ASK-Y SESSION 3

MEETING MINUTES

November 13th, 2023, 12:00-14:00

**Session Title**

Innovative Pathways: Examining Sustainable Development Through Technological Innovation Advancements

**Attendees**

Asia Society Korea Staff: Yvonne Kim (Executive Director), Amy Kim (Program Coordinator),

Elisabeth Meissgeier (ASK-Y Staff)

ASK-Y Participants: Alissa Yanik-Woods, Edwyna Kurniawan, François de Navacelle,

Ignacio Barroso Gómez, Jevon Dixon, Zumaro Zumaro

Speaker: Professor Daniel Pinkston

**Introduction**

Introducing the speaker, Professor Daniel Pinkston, Zumaro provided a brief overview of the session, highlighting his academic and professional background.

**Presentation**

Using various data sources, Professor Pinkston gave an overview of natural environments, domestic politics, and international relations, elaborating on the associated challenges.

Professor Pinkston delved into negative or transboundary externalities, discussing problems in the atmosphere and their global political implications. He then explored the damage to world water resources and their sustainability, incorporating the impact on the ecosystem. Additionally, he touched on soil damage, including deforestation and rainforest issues, providing an overview of the methods that have significant impacts on these areas and their ecosystems.

The professor explained five factors determining the success of environmental problem management: efforts by NGOs, leader consensus, consideration of the needs of developing countries, the cost of action, and support from major countries. He illustrated the approaches used by countries, including unilateral, bi- and multilateral approaches, using examples such as Montreal, Kyoto, and Paris. Further examples included UN conventions and summits from Stockholm, Rio, and the discourse on Sustainable Development (MDGs) in NYC, Johannesburg, and Rio de Janeiro. Professor Pinkston shared the evolving commitment of parties in 2015, ultimately leading to the 17 SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Concluding the presentation, Professor Pinkston highlighted the dilemmas of development related to "good governance" domestically and internationally, opening the floor for comments, questions, and discussion.

**Q&A Session**

François posed a question regarding the depth of less-developed countries and the narrative of blaming non-Western countries. François also noted that the justification and hindrance of development through Western countries' needs are part of the problem.

In response, Professor Pinkston highlighted how the US agricultural industry and colonization also contributed to deforestation. He raised the question of developing countries, questioning why they cannot or are not allowed to do what developed countries did long ago, emphasizing the central role of compensation and costs in the ongoing debate.

Addressing environmental concerns, Jevon inquired about the correlation between conflicts and environmental determinism, as well as the impact of different political regimes on environmental destruction.

Professor Pinkston discussed the idea that dictators may not face the same pressures as democratically governed countries, though the implications are not always positive. He illustrated this with examples from North Korea, African countries, and the trade of toxic waste. Regarding conflicts, he acknowledged evidence suggesting that environmental and social issues, such as climate change and migration, can contribute to conflicts.

Zumaro raised a question about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the maritime area/tidal energy, expressing concerns about potential negative implications on the sea and marine life.

Professor Pinkston asserted that there wouldn't be negative implications, emphasizing the interconnectedness of ecosystems and life within them. He mentioned the potential danger of space debris and highlighted the new possibility of solar space energy, suggesting a positive attitude toward technological solutions.

François brought up the case of the Arab Spring, suggesting that it could be seen as a conflict based on sacred resources like wheat. He emphasized the importance of societal needs that governments may struggle to fulfill, challenging the discourse focused on political dimensions.

Professor Pinkston acknowledged the contingency of implications in rebellions and revolutions but stressed the importance of considering the impact of desperate humans in society.

Appreciating Professor Pinkston's contribution, Zumaro closed the session, encouraging further questions to be directed to the professor.