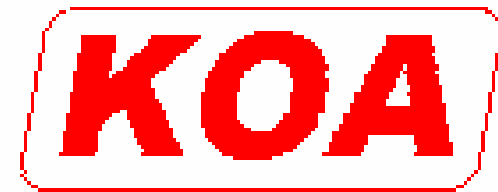


GAMA 2009

Environmental Sustainability - Challenges for Consulting Engineers in meeting the Millennium Development Goals

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Introduction

- The Consulting Engineering Industry in Africa faces a myriad of challenges
- However, one of the biggest challenges that we face is our ability, or inability, to take opportunities that we are presented with that can enhance our ability to fully integrate our business interests with the needs of the society.



Introduction

- Actions that will be required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals will require the services of Engineers
- We should be able to partner with society and at the same time enhance our business opportunities.
- In particular we shall look at the opportunities offered by the 7th Goal which seeks to 'Ensure Environmental Sustainability'



Review of the MDG

- The Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) were agreed at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000 and nearly 190 countries have subsequently signed up to them
- The Goals, 8 in all were to be achieved by the year 2015.
- Great strides have been made in some of the goals while success has been limited in others.



Review of the MDG

- Northern Africa has managed to make progress in many areas but Sub-Saharan Africa, with perhaps with the exception of South Africa and that only in some areas, has performed woefully and is in grave danger of not being able to meet the targets set for 2015
- There are still opportunities where improvements can be made and this is where we, as Engineers, come in



MGD Goal 7 - Environmental Sustainability

- Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
- Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers



What is sustainability

- The best known definition of sustainable development is from the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: *Our Common Future* popularly known as ‘The Brundtland Report’ and is most commonly quoted as follows:
- *‘Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’*



The Challenge before us - What can we do?

- Be fully aware of the opportunities that are presented
- Become fully knowledgeable about the subject of sustainability
- Be fully prepared to seek out where these opportunities are.



Awareness of the Opportunities

- Water Supply and sanitation Schemes
- Programmes to arrest De-forestation
- Power supply schemes, especially use of renewable energy sources
- Sustainable Design of Structures and Building Services in the Built environment



Awareness of the Opportunities

- Many of the programmes being pursued require only low skills, using 'appropriate' technologies
- There are many ways that we can be active, where our specialised skills can be employed
- 1.6 billion people still lack access to safe water
- 2.5 billion need sanitation systems
- 1.6 billion lack access to electricity

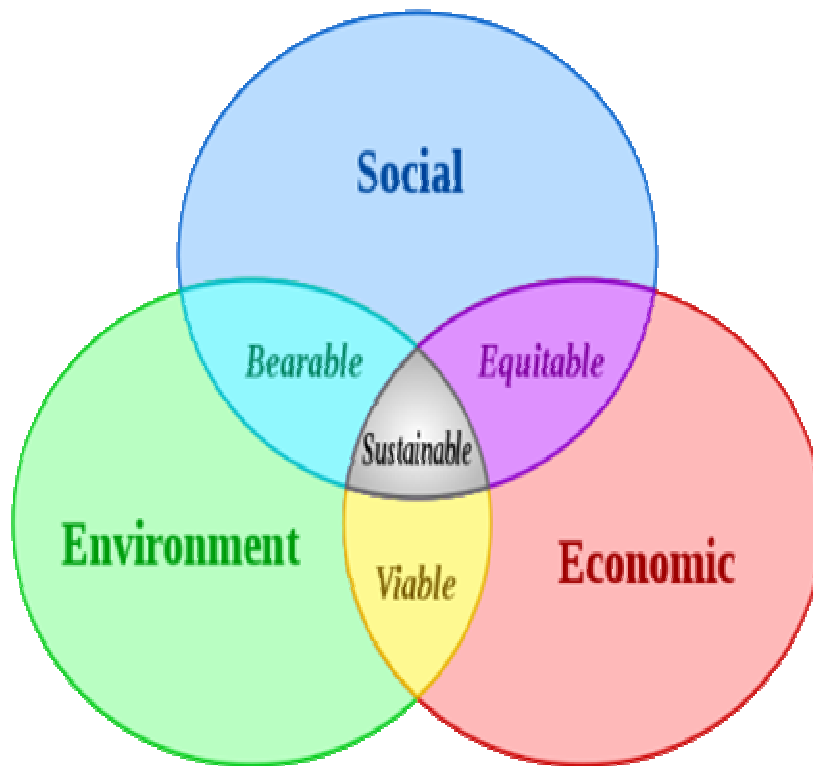


Acquire the Requisite Skills

- Re-train and take on new functions and skills as the business environment changes.
- Avenues for skills development and capacity building are numerous – Universities, Professional bodies, Development Agencies
- Take on a larger role in issues pertaining to environmental sustainability – we have to become the experts!



Acquire the Requisite Skills



KOA

Develop the ability to convince Clients about the benefits of environmental sustainability

The interaction between Social, Economic and Environmental considerations are not mutually exclusive and can be beneficial

Seek out The Opportunities

Engineers in the 21st century will have a broader range of expertise to work in partnership with other disciplines and stakeholders to provide holistic, sustainable solutions. Their integrity and commitment to sustainable development will be enshrined in the philosophy of the professional engineering institutions, to a level parallel with the ethical framework for doctors – The Engineer of the 21st Century enquiry



Conclusion

- The Millennium Development Goals is an attempt to encourage the international community not only to keep talking about making a difference in the developing world but to join forces and start doing something positive about it
- It also offers us a chance to contribute to the development of the people of our continent, assisting in the protection of the environment to reverse the damage done over the years
- Offer hope to the millions of persons who today lack the basic necessities of purposeful human existence



Conclusion

- Engineering has been responsible for some of the worst pollution
- *“The Millennium Development Goals can be achieved if immediate steps are taken to implement existing commitments. Reaching our goals for development around the world is not only vital to building better, healthier and decent lives for millions of people, it is also essential to building enduring global peace and security. Ours is the generation that can achieve the development goals and free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.”*



Conclusion

- If we do not grab the opportunities on offer outsiders from outside the continent will
- We would again have lost out the chance to enhance our professional standing and show that we do care.
- Another bus may eventually come along but we would have missed this one and be left further behind.



Conclusion

Yes there are challenges but with the will and strong commitment

YES, WE

CAN



Thank You