UNDP-UNU-FGV Symposium on “Public Administration and Rio+20”: The Role of the Visible Hand of Public Institutions in Creating a Sustainable Future

Date: June 18, 2012, 14h-18:40h
Venue: FGV-Fundação Getulio Vargas, 13F, room 1333
Praia de Botafogo 190, Botafogo, Rio de Janeiro
Registration: http://direitorio.fgv.br/rio20-admpublica-insc (put name, email and institution and click on “Enviar”)

Introduction:
This symposium organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) will discuss the role of public administration in contributing to deliver the “institutional framework for sustainable development and green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”, the two main themes of the Rio+20 Conference. The sessions will discuss the new set of reforms in public management, organizations and policies in the different levels that are needed to create greener economic growth in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. During the event, it will be launched the special issue of the journal Public Administration and Development (PAD, Wiley-Blackwell) on Rio+20 and the book “Legal Instruments for the implementation of sustainable development” published by FGV Direito Rio.

Background:
The term “Sustainable Development” became popular in the 1990s particularly after the release of the Brundtland Report and the Rio-92 (UNCED) Conference. The term definitively broke the stalemate between environmental protection, economic development and social inclusiveness (called the three pillars of sustainable development), offering the possibility that all three could come together without a trade-off, at least in theory. Nevertheless, this has not always held true in practice. Even though environmental awareness has increased and there are many good examples to illustrate sustainable development around the world, the world has become dangerously more unsustainable in several aspects, such as loss of biodiversity and climate change, which also have affected the most vulnerable populations. Thus, the question many raise is how to achieve environmental sustainability with reasonable economic growth that can lead to poverty alleviation and social inclusiveness at all levels (local, national and global)? The key observation to answer this question is the difficulty of achieving sustainable development due to the lack of institutions capable of translating the concept of sustainable development into practice.

The role of public administrations is particularly relevant to translate global concerns into local action, and local concerns into global action. However, we have to create effective and democratic institutional mechanisms within the state to make sustainable development a reality in practice at the different levels. Many of the organizations and institutions in the public administration still operate in the old paradigm of development or are unable to bring the three pillars of sustainable
development together in an effective manner. They have to be changed to create the capacity to effectively move societies and the world on a more sustainable path.

TENTATIVE AGENDA (subject to changes)

■ 14:00 – 14:40 - Opening Remarks
Professor Cristovam Buarque, Senator of the Brazilian Congress and head of the Rio+20 Senate Commission, Brazil & Member of the UNU Council
Professor Carlos Ivan Simonsen Leal President of the Getulio Vargas Foundation - FGV
Olav Kjorven, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator, UNDP, New York
Professor Govindan Parayil, UNU Vice-Rector and Director of UNU-IAS, Focal Point of UNU for Rio+20
Professor Rômulo Sampaio, Coordinator of the Program on Law and the Environment, FGV-Direito Rio

■ 14:40 – 15:20 - Session 1 – Rio+20, Public Administration and Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges (key findings from the special issue of PAD)
Speaker: Jose A. Puppim de Oliveira, UNU-IAS

■ 15:20 – 16:40 - Session 2 – Public Administration and Good Governance for Sustainable Development
Chair: Jose A. Puppim de Oliveira, UNU-IAS
Speakers:
“A Charter Moment: Restructuring Governance for Sustainability”
Professor Norichika Kanie, Tokyo Institute of Technology and UNU-IAS, Japan

“Cross-sectoral policies for sustainable development: a metagovernance perspective”
Michael Kull, MTT Agrifood Research Finland, Helsinki, Finland

Discussants:
Professor Eduardo Viola, University of Brasilia
Professor Patricia Regina Pinheiro Sampaio, FGV-Direito Rio

■ 16:40 – 17:00 – Coffee Break

■ 17:00 – 18:30 - Session 3 – Public Administration and the Mechanisms for Promoting Green Economy
Chair: Yannick Glemarec, UNDP
Speakers:
“The Political Economy of Green Growth: Illustrations from Southern Africa”
Dr. James Thurlow, UN University-World Inst. for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Finland

“Institutional subversion and deforestation: The case of rural property environmental licensing in Amazonia”
Professor Raoni Rajão, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil

Discussants:
Dr. Ronaldo Serôa da Motta, IPEA-Institute of Applied Economic Research, Brazil
Professor Monica Pinhanez, FGV-EBAPE
Professor Melina Rocha Lukic, FGV-Direito Rio

■ 18:30 – 18:40 - Session 4 – Final remarks and the way forward
Prof. Govindan Parayil, UNU Vice-Rector and Director of UNU-IAS, Focal Point of UNU for Rio+20

- 18:40 – 19:40 – Reception at FGV

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