNCT
Promote integrated database via DevInfo	GSO, UNCT
Suggest using MDG data as a baseline against which to assess the social implications of WTO membership	UNCT, MPI
Link external assistance to the implementation of MDGs and VDGs	MPI, UNCT, donors
Launch the Global Compact in Viet Nam by mobilising local enterprises and creating partnerships with multinational corporations	MPI, VCCI, UNCT

4.1.11 Republic of Korea (ROK)

Ok-Soon Lee, Programme Manager, UNDP

The Republic of Korea is an NCC and emerging donor country, and it has already achieved most of the MDGs. Therefore, UNDP Korea has shifted its programme focus to MDG 8: global partnership for development.

The Korean government is trying to increase its ODA level to 0.1 percent of GNP by 2007. In 2002, ODA was 0.06 percent of GNP (US\$ 334 M). To achieve this target, the national campaign on MDG 8 will be undertaken in cooperation with NGOs and the private sector, in order to mobilise as many national partners as possible.

A new Country Programme for ROK was developed in cooperation with the Korean government. The CP focuses mainly on sharing Korea's development experiences, advanced know-how and technology with developing countries. UNDP Korea also developed a package of projects for MDG 8 the following year.

4.2 Highlights of open discussions, and closing statements

Floor discussions covered the following points:

- Gender: Around 1.2 billion people, 70 percent of whom are women, live in extreme poverty worldwide. The MDGs should focus on this reality. These people are more important than strategies, procedures and mechanisms. The 2015 country reports claim success, but poverty among women persists. Therefore, each MDG—not just Goal 3—should be tracked through a gender lens, and indicators should be suitably segregated. In future discussions, gender should be given more space, and specific gender-related MDG issues, concerns, challenges and opportunities should be addressed.
- Political will: The role of political will in furthering the MDGs should not be underestimated. MDG discussions should cut across party lines. Sri Lanka, for example, discarded its PRSP because of a change in government, and the IMF and World Bank had to formulate another one with the new government.
- Synergy among stakeholders: Strong linkages should be built to leverage the synergies between different stakeholders such as politicians, NGOs, CSOs, academia and the private sector. This leads to efficiencies in capacity building.
- Media: Working with the media is difficult, given their predilection for big headlines and entertainment. However, dramatic contrasts in development stories and regional comparisons can work well with them. Media networks should be initiated and strengthened.
- Monitoring and capacity building: Both quantitative and qualitative indicators are necessary. While numeric data are important, excessive reliance on numbers can be detrimental. Malaysia's case is instructive because of the quality dimension. In Thailand's case, the country has made a remarkable transition from recipient to donor—a good showcase in the region and in the world. MDG monitoring can make new demands on official statistical systems. Therefore, capacity-building is important in this area.

Turhan Saleh summarised the discussions and combined them with his observations:

- The strategic focus on and the level of ownership of the MDGs show that countries have come a long way.
- Countries are more confident and specific about what they are planning to do.
- Integration was a recurring theme.
- Regional disparities were identified.
- Gender concerns were highlighted.
- Delegates emphasised the need for databases and official statistical systems that can do more rigorous analysis.
- Advocacy and media outreach were recognised as critical support mechanisms for the MDGs; campaigning, like monitoring, also requires needs assessment and a high level of rigour.
- We need to create a sense of urgency among political leaders as we approach 2015.
- Delegates discussed the importance of the business sector and its role in the MDG process.
- Country teams focused on the Millennium Declaration and used specific development goals as a framework.
- Experience-sharing and networking were identified as important tools.
- Delegates suggested targeting external assistance based on MDG assessments.

B. Murali reminded everyone that the action plans were drafts. He suggested a three-week time frame for countries to finalise them. He added that for those who submitted proposals for

technical support, the window would be kept open. He urged countries to prepare proposals using the action plans. Finally, he thanked everyone and said that this group of delegates had been excellent participants, producing substantial content to take the MDG agenda forward at this critical stage.

Aung Tun Thet expressed his appreciation for everyone's involvement.

ANNEXURE

Annexure I - Aide-Mémoire

Background

The UN Millennium Summit in 2000 adopted the Millennium Declaration, which reaffirmed and synthesised the goals set by previous global conferences. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration was a defining moment for global cooperation—it brought poverty eradication on to the global map through collective consent of international community.³ The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) embody the multidimensionality of human development and are aimed at improving the lives of the poor and the disadvantaged. The MDGs are particularly significant in Asia and the Pacific due to the region's diversity. In this region, addressing income poverty does not necessarily result in successfully addressing issues of human poverty.

Context

Given the crosscutting nature of the MDGs, collaborative projects and partnerships have evolved to harness the synergy of convergence. Several initiatives in the region push the MDG agenda forward. These initiatives assumed greater urgency at the time of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly (designated as the Millennium +5 Summit), in which the UN Secretary-General presented the MDG Progress Report.

After the success of the first phase of the regional initiative on *Supporting the Achievement of Millennium Development Goals*, a follow-up phase was initiated in collaboration with UNESCAP. The Regional MDG Report launched in 2003 was a key output of this partnership and was followed by a second Regional MDG Report in 2005. Nine countries in the region launched MDG Reports in 2003, and the rest followed soon after. By the end of 2004, 21 countries completed their MDG Reports.

Other regional initiatives supporting the MDG agenda include the *Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction*; *Regional Trade, Economic Governance and Human Development*; and the *Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Human Development Reports*.

In collaboration with UNDGO, RBAP organised three regional workshops on MDGs in which most UN or UNDP country offices in the region participated. Vientiane, Dhaka and Nandi hosted the workshops in October 2002, February 2003 and March 2003, respectively. The workshops resulted in the preparation of country action plans for achieving the MDGs at the national level. The *Regional Initiative on MDGs in Asia and the Pacific* draws extensively from the workshop recommendations. The initiative supported countries in implementing their MDG action plans in the following areas: monitoring and reporting, advocacy and campaigning, policy-making and strategising, and capacity strengthening in statistics and data collection (in collaboration with UNSIAP).

The 2004 MDG regional workshops, which followed the workshops held in 2002–2003, were an essential part of the above initiative. UNDGO and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) partnered with UNDP in these workshops and have helped in furthering the work on MDGs in the region.

³ UN (2001) *Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General, Document A/56/326* (New York: UN).

Objectives

These workshops are designed for working-level participation. The workshop's objectives were as follows:

- Provide a forum for discussions and experience sharing.
- Provide updates on global, regional and Millennium +5 Summit issues.
- Review country action plans and their implementation.
- Review MDG reporting in participating countries and its effects on policy planning, resource allocation, public awareness, external assistance and operational implementation.
- Develop a work plan for participating countries to move forward on the MDG agenda, especially in light of the Millennium +5 Summit and with a specific focus on LDC and LLDC issues.
- Enable countries to identify specific areas where the Regional Asia Pacific Initiative on the MDGs could provide additional support.
- Help build capacity at the national level to achieve the MDGs, keeping in view the specific context of the region.

Participants

The Siem Reap (Cambodia) workshop focused on LDCs and LLDCs, and the Manila workshop focused on the rest of the countries in Asia. The following countries participated in the workshops:

- Siem Reap: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste
- Manila: China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam
- Apia: Pacific Island Forum states

Country delegations comprised the following:

- A government nominee (approved by UNCT and the national government; someone with MDG experience)
- A CSO participant (from an organisation that works with the UN and focuses on the MDGs)
- A UNCT nominee (from a UN agency other than UNDP; someone who works on MDGs)
- UNDP representative (DRR or the MDG focal point in the CO)

Annexure II - Agenda

23 AUGUST 2004, MONDAY		DAY 1
TIME	Activity	Speaker /Facilitator
	PLENARY	<i>VENUE: GARDEN BALLROOM</i>
9:35 a.m.	<i>Opening Ceremony</i>	
	Welcome remarks	Deborah Landey, Resident Representative, UNDP Philippines
	Messages	Jan van Heeswijk, Director-General, ADB Arthur Herken, Associate Director, UNDGO
	Opening remarks	Dr Hafiz A. Pasha, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator, Director UNDP RBAP
	Inaugural address	Hon. José C. de Venecia, Jr., Speaker, House of Representatives of the Philippines
10:30 a.m.	<i>Session 1. MDGs, an update</i>	
	Overview and objectives of workshop	
10:45 a.m.	<i>C O F F E E B R E A K</i>	
11 a.m.	<i>Session 2. National perspectives and the MDGs</i>	
	Country updates: MDGs, development challenges and opportunities (5-minute statement by the government representative) Statements by other representatives	China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam
	Short Q&A in plenary	
12:45 p.m.	<i>L U N C H</i>	
1:40 p.m.	<i>Session 2 cont'd. in working groups</i> Discussions in three working groups of four countries each	
2:45 p.m.	<i>Session 2 cont'd. in plenary</i> Report back by one representative from each group, followed by discussions	
3:50 p.m.	<i>Session 3. Millennium +5 Summit</i>	
	Presentation followed by discussions	Turhan Saleh, Director, UNDP MDG Unit
4:10 p.m.	<i>C O F F E E B R E A K</i>	
4:25 p.m.	<i>Session 4. Achieving the MDGs: policy and programming challenges (Part 1)</i>	
	Panel Discussion (30 minutes) MDGs in the context of national planning frameworks and poverty-reduction strategies	World Bank

	Regional perspectives Discussion (75 minutes)	ADB Aynul Hasan, UNESCAP
6:15 p.m.	End of session	
6:30 p.m.	Reception hosted by Hon. Josè C. de Venecia, Jr., Speaker, House of Representatives of the Philippines, and Dr Hafiz Pasha, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and UNDP Regional Director for RBAP	VENUE: E'BAR

24 AUGUST 2004, TUESDAY		DAY 2
TIME	Activity	Speaker/Facilitator
		VENUE: GARDEN BALLROOM
8:20 a.m.	Special interactive session (through video link) on the MDGs and the UN Millennium Project	Prof Jeffrey Sachs, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on MDGs, and Director, UN Millennium Project
9:40 a.m.	Session 4. Achieving the MDGs: policy and programming challenges (Part 2)	
	Panel discussion (30 minutes)	
	Integrating MDGs into CCA and UNDAF and as a framework for UN action	Arthur Erken, UNDGO
	Country experience	UNCTs from Iran and Philippines
	Discussion (60 minutes)	
11:10 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
11:25 a.m.	Session 5. Achieving the MDGs: monitoring and statistical capacity building	
	DevInfo	Nicolas Pron, UNICEF
	MDGs: Data availability, quality and analysis of related issues, including capacity building of national statistical organisations	Tomas Africa, UNSIAP
	MDGRs in Asia and the Pacific: An overview of issues	Omar Noman, UNDP RBAP
	Discussions	
12:40 p.m.	LUNCH	VENUE: SANTAN 1 and 2
	Lunch tables to facilitate in-depth discussions	UN Millennium Campaign; UNDGO; UNESCAP/UNSIAP; ADB (on regional country-level partnerships); UNICEF (on DevInfo); World Bank (on MDGs and PRSPs)
2 p.m.	Session 6. Strategic communication plan and regional support mechanisms	
	UN Millennium Campaign's interface at country level	Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador on MDGs

	Key elements of strategic communication plan (The Blue Book)	Turhan Saleh, UNDP MDG Unit
	MDG regional initiative and supporting the achievement of MDGs in Asia-Pacific, including new funding windows	B. Murali, UNDP RBAP
	Private sector MDG initiatives in the Philippines	Juan B. Santos, Chair, Nestlé Philippines and Trustee, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
2:30 p.m.	<i>Session 7. Country action plans (with coffee break)</i>	
	Progress and update on national action plans and carry-over actions—initiatives that still need to be implemented from 2002–2003 action plans	
	Discussion on next steps leading to Millennium +5	
	Preliminary discussions before proceeding to working groups	
4:30 p.m.	Working groups to discuss draft country plans for 2004–2005	
7 p.m.	<i>MEDIA PANEL (session with media on MDGs) followed by DINNER</i>	<i>VENUE: PALAWAN BALLROOM, TOWER WING</i>
9:30 p.m.	End of session	

25 AUGUST 2004, WEDNESDAY		DAY 3
TIME	Activity	Speaker/Facilitator
		<i>VENUE: GARDEN BALLROOM</i>
9:25 a.m.	<i>Session 8. The way forward</i>	
	Report back to plenary on strategic plans at the national level, including regional and global issues	One representative per country delegation
	Discussions	
	Closing statements	For Dr Hafiz A. Pasha, Mr B. Murali, Specialist, UNDP RBAP Deborah Landey, Resident Representative, UNDP Philippines
1:45 p.m.	<i>LUNCH</i>	<i>VENUE: SANTAN 1 and 2</i>

Annexure III - Participants

Name	Designation/Organisation
China	
Mr Chen Chuandong	Deputy Division Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms Jia Lusheng	Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP
India	
Mr Maurizio Bussi	Deputy Director, ILO
Ms Veena Nayyar	President, Women's Political Watch
Mr Ajay Seth	Director, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
Ms Surekha Subarwal	Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP
Dr Paramita Sudharto	Public Health Administrator, WHO
Indonesia	
Ms Riana Hutahayan	UNDP
Dr Yin Yin Nwe	Senior Programme Officer, UNICEF
Mr Sugihartatmo	Coordinator, Ministry for People's Affairs
Ms Karlina Sutaprawira	Assistant to the UN Special Ambassador for the MDGs
Ms Hartini Titik	Association for Community Empowerment
Iran	
Ms Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh	Director, Iranian NGO Training Centre (NGOTC)
Mr Amir Hossein Barmaki	UN Coordination Analyst, UNDP
Mr Majid Hamedani	Counsellor and UNDP Desk Officer, MFA
Mr Yuxue Xue	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
Japan	
Mr Michio Ito	Board Member/Director for International Affairs and Special Programmes, JANIC
Ms Rena Okino	Programme Assistant, UNDP
Malaysia	
Dr Eng Suan Ang	Executive Director, Federation of Family Associations
Ms Chung Tsung Ping	Programme Officer, UNDP
Ms Dahaban Hj. Shamsiah	Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department
Ms Tan Swee Heng	Programme Associate, UNFPA
Pakistan	
Ms Nadira Khawaja	Resource Development Manager, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
Dr Pervez Tahir	Chief Economist, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan
Mr German Valdivia	Representative, WFP
Mr Onder Yucer	UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
Philippines	
Dr Leonor Briones	Director, Centre for Policy and Executive Development, NCPAG,
Ms Erlinda Capones	Director, NEDA
Dr Zahidul Huque	Representative, UNFPA
Ms Deborah Landey	UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
Mr Kyo Naka	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
Republic of Korea	

Ms Ok-Soon Lee	Programme Manager, UNDP
Ms Hyun-Bong Yoon	General Secretary, Korea NGO Council for Overseas Cooperation
Sri Lanka	
Ms Louise Chamberlain	Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP
Dr Padmini Indra Tudawe	President, Sri Lanka Evaluation Association
Thailand	
Mr Hakan Bjorkman	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
Ms Priyanut Piboolsravut	Director, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)
Mr Apichai Sunchindah	Programme Manager, Interagency Support Unit, UN
Ms Tongta Temboonkiat	Programme Manager, MDG/HDR, UNDP
Mr Bastiaan Van't Hoff	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF
Viet Nam	
Mr Robert Peter Glofcheskie	Chief Resident Economist, UNDP
Mr Ho Minh Chien	Director General, Ministry of Planning and Investment
Mr Pham Anh Tuan	Director, Centre for Rural Progress
Mr Philippe Roger Scholtes	Representative, UNIDO–Viet Nam
Dr Hafiz Pasha	UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director, RBAP, UNDP
Mr Tomas Africa	Director, UN Statistical Institute for Asia–Pacific
Mr Arthur Erken	Associate Director, UNDOGO
Mr Aynul Hasan	Chief, LDCCU, MDG Centre, UNESCAP
Mr Jan P.M. van Heeswijk	Director General, RSDD, ADB
Mr B. Murali	Programme Specialist, UNDP, RBAP
Mr Omar Noman	Senior Adviser, UNDP, RBAP
Mr Nicolas Charles Pron	Senior Project Officer, DevInfo Project Manager
Mr Turhan Saleh	Director, UNDP, BRSP
H.E. Erna Witoelar	UN Special Ambassador on MDGs
Prof Aung Tun Thet	Head, Systems Programme, UN Staff College
Ms Anuradha Rajivan	Programme Coordinator, APRI, UNDP

Resource Persons

Mr Shiladitya Chatterjee	Principal, RSDD, ADB
Ms Audrey Codera	Country Coordinator, YES Campaign
Dr Anton Fric	WHO, SEA Regional Office
Mr Romy Garcia	Chief, Northeast Asia and Mekong Division, UNDP, RBAP
Mr P.K. Joseph	Regional Director, YES Campaign
Ms Lynn Macdonald	Statistics Adviser, UNDP, BDP
Mr Adrian Panggabean	Economist, RSDD, ADB
Mr Brahm Prakash	Director, RSDD, ADB
Mr Selva Ramachandran	Deputy Chief, SEA, Pacific Division
Ms Christina Santiago	In-house Consultant, JICA–Philippines
Mr Tadashi Suzuki	UNDP, BRSP
Ms Catherine Vidar	Senior Programme Officer, JBIC–Philippines

Annexure IV – Evaluation Form

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Dear Participants,

We would like to know your views on the workshop.

1. What went well?

2. What could be done better?

Thank you!