



供應鏈及資訊管理學系
Department of Supply Chain
and Information Management



“Entrepreneur Spirit and Sustainable Development”

Delivered by

Denis Nkala

Regional Coordinator-UN Office for
South-South Cooperation
(UNOSSC-Asia Pacific)

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I am sure that as entrepreneurship students, everyone is familiar with the spirit and attributes that make a successful entrepreneur. That passion to live no stone unturned until the vision is achieved; that iron will that says it can be done when others think of why it cannot be done; that ability to adjust as more knowledge, more experience and greater challenges come by; the ability to make others follow and share dream until they dream the same dream and the insatiable ambition to do more: all these are very important attributes.

I am from the United Nations Development System. I am obviously not an entrepreneur and although I tried a few times never achieved the success. When I looked at the topic given to me I wondered what dots I had to connect to have a message relevant for you today. In the end I returned to the documents and that body of work created by most of the member states of the United Nations towards the adoption of the Sustainable development Goals. I hope that you will be familiar with the sustainable Development Goals as much as the entrepreneurship spirit.

Let's look at some of the statistics we have about the little blue planet and its people. Where are we going and will the earth continue to shield and protect us. Greenhouse emissions are at the highest levels in history. Since 1990, global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by almost 50%. Each of the last three decades has been successively warmer than the preceding decades since 1850. Sea levels are rising faster than ever.

Global unemployment increased from 170 million to 202 million people (2007-2012). Of this number 75 million are young women and men. Furthermore, 470 million jobs are required between 2016 and 2030 to absorb new entrants into the labour market.

Income inequality increased by 11% in developing countries between 1990 and 2010. Children in the poorest 20% segment of the population are three times as likely to die before they reach the age of five as the other children in the higher income segments.

Why did I reel off these statistics? The reason is simple. The planet that we all depend on is threatened by human activities. However, at the same time there will be growing numbers of young people challenged to make a living. There is increasing inequality, the poor may not be getting poorer but the richer are doing so at a faster rate. The very activities that generate the riches in a lot of ways have contributed to the unsustainable progression.

The point I want to make therefore is that perhaps the spirit of the entrepreneur as we know it is no longer sufficient. We need to add other attributes. These could include care for the planet that sustains us; caring for our environment and caring for those who can be worse off because you are better off.

In other words, the new young entrepreneur has to have the drive to succeed but that has to be supported by a spirit that cares for the earth that gives us all that we want, and care for those that may be less fortunate than us.

The last idea, to share the ideas of entrepreneurship, knowledge and to some extent resources is at the centre of the partnership that we have with the Centre for Corporate Sustainability and Innovation. When it comes to sharing among the developing countries, we call it South-South Cooperation. We hope to engage other institutions and perhaps have a youth to youth platform to share the more expansive entrepreneurship ideas and as much as possible help them come up too.

I think a world where people see issues from the same position will be a better and more sustainable world. I thank you for your attention.