

Comments

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Comments on Muhammad Saleh Kismadi

In considering the issue of co-existence of environment protection and industrial development, many new points of perspective have been introduced in Dr. Kismadi's paper. Let me make a few comments on his points.

First, industrial development and environment protection must be somehow harmonized. He clearly pointed out that the harmonization is an old and new issue. It is actually an eternal issue for human being whenever we try to develop our own economies and societies.

Secondly, he pointed out that we must take into account social and cultural factors which serve as the third imperative. When we think of APEC, we tend to stand on more or less economist view and as a result tend to neglect social and cultural factors. So he has given timely and appropriate warnings to all the economists working in the APEC framework.

Thirdly, he touched on the existing discrepancies between developed and developing countries even within our own region, and within ASEAN countries. Levels of needs for environment protection vary among ASEAN countries and adjustment process for the tiding waves for the protection vary among them, too. When we need to reconcile economic development and environment protection and consider the dampening effect of the latter against economic development, developing countries suffer more than developed countries. I think this is important not only within APEC itself but also on the global scale including OECD. We need to give a more serious meaning to discrepancies existing between developed and developing countries. In particular, the sort of economic cooperation, which we have carried out so far has not been really perfect. ODA has not worked efficiently to protect the environment of the recipient countries. The ODA probably should be based on equal partnership, and several forms of current ODA could be transformed in APEC manner, thereby we can grow new and more desirable form of ODA activities. Dr. Kismadi refrained from advocating specific forms of ODA, but I am sure he has a number of specific ideas in mind.

Fourthly, he pointed out the need to introduce new ideas and new perspectives in

considering and examining the relationship between developed and developing countries in the world. Then he suggested various forms of economic assistance to developing countries. There always exists differences in the capacity of adapting themselves to FEEEP. Developing countries of course are less adaptive to globalization, hence the need to enter a new area of economic assistance provisions with new desirable forms.

Lastly, he pointed out the need for equal partnership among APEC countries. Equal partnership is very important, because the cooperation must be implemented based on the consensus among diverse member countries of APEC. When we consider the social and cultural dimensions in the cooperation, intensifying relationship among the member countries of APEC will greatly augment the potential of the future development. So his presentation was very instructive in that direction of new ideas was shown. Let me close my comments on his paper by very simple words that he could express well the views from ASEAN.