

The big charge upon our shoulders

The discussions for the course this week have raised many questions and answers about how to deal with climate change and sustainable development. The first week, the talk about development vs. environment was hard thinking about my national background but this week, how the topics have been developed I think the view is quite better and also is no longer north/south anymore.

On Tuesday, we named our first group presentation was the Climate change policy was not including a change in its structure. After reading the book we were assigned about Carbon Trading the critics arise. The way the author approaches the topic and how he explains the creation of sustainable policies take us to think why no one cares about the structures? As students, we point up the excessively obvious power unbalance that exist in the environmental negotiations but we don't talk about how we can make the power balance a fairer one.

The text of Steve Bass provides some lights or the discussion. In the text, the expose which are the most common legal parameters or ideas that lead the environmental policy and also he have some interesting proposals. For example, in the text he is very clear about the fact that without knowing the people that is in the first benefited or affected by the effects of the climate change is not possible to treat poverty and environmental issues as one main pursuit. He suggests, as part of the Brundtland Commission conclusions, that sustainable development is about making policies related equally to improve the economic and social situation of people in poverty and, at the same time, to protect the environment.

If we try to link this reflection with the presentation by Marikki Stocchetti we have a clearer picture of the situation. What we have to make understandable for the lay population is that we don't have to treat economic growth as development or progress because it is just not and that it can be achieved in a way it doesn't affect the environment sustainability. The mass consumption, the carbon pollution, the uncontrolled mining and so on are not wealthy neither for the people or the world. So, what the policy makers, Governments, scholars and everyone should do is to open the possibility for the people to participate, to get the knowledge on the climate change topic and act. To keep the silence between the north and the south, taking in account the actual situation, will make the south to close to future proposals for sustainable development and I may be too late.

As a conclusion, our second week had been really profitable for our understanding of climate change and sustainable development. I think that the questions I used to have about how to include the developing countries, as mine, are in a better way to be answered and studied. If we agree that sustainable development is the answer, we must start working on it soon.

References

Bass, Steve “A New Era in Sustainable Development”
2007 London: IIED Briefing Papers.