General Idea of Sustainable Development

Xiongzhi Xue

New Words:

 Sustainable Development 可持续发展 ■ deforestation 森林采伐 desertification荒漠化 land degradation土地退化 harmonious development协调发展 Earth Summit 地球峰会 ■ World Summit世界峰会 ■ epidemiology流行病学 sanitation卫生设施

syllabus

1, The origin of the Sustainable Development

- 2、The definition of SD and its' general thinking
- 3, Sustainable development in China

1、 The origin of the Sustainable Development

1.1 It originates from environmental protection

Major Environmental issues

The reflection of 10 major environmental crisis in the 20th century

Environmental issues

A) Environmental pollution : atmosphere pollution, acid rain, water pollution, noise pollution, industrial rubbish and living garbage

B) Ecological pollution : deforestation, land degradation, desertification and so on.





C) Natural resource and energy sources issues : scarce land resources, water resources, oil sources



D) Global environmental problems : global warming, the decline of biodiversity, atmospheric ozone concentrations and so on.

Top 10 Environmental Disaster of the 20th Century

- 1930 Fog Disaster of Meuse Valley (Belgium)
- 1943 Smog Disaster of Los Angeles (USA)
- 1948 Donora (Pennsylvania) Smog Disaster (USA)
- 1952 Smog Disaster of London (UK)
- 1953 ~ 1956 Mercury Disaster of Minamata (Japan)
- 1955 ~ 1972 Bone Disease of Fuyama (Japan)
- 1968 Rice Bran Oil Disaster (Japan)
- 1984 Union Carbide Disaster of Bhopal (India)
- 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear Plant Accident (USSR)
- 1986 Toxic Pollution of Rhine River (Europe)

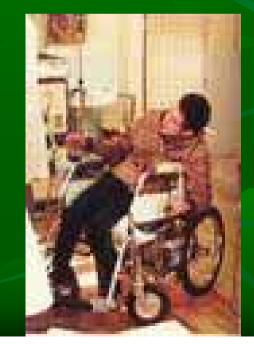
20世纪十大环境公害

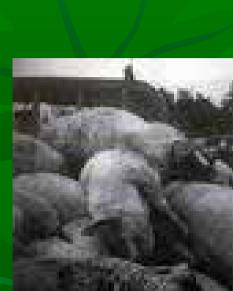
■ 1930年 马斯河谷烟雾事件 ■ 1943年 洛杉矶光化学烟雾事件 ■ 1948年 多诺拉烟雾事件 ■ 1952年 伦敦烟雾事件 ■ 1953~1956年 水俣病事件 ■ 1955~1972年 骨痛病事件 ■ 1968年 日本米糠油事件 ■ 1984年 印度博帕尔事件 切尔诺贝利核泄漏事件 ■ 1986年 剧毒物污染莱茵河事件 ■ 1986年













1.2 The change of human being's general idea of development

Traditional idea of development (1970s)

development = economic growth

harmonious development (1980s)

development = economic growth+ social
development + environmental improvement

sustainable development (1990s)

sustainable development

1.3 The evolution of SD --From Earth Summit to World Summit

1962 - Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

 Brought together research on toxicology, ecology and epidemiology to suggest that agricultural pesticides were reaching catastrophic levels.

 It was demonstrated that high levels of pesticides damaged animal species and human health.



1972 - Club of Rome publishes Limits to Growth
 ----- It predicted dire consequences if growth was not slowed.

1987 - Our Common Future Brundtland Report

----- Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development wove together social, economic, cultural and environmental issues and global solutions.

----- Chaired by Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. Popularized the term "sustainable development."

Earth Summit (1992,6,4-14)

- 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, under the leadership of Maurice Strong.
- Agreements reached on Agenda 21
- the Convention on Biological Diversity,
- ✓ the Framework Convention on Climate Change,
- the Rio Declaration,
- non-binding Forest Principles.
- Concurrent NGO Global Forum publishes alternative treaties.



 Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

Two important UN Environmental conferences

- UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment
- **1972, 6, 5**
- Stockholm
- The regional pollution and acid rain problems of northern Europe
- The Declaration on the Human Environment
- The only one earth
- UNEP

- UN Conference on Environment and Development
 - **1992, 6, 3**
- Rio de Janeiro
- Global environmental problems (Climate Change, biological diversity and so on)
- Agenda 21
- The Rio Declaration
- CSD

Evolution of the theories and concepts of sustainable development has been *rapid* since the 1980s.

Unfortunately, as the Earth Summit review process demonstrated in 1997, progress on implementing sustainable development plans has been *slow*.

World Summit (26 August to 4 September 2002)

- World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- World governments, concerned citizens, UN agencies, multilateral financial institutions, and other major groups participate and assess global change since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992.





WHY NOW?

 Progress in implementing sustainable development has been extremely disappointing since the 1992
 Earth Summit, with poverty deepening and environmental degradation worsening.

 Ten years later, the Johannesburg Summit presents an exciting opportunity for today's leaders to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets for better implementing Agenda 21.

Example---- "Kyoto Accord"

- Five developed countries, Denmark, Luxemburg, Holland, Norway and Sweden, achieved the promised target of 0.7% external donation in 2000. They set a positive example for other developed countries.
- The Russian parliament on Oct 22, 2004 voted to ratify the Kyoto treaty, brought the legal force for its 120 signatory nations.
- In contrast, the United States of America, the most developed country in the world, refused to ratify the "Kyoto Accord".

What was the focus of the JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT?

Difficult Challenges included:
improving people's lives
conserving our natural resources
ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security.

What did the world expect from the Summit?

What the world wanted, was not a new philosophical or political debate but rather, a summit of actions and results.

Thinking:

What does SD mean to you?

What is the difference between Earth Summit and World Summit?