

Sustainable development goals for next decades

Korean SME institutions co-host forum for post-2015 development agenda

By Kim Da-ye

In 2000, 189 member countries of the United Nations (U.N.) pledged to work together toward eight goals including reducing extreme poverty by 2015. The percentage of people in the world living on less than \$1.25 a day in 1990 was halved by 2010, five years ahead of the deadline. As the deadline for the so-called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaching in two years, the U.N. is now developing a new set of objectives for after 2015.

At the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, or simply the Rio+20, countries designated sustainability as the theme for the post-2015 development agenda. U.N. member countries expect to finish drafting the SDGs by September 2014, finalize them by September 2015 and implemented them from January 2016.

However, the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs have barely entered public discussions in Korea. Talks have so far stayed within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which hosted the Seoul Post-2015 Global Development Conference last month.

Amid the lack of awareness, the Asia-Europe Foundation and ASEM SMEs Eco-innovation Center (ASEIC) co-hosted the 10th Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum) last week in Seoul. This year, the forum's title was "Green Growth and Sustainable Development Goals, A Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda."

Read the full story at:

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/biz/2013/11/334_145934.html