Post-print of Researcher Lü Yonglong's Address at the United Nations Environment Assembly

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Abstract

Full Text

Lü Yonglong Invited to Address the UN Environment Assembly

In December 2017, the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) and the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment were convened at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together numerous government officials, entrepreneurs, scientists, and social activists from across the globe. High-level attendees included Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd UN General Assembly and Slovak Foreign Minister; Edgar Gutiérrez, President of UNEA-3 and Costa Rica's Minister of Environment and Energy; Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya; and Erik Solheim, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director. At UNEP's invitation, Academician Lü Yonglong, a researcher from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, participated in the assembly.

At the opening ceremony of the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum, Professor Lü Yonglong spoke as a representative of the international scientific community. He noted that environmental science is both application-oriented and a new interdisciplinary field. As global environmental problems intensify, the importance of environmental science research becomes increasingly evident. The purpose of scientific research is to identify emerging global or regional environmental issues, analyze their causes, assess their impacts, develop prevention and control technologies, and propose countermeasures and policy recommendations. However, truly solving practical environmental problems requires government decision-making, resource allocation, and financial support, as well as implementation by enterprises and broad public participation. While the integration of

science and policy has been discussed extensively worldwide, this forum's inclusion of entrepreneurs establishes a crucial bridge between science, policy, and business that will play a vital role in identifying and resolving global environmental challenges. The international scientific community eagerly anticipates building cooperative alliances with policymakers and entrepreneurs to provide critical scientific and technological support for "Beating Pollution."

On December 5, at the first government-business dialogue session of the UN Environment Assembly, following remarks by environment ministers from Mexico, Japan, and India, as well as the Vice President of IBM and other corporate representatives, Professor Lü Yonglong was invited to deliver concluding remarks. He proposed that strengthening cooperation among government, the scientific community, and business should focus on three aspects to enhance the utilization of scientific achievements:

First, scientists should select research topics based on real-world environmental problems rather than merely personal academic interests. Relevant government departments and the business community should fully articulate their concerns, policy orientations, and investment priorities. Through multiple rounds of discussion and coordination, the three parties should jointly formulate environmental science research plans with short-, medium-, and long-term objectives, organize research teams around specific scientific questions, and provide systematic solutions.

Second, during the research process, government and enterprises should grant scientists sufficient trust and respect, creating a relatively relaxed academic environment that fully stimulates their creativity. Concurrently, the scientific community should endeavor to help government administrators and entrepreneurs understand the research process, enabling them to track research progress and application potential in a timely manner and to address various difficulties and problems encountered by research teams as they arise.

Third, research teams must communicate their findings not only in scientific language to peer experts but also be adept at explaining their results in language accessible to policymakers, providing scientific evidence for policy formulation and assisting government departments in developing policies for the transfer and transformation of scientific achievements. Enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, are the main drivers of technological innovation and should be engaged as important participants in environmental R&D activities, playing a principal role in technology transfer and transformation. Only when government, business, and academia form an organically integrated partnership can we effectively advance environmental science research, technology development, and the promotion and application of scientific achievements.

Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.