“What will be needed to address the Global Development Challenges of the Post-2015 Era?”

SPEAKER

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Dr. Naresh Singh is Honorary Visiting Professor in the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy (JSGP). He is also an independent consultant. Some of his recent work has been as lead consultant to UNDP Yemen on Multidimensional Livelihoods Assessment in Conflict Affected Areas and chair of the mini-forum on Legal Empowerment at the South-South Expo in Nairobi under the theme: building inclusive green economies He was also recently an adviser to UNDP Afghanistan on livelihoods of street vendors in Kabul, and to UNDP India on livelihoods recovery after disasters.

Dr. Singh has had an outstanding career in international development as both practitioner and scholar. He has worked in more than 50 countries. Some highlights of his career are:

- Program Director of the Caribbean Local Economic Development program (2011-2012) with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Director-General for Governance and Social Development and then Strategic Planning at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for nearly 10 years
- Executive Director of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, co-chaired by Madeleine Albright and Hernando de Soto (2006-2008)
- Principal Adviser for Poverty and Sustainable Livelihoods, UNDP New York (1996-2001)
- Program Director of the Community Adaptation and Sustainable livelihoods Program at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada. (1993 to 1996)
- Senior Scientist and then Executive Director Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (1986-1993)
- Canada Trust visiting professor at University of Waterloo, visiting Scholar at McGill and Harvard Universities and Adjunct Professor at Boston University among many others.

He has published several books and journal papers and is currently working on a new book tentatively titled: Legal Rights of the Poor; Foundations of Inclusive Prosperity.

He embodies transdisciplinarity having a Masters degree in Agriculture and a Ph.D in environmental chemistry and after 7 years work and publishing in these fields he has been working and publishing for the last 20 years in the fields of governance, public policy, law, and international development.

Abstract:

The loudest calls from “a million voices” speak to a post 2015 agenda centred around the injustice people feel because of growing inequalities and insecurities that exist particularly for poorer and marginalized people. The challenges are complex and interlinked, requiring a sustainable development agenda that is integrated, holistic and universal, applying to all countries and all people. The call is for a new agenda built on human rights, and universal values of equality, justice and security. These calls are not new yet these challenges persist. Success will require nothing less than a rethinking of the dominant narratives of our current civilizations. The lecture will speak to these challenges from the perspectives of public policy, law, international affairs and business. The arguments will take a transdisciplinary approach grounded in the humanities.

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