Can you tell me briefly about the EFHforum? What sort of work does it do?

The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (EFHforum) has been bringing together stakeholders from Asia and Europe since 2001 to explore new perspectives with regard to environmental changes that seriously affect today’s societies.

From the 21st to the 23rd of November, the EFHforum organised a seminar titled Sustainable Development Goals: Towards Measurable Goals.

The seminar initiated the Post-2015 discussion on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their indicators.

The SDGs will substitute, or complement, or prolong the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015.

At the last ASEF Summit that took place in Laos in November 2013, the 49 member countries as well as the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat fully endorsed the elaboration of the SDGs and the promotion of a green economy.

Cambodia is also one of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region that seeks to achieve the MDG8s, in which categories is it seeking development?

The Royal Government of Cambodia adopted the eight universally agreed Millennium Development Goals but is better still the reality of the country. The government added monitoring and action assistance as the ninth major development goal.

Although all MDGs will still be met by Cambodia by the end of 2015, it is regarded as one of the countries where the most dramatic progress has been recorded to date, achievement of the goals.

In Cambodia, universal primary education, reduction of child mortality, combat against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and democracy are all on track to meet the 2015 deadline.

I have seen the new phrase being used very recently – ‘green economy’ – what does it mean and why is it important to Cambodia as a “less developed country”?

According to the definition given by the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), a green economy is one that results from improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

The shift to a green economy can be seen as a pathway to sustainable development.

The value of a ‘green economy’ sought after by a developed or developing nation can vary greatly. It depends on geographical context, its natural resource base, its human and social capital, and its stage of economic development.

What does not change, however, are its key pillars – of targeting improved human well-being and social equity, while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

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