



Asia Pacific National Councils for Sustainable Development

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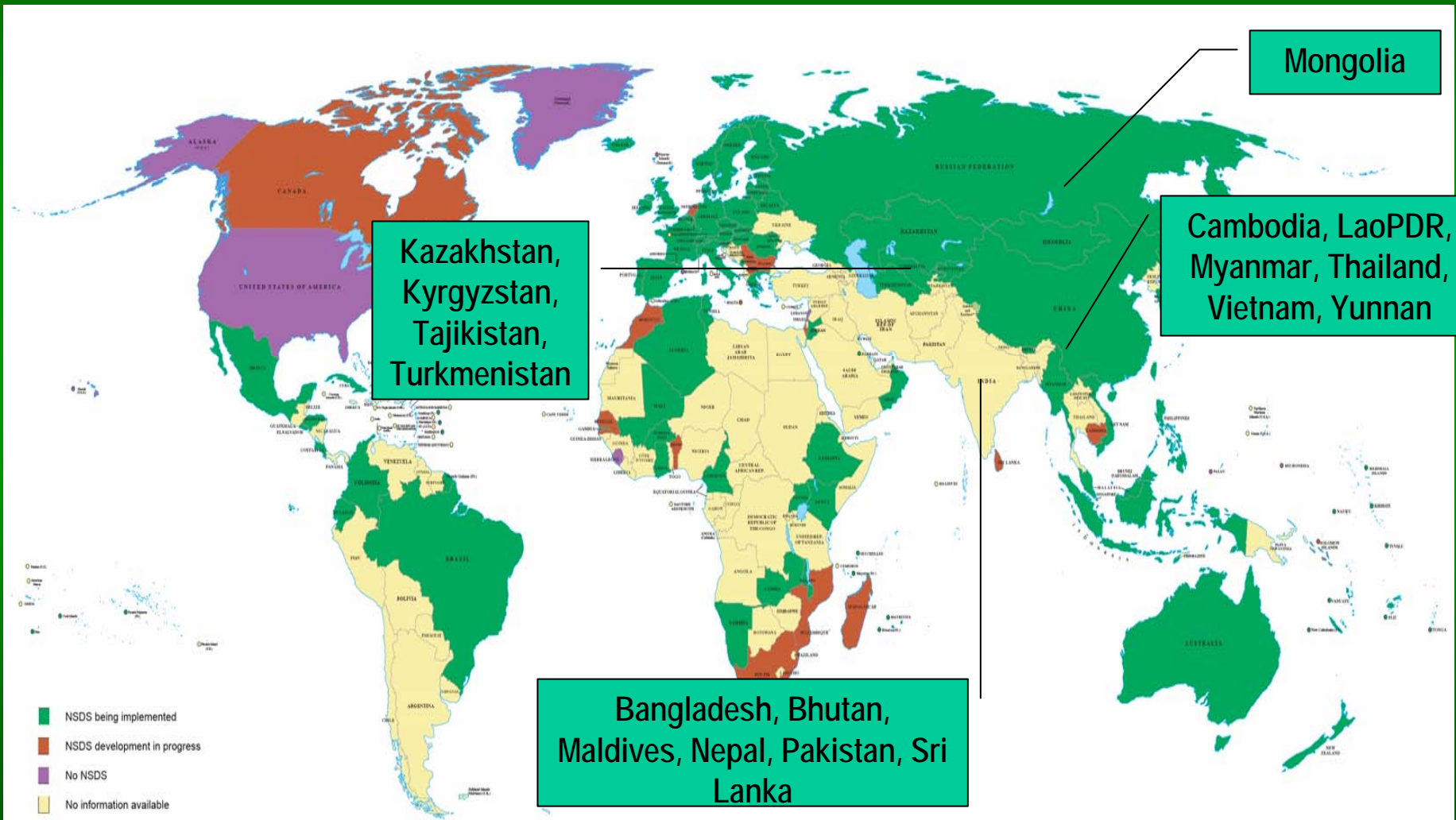
**Asia Pacific
National
Councils for
Sustainable
Development**

- *Central Asian Countries
- *China* Iran * Japan
- *Korea*Mongolia
- *Marshall Islands* Nepal
- *Palau* Cook Islands
- * Philippines* **Thailand**
- *Vanuatu*Vietnam

Attempts to Organize:

Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Fiji,
Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan

Established NCSDs and NSDS formulation in Asia are patchy



Creation & Official Basis

Japan Council for SD	July 1996	NGO Initiative
Korea Presidential Commission for SD	Aug. 2000	Presidential Decree 16496
Mongolia National Council for SD	April 1996	Government Resolution 73
Philippine Council for SD	Sept. 1992 (oldest)	Presidential Executive Order 15
Russia National Council for SD	May 1996	Order of Min of Economy
Vietnam National Council for SD	Sept 2005 (youngest)	PM Decision 1032 (legal fiat in progress)

Special Features

Country	Chairperson	Composition	Local
Japan	Shared: GO, PS, CSO	Multi-stakeholder Restructured, 2007	No
Korea	NGO	Multi-stakeholder Restructured, 2006	No
Mongolia	Prime Minister	Multi-stakeholder Restructured, 2007	Yes
Philippines	Planning Minister	Multi-stakeholder Restructured, 2004	Yes
Vietnam	Deputy PM	Multi-stakeholder	Yes

Roles of NCSD

- Voice for sustainability
- Mechanism for integration & coord'n
- Venue for resolving issues
- Means for cooperative action & forging commitments
- Vehicle for promoting education, raising awareness & information dissemination
- Mechanism for formulating, monitoring & assessing implementation of NSDS

Host, Secretariat, Funding

Country	Host	Secretariat	Funding
Philippines	Min of Planning (NEDA)	Composite* (NEDA, Civil Society Counterpart)	NEDA; external funds
Japan	NGO	NGO	Generated locally
Iran	Min of Env't	Direct Hire	National Budget
Korea	Autonomous/Organic Entity	Direct hire; Staff from member organizations	National Budget
Mongolia	Min of Nature & Env't (Cap21)	Dept of SD & Strategic Planning	National Budget (Cap 21)
Vietnam	Min of Planning & Investments	VA 21 Office	National Budget

* Part time (not dedicated) responsibility

Institutional mechanisms at the sub-regional level

- South Asia
 - South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 - South Asia Cooperation Environment Program (SACEP)
- Central Asia
 - Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD)
- Southeast Asia
 - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
 - Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Working Group on Environment

But Asia has nothing similar to the European Commission, European SD Network (ESDN) & European Environment & SD Advisory Council (EEAC)

Challenges to NCSD Establishment

- Govt issues e.g. suspicion/ distrust of CSO; protection of domain & close-mindedness
- Underdeveloped or disorganized civil society
- Business sector's lack of interest
- Lack of appreciation of respective contexts
- Lack of knowledge & low capacity to initiate the NCSD establishment process
 - How many and who will be involved
 - Who will represent civil society & business
 - What would be the role, functions & structure vis-à-vis existing bodies
 - How to fund the process & operations

Challenges to NCSD Operations

- Limited understanding of SD & attendant issues
 - weak integration; inappropriate agenda
- Inadequate financial resources including technical & administrative support
- Conflict/Confusion of roles and representations
- Absence of venue for exchange of knowledge & experiences among NCSDs
- Weak vertical (global-local) & horizontal (inter-NCSDs) coordination & monitoring

Asia-Europe Cooperation Possibilities

- Establish a platform for partnership & knowledge sharing such as the network of NCSDs/NSDS advocates and implementers
- Share knowledge, experience & resources in e.g.:
 - Preparing/updating NSDS & Regional SDS that mainstream critical issues & looking beyond borders
 - Properly implementing, monitoring & evaluating strategies & programs; developing indicators & standards; using of tools
 - Setting up institutional mechanisms at various levels & helping these become effective, self-sufficient and self-sustaining

Asia-Europe Cooperation Possibilities

- Joint research & recommendations for strategic interventions on critical issues such as:
 - Poverty and dependence of poor on natural resources
 - Food vis-a-vis renewable energy sustainability
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Capacity building especially in key areas e.g., CDM, CC adaptation, waste management, policy integration, NR valuation, local empowerment

Thank you!