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PHILOSOPHY OF SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF MANKIND

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The Abstract

Philosophy of sustainable future of mankind is the search for knowledge and understanding of the nature and meaning of the universe and life.

Under the threat of the impact of the climate change system to the biosphere of the planet Earth our civilization has to meet the challenges and establish a path for survival.

Present global social order, life style, education, ethics and daily practice of humans needs to undergo a fundamental renewal to meet the needs of the third millennium.

The sustainable future of mankind³ or harmony of our civilization with the nature of the Planet Earth is an option for mankind to survive approaching impact of the climate change system at the biosphere of the planet Earth.

Key Words

Philosophy; Sustainable future; Our civilization; The climate change system; Our common enemy; New approach; Global society, The Climate Change System Impact, Interdependence, Interaction and Co-operation, etc.

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³ The sustainable future of mankind was discussed at the book »The Sustainable (Development) Future of Mankind«, Ecimovic at all, 2006, ISBN 978-961-91826-2-8, displaed at: www.institut-climatechange.si .



The Discussion

For⁴ over 12 thousands or more years of Homo sapiens evolution, human society was first scattered in the most suitable environments which offered security, water and food, and later shelter and a fire place. Humans have progressed from a hunting and gathering tribal life, to antiquity, medieval, pre-industrial, industrial, postindustrial, informative, innovative, and now to a global society. The synergy of this represents the leading edge of current existence; a reality borne of a fast changing environment in terms of the quality of Planet Earth's environment. The biosphere and the living environment have been changing from a suitable one lasting some 12.000 years to a threatening one as a result of recent evolution.

Planet Earth's natural system has been maintaining itself for more than 4.6 billion years (4.600.000.000) with many ups and downs with respect to possible living conditions. With the evolution of humanity's environment (human eco system), the natural system has recently come under stress, and changes in the quality of living conditions are consequently taking a new turn. The natural system is using its system qualities and quantities as its permanent practice under the rules of interdependencies, interactions and co-operation. We cannot change living conditions but we may or may not fit into them. When we explore and gain knowledge of how the natural system and its ceaseless 24-hour processes operate, we will have a chance to properly understand the good and bad impacts of our society on its operation.

Planet Earth is not our civilization's personal playground, and it does not belong to us. In fact quite the opposite since we (our civilization as a whole) are only one group of living creatures living on the globe's surface (mainly the terrestrial part). We have been, and are trying, to accommodate ourselves very well to the quality of living conditions during our civilization's time. But recently (during the last 200 – 300 years of the industrial and subsequent era) our impact on the biosphere has been triggering a reaction from the natural system. The resulting new conditions do not benefit our civilization, but rather the contrary.

The impact of our civilization could be summarized in the following way: Our civilization's first settlements were built some 14,000 years ago, as a result of the social life-improvements of pre-antiquity humans. The first settlements on European lands were built in swampy areas for security reasons, and the population consisted of up to 10,000. This was a result of the changed conditions within the biosphere which evolved after the last ice-age, which ended some 60,000 – 16,000 years ago. Since then the climate change system conditions at the biosphere of the planet Earth have been of almost the same quality right up to the present time. Changes have, of course, occurred but not as extreme as the ones we face now. The difference between today and 200 years ago is due to the extreme input of our civilization's output into biosphere including all sorts of waste, the side-effects of nuclear technologies, synthetic chemicals, the human population explosion and its consequence, which can be seen in the destruction of the biosphere due to the ways that human needs have been met.

The climate change system as an integral part of the Earth's biosphere has a bigger influence on our civilization than humans think or believe. In absolute terms the climate change system is provider, holder, maker and guardian of the living conditions which make our life possible.

⁴ Presentation has been put together from new book "The Sustainable (Development) Future of Mankind", Prof. Dr. Timi Ecimovic, John M. Bunzl, Prof. Dr. Mark Espozito, Sir Prof. Dr. Roger Haw, Prof. Dr. Matjaz Mulej, Prof. Dr. Warren Flint, Prof. Dr. H. A. Shankaranarayana, Prof. Dr. Peter A. Wilderer, Prof. Dr. Lloyd C. Williams, and contribution from Ms Roshni Udyavar, September 2007, displayed at www.institut-climatechange.si



But we humans are doing our best, through our “modern” relationship with nature and each other, not to appreciate this fact. Instead we harm the climate change system as much as we can, yet fortunately not as much as we think we may.

It is ***not the planet Earth*** that is the home of our civilization, but ***the biosphere***, which is a tiny part of the planet Earth. Vulnerability of the two are two, not even comparable issues.

With present global societal complex relations, systems, and characteristics: Human environment or human eco sphere, which has not much of connections with the Nature rather contrary; Homo urbanus, which will reach peak of 80% of total global mankind civilization soon (2020), meaning the total of 80 % of population will live at fragile environment of our cities; global human society has replaced the Nature knowledge by urban ethics and life style at human environment. We think our global society philosophy, education, ethics, family life, and societal complex issues should undergo renovations for the needs at third millennium.

Our civilization common enemy are consequences of the impact of the climate change system at the Planet Earth biosphere/our living space.

It is elementary to have common threat, which may bring our civilization to have better chance for survival. “***Our Common Enemy***”⁵ ***is the climate change system.***

The Nature – it is complicated situation with our understanding of the Nature. Great achievements, discoveries and research has been done in past and present and hopefully will be done in future, but it looks like our understanding of the Nature and the Nature itself are on two banks of the same river.

Life, even survival of us, the modern civilization, depends on conditions provided by the *nature* in which we human all live, and by the climate change system as an integral part of it. The Nature, Cosmos/Universe, Milky Way, Solar System, Earth, Biosphere, climate and climate change systems, terrestrial, water and air environments are *no simple systems* (features, entities, and processes), but very complex and complicated. The time – *duration, continuance (Webster)* as it is accepted, used and understood by humans and our civilization may look completely different from the *nature* point of view. The nature does not recognize our common term “time”.

The climate change system impact is changing living conditions at biosphere of the planet Earth, in general, and is result from natural processes and/or human interventions. Both kinds of impacts can cause consequences, which are both good and bad by human criteria. E.g. from a rather one-sided/narrow/shallow/oversimplifying viewpoint the changes in the human life over the last 2 – 3 centuries are bringing the so called *progress*: more comfort, a higher standard of living (for part of humanity) on the basis of many technological and non-technological innovations.

Philosophy of sustainable future of mankind is the search for knowledge and understanding of the nature and meaning of the universe and life.

The sustainable future or harmony of global society with the Nature of the Planet Earth, and its coexistence with other creatures in nature as a part of the Earth’s biosphere is the solution,

⁵ From the Executive Summary of the complementary book: »Our Common Enemy (The Climate Change System Threat)«, Ecimovic, Amerasinghe, Breki, Shankaranarayana, Chumakov, Haw, Wilderer, and Martin, 2006, ISBN 961-91826-0-X, displayed at: www.institut-climatechange.si



to the best of our knowledge, which should be adopted as the vision for our survival. We need a society wide global approach, and not the dilution of scarce financial means, for ***it is impossible to buy the survival of mankind with a financial approach however great.***

With commencement of awakening of mankind in sixties of 20th century, on needed quality of environment, as basis for life of mankind and all creatures on the Planet Earth, it is also commencement of sustainable development concept/strategy/vision.

Our collective awakening regarding the difficulties that our Earth faces was excellent; however, it did not change most people's short term values. The problems of sustainability of mankind and the Planet Earth are much more complex than were understood at the end of the 20th century.

The first part of the "sustainable development" – "sustainability", is much more important and has real value for the future of mankind. Second part, "development" is a term that is often misused from the industrial revolution and world of economics, and has nothing to do with Nature of the planet Earth. When we use the term "development", we are referring to products, construction, man-made systems, repairs, machines, armaments, etc.

Development is a part of human society of post-industrial era. Nature has no "development" whatsoever, and natural system works on contents and under the rules of ***interdependences, interactions and co-operation***⁶ relations.⁷

What is needed is a New Approach⁸ as the introduction of global society system relations, values, ethics, contents and mechanisms, which should assist as to transcend to a sustainable future of Planet Earth's human global society.

What is necessary for the survival of humankind is to introduce the concept of a sustainable future of humankind by attaining harmony with our environment and the nature, since present society have lost touch with the nature.

Sustainable future of local community leads to the sustainable future of mankind.

It would be easy to write at length on the concept of sustainable development, but that is not the purpose of this presentation. Our purpose is to transcend from sustainable development to sustainable future as concept, policy, technique that is needed for the survival of mankind. The follow up from sustainable development should be accomplished with all possible co-operation of mankind to sustainable future, and by mitigations of the climate change system impact on the biosphere of the planet Earth.⁹ The goal of sustainable future is a most complex issue, which could be undertaken with consent of all humankind and with a real dedication to fulfilling its goals.

⁶ ***Interdependence, interaction and co-operation*** as constant engine of the Nature has been described at the book System Thinking and Climate Change System, please see www.institut-climatechange.si .

⁷ System Thinking and Climate Change System – Against a big »Tragedy of Commons« of all of us, 2002, Ecimovic. Majur, Mulej and "The Information Theory of Nature, and", 2006, Ecimovic, are opening discussions for understanding present by our civilization, and this presentation.

⁸ New Approach as needs for restructuring of global society has been introduced by Prof. Dr. Slavko Kulic, IOM, from Zagreb, Croatia, but it is still within science, and is waiting for better time to be understood and used.

⁹ Please see complementary book »Our common Enemy – The Climate Change System Threat« at www.institut-climatechange.si .



It is pertinent at this point to provide a short description of “sustainable future”: **Sustainable future of mankind is harmony of the humankind system/civilization with system of nature/biosphere of the planet Earth.**

It is a short description of a very complicated and complex concept of present global human society and its basis – the biosphere of the Planet Earth. We believe that all good work of countless individuals towards achieving sustainable development should now be reoriented to the more complex concept of achieving a “sustainable future”.

However number of important issues have been mentioned, but not to forget, many more of them have not been mentioned. We believe that it is important to understand all simple and complex issues needed for transcend of present global society to sustainable future human society of the third millennium.

People, values and knowledge have been making an epic song of our civilization, which has been going on since humans have existed. And so has other nature, including *whole* Universe, Milky Way, The Solar System, Planet Earth, Biosphere etc down to fundamental particles – quarks, protons, neutrons, electrons, relativity theory, quantum mechanics and atom structural understandings. We people are a part of nature, although this has been admitted less over the last three centuries than ever before.

The climate change system ultimately would change living conditions within the biosphere and geography of the Earth so much that our civilization will end. Therefore we are presenting the climate change system as common enemy of our civilization, and sustainable future concept as path for survival or future of our civilization, and we are

RECOMMENDING¹⁰

One planet, one government is our first recommendation. Of course, **The Constitution of the Planet Earth Federation is first and The Planet Earth Parliament and Government follow in line, after ratification of The Constitution of the Planet Earth Federation.**

Secondly we are recommending a new approach to the *social order*, which has to reflect the present experience, and the establishment of a *new contract for humankind living on the Planet Earth*. The goal is to prevent explosion of humankind reproduction, enforce ethics and tolerance amongst peoples of the Earth, enforces (a globally holistic!) law and order, and with skilful governing allow the coming generations to live and have sustainable future¹¹ on the planet Earth.

Thirdly we are recommending *redirections of scientific work* from innovations of war armaments techniques and technologies for destruction, too narrowly market-oriented synthetic chemicals technologies, too narrowly market-oriented genetic manipulation techniques, societal management based on money the master practices, etc., to discovering viable global systems of nature, space, the environment and cosmos, as essential elements of knowledge needed for survival and sustainable future or harmony of our civilization with the Nature.

In conclusion: “Be the change you want to see in the world” (Gandhi).

¹⁰ Taken from Recommendations written at the book *Our Common Enemy (The Climate Change System Threat)*.

¹¹ Sustainable future is harmony of humankind and the Nature/Biosphere of planet Earth.



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