Development beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Although the international community has four more years to go, yet achieving the MDGs seems to be a “mission impossible”. Many countries, including Pakistan, have admitted that they would not be able to achieve the development targets committed under MDGs. Therefore, while redefining sustainable development paradigms in South Asia, it is pertinent to raise certain questions about the MDGs and a development paradigm beyond them.

The proposed panel will discuss the fundamental questions on what worked and what did not work in South Asia when we talk of MDGs. Potential contributors are expected to assess whether the MDG framework was a panacea for every ill and if it was then why it did not deliver. Was it due to lack of ownership at the national and regional levels; lack of financing; lack of institutional capacities and institutional arrangements; or lack of political will both in aid giving, as well as aid recipient countries? If flawed then what can be an alternative development paradigm? How can that alternative paradigm be more demand driven rather than supply driven? And can South Asia come up with a SAARC development agenda: if yes then why were SAARC development goals a non starter? The panelists are also invited to discuss the post MDGs development assistance trends among major donor nations and how these nations can buy in an indigenous development agenda.

In a nutshell, contributors to this panel are invited to discuss:

- The major reasons behind failure of MDGs framework in South Asia;
- The impacts of missed MDGs on socio-economic conditions and peace in the region;
- The positions, dimensions and challenges of the emerging debates on a post MDGs world (for example the role of states, private companies, social and civil movements, societal visions, etc. in framing an indigenous development framework), and
- The lessons learnt from the MDGs experience.

Panel Organiser: Ms Afshan Ahmad, Visiting Research Associate, SDPI, Islamabad

Email address: afshan@sdpi.org; afshanahmed24@gmail.com