

Symposium on Environmental Protection and Ecology in Developing Countries—Call for Action

The participants in the Symposium on Environmental Protection and Ecology in Developing Countries, cosponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Federation of Asian Scientific Academies & Societies (FASAS), held in Beijing, China, on 1-4 November 1989.

Through in-depth exchange of information and extensive discussion;

With deepened awareness of the environmental and ecological problems occurring in developing countries in Asia;

Recognizing that the trend of ever increasing industrial pollution, ecosystem degradation and environmental deterioration is continuing and further threatening the human health and constraining the economic development in these countries;

Reconfirmed the imperative need to protect and manage the environment and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations;

Urgently call upon the international community to undertake the following actions:

1. Support the general spirit of UN resolutions regarding environmental problems since the 42nd General Assembly as well as the activities of UNEP and other UN agencies relevant to the environmental protection. It is pertinent that the governments of Asian countries should give high priority to cooperative efforts in their measures for the environmental protection from a regional as well as a global point of view.

2. The industrially developed countries should be aware of their responsibility for giving deep concern about the environmental protection of developing countries, by providing the developing countries with the technologies and possible materialistic means for controlling pollution and protecting the environment.

3. Since environmental pollution is a global issue, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) has included the studies of the global changes in its programmes. In this regard, ICSU should pay much more attention to the problems occurring in developing countries and offer much more support to them. In particular, the programmes of IGBP and SCOPE should also focus on Asia and the major ecological problems confronting the countries.

4. The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) should sponsor more regional scientific symposia in developing countries similar to what FASAS has been doing in this Symposium, to strengthen the academic and technical communications between and amongst its members.

5. ICSU, TWAS, FASAS and other relevant organizations should strive to publicize the importance of environmental protection from a global and long range perspective to raise the awareness of the peoples worldwide.