



Regional Workshop Report

Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

Siem Reap, Cambodia

1–3 October 2004

Partners



UNDGO

ADB Asian Development Bank
Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

APRI

Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Reports Initiative

Regional Centre in Colombo

Serving Asia and the Pacific

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List of Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BDP	Bureau of Development Policy
BRSP	Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships
CAP	Country Action Plans
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CMDGs	Cambodia Millennium Development Goals
COHCHR	Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
CRC	Children's Rights Council
CRC-OP	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSD	Council for Social Development (Cambodia)
CSO	Central Statistics Office (Afghanistan)
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DRR	Deputy Resident Representative
EGSPRS	Economic Growth Support for Poverty-Reduction Strategy (Mongolia)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Growth Domestic Product
GIO	Government Information Office (Timor-Leste)
H.E.	Her/His Excellency
HDR	Human Development Report
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDT	International Development Target
IFI	International Financial Institutions
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
I-PRSP	Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LL/SIC	Land Locked and Small Island Countries
LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MoFAC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Timor-Leste)
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MoPF	Ministry of Planning and Finance (Timor-Leste)
MR	Mortality Rate
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NGPES	National Growth and Poverty-Eradication Strategy (Lao PDR)
NHDR	National Human Development Report
NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organisation

NPFP	National Poverty Focal Point
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSO	National Statistical Office
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PDR	People's Democratic Republic (Lao)
PEM	Protein Energy Malnutrition
PES	Poverty-Eradication Strategy
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RBAP	Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
RC	Resident Coordinator
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RR	Resident Representative
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TA	Technical Assistance
TWG	Thematic Working Group
U5MR	Under-5 Mortality Rate
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
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
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSIAP	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Program
WTO	World Trade Organisation

Executive Summary

The Asia Pacific Regional HDR Initiative (APRI), a regional programme in the MDG-HDR cluster of the UNDP's Regional Centre in Colombo, began in September 2001. It provides UNDP country offices and other partners in Asia and the Pacific with policy-oriented research, analysis and support from a human development perspective. Its main objectives are to improve national and regional capacities on human development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through awareness and advocacy campaigns in the region.

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. 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 and a second Regional MDG Report was published in 2005.

In collaboration with UNDGO, RBAP organised three regional workshops on the MDGs in Lao PDR, Bangladesh and Fiji in 2002 and 2003. Most UNDP country offices in the region were represented at these workshops, which resulted in national actions plans for achieving the MDGs and the establishment of APRI, among other outcomes. These workshops, along with the Manila workshop in August 2004, are key activities under APRI's new mandate.

Participants in this workshop, held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, shared information on MDG progress in their countries and created national action plans for achieving the goals. The workshop witnessed a high level of government and stakeholder participation, indicating immense interest in and commitment towards the MDGs. The rich deliberations, discussions and presentations throughout the three days will serve as an important basis and mandate for UNDP-APRI in its future activities.

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)² 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. Eleven countries in the region (Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam) have launched National MDG Reports. Others are in the process of preparation. 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 UNDP, 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. UNDP 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).

² The MDGs aim to 1) eradicate poverty and hunger; 2) achieve universal primary education; 3) promote gender equality and empower women; 4) reduce child mortality; 5) improve maternal mortality; 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; 7) ensure environmental sustainability; 8) develop a global partnership for development.

1.2 Workshop objectives

This regional workshop aimed to accomplish the following:

- Provide a forum for discussions and experience sharing.
- 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

Participants were drawn from 10 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste. Delegation were composed of representatives from UNDP, UNCT, governments and CSOs. A total of 70 delegates from the region attended the workshop, in addition to around 10 observers from host country Cambodia.

A complete list of participants is given in annexure III.

2. DAY ONE

2.1 Opening Session and Session I: MDGs, an update

Mr Douglas Gardner (UN Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Cambodia) welcomed the participants to this important regional workshop, organised 12 months before the Millennium +5 Summit and following-up on the workshops held in Lao PDR and Bangladesh. He announced that Cambodia had localised the MDGs and launched the Cambodian MDG Report in 2003. The report had nine goals, with de-mining added to the eight common MDGs. Mr Gardner added that 17 technical working groups had set up sectoral action plans to achieve the MDGs. He encouraged participants to share their experiences and knowledge of the poverty reduction process.

Mr B. Murali (Programme Specialist, UNDP, RBAP) highlighted the events and successes of previous MDG workshops in his introductory address. Siem Reap, he said, was an excellent opportunity for LDCs and LLDCs to discuss the status of their country reports, which will be used to monitor and assess MDG progress.

Mr Murali conveyed apologies sent by the ADB representative, who could not be present, and Ms Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, UNDG, who was attending to urgent matters related to the Darfur crisis in Sudan. She sent a message to participants, reaffirming the Millennium Declaration and emphasising that 2005 was a make-or-break year for the MDGs. UN agencies and governments would have to ensure strategic structural support for the MDGs. UNDG's core strategy contains four interlinked elements: monitoring and tracking of progress; analysis of MDG-related policies; campaigning, partnership building and community mobilisation; and goal-driven operational assistance.

Ms Fegan-Wyles highlighted global progress made thus far. Around 80 National MDG Reports have been issued, following UNDG guidelines, and more are under preparation. Each developing country plans to produce at least one report by 2004. Donor countries are also encouraged to prepare reports analysing their contribution to Goal 8. Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden have already done so, and more will follow. Also, DevInfo, the UN's MDG-tracking software, is being widely used now. Many reforms have been introduced to reduce transaction costs for governments and to improve UN coordination, effectiveness and efficiency in supporting national goals. UNDG now has common country programming with the MDGs. But while significant progress has been made, more must be done, especially to provide coherent and strategic support to UNCTs and to integrate the MDGs into CCAs, UNDAFs and national poverty-reduction processes.

Dr Hafiz Pasha (UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Director) welcomed the participants and congratulated those who had produced MDG Reports. He said LLDCs were a particularly important group because an average of 40 percent of the populations of these countries lives below the poverty line. LLDCs need to be on the MDG track to get more attention from donor communities, and they should focus on human as well as policy developments. The 10 LDCs and LLDCs should present a consolidated report on poverty in their countries, for better chances of reaching out to the international community for resources. (The full speech is included in annexure 3a.)

H.E. Chhay Than (Cambodia's Minister of Planning) welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the organisers for choosing Siem Reap as the venue for the regional workshop. He

reaffirmed the Cambodian government's commitment to the MDGs and outlined its new Rectangular Strategy to achieve them. He also called for funding and capacity-building support from the donor community to assist Cambodia in its MDG progress.

The first business session highlighted the scope of the workshop and laid out the following structure:

- MDGs, an update (session I)
- National perspectives and the MDGs (session II)
- Millennium +5 Summit (session III)
- Achieving the MDGs: Policy and programming challenges, parts 1 and 2 (sessions IV and VI)
- Political and social mobilisation for policy change: The UN Millennium Campaign's interface at country level (session V)
- Achieving the MDGs: Monitoring, data and statistical capacity-building (session VII)
- The UN Millennium Campaign (session VIII)
- Strategic communication plans and regional support mechanisms (session IX)
- Media panel on the MDGs (special session)
- Country action plans and the way forward

2.2 Session II: National perspectives and the MDGs

In this session, delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste shared national perspectives on the MDGs. The session was conducted in two parts: (a) country presentations and (b) working groups.

Three country-cluster groups were created in order to highlight common challenges and opportunities in achieving the MDGs. Group 1 comprised delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan; group 2 comprised delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives and Mongolia; and group 3 comprised delegates from Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste.

2.2.1 Highlights of country presentations

Afghanistan

Mr Esmatullah Ramzi, Vice President, Central Statistics Office

Afghanistan was not present at the Millennium Summit and was thus not among the signatory states. The country fully endorsed the Millennium Declaration in a letter from President Karzai to the UN Secretary-General on 23 March 2004.

Afghanistan has taken the following steps towards fulfilling the Millennium Declaration:

- A *Loya Jirga* ratified the new constitution in January 2004.
- Presidential and parliamentary elections have taken place.
- Afghanistan acceded to CEDAW; the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Rome Statute on the ICC; CRC-OP on child sale, prostitution and pornography; and the Mine-Ban Treaty.

The following table shows Afghanistan's actualised and proposed targets:

	2004	2015
Halve Poverty	53 percent	26 percent
Halve Hunger	48 percent	24 percent
Universal Primary Enrolment	Total: 36 percent (M: 51, F: 21)	100 percent
Two-thirds reduction of U5MR	172/1,000	60/1,000
Three-quarters reduction MMR	1,600/100,000	400/100,000

However, the country has many development constraints:

- Security problems persist in some areas.
- The central government has limited control over certain provinces.
- Corruption is widespread.
- Domestic funding is limited.
- The country is prone to frequent natural disasters.
- Poppy cultivation (for opium production) has resumed.

The MDGs are a priority for the Afghan government. The national policy framework will be established on track with the MDG timeline of 2015. Maternal and child health, major diseases, education and provision of safe drinking water are top issues on the national development agenda.

Here is an overview of selected MDGs:

MDG 1

The current level of poverty is approximately 53 percent; the 2015 target is 26 percent. Poverty eradication is at the core of Afghanistan's national development plan and cuts across all national policies. Malnutrition is approximately 45 to 55 percent (women and children are particularly at risk); the 2015 target is 24 percent.

MDG 2

The literacy rate for people over age 15 is 52 percent for men and 22 percent for women. Back-to-school campaigns have led to four million enrolments in the past two years. But the primary school enrolment rate is only 51 percent for boys and 21 percent for girls, with an enormous gender gap; the 2015 target is 100 percent primary net enrolment for girls and boys.

MDG 3

Gender has not been identified as a priority in the national development plan.

MDG 4

U5M is 257 per 1,000 live births (to be reduced to 90/1,000 by 2015). Infant mortality is 162 per 1,000 live births (to be reduced to 55/1,000 by 2015). UNICEF/CSO/MICS figures deviate slightly: U5MR is 172 and infant mortality is 115. Afghanistan's MDG indicators are half a century behind the average for Asia.

MDG 5

The average MMR in Afghanistan is approximately 1,600/100,000 live births, with strong regional variations; the 2015 target is 400/100,000. This depends on the government's ability to improve the quality and availability of health services, and it depends on sociocultural aspects of Afghan society, which may impede women's access to health services.

MDG 6

Malaria and TB are serious health threats in Afghanistan. The government has been successful in reducing polio and U5 measles mortality. There is a lack of relevant information on HIV/AIDS.

MDG 7

Afghanistan is affected by severe over-harvesting and deforestation. Around 80 percent of Afghanistan's population is dependent on agriculture, but only 12 percent of the country's total land area is arable. Only 40 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water.

MDG 8

Afghanistan is a landlocked country. The Afghan government wants to boost regional trade and becoming a 'land bridge' for its neighbours.

Civil society contribution to MDG advocacy

Afghan civil society is highly organised, with a number of institutions and umbrella organisations for the exchange of ideas. Afghan NGOs, voluntary associations and interest groups are not explicitly and directly advocating for MDGs as yet, but they can build on existing platforms.

CSOs in Afghanistan implement national programmes for employment creation, community empowerment and poverty reduction, provision of safe drinking water and health care. They work on enhancing the quality of education, with a specific gender focus, and advocate for human rights, specifically women's rights. They also promote environmental sustainability, provide micro-financing for small business development, and engage in civic education for elections.

MDG advocacy and monitoring in Afghanistan face the following challenges:

- Overall, limited knowledge exists about the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.
- Funding for advocacy campaign must be secured.
- Human resources for MDG advocacy are limited during election time, as CSOs focus on civic education for the elections.
- The MDG monitoring capacity of the Central Statistics Office must be strengthened.
- Data is scarce, but some progress is being made.
- Professional staff, equipment and financial resources are lacking.

Bangladesh

Mr Akram ul-Aziz, Joint Chief, Macro and Perspective Planning Wing, General Economics Division

Bangladesh has witnessed considerable economic and social progress over the past decade. The progress in achieving key social MDGs has been shared by almost all socioeconomic categories. Bangladesh has graduated from being a test case for development to being in the league of graduating to medium development countries. However, further improvements in social MDGs, such as poverty reduction, require a substantial increase in the income-earning ability of the poor.

Bangladesh finalised its first PRSP in March 2003, followed by another one in December 2004. The core principles of PRSPs are adhered to: It is country driven, results oriented, comprehensive, partnership oriented, long term in perspective and fully participatory. In addition, MDG targets are embedded in the PRSPs.

Bangladesh's PRSP emphasises policies for enhancing pro-poor economic growth, which are anchored on macroeconomic stability, an enabling environment, infrastructure development, development of ICT, fostering agricultural and rural development along with water resources development, and management of the environment. Social development, devising effective safety nets, and targeted programmes for women, children and disadvantaged groups are other areas that need attention.

The General Economic Division of the Planning Commission was identified by the Government as the National Poverty Focal Point (NPF) and was entrusted with preparing the PRSP. (NPF also monitors MDG progress.) A 21-member national steering committee was set up under the chairmanship of the principal secretary to the prime minister. The steering committee provided overall guidance and direction to NPF for the preparation of the PRSP. It also oversees the implementation of I-PRSP policy reforms as contained in the medium-term policy matrix and monitors other poverty indicators. The steering committee and NPF work under the overall supervision of the minister for finance and planning.

The steering committee chalked out a work plan for the preparation of the PRSP. It created 12 thematic groups under the leadership of various relevant ministries to ensure full participation of all concerned. Thematic areas were chosen for all major crosscutting issues, macroeconomic and real-sector issues and a number of special topics on poverty alleviation. The thematic groups

addressed gaps and lapses identified in the I-PRSP, provided a brief account of current developments, identified the strengths and constraints of pro-poor growth, recommend strategies and policies, and developed poverty-reduction indicators.

The PRSP process has opened up dialogue on public policy, and representatives of civil society have had access to policy debates that were hitherto limited. Efforts have been made to ensure consultations with as broad a class of participants as possible, including socially excluded groups. The aim was to elicit views, share experiences and understand the expectations of stakeholders.

Participatory consultations took place with a cross-section of stakeholders at the national and regional levels. The meetings, one at the national and six at the divisional headquarters, generated unprecedented enthusiasm among the participants. Particular attention was given to gender, children, the weak and vulnerable groups in the consultation process. An outcome-oriented participatory approach was adopted in designing the consultation, with a combination of structured and open-ended discussions. Two imperatives were especially considered: (1) ensuring informed, active and committed participation, and (2) fostering a conducive atmosphere for participatory discussions. It was anticipated that constraints and biases may affect the quality and output of the consultations.

Comprehensive recommendations were obtained on the subject of poverty and on the 12 thematic topics, and the regional dimension of poverty in Bangladesh was also captured during the discussions. Capacity was also created within the Planning Commission through the UNDP-supported Sustainable Human Development modelling system for monitoring MDG and PRS progress. An MDG progress report for 2004 was prepared using the outcomes of the system. Efforts are under way to consolidate the system within NFPF through further UNDP assistance.

Bhutan

Mr Lam Dorji, Director, Department of Planning, Ministry of Finance

The Royal Government of Bhutan launched its first Millennium Development Goals Report in 2003. In terms of opportunities and challenges, the Bhutan delegation highlighted two areas:

Opportunities

1. The MDGs related to poverty, educational attainments, maternal and child health, high-risk diseases and environmental sustainability are high-priority development themes for Bhutan. This is also evident from the development focus in the current Ninth Five-Year Plan (July 2002–June 2007). There is a strong national political commitment to, and a positive policy environment for, the achievement of the MDGs.

In keeping with the alignment of the MDGs with the national development themes, the government has designated the Department of Planning, Ministry of Finance, as the focal agency with responsibility for coordinating and taking a lead role in all matters relating to the MDGs in Bhutan. As the Department is also responsible for the preparation of PRSPs and the formulation of national development plans, there is now more scope for the integration of the MDGs into the development planning process.

2. In Bhutan, MDG Country Reports are viewed as a vehicle to keep the national focus on agreed development priorities, to keep the public informed on progress, to foster debate and dialogue, and to trigger action to meet the tailored MDG targets. They provide the platform for donor coordination around nationally defined development priorities.

Accordingly, two years after its first National MDG Report, Bhutan would undertake a review of the status of its progress, assess whether progress is on track, and identify major challenges through a highly inclusive consultative process and dialogue involving senior policy makers as well as local officials, NGOs, academia, donors and UNCT. This process, which will lead to either the preparation of a second report or an update of the first MDGR, should provide the necessary opportunity for Bhutan to see where it stands and what it requires for future action.

Challenges

1. The government acknowledges the critical need for an analytical framework to monitor and report on the progress towards the MDGs at the subnational levels to address specific district needs and priorities through well-targeted initiatives and resource allocations.

To facilitate the production of district-level MDG indexes and maps, the government considered various requirements and challenges, such as the availability of district-level disaggregated data and the capacity to monitor, analyse and report, as the first prerequisite to the production of district-level MDG indices and maps and their effective inclusion into local priority settings and planning processes.

2. While there is awareness of the importance of the MDGs and their message in certain sections of government, civil society and the international donor community because of early MDG advocacy and campaigns, the country needs to further increase awareness and bring about more sensitisation to take the MDGs forward in the country.

The government considers this an important area in order to keep the national focus on agreed development priorities, to keep the public informed on progress, to foster debate and dialogue, and to trigger action to meet tailored MDG targets. The MDG messages need to spread to wider audiences at all levels—national as well as subnational—inclusive of media, academia, the private sector and NGOs.

Advocating and campaigning for the MDGs will have to be innovative and meaningful to national and international development agencies and all sections of society. This will be the country's next challenge. The usual challenges of resource constraints, and the fact that Bhutan is a landlocked country, have not been discussed as the workshop is focused on the LDCs and LLDCs.

Cambodia

H.E. Ou Orhat, Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) is fully committed to the MDGs and has consciously decided to measure national development performance against the MDGs. For this purpose, RGC has localised the global MDGs into Cambodia MDGs (CMDGs). They reflect the realities of Cambodia based on a strong national consensus. Specific indicators for each CMDG have been identified, including the benchmark and the short-, medium- and long-term target values to be achieved during 2005, 2010 and 2015. In all, the CMDGs cover nine goals, 25 overall targets and 106 specific targets.

RGC has also taken measures to prepare and disseminate CMDG reports in a regular manner. Although the first report was prepared in 2001 by UNCT, the *Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report 2003* has been prepared under the leadership of the Council for Social Development (CSD) and was launched by the Prime Minister in March 2004. The report discusses the current situation, identifies major challenges, provides a diagnosis of major policies

and programmes contributing to each CMDG, sets out frameworks for meeting the challenges, and indicates road maps for monitoring and evaluating performance.

Over the past decade, Cambodia has achieved significant economic growth. This, however, has not been translated into rapid poverty reduction. The proportion of the population below the poverty line fell from 39 percent in 1994 to only around 36 percent in 1999.

On the social side, progress has also been slow and uneven. While access to primary education has improved significantly, reaching the targets of secondary education remains a major challenge. Gender equality is also a major issue in most areas of socioeconomic life despite a clear government commitment to female empowerment. Health and sanitary conditions of a significant proportion of the population are still unacceptable. The U5MR seems to have increased slightly over the past decade. Also, Cambodia has made limited progress in improving maternal mortality. The HIV prevalence rate in the adult (15–49 years) population, despite falling from 3.3 percent to 2.6 percent between 1997 and 2002, still remains high. Cambodia's natural resources are also degrading at an accelerating pace.

The objective of the RGC is to ensure that by 2015 there will be improved human resources, less poverty and inequality, reduced prevalence of HIV/AIDS, enhanced conservation of Cambodia's environmental heritage, and a society without discrimination against women and where all girls and boys have better and equal access to education. These are the core issues of the CMDGs.

The political will to support the CMDGs is a critical factor in carrying forward the government's commitments. The Third Legislature of the National Assembly, which is the political platform of the government, has adopted the Rectangular Strategy. The comprehensive agenda under the strategy aims at improving and building the capacity of public institutions, strengthening good governance and modernising the economic infrastructure. The objectives are to promote economic growth, generate employment for all citizens, ensure social equity, enhance the efficiency of the public sector, and protect the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage. All these are crucial to achieving the CMDGs and promoting sustainable development in Cambodia.

To mainstream CMDG-related issues, the government has integrated the CMDGs into its national planning and development process. The Third Cambodia Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDPIII) will be formulated as a harmonised policy document by combining all national policy and strategy documents, including the national poverty-reduction strategy.

For success, they would have to go a long way to ensure adequate capacity in human resources, effective and efficient institutions, and good governance. For Cambodian citizens, the CMDGs are also a commitment to human rights, democracy, peace and security, and good governance. RGC views the rule of law and good governance principles, such as transparency, predictability, accountability and participation, as essential prerequisites to sustainable socioeconomic development, social justice and poverty reduction.

Today, Cambodia is a country at peace and open to the world. It has resolutely embraced the principles of liberal democracy and human rights, free enterprise and the market economy, and it is working towards full integration into regional and world economies.

Lao PDR

Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy-Director General of Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lao PDR completed its first progress report in early 2004, thanks to the joint effort between the government technical group and UNCT in Lao PDR led by the Office of UN Resident Coordinator. Mr Kommasith commended UNCT for its logistical and substantive support to the Lao Government. He explained the country's position in terms of MDG implementation, development challenges, and opportunities that would help them achieve the MDGs by 2015:

MDG 1

Overall poverty has been reduced from 48 percent in 1990 to about 37 percent in 2001. However, wide disparities exist across the country. The poverty rate ranges from 75 percent in the provinces to 12 percent in the cities. The government has to overcome this challenge to achieve MDG 1. It has identified 47 districts, which are considered the poorest in the country, as a focus for its poverty-eradication strategy.

MDG 2

Lao PDR has made steady progress in the area of universal primary education. The net enrolment ratio increased from 58 to over 80 percent. Nevertheless, the government is still concerned about the disparity in the enrolment rates in the provinces as well as those between girls and boys. If this disparity persists, it will impair overall progress towards this goal.

MDG 3

Gender disparities in Lao PDR are still a challenge the government has to address, particularly the gap in school enrolment. Basic education will determine whether girls and women are treated equally with boys and men in society. Despite this disparity, the government has achieved relatively commendable progress towards the MDG target in women's representation in parliament. The number of seats held by women in the Lao National Assembly increased from 6 percent in 1990 to 23 percent in 2003.

MDG 4

The government is taking progressive steps towards the MDGs. The U5MR was down from 170 to 106 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the infant MR dropped from 134 to 82.

MDG 5

Over the past 10 years, Lao PDR has seen the incidence of maternal mortality drop almost by one-third (from 750 to 530 per 100,000). This was due to improved access to family planning services and maternal health care. However, this trend is unlikely to continue since it requires significant improvements in health infrastructure, access and service.

MDG 6 and 7

Lao PDR has zero HIV/AIDS prevalence (0.04 percent). However, this is not a signal for complacency. The government has initiated a national policy on HIV/AIDS/STI and a National Strategy Plan and Action on HIV/AIDS 2002–2005.

In relation to environmental sustainability, the government has taken significant steps to ensure that the country's environment and natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner.

Based on the first National Report and the overall assessment of progress, Lao PDR is on track to achieve most of the MDG goals and targets. This optimistic prediction depends on performance and international support from now on to 2015.

To achieve the MDGs, the government is committed to fully implementing the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES), a localised PRSP, which was adopted in 2003. NGPES is a comprehensive framework for growth and development and focuses on improving the poverty situation in the poorest 47 districts. It aims at enhancing growth and development and reducing poverty. It has incorporated most of the MDGs in its goals and targets. Moreover, in most cases the government's targets in the NGPES are more ambitious than the global MDG targets.

Monitoring progress in implementing the NGPES objectives and programmes will serve to help the government monitor progress in implementing its international commitments. It is in achieving the NGPES that the government will respond to its international commitments.

Achieving the MDGs in Lao PDR is going to take significant investment in technical, financial and human resources as well as greater coordination with development partners. The full implementation costs of the NGPES will be estimated over the next two years. As the NGPES is a comprehensive framework for sustainable growth and poverty eradication, and as the implementation of the NGPES will coincide with the achievements of the MDGs, the Lao PDR Government is not undertaking a costing exercise specifically for the MDGs.

Maldives

Mr Ahmed Mohamed, Director, Development Planning, Ministry of Planning and National Development

The MDGs consist of eight goals, 18 specific targets to be met by 2015 and 48 indicators to measure progress. The goals, targets and indicators are the same for all 189 participating countries and are deliberately not country specific. Accordingly, some targets and indicators may not be relevant in the context of individual countries. For example, indicators like land area covered by forest, carbon dioxide emissions, slum dwellers, etc. are of minor importance for a small island state such as Maldives. Therefore, for Maldives, some MDG indicators have been made country specific. For instance, indicator 9 (ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education) has been changed to *ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education*, because there is hardly any tertiary education in Maldives. Indicator 11 (share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector) has been changed to *share of women in the labour force*, because the agricultural sector is negligible in Maldives.

This presentation is in three parts, with separate progress reports for Maldives, Malé and the Atolls, because of increasing disparities between the capital, Malé, and the other islands.

Other important factors need to be taken into consideration: 1) Not all data are available for the benchmark year; in those cases, the time series of indicators are as close as possible to 1990; and 2) MDGs are country averages; disparities within a country are not considered.

MDGs where the performance of Maldives appears to be excellent in 2004:

MDG 1

The proportion of the population living on less than \$1 a day is close to zero.

MDG 2

Universal primary education has practically been achieved in Maldives.

MDG 3

There are practically no gender disparities in primary and secondary education.

MDG 4

Both the U5MR and the infant MR have declined by more than 50 percent during 1991–2001; immunisation of 1-year-olds against measles is over 99 percent.

MDG 5

Although the MMR is declining and practically all births are now attended to by skilled birth attendants, getting access to essential, quality obstetric care remains difficult on the small islands. Anaemia is the main contributing factor to high MMR.

MDG 6

The low contraceptive user rate is a matter of increasing concern that needs to be addressed. Further, about a quarter of the population are *Thalassaemia* carriers, and epidemic-prone conditions such as acute respiratory infections, viral fever, diarrhoea and vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever continue to be the main causes of morbidity.

MDG 7

Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation to the many dispersed islands remains a big challenge.

Opportunities and challenges

The overall progress in Maldives upto 2004 towards meeting the MDGs is excellent. Most MDGs have already been met or are likely to be met by 2015. As for economic and human development, more has happened in Maldives in the past three decades than in the previous 2,000 years.

However, major challenges remain in finding ways to meet the other MDGs where Maldives still has some way to go. A major constraint in this respect is the unique geography of the country, with 200 dispersed, small inhabited islands, out of which 168 have fewer than 1,500 inhabitants. Severe diseconomies of scale make it difficult to formulate realistic policies to provide sustainable essential services throughout the country and to improve access to transport for the island population, both in terms of availability (many islands are not accessible at all times, and there is practically no routine transportation system in Maldives) and in terms of affordability. All three MDG targets where Maldives has still some way to go—maternal mortality, access to medicines and doctors when needed, and access to safe drinking water—are directly related to geography and diseconomies of scale.

Apart from these well-known structural geographical constraints, new challenges have arisen in Maldives as a result of rapid economic development during the past few decades. Income and non-income disparities between Malé and the Atolls are expanding, and this is a matter of great concern. The increasing attractiveness of Malé, with all its amenities and services, in comparison with other islands has led to substantial rural-to-urban migration and subsequently to high population pressure on the capital. In the future, the ongoing development of the new island, Hulhu Malé, will give some relief.

Nevertheless, for the coming years some typical urban problems like overcrowding, disillusionment and unfulfilled expectations, and open and visible unemployment, especially

among the youth, may become a reality and may result in increased tensions among the population. Accordingly, one of the major challenges in Maldives today is to promote balanced and equitable economic and human development throughout the country. This implies increasing employment opportunities on the islands in the Atolls, keeping in mind that traditional sectors such as fisheries are unattractive sectors for some young people. To increase potential employment opportunities for youth, new sectors need to be explored on the islands.

MDG forums and VPAs

UNCT Maldives, which comprises four UN agencies, collaborated with the government to put together a special task force to coordinate all MDG-related activities. The MDG forums were some of the most important activities. Three public forums were held in 2003 to raise awareness among policy makers as well as the public about the MDGs. The first MDG forum, held in April 2003, was on MDGs and environmental health. The second MDG forum, in June 2003, was on the topic of MDGs and nutrition. The third MDG forum titled 'Towards Meeting the Millennium Development Goals' was held on 20 August 2003. H.E. Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives, addressed this forum.

UNDP, WB and the Ministry of Planning and National Development also carried out the second Vulnerability and Poverty Assessment (VPA) in 2004. VPA 2 would provide panel data analysis to enable comparison with the findings of the previous VPA survey conducted in 1998. The data would be used to prepare the Maldives MDG Report.

Mongolia

Mr Namkhajantsan Baldandamba, Economic Policy Adviser to the President of Mongolia

The government has made a strong effort to integrate the MDGs into its Economic Growth Support for Poverty Reduction Strategy (EGSPRS), which provided a framework for poverty reduction, linking economic policies with social development trends, encouraging the participation of the public and donors, and improving the effectiveness of external assistance.

Given Mongolia's high dependence on aid, EGSPRS determined budget allocations. In addition, a new Social Security Sector Development Plan for the country was approved and started. A series of poverty-reduction actions were taken, but one-third of the total population still lives in poverty. In 2000 and 2001, economic growth slowed to 1.0–1.1 percent because of a sharp decline in the agricultural sector, which produces more than one-third of the GDP. However, it accelerated to 3.9 percent in 2002 and 5.5 percent in 2003. Poverty and disparity appear to have increased over the past decade. If this trend is not reversed, the MDG target of halving poverty by 2015 will be a challenge for the country.

To address the above challenges, the government will accelerate the rate of economic growth through broad-based private sector development and regional development. It will also diversify the economy, which is heavily dependent on a few export commodities and remains highly vulnerable to external shocks. Mongolia has been a member of WTO since 1997. Development of knowledge-based industries will open new possibilities for economic diversification and export growth. This will require technological renovation of industries, and the promotion of small- and medium-sized industries and skilled professional employees.

Mongolia's other priorities are to reverse the rise in disparity, ensure adequate social protection, involve local communities and CSOs, manage disaster and risk, and pay attention to the special needs of the country's landlocked nature.

MDG 1

The implementation of the educational, health and gender-related goals is comparably more successful than other macroeconomic and poverty-related goals. The economic crisis in Mongolia has had adverse effects on education, although recent trends leave room for optimism. Net primary enrolment rates plummeted from around 98 percent in 1989 to 91 percent in 2000. If the annual rate of increase continues through 2015, the MDG target of universal enrolment in primary schools will be met. Mongolia has achieved impressive results in women's education. In primary, secondary and tertiary schools, 50.1 percent of students are girls.

MDG 2

Among the students in higher education establishments, male students comprised 30 percent in 1995. Since 1996, the share of male students has risen and reached 37 and 39.8 percent in 2000 and 2003, respectively.

MDG 3

While women are better educated than men, they are still underrepresented in management and decision-making positions. In the national parliament, women comprised only 4 per-cent in 1992, 9 percent in 1996, 12 percent in 2000, and 6 percent in 2004, showing some deterioration after the initial trend of improvement. In the labour market, although women's share of wage employment in the non-agricultural sector is near parity with men, there is still resistance to employing women. MDG 3 will be attained by 2015 if the trend continues.

MDG 4

The U5MR has been reduced rapidly in Mongolia over the past decade. It was more than halved between 1990 and 2000, putting Mongolia on track to achieving this target by 2015.

MDG 5

Rates of maternal mortality are high in the country. However, the MMR dropped in 2002 to 124 and in 2003 it was 109.5, which is the lowest rate in the past decade. The challenge now is to ensure a continuous decreasing trend in order to meet the MDG target.

MDG 6

Mongolia has a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS. But the country has a number of risk factors, including a high incidence of sexually transmitted infections. Tuberculosis is one of the most pressing public health problems in Mongolia today, being the third most prevalent infectious disease. The government introduced the Directly Observed Treatment Short Course in 1995 within the framework of the National Programme for Combating Tuberculosis, which has currently achieved 100 percent coverage of both urban and rural populations.

MDG 7

The most pressing environmental problems for Mongolia are land and pasture degradation, air pollution, low energy efficiency, deforestation and decreasing biodiversity. Mongolia gives priority to the MDGs that are essential for the country's development and will cooperate with other countries and international organisations. Because of the recent parliamentary elections, the first in the country's political history, a coalition government has been formed with equal representation from many political parties.

All political parties acknowledged that poverty is one of the critical problems that Mongolia faces and that the MDGs need to be incorporated into national strategies and policies and implemented in close partnership with CSOs and the private sector.

Myanmar

Mr Khin Kyu, Project Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNICEF

Myanmar is an LDC, with per capita income of US \$300 in 1997, according to WB estimates. Because of the lack of data, in-depth analysis of the situation in the country is difficult. Even when data exist, their reliability is questionable and their timeliness is a problem.

Previously, the Planning Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development used to release information on the performance of the macroeconomy by publishing the yearly *Review of the Financial, Economic and Social Conditions of Myanmar*. This practice stopped in 1998–99. The government's budget used to appear annually in local newspapers in April, the beginning of the fiscal year. In April 2001, the Government stopped publishing its budget in newspapers.

The last census was conducted in 1983, and before that, it was conducted once every 10 years. In 1993, the census was not conducted. Therefore, data on population are projections and according to these projections, Myanmar had a population of over 52 million in 2002, with a population growth rate of 2 percent.

According to the 1997 Household Income and Expenditure Survey conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation, nearly one in four households (22.86 percent) had expenditures below minimum subsistence levels. Poverty rates are the same in urban and rural areas (23.91 percent and 22.42 percent, respectively). At the same time, there are important differences in regional poverty rates. For example, in Chin, Magway and Kayah, poverty rates are 42 percent, 38 percent and 35 percent, respectively. In Tanintharyi, Kachin and Shan, poverty rates are 8 percent, 10 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

UNDP in Myanmar

Since 1993, UNDP has been implementing grassroots-level projects in strict compliance with the UNDP Mandate in Myanmar. It assists in primary health care, the environment, HIV/AIDS, primary education and food security. In 2002, UNDP Myanmar conducted a nationwide poverty survey. The project started in June 2003, and in November 2004, the first round of the quantitative survey was conducted, followed by the second round in May 2005. From this poverty survey, all MDG indicators, except MMR, will be measured.

Nepal

Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Member of National Planning Commission

Nepal is on board with MDG implementation. The first MDG report was published in 2002 with UNDP support and was widely disseminated among government, nongovernmental and civil society organisations. The report detailed strengths and weaknesses in achieving the MDGs and assessed the enabling environment.

Given the business-as-usual scenarios, Nepal will miss most of the goals, including Goal 1, Goal 3 and Goal 5.2. Nepal was in the third year of PRSP implementation. The PRSP, which is also the country's five-year plan, encompasses many MDG targets. The PRSP/10th Plan has a single objective—reducing absolute poverty by 8 percentage points in five years. The plan also

emphasises universal primary education with the implementation of the “Education for All” programme. This programme focuses on girl child education, with incentives and facilities extended to the poorest families.

A new initiative has recently been taken to link the MDGs with the PRSP in a more intensive manner, so that the PRSP could work as a medium-term road map to implement the MDGs. The business plan to link the MDGs with the PRSP spells out the required inputs in terms of various interventions as well as financial and human resources, and it identifies areas for policy and institutional reforms. The business plan also addresses short-term needs for streamlining the current PRSP and long-term needs for providing a consistent approach for subsequent PRSPs.

This exercise includes setting targets and aligning them with resources as reflected in MTEF; reviewing policies in the PRSP and prioritising them, and strengthening institutions to address challenges; and analysing the efficiency and effectiveness of intra- and inter-sectoral resource allocations.

Nepal faces the following challenges in meeting the MDGs:

- Low economic growth rate amid violent conflict
- Resource limitations (domestic as well as foreign financial resources)
- Weak governance and institutional set-up
- Weak linkage between MDGs and PRSP
- A vulnerable and challenging external environment in the context of changing trade, aid and financing regimes, along with high petroleum prices

The ongoing conflict impacts all these challenges and poses a threat to MDG policies and programmes.

Nepal has the following opportunities as well to implement the MDGs:

- A framework of planning, implementing and monitoring, set up with the formulation of PRSP, MTEF, SDAN, MDGR and immediate action plan (IAP)
- Sectoral policies in education and health designed and implemented to ensure universal primary education and basic health services
- Increasing ownership between CSOs and government and between NGOs and CSOs, and forging partnerships with the private sector and donors
- MDG–PRSP Business Plan being prepared to implement the MDGs through periodic plans and annual budgets of the government
- Poverty and MDG-monitoring mechanism institutionalised, and capacity-building taking place in an encouraging manner
- MDGs awareness growing at the local level, and subnational development initiatives internalising the MDGs

Timor-Leste

Mr Eusebio Jeronimo, Director, National Directorate for Planning and External Assistance Coordination, Ministry of Planning and Finance

The country's progress should be seen in the following context:

- Post-referendum violence and destruction
- Difficult terrain and natural environment
- Population spread over a wide area

- Access to infrastructure and social services limited and cost of service provision high
- High incidence of poverty and low human development
- National government took over administration of country from UN in May 2002
- Limited experience and capacities of governance
- Heavy reliance on expatriate advisers and consultants
- Reliance on donors for project design, funding and implementation

Timor-Leste conducted a two-day national workshop on the MDGs in March 2003, involving the prime minister, key ministers, government officials, and representatives of CSOs and donors. The country is in a policy dialogue with development partners to mobilise resources to implement the NDP and MDGs. It is formulating Sector Investment Programmes, incorporating NDP priorities and MDGs in a medium-term public investment framework with the support of and in consultation with development partners (August 2003 to September 2004).

Nationwide information campaigns, disseminating results of the poverty assessment, NDP vision and objectives, and the MDGs, were organised successfully in all 65 sub-districts of the country between October–December 2003. Preparation of the MDG Report began in June 2003, and it was completed in February 2004. It was launched in May 2004 at the Timor-Leste Development Partners Meeting. The country formally subscribed to the MDGs in May 2004, and the preparation of NHDR 2004 on the MDGs commenced in December 2003. The first population census of independent Timor-Leste was completed and preliminary results were released in September 2004.

Timor-Leste faces the following challenges:

- The economy declined during 2003–2005; it is expected to recover slowly by 2006.
- Unemployment is high, especially among youth in urban areas.
- Poverty may have worsened since 2001.
- Gender disparities are significant in literacy, the labour force and political participation.
- Quality of education and health services needs considerable improvement.

The country has good prospects for economic recovery and resumption of growth. It has a relatively young population willing to learn and take advantage of opportunities. The government is open to advice and committed to achieving the MDGs. In addition, revenues from the Timor Sea will augment limited public resources, and donor support will continue for some time.

Timor-Leste plans to revise Sector Investment Programmes, incorporating census data. Sector working groups convened to mobilise and implement the programmes. It also plans to adopt DevInfo, and the Second Poverty Assessment (Household Survey and Participatory Poverty Assessment) would be initiated in 2005.

The country requires assistance in convening working groups to coordinate and implement Sector Investment Programmes, with the MDGs as the central focus. It also needs to incorporate Sector Investment Programmes into Annual Action Plans and the Combined Sources Budget. In addition, it requires assistance in analysing and entering census data as well as updating and maintaining the DevInfo system

2.2.2 Working-group presentations by country clusters

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

Working Group 1: Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan

Challenges	Opportunities
Lack of reliable, disaggregated, up-to-date data	Integration of MDGs into government policies
Advocacy and campaigning	Integration of MDGs into participatory processes such as PRSP, CCA, UNDAF, etc.
Ownership and commitment	Sharing of best practices and experiences
No monitoring and tracking system of MDGs at national level	
Interdependent data collection and independent review of data	
Lack of adequate resources for LDCs and LLDCs	

Table 2.1 – Findings of Working Group 1

Working Group 2: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives and Mongolia

Challenges	Opportunities
Political will	Internal: translating actions into government plans
Prioritisation of government spending	External: donor assistance
Optimum allocation of resources	
Gender parity	
*Human rights	
Landlocked nature, spatial constraints	

Table 2.2 – Findings of Working Group 2

*Some countries said that human rights issues are not a common challenge.

Working Group 3: Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste

Challenges	Opportunities
Institutionalisation, capacity-building (MDGs), policy formulation and integration	Commonly agreed development agenda
Resource constraints, aid coordination, allocation and mobilisation	Evolving partnership
Disaggregated data by region, goals, age, etc.	Knowledge sharing
Reliability of data sources	Best practices
Localising MDGs	Political will
Geographical constraints of landlocked and small island countries	Evolving data, information, monitoring tools such as DevInfo
Enabling external environment (trade, aid, investment)	Weak linkages between MDGs and national development plans and programmes
	Community mobilisation, advocacy, participation planning

Table 2.3 – Findings of Working Group 3

2.3 Session III: Millennium +5 Summit

Ms Amina Tirana, Policy Adviser, UNDP MDG Unit

From a global standpoint, the five-year review of the Millennium Declaration provides an overarching framework for discussion, debate and action around the MDGs for the 12–16 months leading up to and after the Millennium +5 Summit. It would inform intergovernmental processes, shape efforts across and within UN agencies, be the main focus of the Millennium Project and the Millennium Campaign, and influence the dialogue with international financial institutions.

Considerable debate about the summit would be planned for the five-year review: what it means, what it should become, what its desired outcomes are. The event would present a turning point globally on the road to the MDGs for three reasons: expectations would be raised globally; there would be increasing political momentum in the developed and developing world; and time required for achieving the goals would be running out.

Most agreed that the event would break from established patterns and have a business-like focus on adopting and ratifying substantive measures to achieve the goals by 2015. The Millennium Project's global plan would offer a major intellectual input to this effort. At the same time, peace, security and reform of the UN would be major concerns. The challenge would be to strike a sensible balance between the concerns of politics and security and development issues and, in the development arena, between an emphasis on global commitments and country-led efforts. There would need to be a practical way to complete the Monterrey Consensus.

The event would be high level, bringing together heads of state and governments and, perhaps, ministers of finance. It would be held in September 2005 as part of the opening of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly. The event would focus substantively on implementation issues as part of a comprehensive review of Millennium Declaration commitments. The Secretary-General would release a report in October 2005 outlining preparatory processes and the modalities of the event and a report in March 2005 reviewing the implementation of the Declaration.

The summit would affect UN work in the following ways:

- At country level, evidence of policy impact would become of paramount concern, particularly adaptation and integration of the goals in development plans, poverty-reduction strategies and accompanying budgets and medium-term expenditure frameworks as part of a serious, sustained, longer-term effort to reach the MDGs. In other words, there would need to be clear evidence that global aspirations are resonating substantively at country level.
- Equally important would be evidence of political mobilisation, broad support across key stakeholders, including government, civil society and the private sector, to prioritise the goals in the long-term and demand action in the international system, using subregional, regional and global forums and mechanisms. Developed countries would need to receive a clear message from the developing world in the build-up to September 2005. This would be a key factor determining the success of the 2005 process.
- There would need to be serious evidence of progress on the issues of trade, aid (volume, quality, predictability) and debt relief. The next three presidencies of the EU and the G8 Summit would be critical.

What would be the price of failure? Several aspects could change: a) the approach to development issues in the international system; b) the international aid and development architecture itself; and c) most significantly, the adverse effects of potential long-term development failures.

2.4 Session IV: Achieving the MDGs: policy and programming challenges (part 1)

MDGs in the context of national planning and PRSP

Dr Tim Conway, World Bank, Cambodia Country Office

Dr Tim Conway explained the rationale behind MDGs and PRSPs and how to ensure their successful implementation. He outlined the similarities and differences between MDGs and PRSPs and emphasised how they complement each other. He also explained some general principles applicable to both MDG implementation and PRSPs.

For MDGs, he stressed that the rationale calls for greater focus and more effective and concerted effort (in aid, trade, security) for promoting development. On the other hand, PRSPs operationalise the belief that country ownership is critical in ensuring effective government policy and use of aid. The PRSP approach recognises that a simplistic approach to aid conditionality has had limited success and that poverty reduction and aid effectiveness depend on government commitment.

He further explained that the similarity and the positive and negative points of the two approaches, as well as their links to national budgets, are obligations and pose great capacity constraints on countries. The attempt to develop national MDG-related targets, and strategies to reach them, generally occurs in a policy environment in which there already exist other national strategies and plans, with or without clear medium- and long-term targets. PRSPs are arguably a special subset of these national plans. This presentation sought to encourage explicit recognition of the coexistence of MDG and PRSP processes in most LDCs in Asia; identify the similarities and differences between these two approaches; and explore the potential effects (positive and negative) on the evolution of government capacity and donor cooperation arising from the coexistence of these two processes.

Origins of and rationales for the two approaches

Just as the drive to define country-level MDGs (and associated strategies to achieve them and to track progress towards their achievement) are strongly associated with the UN System, so PRSPs have been most closely associated, initially at least, with the World Bank and IMF.

The MDGs focus greater and more effective cooperative effort (aid, trade, international relations, peacekeeping, etc.) on development and poverty reduction. Evolving from International Development Targets (IDTs) established by the OECD donors as a long-term framework for motivating and monitoring their aid, the MDGs are a globally owned agenda (having been established at the UN Millennium Summit); they use a small set of key global-level goals (8 Goals, 18 Targets, 48 Indicators); they are time bound, achievable and measurable; and they focus both developed and developing country efforts on what the world community wants to achieve—in terms of development and poverty reduction—by 2015.

The focus of the MDG agenda was initially, and to a certain degree still remains, primarily on progress at the global level. The drive to translate the global goals into national terms (in the form of country MDG targets and plans to achieve them) came later, motivated by a perception that the global goals could only be meaningful if broken down to the national level. The PRSP approach shares many features in common with that of country-level MDGs but evolved from a somewhat different set of influences. First, the IFIs had come to acknowledge that conventional conditionality (as used in most structural adjustment policies) had not been very successful. It is now believed that little reform can be achieved if the government does not believe in the policy

prescriptions. Developing government commitment—a broad agreement and partnership between the government and donors—came to be seen as extremely important. Second, there was a push to provide debt relief, but there was fear among donors (including the IFIs) that this would not benefit the poor.

In an attempt at a solution, WB and IMF announced that rather than make their aid conditional on a country adopting a standard package of structural adjustment policies, they would ask aid-recipient countries to prepare, with extensive civil-society participation (to build government accountability for the use of aid), a medium-term strategy for poverty reduction. This should be holistic (i.e. bring together macroeconomic stability and growth, revenues, and pro-poor economic and social policies); be based on a rational and prioritised use of available resources (i.e. address inefficiencies and anti-poor biases in public expenditure management); and be results oriented (with a framework to track PRSP implementation and outcomes). The existence of a nationally owned PRSP, produced through a participatory process, became the overarching condition for receipt of aid. Initially intended only as a meta condition for debt relief under Highly Indebted and Poor Countries-II, PRSP soon became the centrepiece of *all* IFI concessional finance to LDCs. Linking to the global agenda for aid harmonisation, a number of other donors have stated, either as global policy or in particular countries, that they will base their country programmes around the government's PRSP.

Similarities—positive and negative—between the two approaches

How then can these two processes fit together? Table 4 highlights some of the key differences between the two approaches.

	MDGs	PRSPs
Summary of concept	§ setting motivating targets and monitoring progress towards them	§ helping countries define and implement strategies that focus domestic and ODA resources effectively on poverty reduction
Original rationale	§ to provide international community with a set of global-level goals to focus greater efforts (aid, trade, security) to promote development and reduce poverty	§ 1) to ensure debt relief linked to poverty reduction; 2) to move away from ineffective aid conditionality; reflecting the conclusion that country ownership is critical for effectiveness
Level emphasised	§ international	§ national
Associated primarily with	§ UN system	§ World Bank, IMF
Timeframe	§ medium- to long-term	§ medium-term
Key themes in approach	§ international partnerships § mutual accountability § universal human rights	§ country ownership of strategy § participation of the poor § partnerships (Govt., donors, civil society, private sector) § prioritised § holistic
Broad position re: resource constraints	§ identify and lobby for additional resources needed to meet Goals	§ identify ways to make best use of available resources - prioritisation

Table 4 – Key differences between MDGs and PRSPs

However, there are also important similarities:

- Explicitly pro-poor: Both aim to refocus policy and resources away from generic growth or 'economic development' to the poor. Both also recognise that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, encompassing far more than just income and expenditure poverty.

- Results oriented: Both emphasise a shift away from rhetoric and monitoring inputs (e.g. money committed, kilometres of roads built) towards poverty reduction and human development outcomes. Consequently, both approaches highlight the importance of improving national M&E capacities to track progress and guide policy change when indicators suggest that the policy is not working.
- Representative of a shift from short to (more realistic) longer time frames: Sustainable improvements in well-being require looking beyond year-on-year change and planning and towards processes over three, five, ten or more years.
- Inclined to place strong emphasis on the role of government, whether as provider or enabler: There is widespread consensus, reflected in both approaches, that the market alone will not reduce poverty and that the state plays a pivotal role in initiating and sustaining change.
- Emphasising the building of consensus and partnerships: Both approaches seek to facilitate donor–donor harmonisation and donor alignment with government policies and systems.

If the MDG and PRSP approaches have these positive characteristics in common, they both also share a number of potential weaknesses:

- Risk becoming donor led: There is a danger that the principle of national ownership and broad participation of nongovernment stakeholders will get lost in donor efforts to meet internal standards and timetables. The result is at best a high-quality PRSP and national MDG framework without any real roots in government planning or M&E, little prospect of implementation, and a waste of donor resources; and at worst, the creation of donor-oriented documents and systems in parallel to existing government systems, with national capacity undermined. Both PRSPs and country-level MDG processes have in some countries at some time fallen into this trap.
- Risk overemphasising social sectors at the expense of productive sectors: Delivering social services is something that governments 'do', and so donors can help them do and measure; the more subtle and complex problem of how to raise the incomes of the poor sometimes takes a back seat to improving service delivery. As a result, the macroeconomic policy prescriptions of PRSPs have sometimes failed to advance much beyond those laid out in older Strategic Plans. Both approaches have typically struggled to define in practical terms what 'pro-poor growth' means for government policies and institutions or to pin down the opportunities and risks for the poor inherent in trade integration.

Differing underlying views on how resources and institutions determine outcomes

PRSP and country-level MDG approaches have much in common and complement each other more often than they contradict each other. Nonetheless, it is important to acknowledge where differences exist. The most important is with regard to the understanding implicit in each approach (or at least, implicit in how each approach is typically operationalised) with regard to the link between total resources and development outcomes, and the relative importance of available finance, as opposed to policies and institutions, as constraints on progress.

The PRSP approach draws on experience over the 1990s with non-project aid modalities (SWAPs, MTEF, general budget support) and development cooperation that focuses on reforming the budget and planning processes. As such, it tends to emphasise the following:

- Establish overall budget envelope, including ODA (many countries find it hard to do this, so they allocate public expenditure without a clear idea of what the overall limits are).
- Link budgets to plans, and make hard choices to prioritise expenditures in order to improve the effectiveness and pro-poor orientation of PEM (in many countries, there is

little relationship between plans and strategies and the pattern of PEM; many countries allocate money in inefficient ways—e.g. spend much on new investment, and too little on subsequently sustaining this investment—and with very strong biases in favour of the rich rather than the poor, e.g. tertiary rather than primary services, subsidised electricity or inputs that favour large rather than marginal farmers, etc.).

- Put in place systems (chart of accounts, expenditure tracking, reporting, audits, MIS, M&E) so that policy makers and planners can track how the money is spent and what outcomes it does or does not achieve, and feed this back into policy.

MDGs—especially as articulated in the Millennium Project—tend to emphasise the right to development and the need for rich countries to increase the resources they give as ODA. There is a strong—and reasonable—argument that the developed world does not live up to its responsibilities to help the developing world. This is seen not only in many aspects of international relations (e.g. biased trade regimes) but also in aid, where most donors fail to give the 0.7 percent of GNI that they have promised. The formulation of the MDGs globally was intended to set collective goals for the world and to motivate all partners—including donors—to put more effort into development. So there is pressure to calculate the additional aid resources that would be required to achieve the MDGs—globally and at country level—and to use this to advocate for more generous ODA.

In principle, it should be possible (if difficult) to reconcile these two perspectives and agendas. In practice, however, they can lead to contradictions. The 'country-level MDG costing and increased aid' approach criticises the 'rational and pro-poor planning within resource constraints' approach (associated with the PRSP approach, among others) for its lack of imagination and for failing to hold donors to their promises to give more aid. It is argued that there is an obvious correlation between more spending and better outcomes, and more specifically, that there are some critical minimum levels of public spending per capita below which it is not reasonable to expect that a government can spend efficiently and effectively. An injection of significantly larger ODA can, it is argued, break through these bottlenecks, and set the government on the path to greater effectiveness. They point to the experience of rebuilding Europe, Japan or South Korea as an example of what can be achieved within a concentrated period of intensive resources transfer.

Those associated with the PRSP and the 'first make better use of existing resources' approach emphasise the importance of national institutions and policies in translating resources into outcomes. They note that some countries have achieved very good policies and outcomes at levels of per capita income or public resources and with levels of per capita ODA that are similar to those of countries that *have not* achieved success—implying that the level of aid is not the critical factor and that national institutions do matter. They thus argue that simply doubling the amount of aid (as often implied under MDG costing) that is pumped through a 'leaky' or merely grossly inefficient planning and budgeting system will not necessarily make things better. They may even make things worse by muddying the signals that donors send government about the importance of reform:

- By reducing the incentives for the evolution of systems by which politicians and bureaucrats are held accountable to their citizens for the use of public resources
- By discouraging efforts to collect domestic revenue and so perpetuating aid dependence
- By creating more opportunities for corruption and so helping to entrench elites and increasingly unequal patterns of assets, income and access to public resources, which will distort development efforts for decades to come

- And, possibly, by creating yet more donor projects, parallel systems, and technical assistance posts, and so perpetuating or exacerbating all the capacity- and accountability-destroying aid practices that the current harmonisation and alignment agenda is intended to address. (This last point is debatable; to scale up aid to the size and at the speed implied by the Millennium Project would probably only be possible with some significant move away from projects and towards budget support.)

Advocates of the 'institutional' emphasis associated with the PRSP approach do *not* disagree that global ODA will need to be greatly increased in order to have any chance of achieving the MDGs or that it should be increased in this way. The danger, they argue, comes when the assumptions about the relationship between resource transfer and development outcomes are applied without adaptation across all country contexts. In many countries, there is evidence that government *has* the capacity to transform aid into outcomes; here, there would be a strong case for more aid. Disagreement arises about whether the same relationship between more aid and better outcomes can be assumed to hold in countries with weak institutions, accountability and capacity.

MDGs in the context of PRSPs: maximising synergies, minimising transaction costs

The summary above is a simplification for the purposes of clarifying the debate. In reality, the difference in the traditions is one of emphasis; all sides acknowledge that at a fundamental level both resources and institutional change are necessary, but they may disagree about the balance or sequencing between the two. There are different views on what is an appropriate level of total aid to a country at a given point in its institutional development—this is a valid debate, which should be conducted openly, involve government and civil society, and proceed in a respectful manner, drawing on evidence and testing the explanatory logic of each case.

Under most circumstances, the complementarities far outweigh the contradictions between the country-level MDG approach and the PRSP approach—in terms of their common objectives and the common risks they face. Encouraging governments to articulate national MDGs can help reorient national planning and M&E towards poverty reduction, which is exactly what the PRSP approach aims to do.

The priority then is to ensure that both, alone or together, are pursued in ways that maximise the benefits achieved and minimise any potentially negative effects. Neither of them should be a stand-alone process, parallel to existing government planning and M&E; both should aim to help define and then enact the changes needed in government planning documents or structures. As far as possible, country MDG or PRSP production should not be driven by donor needs or timetables; donors need to be realistic about the time required (and encourage government counterparts to be similarly realistic). Time, thought and effort are needed to first build consensus with government and CSOs; building awareness and commitment to a document and system after it has been finalised is much harder. Both of these new donor 'technologies' should be developed in an iterative, two-way process; if there is an existing measure that is a close proxy for an MDG indicator, or if there is a national plan that meets most of the criteria for a PRSP, improving that measure or plan is better than creating a new one.

In contexts where PRSPs and country-level MDGs coexist, various stakeholders should be gathered and the two efforts merged, rather a government going through both as separate exercises, either sequentially or simultaneously. Country-level MDGs make a natural overarching framework for a PRSP M&E system; for its part, the process of defining country-level MDG targets can benefit from the detailed work on cross-sectoral planning and the potential synergies between progress on different goals that can and should be an important part of the PRSP process.

Finally, MDG 8—creating an international partnership in support of development—can add value to a PRSP. The goal helps remind donors, and the bilateral donors' parent governments, that they have obligations, too (for example, with regard not only to aid harmonisation, alignment and the timeliness and predictability of ODA delivery, but also with regard to how trade and security policies of northern countries influence development prospects in the south). Elaborating this principle in a particular country context can help include in the PRSP mutual accountability between governments and donors and accountability of both to the citizens who are meant to be the ultimate beneficiaries of aid.

2.5 Session V: Political and social mobilisation for policy change: the UN Millennium Campaign's interface at country level

H.E. Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador for MDGs

H.E. Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador for the MDGs, detailed strategic ways through which the 10 LLDCs could effectively and efficiently be involved in the UN Millennium Campaign. The MDGs need to reach different audiences in these countries. The presentation focused on achieving the MDGs through political and social mobilisation for policy change, explaining the rationale behind two categories of activities, 'sprint' and 'marathon'. 'Sprint' refers to objectives that needed to be achieved by 2005 and that are considered the backbone and prerequisites for the success of the MDGs. The following priorities have been identified:

- completion of MDG National and Regional Reports; and
- commitments and renewed pledges at the highest levels to pro-poor policies in developing countries and pro-development policies in developed countries.

'Marathon' objectives have a longer timeframe for implementation, starting from now until 2015. Special attention and more support are needed along the way if the following goals are to be achieved:

- ownership of MDGs at all levels by all stakeholders; political and public support for policy changes and implementations;
- capacities built and resources mobilised to meet the MDGs; and
- putting monitoring, evaluating and reporting systems in place.

The following solutions were suggested to overcome potential challenges facing stakeholders during 'sprint' time:

- **MDG reporting:** Build multisectoral consensus and participatory processes to decide on the end product; get reliable and comprehensive data.
- **MDG general awareness:** Use appropriate, popular and concise language and tools to promote the MDGs; get the right angle and relevant human stories to generate media interest.
- **Commitments:** Harnessing long-term commitments at the highest level remains critical and the biggest challenge during the 'sprint'. How do we overcome it? The following concerted efforts are needed:
 - § Diverse forms and highest-level official statements—pledges of Presidents and Prime Ministers, legislation and endorsements by cabinets, parliaments, etc.
 - § MDG integration into national and local poverty-reduction strategies as well as planning and budgeting systems; improving governance and harmonisation of policies
 - § Concrete plans of developed countries to deliver on their commitments to achieve Goal 8

Countries should prepare for the 'marathon' while doing the 'sprint':

- High-level and high-visibility events should be held, with good communication materials.
- Bring on board important actors such as parliamentarians, line departments, subnational and local governments, civil society, media and universities.
- Improve the first MDGR, providing better feedback for the Secretary-General's 2005 report.
- Sharpen need and capacity assessments.

The sustainability of early MDG pledges rests heavily on commitments at both national and subnational levels. Political mobilisation is undeniably required to develop and maintain policy changes. Social mobilisation is needed to develop and maintain public awareness, public participation, strategic achievements from planning, implementation through monitoring, and evaluation to realise the goals. Building ownership of the MDGs is the most important factor for success. Achieving the MDGs is not just a 'UN obligation', but also involves commitments by governments to their own people. Ownership involves tailor-made targets and indicators to fit local circumstances and to generate more participation. It involves sharper priority action to tackle disparities and country-specific challenges as well as stronger leverage to direct donor harmonisation. Ownership means that countries will be better in getting political and public support.

As with 'sprint', the 'marathon' has its challenges:

- Sustenance of relatively high-growth areas: Promote a conducive atmosphere for trade and investments.
- Avoid increasing inequality: Take affirmative action for poorer, more remote or conflict areas; strive for harmonisation of donors and central government (sectoral) interventions; target the vulnerable groups with programmes and social protection, build infrastructure for the poor, up-scale appropriate technology and disseminate success stories; develop proactive and pro-poor policies to improve governance and promote accountability.

Synergy convergence is needed in the efforts undertaken and the efforts yet to be undertaken by countries in the region. Because of the interdependence of the goals, progress in one area will translate into supporting progress in others. However, the following challenges persist:

- Acute and widespread poverty and hunger
- Gender inequality
- Lack of (access to) primary education
- Development challenges
- Child mortality
- Maternal mortality
- HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis
- Environmental destruction/degradation
- Global inequality

Session V also examined key roles of civil society and the media in determining the success of the MDGs. Promoting the MDGs requires civil society to assume these active roles:

- Participants in design of MDG strategies
- Service providers through community-based organisations and neighbourhood groups
- Advocates to ensure government's fulfilment of global and national MDG pledges

Like civil society, the media is an active participant in promoting the MDGs. The media should advocate for more awareness and more inclusive decision-making for MDGs. They should promote access to information; participation in planning, monitoring and evaluating; and accountability at all levels of authority. Despite good progress towards MDGs, significant 'pockets of poverty' still exist. Poverty at its core is a local issue, and local political processes matter most to the poor. Without local accountability, efforts to tackle issues of poverty will be ineffective. Local governments need to promote locally driven MDGs, unlocking inherent local potentials and bringing decision-making processes closer to the people. Equally important is the role of local, provincial and national legislators in resource allocation and advocating for affirmative actions for poorer and more remote areas.

3. DAY TWO

The second day encompassed brainstorming sessions on policy and programming challenges posed by the MDGs, assessment of statistical capacity building for monitoring progress, and identifying the need for a strategic communication plan. The role of the media was also explored.

3.1 Session V: Special interactive session on the MDGs and the UN Millennium Project

Mr B. Murali through teleconference link with Mr J. McArthur

3.2 Session VI: Achieving the MDGs: policy and programming challenges (part 2)

A. Declaration of the Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit, 21 September 2004, Hiroshima, Japan

We, the delegates of the Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit, being the future leaders of Asia and the Pacific, gathered here in Hiroshima, Japan, without distinction of race, colour, gender, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, unified in our diversity—

- Affirm that the Millennium Declaration, endorsed by all UN Member States at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, is especially relevant to Asia and the Pacific in that it represents a historic opportunity to collectively tackle poverty, hunger, disease and gender inequality in this region and across the developing world.
- Appreciate Asia–Pacific 2015 and Africa 2015, the region-wide initiative spearheaded by UNDP to utilise communications that harness the talents of writers and intellectuals, sports personalities, musical artistes, television and film actors and directors, municipal leaders and youth throughout the region, to complement and advance the efforts of all UN agencies, civil society organisations and government agencies already working to achieve the goals in Asia and the Pacific.
- Believe that, despite their importance, the MDGs are yet to fully permeate the public consciousness in Asia and the Pacific, especially among youth, and that achieving these goals requires us to mobilise all sections of society.
- Acknowledge that the eight goals, which include the overarching aim of halving extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015, are goals that developed and developing countries alike have pledged to make a reality in our lifetime, goals that were reaffirmed at the UN Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey in 2002 and the September 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- We also recognise the unique distinction and dynamics between the Asia–Pacific subregions and recognise that the MDGs must be reached within the context of these subregions.
- Reaffirm universal values such as equality, justice, peace and respect for human dignity, and mutual respect among belief systems.
- Recognise that several Asia–Pacific countries have made progress in improving the lives of their citizens and are working towards achieving the MDGs.

For example, more than 230 million people living on less than a dollar a day have been brought above that threshold in the decade of the 1990s. Some countries have achieved a phenomenal breakthrough in poverty in the past decade. Others have achieved impressive strides in the IT sector and are global leaders in applying ICT (Information & Communication Technology) for development and poverty reduction. Countries in South-east Asia are looking at thresholds higher than MDGs—'MDG Plus' targets and indicators—in several key sectors such as education and

health. In the Pacific, many countries have effectively integrated MDGs into their national planning processes, and in some countries, village communities are using MDGs as tools to evaluate progress in their development.

However, we acknowledge that, despite some notable socioeconomic advances in Asia, it remains the region with the highest number of people in poverty. Close to 700 million, out of the global total of 1,100 million of the world's poorest, live in this region. We are deeply concerned that Asia and the Pacific, in spite of some remarkable strides in the income-poverty situation, suffer from severe constraints in 'human' poverty issues such as safe and clean drinking water, adequate food and nutrition, and access to health care and education.

We also express our concern at the continued lack of attention to issues of gender equality and equity that have directly affected our generation of young women and girls. We are disturbed by the condition of many of Asia-Pacific's youth, who are particularly susceptible to the problems of poverty, unemployment and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, among other social and economic challenges. We are alarmed at the continued violations of the rights of young people in Asia and the Pacific, especially girls, because of trafficking and sexual exploitation, and the recruitment of child soldiers.

We are dismayed by the minimal commitment to providing environmental sustainability to ensure equitable access to productive resources and services, and the lack of recognition of our responsibility to protect natural resources and respect the environment on which we depend. We are further concerned that the benefits of the ICT revolution have not reached many in Asia and the Pacific, denying the youth, in particular, of the opportunities that ICT affords to access knowledge and information. We are also dismayed that conflict has been affecting millions of lives in this region and has impeded progress and development, and, in particular, has worsened the plight of women and children. In light of these realities, we strongly believe that the Asia-Pacific region urgently needs to refocus its attention to achieve the MDGs, taking advantage of its existing resources to improve the lives of all its people.

We therefore call for focus, convergence and expansion of MDG advocacy in our respective countries and in the Asia-Pacific region. We welcome the United Nations World Youth Report 2003, which emphasises the need to engage the youth in strengthening participatory democracy and concludes that political, economic and social youth empowerment and participation will lead to better decisions and outcomes. We call for empowering and building capacity of fellow young leaders to meaningfully and proactively engage in the achievement of the MDGs and for a more active representation of youth in several institutions of government.

We are determined to be active partners in helping Asia and the Pacific meet the MDGs and wish to contribute to making them an integral part of local and national policies by localising the MDGs to suit national priorities and concerns. We express co-ownership of the MDGs as stakeholders and urge our respective governments to maximise all available resources in providing an enabling environment and access to sustainable and quality education to ensure better youth participation and empowerment for the achievement of the goals. We stress the importance of integrated, achievable national youth policies developed on a professional basis.

We believe that a culturally sensitive approach is necessary in addressing issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender, education and other issues affecting youth in the region. We call on all countries for the promotion of fairer trade rules and technology sharing that benefit humanity. We wish to urge for a meaningful international and regional exchange programme for youth, particularly young women, to learn and benefit from experiences amongst our peers in the region,

and see the need to develop more inter- and intraregional partnerships, particularly among regions with tensions.

We are honoured to have been designated Millennium Campaign Youth Advocates, and we shall strive to contribute to mobilising our societies towards the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015, by building capacity and sharing best practices and encouraging youth entrepreneurship. We are well placed to spread the messages of Asia–Pacific 2015 by mobilising global and local resources, raising awareness and, ultimately, as agents of change in our countries.

We pledge to do all that we can to protect others and ourselves from the spread of HIV and substance abuse and to help work for an HIV/AIDS- and drugs-free new generation. We commit ourselves to establishing a permanent network of young leaders across Asia–Pacific to provide a unified voice for our region's youth for development and peace. To follow up on the outcomes of this summit, we urge the United Nations, its agencies and other development partners to support the youth in their endeavours to become self-reliant, based on the principle of self-help.

We welcome plans for similar movements in other regions—which have been or will be launched across the globe in the form of Africa 2015, Arab States 2015, Europe and the CIS 2015, Latin America and the Caribbean 2015—and stand ready to build coalitions with these initiatives. We call for continuously building consensus and fostering engagement in the dialogue with youth leaders of Asia–Pacific to include other nations not present in the Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit.

We urge our governments to include youth in their delegations to the General Assembly when it reviews the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, as well as the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, at its 60th Session in 2005. This is the Declaration of the Pan-Asian Youth Leadership Summit adopted this day, 21 September 2004, World Peace Day in the Peace City of the world, Hiroshima. This city and its people have given us the inspiration to believe that the best can rise from the ravages of destruction and thus the hope that human poverty in our region can be overcome.

We, the future leaders of Asia and the Pacific, pledge to turn our words into action for the betterment of our region and, to this end, wish to strongly urge the leaders of ASEAN, Pacific Island Forum States and SAARC to give us a chance to present our Vision for 2015 to them. We ask for their guidance and support in enabling the nations and peoples of Asia and the Pacific to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

B. Cambodia UNCT and the MDGs

Mr Douglas Gardner, UN Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

Mr Douglas Gardner gave an update on the collaboration between UNCT and the MDG Reporting Secretariat, the status of the CMDGs and involvement of UNCT, and the linkage between CMDGs and the Rectangular Strategy of RGC. UNCT has been proactive and has provided substantial support to RGC on implementing the MDGs in Cambodia through technical assistance on the MDGR and awareness campaigns. Stakeholders' consultations for the setting up of CMDGs with the overall targets and indicators have been organised with the assistance of UNCT as well. UNDP Cambodia and SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency) have provided financial support.

Aside from this, UNCT has established an MDGs Advisory Committee for assisting the Secretariat-General of the Council for Social Development to organise stakeholders' consultations and to provide technical inputs on the assessment and localisation of the MDGs (checking overall targets and indicators as well as identifying the challenges in achieving the MDGs). The MDGs Advisory Committee has played a key role in the control of the quality of the CMDGs report, with emphasis on the identification of sources of data and their reliability and the relevance of targets and indicators as well as the challenges posed by them.

Mr Gardner said that the MDGs process in Cambodia is under the leadership of the government, and the concept of ownership has been highlighted through the localisation of the MDGs. RGC has also taken measures to prepare and disseminate CMDGs reports in a regular manner. Although the first report was prepared in 2001 by UNCT, the *Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report 2003* was prepared under the leadership of the Council for Social Development (CSD) and was launched by the Prime Minister in March 2004. The report articulates the country's situation, identifies major challenges, provides a diagnosis of major policies and programmes contributing to each CMDG, sets out frameworks for meeting the challenges, and indicates road maps for monitoring and evaluating performance.

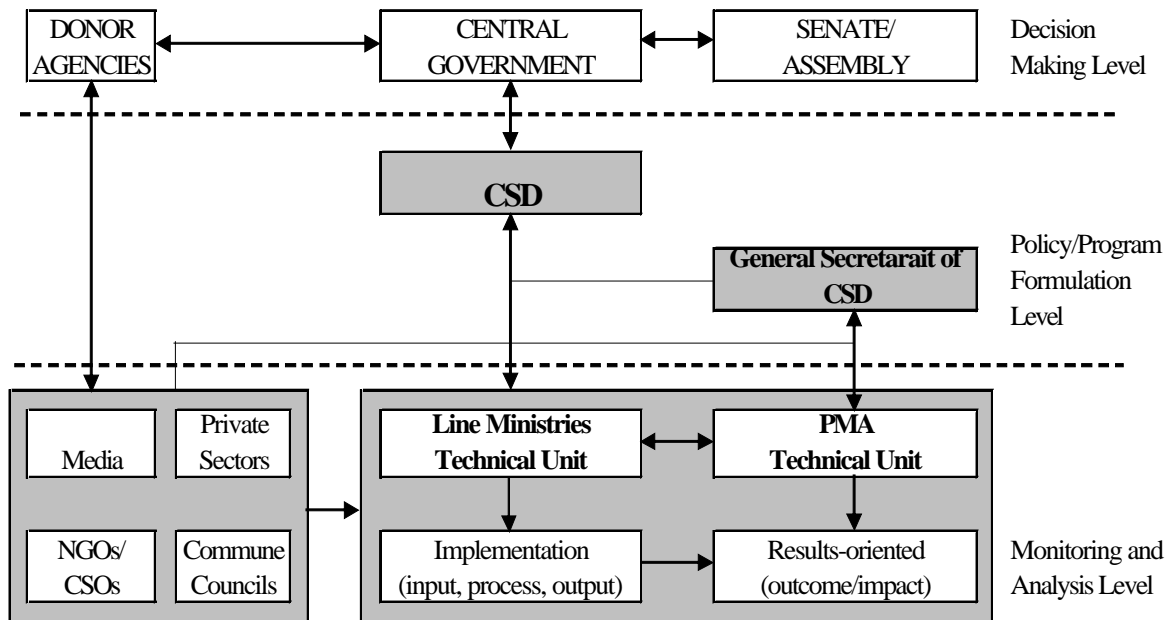
The country needs to go a long way to ensure adequate capacity in human resources, effective and efficient institutions, and good governance. For Cambodian citizens, CMDGs are also a commitment to human rights, democracy, peace and security, and good governance. RGC views the rule of law and good governance principles, such as transparency, predictability, accountability and participation, as essential prerequisites to sustainable socioeconomic development, social justice and poverty reduction.

This process is constituted on the basis of assessing the global goals, indicators and targets in a Cambodian context; setting realistic indicators and targets appropriate for the Cambodian situation; organising national consultations with government institutions, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, international organizations and civil society; and setting up technical meetings with all stakeholders and national poverty forums (NPF). Because of consultations, RGC localised the MDGs and decided to add an extra MDG related to de-mining: Goal 9—de-mining, UXO and victim assistance. The country plans to move towards zero impact from landmines and UXOs by 2012 and eliminate the negative humanitarian and socioeconomic impacts of landmines and UXOs by 2025.

Mr Gardner pointed to the progress made on CMDGs related to HIV/AIDS and noted that this was done with active support from UNCT. In fact, Cambodia had been selected as one of the 10 target countries for the Millennium Project. Mr Gardner concluded his presentation by informing participants about the new strategy of RGC known as the Rectangular Strategy and the active role played by UNCT in the setting up 17 technical working groups, getting government donors and working on harmonisation. These 17 technical working groups will use CMDG indicators. This joint activity of all UN agencies on donor coordination to translate the Rectangular Strategy into action plans will create synergy and boost the chances of success in achieving CMDGs.

The establishment of the Cambodia Poverty Management Information System (CPMIS), with 439 Cambodia Poverty and Development Monitoring Indicators (CPDMI), definitions and data sources, and the use of indicators to monitor the implementation of various programmes, CMDGs and other policies, is another good example of the close collaboration between UNCT members and RGC on the subjects related to the MDGs.

The following diagram designed by the Ministry of Planning shows the linkage between UNCT, donors and RGC on the processes related to CMDGs.



3.3 Session VII: Achieving the MDGs: monitoring, data and statistical capacity building

Ms Lynn MacDonald, UNDP, BDP

Reliable and consistent statistical data will provide vital inputs to national planning and help countries monitor progress in achieving the MDGs. UNDP has developed a project to assist countries in using a central repository of data. The data in the repository focus on indicators for national planning and the statistics used to generate the indicators. The project has two components: to ensure that the database is ready for use and to help disseminate information; and to provide training to effectively use data for policy development and improve advocacy.

Initially, UNDP partnered with UNICEF to use DevInfo for setting up, developing and disseminating the central repository of data. But in the second phase of the project, countries with any user-friendly, accessible software could benefit from the training component of the project. Training would be provided to 12 country trainers to deliver a modular course to users in government and civil society. Countries would be asked to identify funding to roll out the training. To embed this project in wider M&E initiatives in the countries, seed funding of up to \$70,000 could be identified from existing programmes. Initial consultancy and online support would be provided for the database and country training.

The training course modules would be structured as follows:

- MDGs and indicators;
- evidence-based policy management (MDGs and PRSPs);
- DevInfo;
- construction of indicators;
- data sources and meta data;
- applications of indicators;
- quality of data (living with error);
- disaggregation of data;
- effective communication of indicators; and
- use of indicators in policy making.

The project would run throughout the course and cover the country situation. It would include a comprehensive review of MDG and PRSP progress and indicators; a review of country progress; and an evaluation of how the data can help identify areas for development. It would also highlight areas where more appropriate data would be useful. Funding is available to cover 30 countries, up to six in the Asia-Pacific region.

3.4 Session VIII: UN Millennium Campaign

H.E. Erna Witoelar, UN Special Ambassador on MDGs

H.E. Witoelar talked about the Millennium Campaign, highlighting its key objectives, alliances and strategies, adopting country-level as well as regional and local perspectives. Public awareness is necessary to increase motivation for action and to pressure decision-makers and hold them accountable, especially at the local level. The objective of the Millennium Campaign is to encourage, inspire and enable CSOs, parliamentarians, local authorities, media and youth—collectively known as target constituencies—to use the MDGs to advocate pro-poor policies in developing countries and pro-development policies in OECD countries.

The Millennium Campaign has the endorsement of the entire UN system and is hosted by UNDP. Working semi-independently, it reports directly to the UN Secretary-General. Started in early 2003, with a strong focus on Goal 8 in developed countries, it soon embarked on global campaigns on all the goals by the end of 2003, reaching constituencies beyond national governments. In the Millennium Campaign, each country would shape and drive its own campaign by mobilising the grass-roots level, creating public awareness and media processes, and implementing policy changes. At the regional and global levels, a common thread would be established to hold things together and joint symbolic actions would be timed synchronously. Several developed and developing countries have embarked on MDG campaigns. Examples of some campaigns are given below.

MDG campaigns in developed countries:

- Italy: The 'No Excuse 2015' campaign was launched in October 2003 with a peace march, which attracted over 100,000 marchers from Perugia to Assisi.
- Spain: The 'Sin Excusas 2015' national campaign has taken off since its launch in May 2003 at the opening of the Barcelona Forum.
- United States: A number of large development and humanitarian assistance groups in the US are launching the 'ONE Campaign' to fight poverty.

MDG campaigns in developing countries:

- Campaigns have been process oriented.
- Countries started with global, regional and national consultations in December 2003, assessed the rationale for civil society engagement in MDGs campaigning, and agreed on a preliminary list of priority countries in each region.
- A few organisations were identified as focal points to facilitate campaigning in each region and subregion: ActionAid Asia in Bangkok is the Asia regional focal point.

The following criteria were used for choosing priority countries (in Asia: India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines and Indonesia): countries where performance on the goals is weak; where success will provide greater leverage at the international and regional levels; where networks or campaigns already exist or could be established; and where the UN system is proactive. Although priority countries have been identified, Millennium Campaign services are reaching far beyond these countries because of today's advances in communications technology and combined outreach strategies for mass communication.

For information, people can contact info.campaign@un.org. There is a website, where anyone, anywhere can find out more about the issues, the campaign, what they can do to promote the MDGs in their country and connect with other campaigners worldwide. Communication and

media partnerships have been developed with various outlets, including AllAfrica.com, BBC and OneWorld.net, to raise the media profile of the goals and stimulate debate at all levels. A one-minute video clip, 'Voices of the Poor', is being circulated worldwide.

H.E. Witoelar concluded her presentation by saying that today's world has the resources, technology and knowledge to achieve the MDGs by 2015. It requires wiser spending and better public management of resources as well as universal participation. We are the first generation that has a real opportunity to see poverty eradicated, and we should not miss it. We can make poverty history. There is no excuse.

3.5 Special Session: Media panel on the MDGs

The 10 countries from among the poorest nations in the Asia–Pacific region gathered in Siem Reap recognised that success would hinge on the implementation of effective communication strategies at the national level. Part of such a strategy would involve engaging the media to ensure that the MDGs are high on the public agenda. To help participants gain practical tips for engaging the media, an interactive session was held, led by the following panel of journalists in the region: Peter Starr, Independent Journalism Foundation; Richard Ehrlich, *Asia Times*; Michael Haze, Editor-in-Chief, *Phnom Penh Post*; Marwaan Macan-Markar, Asia Correspondent, Inter Press Services; and Deependra Jauchon, BBC World Service Trust. The session was moderated by Cherie Hart, UNDP Regional Communications Officer, Bangkok.

The following tips were offered for engaging the media:

- Build relationships with journalists through social interaction; issue simple information; train national journalists; help the media get access to useful information to support their stories; think of 'hooks' (time-bound events, e.g. report launch, workshop); take journalists to visit your development projects, to see the successes on the ground.
- Writing for the media: Keep it simple. Don't use jargon. When writing a press release, put across a maximum of two key points. Support these points with quotes, with facts and figures at the end. Keep the article length to one page.
- The most important point (or 'lead' paragraph) is what is most interesting, appealing or shocking. This is not necessarily something you would write in an official report after attending a workshop but rather something you would tell your wife or husband after the workshop.
- Put your MDG story within the context of news events in your country. See the bigger picture in which the MDG plan unfolds.
- Use meaningful words to express the goals: In your country campaign, perhaps you do not have to use the word 'millennium'. This word does not reflect the work that is being attempted. It may come across as out of touch to some, i.e. it suggests something that happened four years ago at the turn of the century.
- The job of a journalist: Largely, journalists do not care about the year 2015—their job is about what is in the news today. How do we make sure that the MDGs, their progress and setbacks, are made palatable for publicity? The *Financial Times* supplement is a useful source of examples of articles that are of interest to journalists.
- Conflict makes news! The UN often deals with a conflict of ideas. This can be news.
- Media ownership of the MDGs: The real challenge is to foster a sense of ownership of the MDGs. Television is a hungry animal. It needs programming. There is a niche there. You could provide your national or local channel with interesting programmes, and chances are that they would lap it up!
- Audiences: Keep in mind who your mass audience is. Who are you trying to address and persuade? The local as well as international media cover stories from different standpoints because they are communicating to different audiences.
- Examples of potential stories: report launches; how far governments have made progress towards achieving the goals; U5M has likely increased.
- Think about what you would want to hear or read in the newspaper. Pick out the interesting nuggets in reports. Support report launches with publicity items like press kits. Think about how we can be part of the news.

3.6 Session IX: Strategic communication plans and regional support mechanisms

Ms Amina Tirana, Senior Policy Specialist, MDG Unit Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnership, UNDP New York

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world, for, indeed, that's all who ever have." – Margaret Mead

Ms Tirana focused on the importance of communications to achieving the MDGs. A good strategic communications strategy can help coalitions identify the most effective ways of planning and transferring knowledge and information about the MDGs to differentiated, targeted audiences at the country and regional levels.

The main objective of the regional workshop was for participants from LLDCs to share information on the implementation of the MDGs in their respective countries. This session gave an opportunity to representatives to learn more about communications strategies and useful tools to support communications planning in order to raise awareness about the MDGs among targeted populations, taking into account the local environment and the level of the audience. *The Blue Book: A Hands-On Approach to Advocating for the Millennium Development Goals* is a comprehensive tool designed to facilitate strategic communications planning and implementation. The presenter told participants where they could read more on specific topics and cited particularly powerful examples of outreach programmes from countries around the world.

National leaders, and not the UN, through the Millennium Declaration made the commitment to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Thus, it is crucial that this message is delivered clearly and adapted to the audience. UNDP's message on the MDGs is quite simple: the MDGs are achievable, and 2005 would be the breakthrough year. But this would only be possible if rich and poor countries alike follow through on their shared commitments to put in place the necessary policies, institutions and resources. This would require not only top-down or bottom-up action, but also everyone coming together to make it happen. An acceleration of outreach is required, which is why communications and advocacy are essential. UNDP and UNCTs are well placed to advocate and facilitate sustainable development solutions to achieve the MDGs. Moreover, through its close working relationship with national governments, UNCT, CSOs and, increasingly, the private sector, UNDP is well positioned to help organise and speed up the social changes necessary to achieve the MDGs.

The MDGs are not business as usual. They are time-bound and measurable targets, accompanied by indicators for monitoring progress. They bring together many of the most important commitments made at global summits during the 1990s. And they bring together the responsibilities of both developing and developed countries. They cannot be achieved by working just from the top down or from the ground up. They require creative, coordinated and disciplined work from all directions. Communications, advocacy and strategic planning are all crucial elements when working on the MDGs, and these are closely connected with policy, research and programmatic work in support of the MDGs.

A strategic communications plan is how an outreach campaign is formed and gets implemented. It assesses the communication resources and determines how the message can and should be distributed. It also sets time and performance goals to check progress, keeps open lines of communication and makes modifications or additions in message and communications strategy as campaign dynamics shift. Having a strategy that answers the questions 'Who, What, When,

Where, Why and How' is important. This approach is frequently used by partners to stay on plan, thus enabling them to deliver clear messages to audiences and stakeholders.

A chronological sequence should be followed to set up a communications plan in order to maximise the level of reception. A plan begins with identifying goals and desired outcomes. Both long-term outcomes (such as the achievement of an MDG) and short-term outcomes (such as gaining political commitment or enacting a national law requiring all children to attend school until a certain age) should be considered. Partners need to identify the overarching goal and what they want to achieve with this strategic plan, preferably through small, achievable steps that build towards the overarching goal. For example, what might a coalition have wanted in its country leading up to the high-level event on the MDGs in September 2005? It is also important to determine a timeframe for the completion of the plan.

Ms Tirana also highlighted the fundamental laws of communications on MDGs and defined the message as the overall driving force behind how people perceive the MDGs. The message of the plan is critical and should be based on specific goals, target audience, local context and desired outcome. It is not necessary to always refer to the MDGs in a long list, Goal 1 through Goal 8, which may not grab people's attention. Instead, talking about the goals in human terms, such as bringing up healthy, educated children, or focusing on an issue that matters most to a constituency may be better.

Finally, in preparing strategic communications plans, it is important to assess the status, strengths and weaknesses of the Country Office (CO) and UNCT in each country as well as the social, political and economic trends that might influence progress towards the MDGs. A strategic communication plan guides the following:

- Implementation of a particular campaign
- Getting the message out
- Setting a time frame
- Establishing performance goals
- Resource availability (i.e. it is affordable)
- Measuring outcomes

Outreach activities should choose a vehicle appropriate to the targeted audience to ensure that the content of the message will be received as efficiently as possible. For example, if the target audience is an important minister, meetings with his/her top staff, placing opinion editorials in leading newspapers and television channels, and having a trusted adviser approach him/her, are all strategic means to get across the message. On the other hand, mass outreach through multiple visual and creative media is more appropriate to building general awareness among inhabitants of rural areas and small towns in a province.

3.7 Session X: Regional initiatives: supporting the achievement of MDGs in Asia and the Pacific

B. Murali, Programme Specialist, UNDP, RBAP

The new Regional Programme on MDGs Initiatives has the capacity for country-level support in the following key areas:

- action-plan implementation;
- monitoring, advocacy and campaigning;
- policy research and strategising; and
- data and information.

Funding for the MDGs must be a national effort, although catalytic support in marshalling advocacy and awareness and for policy-oriented research has potential to attract funds, including external funding, if governments reallocate national resources to critical areas of MDGs.

The session explored the impact of support for policy research, which has a role in sensitising, creating awareness and building capacity of policy makers to carry the MDGs forward. By evaluating the impact of national economic and socioeconomic policies on poverty-reduction objectives, it seeks to promote policy reforms through dialogue and knowledge dissemination.

UNSIAP implements the component of the MDGs Initiatives Programme designed to build and strengthen national statistical capacity to generate reliable data for in-depth analysis and monitoring progress of the MDGs. Country-level monitoring is an indispensable element in assessing progress towards the MDGs. This in turn mobilises resources to assist developing countries in meeting targets. UNSIAP works in close collaboration with other UN agencies, organisations and national institutions to build local capabilities and provide technical assistance. The Communications Unit at UNDG in New York, where all MDG-related information and regular updates and bulletins can be accessed, serves as a base for information sharing. Additional knowledge networks would also be created.

The second phase of the MDGs Regional Initiatives would be a joint undertaking by UNDP and UNESCAP to support the achievements of the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific. The second phase would have a strong focus on fostering partnerships among multilaterals, bilaterals, governments and civil societies and building a depository of technical inputs to facilitate cross comparisons of experience and lessons learnt among countries in the region.

4. DAY THREE

4.1 Country action plans and the way forward

Prof Aung Tun Thet explained the guidelines and purpose of this last exercise. He highlighted the challenges faced by LDCs and LLDCs in order to keep pace with the MDGs, which are part of a long-term vision towards achieving poverty reduction. The workshop served as a forum for different delegations to share experiences to strengthen their country programmes and reports by learning from others. Participants focused their discussions on common challenges and opportunities, preparing concrete development action plans, which included support required to carry out activities, meet major challenges and deal with key issues.

a) Afghanistan

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
	Awareness and advocacy campaign training; develop messages; set up dissemination mechanism and operationalise	Financial and technical assistance
	Establish and operationalise MDGs; monitoring and tracking mechanism DevInfo	Equipment for CSOs
	Capacity building for CSOs	Financial and technical support
	Mainstreaming MDGs; MDG dimension in first PRSP and UNDAF	N/A
	Finalise addendum to National MDG Report and to sub-regional MDG Reports	Human resources

b) Bangladesh

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
Mobilising resources for implementing National Action Plan	Finalising the MDGs Report	Financial support
	Develop strategy for MDG campaign	
	Develop and operationalise MDG costing and financing tools	
	Build capacity for MDG and PRS monitoring using integrated modelling system	
	'MDG-izing' UNDAF and PRS	
	Document MDG success stories	
	Contribute towards joint subregional MDGR	

c) Bhutan

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
Translation of MDGs into national language	Preparation of second MDGR; update first MDGR	Human, financial and technical assistance for review of first MDGR and preparation of second MDGR
Sensitisation of local leaders at subnational level	Monitoring and reporting; adoption of database system to track and monitor MDG progress	Capacity building and training
	Advocacy and campaigning (increase coverage and deepen contents)	Advocacy campaigning
	Capacity building of both data and statistics users and producers	Financial; in-country consultative workshop; translation of MDGR and other related documents into national language
	Advocacy campaigning; joint production of subregional MDGR	Publication of advocacy materials and training

d) Cambodia

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
MDG campaign with line ministries, parliament, CSOs, private sector and local constituencies 2004/2005 (US\$ 150,000 + US\$ 200,000)	MDG costing by Millennium Project (in consultation with line ministries)	Technical support in terms of training and mentoring on technical analysis (policy and institutional analysis, statistical analysis)
Finalise Household Socio-Economic Survey 2003/2004 and launch Cambodian inter-census population survey	Support to the government delegation for the Millennium +5 (US\$ 50,000)	Technical experts to provide the above training and produce implementable action plan, costing and MDG Report
Alignment of MDG indicators with national development plan (and incorporation into TWG with upcoming action plan) and Rectangular Strategy, 2004/2005	MDG implementation review by CSOs (US\$ 50,000)	Financial and technical support
Formulation of population strategy, 2005		Support to formulate and enhance media and communications strategy

e) Lao PDR

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
	MDGR dissemination	Human, financial and technical assistance
Establish institutional mechanism, govt.-UN partnerships	Big-bang launch and provincial dissemination	Resources to enable govt. to manage and deliver
First national MDGR	Operationalising MDGs at country level through the integration of MDGs and NGPES process prioritisation and costing	Operationalisation of MDGs
	Strengthening monitoring and reporting: assess MDGR1 to lead into MDGR2; provide inputs to subregion MDGR; revisit targets; roll-out DevInfo; strengthen and support NSC and line ministries	Advocacy campaign
	Advocacy and campaigning: implement stage 1 until launch on 18 October 2004; brainstorming and implement stage 2 through long-term campaign; ensure wide dissemination of MDGR1 (provincial audience)	Strengthening statistical processes and systems

f) Maldives

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
Conduct MDG awareness campaigns at national, regional and local levels: parliamentarians, policy makers, administrators, local media	Establish a continuous monitoring system (VPMS); update DevInfo using VPA, VPA2, HIES, census and other existing data; capacity building; establish institutional mechanism	Technical assistance in preparation of MDG Report; MDG campaign; costing on attaining MDGs; assess preferential market access, debt relief and ODA
	Preparation of country MDG draft report by February 2005: dissemination; translation into local language	Financial assistance in implementing the VPMS project; MDG campaign; preparation of MDG Report; conducting MICS-3 (Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 3)
	Joint production of subregional MDG Report	Human resource development: capacity building in data analysis; DevInfo training
	Mainstreaming MDGs and MDG dimension in first PRSP and UNDAF	Participation in regional MDG projects and initiatives
	Finalise addendum to national MDG Report and subregional MDG Report	

g) Mongolia

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES
Modification of existing MDG website within the 'Open Govt.' website (US\$ 20,000)	MDGR launch; advocacy; MDG orientation for newly elected MPs and policy makers; communication campaign (US\$ 30,000)
Operationalise MONGOLINFO (US\$ 15,000)	Campaigns and events (youth, NGOs, private sector); use of media; capacity building (US\$ 24,000 and TA, facilitators); national MDGs training on statistics for NSO and relevant line ministries; operationalisation of MDGs; institutional arrangements; localising MDGs in selected provinces; study on problems related to LLDCs, specifically for Mongolia (proposal submitted for funding); mainstream MDGs into national plans, strategies, policies (EGS PRS), TA and US\$ 30,000)
Costing of MDGs (proposal submitted for funding)	MDGs and poverty-monitoring systems (TA and US\$ 30,000); UN Joint Programmes; aid coordination; mainstream MDGs into CCA and UNDAF (US\$ 10,000); support to preparation of regional and subregional MDGRs

h) Myanmar

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
Orientation and consultation with UN M&E Thematic Group Members on MDG Draft CAP, reviewing feasible MDG targets and indicators for Myanmar	Policy research and support on relevant MDG targets and indicators; advocacy and technical briefing to middle-level managers; capacity building for updating and refining MDG database—statistical training, data collection, compilation and analysis	Policy and technical support for high-level advocacy; technical assistance in preparing MDGR—statistical training, data collection, compilation and analysis
Advocacy to INGO, NNGO and other development partners on MDG Draft CAP	Preparation and finalisation of Draft MDG Report, with selected MDG targets and indicators	Organising quick sample surveys; additional data collection; establishment of database
Collection of success stories on MDG-related programmes from INGO and NNGO; consultation and consensus building with relevant government ministries on MDG Draft CAP	Advocacy and technical briefing to mass media; policy-consensus meeting; launching National MDG Report; contribution to regional- and global-level MDG reports; draft CAP can be changed or improved at UN (M&E Thematic Group), UNCT, or at the technical briefing with nationals; possible content of MDG Report can be changed or improved at national consultations	Support from subregional MDGR

i) Nepal

CARRY-OVER ACTIONS	NEW INITIATIVES	SPECIFIC SUPPORT REQUIRED
Prepare MDGSR2 with broader participation and ownership, and publish it in English and Nepali	Contextualising MDGs, CCA, UNDAF; identification of lead agency for each goal; identification of focal person within the lead agency	Financial support (amount to be determined); technical support on IEC

Capacity building for UN staff training, coordination and linking MDGs with agency programme activities	Making people's development agenda; appointing MDGs advocates at the national level (social actors); partnering with CSOs, private sector, media, political parties	
Intensification of media campaign (print, audio, visual)	Support for subregional MDGs Report	
	Complete MDGs Needs Assessment and Linkage with PRSP	
	MDGs Progress Review at subnational level (five districts)	

j) Timor-Leste

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
Develop a national communication and advocacy strategy	MoPF; Ministry of Education Youth Culture and Sports (MEYCS)	October 2004–2005
Community-awareness campaign with youth participation		
Radio advertising campaign	Local media, UNCT, MEYCS	
Traditional cooking competition	Women's groups, UNCT, SS Labour and Solidarity	
'Battle of the Bands' song-writing competition and concerts in capital and districts	Local media, youth musicians, CSOs, UNCT	
TV spots	Local media, local film-makers, PM's office (GIO), line ministries	
Visit of Ms Erna Witoelar (January 2005)	MoFAC, MoPF, UNCT	
Participation in Regional MDG Report	MDG focal points from MoPF and UNDP	January 2005
Support to CAP implementation	MoPF and UNCT	2004–2005
Policy support to CAP implementation	UNDP	
NDP midterm review	MoPF and UNCT	2005
Monitoring the achievement of MDGs	MoPF and WB	2005
Second Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)	MoPF and UNDP	2005
Roll-out of DevInfo		
Second LSMS		
Statistical Institutional Capacity Building		2004–2005

ANNEXURE

Annexure I - Aide-Mémoire

Regional Workshops on the Millennium Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific Region

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. 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 UNDG, 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: 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 in furthering the work on MDGs in the region.

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

<i>1 OCTOBER 2004, FRIDAY</i>		<i>DAY 1</i>
9 am	<i>Opening Session: Chair: Douglas Gardner, UN Resident Coordinator, Cambodia</i>	
	Welcome remarks	Douglas Gardner, UNRC, Cambodia
	Messages	ADB, UNDO
	Opening remarks	Hafiz A. Pasha, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator
	Inaugural address	H.E. CHHAY THAN, SENIOR MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR PLANNING, ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA
9:45 am	<i>Session 1: MDGs, an update</i>	
	Overview and Objectives of Workshop	UN STAFF COLLEGE, TURIN AND WORKSHOP FACILITATOR
10 am	<i>C O F F E E B R E A K</i>	
10:30 am	<i>Session 2: National perspectives and the MDGs</i>	
	Country updates: The MDGs, development challenges and opportunities (5-minute statement by the government representative)	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, DPR Korea, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste
	Short Q&A in plenary	
11:45 a.m.	Introduction to Working Groups	AUNG TUN THET
Noon	<i>L U N C H</i>	
1 p.m.	<i>Session 2 cont'd. in working groups</i> Discussion in three working groups of four countries each	
2 p.m.	<i>Session 2 cont'd. in plenary</i> Report back by one representative from each group followed by discussion	
3 p.m.	<i>C O F F E E B R E A K</i>	
3:15 p.m.	<i>Session 3: Millennium +5 Summit</i>	
	Presentation followed by discussion	Amina Tirana, Policy Adviser, UNDP MDG Unit
4 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 / poverty-reduction strategies; policy priorities, needs assessment and costing; lessons from the first Regional MDG Report. Discussion (60 minutes)	Tim Conway, World Bank; Omar Noman, UNDP / RBAP; Aynul Hasan, UNESCAP; Lead discussant: One CSO representative on CSO role in shaping policy
5:30 pm	<i>Session 5: Political and social mobilisation for policy change: UN Millennium Campaign's interface at country level</i> Discussion	
6:30 pm	End of session	
7 p.m.	Reception / Dinner	

2 OCTOBER 2004, SATURDAY		DAY 2
8 a.m.	Special interactive session (through teleconference link) on MDGs and the UN Millennium Project	PROF JEFFREY SACHS, UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL ADVISER ON MDGs AND DIRECTOR , UN MILLENNIUM PROJECT
9 a.m.	Session 6: Achieving the MDGs: policy and programming challenges (Part 2)	
	Panel discussion (30 minutes)	
	Programming the MDGs' integration into CCA / UNDAF and as a framework for UN action	Richard Leete, UNRC and UNDP RR, Malaysia
	Country experience	UNCT from Bangladesh and Cambodia
	Discussion (60 minutes)	
10:15 a.m.	C O F F E E B R E A K	
10:30 a.m.	Session 7: Achieving the MDGs: monitoring and data / statistical capacity building	
	MDGRs in Asia and the Pacific: An overview and issues	Omar Noman, UNDP / RBAP
	MDGs: Data availability, quality and analysis of related issues, including capacity building of national statistical organisations	Tomas Africa, UNSIAP Lynn MacDonald, UNDP / BDP
	DevInfo	Nicolas Pron, UNICEF
	Discussion	
Noon	L U N C H Thematic Tables to facilitate in-depth discussions (Delegates to sign up on Day 1 with the facilitator)	UN Millennium Campaign; UN Millennium Project; UNESCAP / UNSIAP; ADB; UNICEF; World Bank
1:30 p.m.	MEDIA PANEL (an interactive session with the media on the MDGs)	Moderated by Cherie Hart, UNDP Regional Communications Officer, Bangkok
2:45 p.m.	Session 8: Strategic communication plan	
	Key elements of strategic communication plan (<i>The Blue Book</i>)	Amina Tirana, UNDP MDG Unit
	Discussion	
3:30 p.m.	Session 8: Country action plans	
	MDG regional initiative and supporting the achievement of MDGs in Asia-Pacific, including new funding windows	B. Murali, UNDP / RBAP
	Progress and update on national action plans and carry-over actions—initiatives that still need to be implemented / carried out from 2002–2003 action plans and discussion on next steps leading to 2005 (Millennium +5)	
	Preliminary discussions before proceeding to working groups	
4 p.m.	Country working groups to discuss draft country action plans for 2004-2005 (Coffee during the break-out session)	<i>Discussions to continue as long as needed</i>
	Dinner at leisure	

3 OCTOBER 2004, SUNDAY		DAY 3
	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER /FACILITATOR
9 a.m.	<i>Session 9: 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	
Noon	<i>L U N C H</i>	
2 p.m.	<i>Optional tour to Angkor Wat</i>	TRANSPORTATION WILL LEAVE FROM HOTEL

Annexure III - Speeches

OPENING

(A) Message from Ms Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, UNDGO during the Opening Session of the Regional Workshop on the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Honorable Minister of Planning, Mr Gardner, Mr Pasha, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, friends, Good morning!

I wish to express my most sincere apologies for not being able to be with you in person today at this Regional Workshop on the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific region as I have been asked to attend a meeting on Donor Coordination for Darfur, Sudan. Also, my staff in DGO could not represent me because of other commitments. I am grateful to UNDP for conveying this message to you. Please know that in spirit I am with you today.

We in the United Nations Development Group Office (UNDGO) are honoured to be associated with this event. I commend UNDP, in collaboration with ADB, for again taking the initiative to organise this workshop at a time deemed to be critical for all of us. As you well know, next year the General Assembly of the United Nations, in a special session, will commemorate the adoption of the historic Millennium Declaration in September 2000 and will review global progress made so far towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. In many ways, 2005 will be a make-or-break year for the MDGs, because the year and time that we know whether or not we are going to meet the MDGs is not 2015, but 2005.

As such, this regional initiative provides you, i.e. national governments and the international community working in this region, the opportunity to not only recommit to the pledges that have already been made, but also to take stock of what has already been achieved and the actions required to turn those promises into concrete actions that will improve people's lives.

Why are the MDGs so important for the UN in general and the UN Development Group (UNDG) in particular? Very simple. For the first time ever, UN agencies were given an overarching set of interlinked goals, in which each of the agencies has a unique role to play in assisting countries in their pursuit of the goals. It provided us with a clear rationale for working together closely and effectively, the same rationale that lay behind the creation of UNDG by the Secretary-General in 1997. But the MDGs also brought clarity to the shared and individual roles and responsibilities of other key parties: first and foremost, of Governments to achieve or enable the achievement of goals and targets; of the network of international organisations to marshal their resources and expertise in the most strategic and efficient way possible to support and sustain the efforts of partners at global and country levels; of citizens, CSOs and the private sector to engage fully in this groundbreaking effort by bringing to bear their unique strengths for motivation, mobilisation and action.

UNDG didn't waste time in coming up with its own strategy for dealing with the MDGs and how best to support Governments in their MDG efforts and to help create a conducive environment for fostering effective partnerships at the local, regional and global levels between the various stakeholders involved. As you well know, UNDG core strategy on the MDGs, which was adopted in 2002, was grounded in a set of principles that are still very valid, namely, that the MDGs have to be situated within the broader norms and standards of the Millennium Declaration; that all eight MDGs and their 18 targets are equally important; that broad national ownership and

participation will be pivotal; that partnership, with Governments but also with CSOs and the private sector, will be essential; that the potential of UN has to be mobilised fully; and that a focus on the MDGs neither diminishes nor precludes the important work of the UN System in other mandated areas.

The core strategy contains four interlinked elements: monitoring and tracking of progress; the analysis of the policy dimensions of achieving the MDGs; campaigning, partnership building and community mobilisation; and goal-driven operational assistance. How far have we come in all four areas? It would take too much of your time to delve into all the issues, but some notable progress has been made, and I would like to highlight some of them.

On the issue of monitoring and tracking of progress, 80 national MDG reports have been issued, following the issuance of the UNDG guidance note on the MDGRs, and more are under preparation. The plan is for each developing country to have at least one report by the end of 2004. Donor countries are also being encouraged to prepare reports that analyse their contributions to Goal 8. Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden have already done so, and more have indicated that they will follow soon. This is all very encouraging. Equally encouraging is the fact that DevInfo, UN's software for tracking the MDGs, is being rolled-out. Nicolas Pron will give you an update on that later in this workshop.

With regard to goal-driven operational assistance by UN agencies, a number of reforms have been introduced to improve UN coordination, effectiveness and efficiency in supporting national goals and to reduce the transaction costs for government. Within this context, UNDG has been moving forward in key areas to help meet the MDGs, and you will have a panel session tomorrow on the integration of the MDGs into our common analytical and planning tools. I would just like to highlight that UNDG now has a common country programming progress, with the MDGs or localised MDGs at the core of UN programming at the country level.

Progress has also been made in providing guidance and training to country teams, encouraging learning and sharing experience, and establishing quality assurance and support mechanisms at country, regional and global levels for the common programming process.

However, while significant progress has been made, more must be done. We have not yet managed to provide coherent and strategic support to UNCTs on achieving or operationalising the MDGs. We are still not satisfied with the integration of MDGs into CCAs, UNDAFs and country programmes, nor has there been sufficient MDG-focused support to the national poverty-reduction processes. National ownership of the MDGs could certainly be further improved. All members of UNCT and their headquarters must be able to feel full ownership and to produce strategic alignment behind a country's MDG-based development strategy by utilising programming, personnel, performance and accountability, and oversight to measure, shape and drive country-team performance. We need more UN agencies to align their resources behind the MDGs. Also, we need to further improve the mix of skills, expertise and services that the UN System can mobilise to support countries in implementing coherent, sustainable and inclusive development strategies to achieve the MDGs.

Just last week, a UNDG working group developed an action plan, led by UNDP, to further accelerate the support given to country teams to better equip them to influence policy and priority settings; to develop national capacity for MDG-driven policy formulation and monitoring and evaluation; to better support national campaign efforts for the MDGs and to build partnerships; and finally to undertake MDG-driven programming.

Ladies and gentlemen, all this means that the timing of this workshop is particularly significant to reflect upon our respective roles in furthering progress towards the Development Goals set out in the Millennium Declaration. It challenges UN to not only showcase achievements but also to identify the further measures and conditions that have to be in place to maximise operational results. It provides an occasion to pull together various strands of the current debate on the functioning and financing of development cooperation. And it offers a particularly timely opportunity to engage governments and civil society in the search for ways to maximise the contribution of operational activities and national plans to overall progress in achieving the MDGs.

I wish you all a very successful workshop and thank you for your attention.

Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, DGO

(B) Delivered by Dr Hafiz Pasha, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Director (Key points of the address)

H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Ministry of Planning; Ms Erna Witoelar, Secretary-General's Ambassador on MDGs; Mr Douglas Gardner, UN Coordinator and Resident Representative of UNDP Cambodia; ladies and gentlemen,

- In this beautiful city, close to one of the wonders of the world
- Welcome to the Regional Workshop on (MDGs) in Asia and the Pacific
- Workshop organised jointly by UNDP, UNCTAD and ADB
- Acknowledge partners—UNESCAP, ADB
- Participation from Regional countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor-Leste)
- Common features of these countries—LDCs / LLDCs
- Objective is to focus on the LDCs and MDGs
- From each country, participation by Government, UNDP, UNCT and civil society
- The MDGs: mention of goals; special mention of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS; MDG Goal 8
- Address special needs: market access (preferential); debt relief; higher ODA
- Who are LDCs? Low income (below \$750); weak human assets (nutrition, literacy and enrolment, health); economic vulnerability (instability in agricultural productivity, instability in exports, etc.)
- Current position of Asian LDCs: overall position better than global LDCs, but worse than all developing countries; per capita income at \$300; one-fourth that of developing countries; literacy rate of 50 percent; two-thirds RDS of developing countries; share of agriculture two and a half times larger at 32 percent; life expectancy 58 years versus 63 years
- Economic performance: per capita GDP growth rate of 2 percent; 3 percent for developing countries and less than 1 percent for all LDCs; recent growth in total food productivity of 1.5 percent is less than population growth rate of 2.5 percent
- Level of and trends in poverty (limited data): generally, between 30 percent to 40 percent of population; mixed trends; fall Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Bhutan, Mongolia; Cambodia unchanged; Nepal rise
- Performance on MDGs: mixed trends; some success stories; many countries will not meet targets
- What needs to be done: MDG Reporting (Country MDGRs by Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Mongolia, Bangladesh); MDG action plans; positioning for Millennium Summit +5 (Goal 8 international reform)
- Collective lobbying on big issues: market access (textile quota, R & D treatment), removal of supply-side bottlenecks
- ODA enhancement: three to four times
- Expanded debt relief: extension of HIPC initiative
- Results from the workshop

(C) Delivered by H.E. Chhay Than, Senior Minister, Ministry of Planning

H.E. Hafiz A. Pasha, UNDP Assistant Administrator; excellencies, Colleagues in the Royal Government; the UN Resident Coordinator; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen:

Let me begin by extending a very warm welcome to you all. I am very pleased to be with you today and address the opening session of the Regional Workshop on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Asia-Pacific, jointly organised by UNDP, UNDG and ADB at this historic city.

At the outset, let me express that I feel greatly honoured and privileged to welcome you, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and my own behalf, to this workshop and to our beautiful country. I extend my warmest welcome to the representatives of UNDP, UNDG and ADB and the delegates from the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. I also would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to all our distinguished guests for their kind presence at this important workshop.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I consider this occasion as another milestone in our regional commitment and our national efforts towards reducing poverty and eliminating the worst forms of human deprivation. As we all know, the adoption of the Millennium Declaration at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 was a defining moment for global cooperation, which brought the poverty-eradication agenda on top through a collective consent for international cooperation. 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 have a special significance in our region due to its sheer diversity. In fact, the situation in the Asia-Pacific region negates the view that addressing income poverty alone will successfully address the intricate issues of human poverty.

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, which affirmed specific targets and goals for poverty reduction, the countries of the Asia-Pacific region have made significant progress. We can be proud of a number of success stories in different areas of human and social development. In many areas, however, our progress has been mixed and uneven. For example, we have yet to go a long way in areas where progress has been slow, such as child malnutrition, education, gender equality, infant and maternal mortalities, HIV/AIDS and environmental sustainability.

In order to achieve the MDG agenda by 2015, nine countries in the region have already launched their MDG Reports. The rest are in the process of preparing their reports and 21 countries are likely to complete their reports by the end of 2004. The available evidence, however, points out that the gap between the developed countries and the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, is widening. Among other reasons, this is due to the growing debt burden, lack of human resources, and limited access to new technologies. These are difficult challenges for which we need to create strong domestic foundations of our national economies along with beneficial external linkages through trade, investment and financial cooperation. This will provide a solid base for a balanced development of the region.

The key objectives of the Regional Workshop today revolve around issues that are very important for developing effective coalitions in support of the MDGs and accelerating our national efforts towards improving and executing the MDG-centred activities. The workshop will share experiences; will provide updates on global, regional and 2005 Millennium +5 issues; review action plans that countries have prepared and are implementing; review MDG Reports and linkages to policy planning and resource allocations; and focus on activities to build MDG-related

capacity at the national level. The results will be reported to the UN Secretary-General at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly, designed as the Millennium Summit +5, in 2005.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: The Royal Government of Cambodia is fully committed to the MDGs, and we have consciously decided to measure our national development performance against the MDGs. We have localised the global MDGs, and these are called Cambodia MDGs (CMDGs). The Third Legislature of the National Assembly, which is the political platform of the Royal Government and constitutes our common national vision, has identified four issues that will be at the forefront of the Government's political agenda.

To realise the political platform, the Rectangular Strategy has been adopted, which builds on the achievements of the Triangular Strategy of the Second Legislature of the National Assembly. The comprehensive agenda under the strategy aims at improving and building the capacity of public institutions, strengthening good governance, and modernising the economic infrastructure. All these are crucial to achieving the CMDGs and promoting sustainable development in Cambodia.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: In the present era of globalisation, we are rapidly moving towards a world where economic and social linkages among the countries are becoming stronger and deeper. This has been more so in the Asia-Pacific region, where rapid growth has brought about significant changes in the economic and social life of the population. As a result, the impacts of developments in one country, whether positive or negative, are being felt more strongly in other countries. Such linkages will grow in the future. In a world that is becoming more interdependent, our collective efforts will be the key to ensuring the sustained growth and stability of the region.

This calls for a closer understanding of the challenges, better learning from each other's experiences, and opening up new channels of mutual learning to ensure more effective management of policies and programmes for achieving the MDGs.

The present workshop is a very timely move in that direction. This workshop provides us a great opportunity to raise issues and challenges posed by globalisation in the pursuit of our common goals. The report and the recommendations of the Regional Workshop will be very important for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure strong commitments and required global actions towards achieving the MDGs in the Asia-Pacific region. In this respect, I strongly feel that our focus should be more on concrete actions on how to accelerate our journey towards our cherished goals. I also believe that a close collaboration among the countries of the region will pave the way not only for the replication of successful experiences but will also lead to the culmination of new ideas and policies suited to our own culture and tradition.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: We, the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, have made considerable progress towards the MDGs. However, our achievements must not make us complacent about the challenges that lie ahead. We still have uphill battles to fight in which our common wisdom can be very effective tools.

Let me once again take this opportunity to thank UNDP, UNDG and ADB for organising this Regional Workshop on the MDGs in Asia-Pacific in Cambodia. I also thank the development partners and donors for their support and continued assistance for Cambodia's development. I am grateful to the delegates from the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and others for their attendance and contributions in making the workshop a success. I wish all international and national participants fruitful deliberations during the workshop and a very pleasant stay in Cambodia.

I wish you all, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and dear compatriots, the five gems of Buddhist wishes. It is my great pleasure to declare the workshop formally open. Thank you!

(D) Acknowledgements by Mr Douglas Gardner, UN Coordinator and Resident Representative, UNDP, Cambodia

1. The Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting the MDG Regional Workshop;
2. UNDP, and especially Dr Hafiz Pasha and his team, for choosing Siem Reap as the workshop venue;
3. All participants, with a special mention of those from LLDCs;
4. Prof Aung Tun Thet, the facilitator, for his ability and creativity; and
5. UNCT and UNDP for logistical and technical support.

(E) Delivered by Dr Hafiz Pasha, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Director

1. It is now my pleasant duty to formally close this very special three-day event that was specially designed for the most important group of countries at Siem Reap.
2. I am very pleased at the participation. As many as 10 out of 11 countries participated. The quality of participation has also been excellent. I am sure that the draft CAPs that came out of the workshop will help in improving the alignment with the MDGs at the country level.
3. A number of important issues were presented and discussed:
 - Millennium Summit +5;
 - Policy and programming challenges for achieving MDGs;
 - Monitoring and data / statistical capacity building; and
 - Media-related issues, Strategic Communication Plan
 - Regional support mechanisms...to name a few
4. In addition, the proposed subregional MDGR to jointly put together the voices of the poor from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS is a new and concrete strategic initiative that I am sure no country would like to miss. I look forward to your FULL participation to make it a critical, high-quality document that would help countries leverage commitments from around the world. UNDP and UNESCAP have agreed to facilitate the process and provide technical assistance for this work.
5. Apart from the scheduled sessions, I do hope that the workshop provided opportunities for interactions with resource persons and other country participants through lunch-table and post-session discussions. As all of you are experienced professionals, these interactions are at least as important, if not more.
6. The audio conference with John McArthur, Programme Manager of the Millennium Project, was an opportunity to hear about and interact directly with the Millennium Project.
7. The Media Panel was a value-added item. The interactive session provided us with an interesting outside perspective of things—a clear mirror, a bitter (non-sugar-coated) pill. I certainly learnt how not to handle our communications. I do hope that this provides all of us food for thought on how to communicate the MDGs to the masses. MDG should become a household buzzword—just like WMD has now become.
8. I do hope that the workshop provided opportunities to share not just experiences but also to make contacts and friends from other countries, and to let down your hair for a bit.
9. All the presentations and the following discussions provided useful inputs for preparing CAPs.
10. Although what happened during the workshop is important, what is more important is what happens afterwards.
11. The expectation we have is that the country teams will be able to return and finalise their Action Plans and go on to carry out the activities proposed.
12. I hope you will go away from this workshop fully energised to take forward the work towards achieving the MDGs.

Thanks to all the participants for their lively participation and specific contributions—that is the true jam on the basic bread and butter that we can provide. A thank you to Douglas Gardner, UNRC, and the Cambodia Country Team not only for hosting the event but also for providing excellent background support without which the sessions would not have proceeded so smoothly. A thank you also to our hosts for making the after-session time memorable with cultural programmes and, I am sure, what will be a very memorable trip to Angkor Wat. A big thank you to H.E., the Senior Minister of Planning, the Royal Government of Cambodia, for his participation and support. And a very, very special thank you to Prof Aung Tun Thet for coming all the way from Turin to facilitate the workshop. He made sure no one slept through the sessions!

Annexure IV - List of Participants

Country	Name	Organisation	Title
Afghanistan	Mr Esmatullah Ramzi	Government	Vice President, Central Statistics Office
	Mr Abdul Wassay Arian	CSO / Hamkari	Programme Coordinator
	Mr Ahmed Zakaria	WFP	Programme Officer
	Ms Verena Linneweber	UNAMA / RC Unit	Coordination Officer
	Mr Shafiq Qarizada	UNDP	Assistant Country Director
Bangladesh	Mr Akram-Ul-Aziz	Government	Joint Chief, Macro and Perspective Planning Wing, General Economics Division
	Dr Imran Matin	BRAC	Director, Research and Evaluation Division
	Dr Bazlul H. Khondker	UNDP	Consultant, Project / Planning Commission
	Ms Shaila Khan	UNDP	Programme Manager
Bhutan	Mr Lam Dorji	Government	Director, Department of Planning (focal agency for MDGs), Ministry of Finance
	Mr Kuenga Tshering	Government	Director, National Statistics Bureau
	Mr Tandin Chhophel	Royal University of Bhutan	Lecturer, Commerce
	Ms Tshering Pem	UNDP	National Programme Officer, Unit Head, Poverty and MDGs
Cambodia	H.E. Chhay Than	MOP	Senior Minister, Ministry of Planning, Kingdom of Cambodia
	H.E. Ou Orhat	MOP	Ministry of Planning, Secretary of State of Planning
	Mr Douglas Gardner	UNDP	UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative
	Mr Hong Sokheang	UNDP	Poverty Specialist
	Ms Pok Panhavichetr	UNDP	National Officer
	Ms Yoko Konishi	UNDP	Programme Officer
	Mr Sok Narin	UNDP	Programme Officer
	Mr Khieng Sochivy	UNDP	Programme Officer
	Ms Ek Sophanna	NGO Forum	Gender Project Coordinator
	Mr Laurent Meillan	COHCHR	Human Rights Officer
	Mr Sok Vanna	UNFPA	PDS Programme Manager
	Ms Heng Socheata	Youth	Delegate to Pan Asia Youth Leadership Summit
	Mr Nhek Samoeun	MOP	Under Secretary of State
	Mr Heang Siek Ly	MOP	Deputy Director General
	Mr Tuon Thavrak	MOP	Acting Director General
	Mr Lay Chhan	MOP / UNDP	National Professional
Mr Phiyorin Tep	SNEC	Researcher	
Mr Ros Seilava	SNEC	Director	
Mr Kamina Ntenda	FAO Cambodia	Food Security Officer and MDG Focal Point	
Lao PDR	Mr Saleumxay Kommasith	Government	Deputy Director General, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

	Mr Anouparb Vongnorkeo	Government	Senior Official, UN System Division / MDG Secretariat, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Ms Phetsamone Sone	Government	Director of Division, National Statistics Centre, Committee for Planning and Investment
	Ms Joanna Shaw	UN	UN Coordination Specialist, MDG Focal Point, Office of the UNRC
Maldives	Ms Maharath Ahmed	Government	Assistant Statistical Officer at Ministry of Planning and National Development
	Mr Ahmed Mohamed	Government	Director, Development Planning, Ministry of Planning and National Development
	Mr Abdul Bari Abdulla	UNDP	MDG Task Force Leader and UNDP Programme Coordinator
	Mr Mohamed Saeed	UNICEF	MDG Task Force Member and UNICEF Programme Officer
Mongolia	Mr Baldandamba Namkhajantsan	Government	Economic Policy Adviser to the President
	Khorloo Enkhjargal	NGO	Director, National AIDS Foundation
	Mr Yameen Mazumdar	UNICEF	Senior Programme Officer
	Ms Sarantuya Mend	UNDP	Programme Analyst
Myanmar	Mr Khin Kyu	UNICEF	Project Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation
	Mr Hla Phyu Chit	UNDP	Programme Manager / MDG Focal Point
Nepal	Dr Yuba Raj Khatiwada	Government	Member, National Planning Commission
	Mr Mukunda Kattel	NGO / CSO	Programme Manager, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)
	Mr Bhanu Niraula	UNFPA	Assistant Resident Representative
	Mr Sriram Pande	UNDP	Assistant Resident Representative,
Timor-Leste	Mr Eusebio Jeronimo	Government	Director, National Directorate for Planning and External Assistance Coordination, Ministry of Planning and Finance
	Mr Paulo da Costa Amaral	NGO	Halarae
	Ms Vathinee Jitjaturunt	UNICEF	Senior Programme Officer
	Mr Rui Gomes	UNDP	Programme Officer, Poverty Reduction & Community Development Unit, Focal Point for MDGs and NHDRs
Resource persons	Prof Aung Tun Thet	UN System Staff College, Turin	Deputy Director
	Mr Nicolas Pron	UNICEF	Senior Project Officer, DevInfo Project Manager
	Dr Tim Conway	World Bank Cambodia CO	Poverty Specialist
	Ms Cherie Hart	UNDP	Regional Communications Officer
	Mr Aynul Hasan	UNESCAP	
	Ms Erna Witoelar	UN	Special Ambassador on MDGs

	Mr Tomas Africa	UNSIAP	Director
	Mr Omar Noman	RBAP, UNDP	Senior Adviser
	Ms Amina Tirana	MDG Unit, BRSP	
	Mr Richard Leete	UNDP	RC and RR Malaysia
	Ms Anuradha Rajivan	UNDP Regional Service Centre, Kathmandu	Programme Coordinator, Regional HDR & MDG Initiative
	Ms Lynn MacDonald	BDP	Statistics Adviser
	Ms Anuradha Seth	UNDP Regional Service Centre, Kathmandu	Policy Adviser, Poverty
UN agencies/ international organisations	Ms Judit Katona-Apte	WFP, Bangkok	Senior Regional Programme Adviser
	Mr Yameen Mazumder	UNICEF	
	Dr Than Sein	Health Systems, WHO Regional Office, Delhi	Director
	Mr Kensuke Fukawa	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Bangkok Representative
	Mr Sophea	ADB, Bangkok	National Officer
	Ms Khin Kyu	UNICEF	
	Ms Bhanu N.	UNFPA	
UNDP	Mr Hafiz Pasha	RBAP, UNDP	Assistant Administrator and Director, RBAP
	Mr B. Murali	RBAP, UNDP	Programme Specialist
	Ms Corona de Venecia	RBAP, UNDP	Programme Associate
	Mr Romulo Garcia	RBAP, UNDP	Division Chief, NEAMD
	Mr T. Palanivel	UNDP Regional Service Centre, Kathmandu	Programme Coordinator, Regional Macro Poverty Programme
	Ms Susan Howes	UNDP Regional Service Centre, Kathmandu	Programme Coordinator, Regional Macro Poverty Programme
	Mr Peter Starr	Independent Journalism Foundation	Consultant
	Ms Deependra Gauchon	BBC Trust	Consultant
Media panel	Mr Michael Hayes	<i>Phnom Penh Post</i>	Publisher
	Mr Richard Ehrlich	<i>Asia Times</i>	Publisher
	Mr Marwaan Macan-Marker	Inter Press Services	Asia Correspondent
	Ms Men Kimseng	Cambodia	
UNDP communications officers	Ms Sangita Khadka	Nepal	
	Ms Sunita Giri	Bhutan	Coordination Officer
	Ms Kym Smithies	Timor-Leste	Communications Officer
	Ms Lisa Hiller	Bangladesh	Communications Officer
	Mr Damian Kean	Lao PDR	Public Information Specialist
	Ms Christelle Chapoy	Cambodia	Communications Officer

Annexure V - Resources

Recommendations of background reading for those who have recently begun working on the MDGs:

- Millennium Declaration <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>
- The UN and the MDGs: A Core Strategy http://www.undp.org/mdg/core_strategy.pdf

Recommended reading for all participants:

- Featured remarks by Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator, at the meeting of the MDGs Support Group, Stockholm, 20 February 2004
- Millennium Project 'Global Plan of Action' <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org>
- Human Development Report 2003: overview chapter + chapter 1 (Millennium Development Compact) <http://hdr.undp.org/reports/global/2003/>

Participants are requested to become familiar with two key development reports from their country. Please bring a copy of each to the workshop:

- The country's MDG Report, if available. If possible, please bring an extra copy so that we may compile a complete inventory at headquarters.
- The country's poverty-reduction strategy (or latest national equivalent), if available

Recommendations for additional reading material:

- Millennium Development Goals, Targets, and Indicators <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Progress Report by the Secretary-General, A/57/270, 31 July 2003, available at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- UNDG Guidance Note on the PRSP, November 2003 http://www.undg.org/documents/3401-PRSP_Assessment_Guidance_Note_-_PRSP_Guidance_Note.doc
- UNDG Guidance Note on MDGR: Reporting on the MDGs at the Country Level, October 2003 http://www.undg.org/documents/3053-NEW_Guidance_Note_for_MDG_Reports_-_English.pdf
- IMF Evaluation of the PRSP <http://www.imf.org/External/NP/ieo/2004/prspgrf/eng/>
- *The Blue Book: A Hands-on Approach to Advocating for the Millennium Development Goals*

Outreach examples:

- *Financial Times* supplement
- CNBC–'The Business of Development' (can be downloaded for viewing on a computer at <http://217.169.39.180/bod/>)
- Mauritius–animated interactive CD
- Cambodia–'Did You Know?' pamphlet
- Samoa–UN newsletter with individual action profiles
- Graphic templates for UNDP MDGs posters

Those references that do not have a web link given will be made available in a CD at the workshop as part of your Registration Kit.

Annexure VI – Evaluation Form



**Regional Workshop on the Millennium Development Goals
Siem Reap, Cambodia
1–3 October 2004**

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