

The Launch of UNDP's Human Development Report 2020

Forum: The Next Frontier:
Human development and the Anthropocene

Day/Date:

Wednesday, 16 December 2020

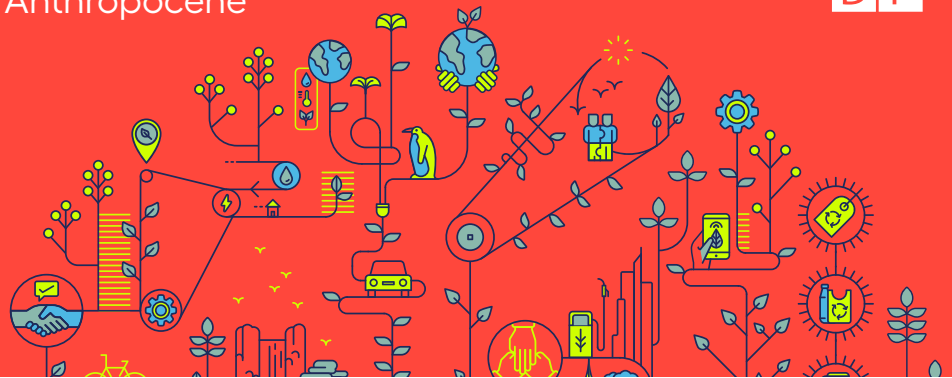
Time:

9.00am - 1.00pm

Zoom Registration link:

https://bit.ly/2020HDR_MY

#HDR2020



Background

The Anthropocene is the new geological age scientists argue we now find ourselves in, where human activity is shaping the planet, to a greater extent, more than the planet shapes human activity. The pressures humans collectively place on our planetary systems – the pressures that created the Anthropocene – are manifested not just as climate change and biodiversity loss but in pollution, ocean acidification, land degradation and more. Negative interactions among humans, livestock and wildlife have increased steadily, ultimately squeezing local ecosystems to an extent where deadly viruses spill out like in the case of the novel coronavirus which caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The fast spread of COVID-19 around our interconnected world has exploited and exacerbated myriad inequalities in human development while pre-existing crises continue. Consider climate change where new records have been set both in the number of storms and their intensity during the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane. Extraordinary wildfires have scorched enormous parts of South Australia, South America's Pantanal wetlands region, eastern Siberia in Russia, and the West Coast of the United States. The resulting loss in biodiversity has been exacerbated by human-related activities.

The human development approach has much to contribute in addressing our collective paralysis in the face of alarming planetary change. Human development is about expanding human freedoms and opening more choices for people to chart their own development paths according to their diverse values rather than prescribing a specific path. Economic growth is important, especially for developing countries. Raising income levels is crucial for those living in poverty in every country. The human development approach reminds us that economic growth is more about the means rather than the end. A nature-based human development will help us tackle three central challenges simultaneously — mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting biodiversity and ensuring human wellbeing for all.

Only governments have the formal authority and power to marshal collective action to global shared challenges. New ways of doing things require new ways of measuring human development against its impact on the planet. In this year's report, the Planetary Pressure Adjusted Human Development Index (PHDI) is introduced as an experimental index that adjusts the Human Development Index (HDI) for planetary pressures in the Anthropocene. It should be seen as an incentive for transformation. This is not a choice between people and trees. If nature cannot flourish, neither can human development.

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It makes no sense to think of people - and development - as somehow separate from the planet. We are embedded in nature. Neglecting this not only threatens future generations with catastrophic risks but is already blighting the lives of many today,

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UNDP Director of the Human Development Report Office
Pedro Conceição
(11 June, 2020)

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If one looks at the HDI and the environmental index on the other side, the picture would indicate that in order for low human development countries to reach the middle and high development countries' HDI value, we would need the capacity of many planet earths at the current level and circumstances of resource consumption

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University of Geneva Full Professor of Econometrics
Prof. Jaya Krishnakumar
(2020).



Programme

Date : 16 December 2020, Wednesday

Time	Activity
9.00 – 9.10 a.m.	<p>WELCOMING REMARKS</p> <p> Niloy Banerjee Resident Representative UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam</p>
9.10 – 9.30 a.m.	<p>OFFICIATING MESSAGE</p> <p> YB Khairy Jamaluddin Minister Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI)</p>
9.30 – 9.55 a.m.	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2020</p> <p> Dr Haniza Khalid Senior Development Economist UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam</p>
9.55am – 10.00 a.m.	Break
10.00 – 11.15 a.m.	<p>FORUM: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE ANTHROPOCENE</p> <p>The strain on our planet mirrors the strain facing many of our societies. This is not mere coincidence. Indeed, planetary imbalances (dangerous planetary change for people and all forms of life) and social imbalances exacerbate one another. Many inequalities in human development have been increasing and continue to do so. In the context of the Anthropocene, it is essential to do away with stark distinctions between people and the planet. How have our actions destabilised the very systems we need to survive at unprecedented speed and scale? How can countries create real, lasting change to ensure that our development paths do not adversely impact the planet?</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p> Alizan Mahadi Director of Research Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia</p> <p>Panellists</p> <p> Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. Zakri bin Abdul Hamid Former Science Advisor to Prime Minister of Malaysia</p> <p> Dr. Jomo K S. Senior Adviser, Khazanah Research Institute</p> <p> Gan Pek Chuan Programme Manager, Biodiversity & Sustainable Development, UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam</p>



Programme

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Time	Activity
<p>11.20 a.m. – 12.50 p.m.</p>	<p>FORUM: CATALYSING ACTION</p> <p>Today almost 80 percent of the world’s people believe that it is important to protect the planet. But only about half say they are likely to take concrete action to save it. There is a gap between peoples’ values and their behaviour. To help bridge the gap, to help empower people, what more can be done? This panel aims to unlock some of the deeper obstacles to the advancement of human flourishing while easing planetary pressures. It will focus on why much-discussed “solutions” are not being implemented fully and, in many cases, not yet at the scales to make a difference.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p> Manon Bernier Deputy Resident Representative UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam</p> <p>Panellists</p> <p> Prof. Leong Choon Heng Deputy Director Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development</p> <p> TPr. Norliza Binti Hashim Chief Executive Urbanice Malaysia</p> <p> Thirupathi Rao Senior Manager, Climate Change PETRONAS</p>
<p>12.50 p.m.</p>	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p> Manon Bernier Deputy Resident Representative UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam</p>
<p>1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjournment</p>