

## WORKSHOP REPORT



# Rethinking Post-2015 Development: Conceptual & Policy Implications Beyond MDGs

10:00 - 18:00 Saturday 18 April 2015, at EDR (30 JFK Street, Cambridge, MA)

*Cosponsored by:*

CASID (Canadian Association for the Study of International Development),  
PhD Program in Global Governance & Human Security at UMass Boston, and  
EDR (Educational Divide Reform)

## BACKGROUND

The implementation period of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comes to a close in 2015. The MDGs include eight goals: (1) Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, (2) Achieving universal primary education, (3) Promoting gender equality and empowering women, (4) Reducing child mortality, (5) Improving maternal health, (6) Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, (7) Ensuring environmental sustainability, and (8) Establishing a global partnership for development.



National and international level discussions have been underway since 2012 for a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will succeed the MDGs, covering, like the MDGs, a fifteen year period from 2015 to 2030.



Source: <http://healthspace.asia>

Governments adopted an outcome document, which identifies a roadmap for the post-2015 process towards establishing a single framework and a universal set of goals applicable, like the MDGs, to all countries in different national contexts. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development was established in January 2013, which later submitted an outcome document to United Nations General Assembly in September 2014, proposing 17 SDGs and 169 targets, many of which updated and reoriented the MDGs.

## CASID-EDR-UMASS BOSTON WORKSHOP

In continuation of the academic forum that discusses the conceptual and policy contributions by



the academic societies to the national and international collaboration on development, over fifty faculty, PhDs, researchers and others from Canada, China, the United States and elsewhere gathered at EDR's office at Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA for a trio of panels consisting of twenty presentations to consider the state of global development and possible directions post-2015.

Regrettably, they were not able to be joined by the expected delegation from Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences (YASS). The YASS delegation, led by its President Professor Ren Jia, is due to visit EDR and UMass Boston at the end of April to hold an extended Workshop with selected participants.



All presentations at the Workshop reflected work in progress for PhD proposals/theses, research projects/mss and program/policy development relevant to drawing an overview of post-2015 development and to identifying conceptual and policy implications beyond MDGs and towards SDGs, which generated lively discussions in and around the panels.

This overview captures some of the major themes which serve to reinforce innovative directions in the interdisciplinary PhD Program in Global Governance and Human Security at UMass Boston. As Dean Ira Jackson noted in his opening remarks, UMB is also entering its second half century, post-2015. The themes include:



- Global governance, especially non-state agencies, networks and partnerships responding to a range of global issues such as climate change, commodities, communications including containers, internet etc with special relevance for China;



- Emerging economies/states/currencies/investments with implications for investment, democracy, technology etc;

- Regional cooperation and conflict around Indian and Pacific Oceans, different routes for the Silk Road, novel forms of multilateralism like Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), varieties of proposals for Kashmir etc;



- Imperative of authoritative goals and collaboration around global warming, such as between China and Africa in Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC);

- New relations around land, food production, transportation, certification including expectations of global middle classes: how to extend and sustain ethical standards;



- Social/business partnership and value sharing as a solution for global social/environmental problems and global natural resources governance;



- Issues arising from mainstreaming around gender, climate change etc;
- Emerging forms of transnational relations including transnational justice, transnational volunteering, transnational mediation/monitoring, communities like Columbia Point, transnational organized crime;
- Prospects for global citizenship as an extension of human development/security, particularly in response to threats of fundamentalisms, non-traditional security issues, terrorisms; and



- Implications of post-2015 debates and directions for curricula, theses, placement, mentoring around UMass for PhD in Global Governance and Human Security and other doctoral programs: what realized by 2030?



## NEXT STEPS

The feedbacks from various participants are summarized in four sentences: (1) There was so much interesting information and I was never bored, (2) It was full of new information and I learned a lot, (3) It was very well organized, and (4) Let's keep it up!

The organizers of this Workshop will work together to define and develop the next steps. Sustainable development is mankind's future. Concepts of global governance and human security are embedded in national endeavors and intergovernmental collaboration in achieving SDGs, which may be dependent upon how successful governments will be in building awareness and understanding among citizens, driving value-sharing and participation, and making focused investments. This, in turn, highlights the importance of global citizenship education.

As such, for the next workshop, it may be useful to further develop the themes identified in this Workshop in a theoretical context of Global Citizenship Education: for example, proposing definitions, key components and rationale from each participant's perspective for achieving SDGs.

## ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



\*To learn more about this Workshop and future events, please visit EDR website ([www.edrworld.org](http://www.edrworld.org)) or contact us at [ask@edrworld.org](mailto:ask@edrworld.org).