



INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO VALE



Munasinghe Institute for Development
making development more sustainable (MDMS)

**Symposium on
Sustainable Development:
New Dimensions for
Society & Business**

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**“Identifying the Rio+40
roadmap”**

Prof. Alexander Likhotal
President
Green Cross International
Geneva, Switzerland

After Rio+20 the world will never be the same. Even if Rio fails to herald a change in global sustainability politics, it will mark a phase shift in the way the world sees, understands, and governs itself.

Among the several imbalances in need of correction, the main one is political. It has to do with the way power is concentrated: not just within countries but between the national nature of politics and the global reach of markets;

between Western-dominated multilateral institutions and the eastward shift of economic power.

The weakness of multilateral institutions in responding to these new realities is making it hard to deliver adequate concerted policy responses appropriate to the scale of the problem. The current crisis, however, is creating a new impetus to strengthen multilateralism and to share power and responsibility.

Three gaps need to be bridged on the post Rio road:

- we must come to grips with reality: limitless growth on a finite planet is not possible.
- we must close the gap between rhetoric and reality in “greening” the economy.
- we have to overcome the execution delays due to the pressures of vested interests and the inertia of existing global and national power structures.