

ICTs for Environmental Sustainability

◆ RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TWO DAYS WORKSHOP



Taking stock of MDGs progress

- ◆ As a region, we are nowhere near being able to meet Goal 7 of the MDGs, namely, ensuring environmental sustainability



ICTs for Environmental Sustainability

- ◆ The issues of water, sanitation and waste-management and disaster management were taken up for discussion in this workshop as they have acquired enormous relevance for the South Asian region




Sharing experiences

- ◆ Based on experiences from all over the South Asian region, in the areas of water resources management, sanitation and waste management, and disaster mitigation, there is consensus that while some progress has been made and steps taken at the various levels, there is much that is still to be achieved towards ensuring environmental sustainability

Sharing experiences

- ◆ Bangladesh example of law against the use of polythene bags
- ◆ Environmental legislation in India
- ◆ Mandatory rainwater harvesting in some states of India
- ◆ Strong legislative and institutional mechanisms for disaster management in Sri Lanka; successful community-based disaster preparedness and mitigation models in Bangladesh;
- ◆ etc.

Exploring role of ICTs for ES

- Use of mass media to generate awareness regarding specific environmental issues
 - Taking up water rights as an issue
 - To take up appropriate solutions in the context of rural/urban environmental problems
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Exploring role of ICTs for ES

- ◆ Localisation of content
- ◆ Documentation and dissemination of best practices, success stories and lessons learnt
 - ICTs for behaviour change communications
 - Space technology and other ICT based-applications for quality monitoring and exploration

Suggesting alternative methodologies

- ◆ Wherever technological solutions are not available, alternative methods could be suggested, keeping the community as equal partners in decision-making
- ◆ Local/regional success stories need to be shared at the global level where ICTs have not been used

Building of CoPs around ES

- ◆ Need for convergence of government, non-government and CSR initiatives with the focus on the community
- ◆ Regional targets could be fixed by community based organisations and shared at the regional and national levels to meet global targets

Learning to work together for ES

- ◆ ICTs for environmental sustainability to be used extensively at all levels
 - ◆ Providing a common platform for addressing water management and other issues, involving policy makers, communities, and other stakeholders
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