

## ***Executive Summary***

While the conventional understanding and measures of dealing with the ecological crisis and environmental problems are necessary, they are not sufficient. They do not touch on the fundamentals of the crisis and problems. The approach is managing crises, short and medium-term measures addressing only environmental symptoms and consequences. They do not address the human causes, deeper-rooted problems and developments. Conventional measures—dealing with the ecological crisis only at the socio-cultural level in political, economic, scientific and technological terms—need to take place within the larger context of long-term development, changing the way we traditionally and today understand and manage human existence and development. They provide the time for the required long-term development and change. On their own, conventional measures only buy time for a way of understanding and managing human existence and development that are not sustainable.

How traditionally and today we understand and manage human existence and development contradicts, conflicts with and falls short of the natural conditions, demands and challenges of existence, causing persisting and growing problems and difficulties for the individual, society and the natural environment. It leads to changes in nature and natural developments that in the long-term will render the natural environment of the Earth uninhabitable for the human species.

Essentially, we meet non-material mental needs in material ways, exploiting and consuming natural resources beyond actual human natural material needs. And we collectively try to create in the world around us, in socio-cultural and physical-material terms, what by nature we must establish individually in the mind through mental work and effort. In the process we interfere with and degrade the natural environment beyond what is necessary in order to understand and manage human existence and development.

The problem is we fail to understand and manage the mind and mental existence. We fail to understand and manage where we consciously exist and act, where individually we are in charge and in control, where we must actively be engaged and take responsibility for what takes place and what we do. We fail to understand and manage the place where we experience, become aware and consider the conditions of existence and the world around us; where we make choices and decisions, where we define goals and objectives, where we plan, organize and manage our behaviour and actions. We fail to understand and manage where problems and difficulties have their roots and beginnings, and where answers and solutions must start.

Dealing with persisting and growing environmental problems, creating the necessary conditions for a sustainable, peaceful and secure future requires changing the way we understand and manage human existence and development. It requires understanding and managing existence and development, demands

and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions, everything in life we face and we have to deal with, at the level and within the context of understanding and managing, in the first instance, the mind and mental existence.

Creating the conditions necessary for a sustainable and secure future requires understanding and managing the mind, mental existence and mental development, from within the mind and mental existence, as reflected in individual experience. It requires meeting non-material mental needs in non-material ways, in the mind and mental existence, through mental work and effort. Understanding and managing existence and development in sustainable, peaceful and secure ways involves establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, in everything we do and we engage in, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us.

It requires developing the conceptual foundation and mental capacity, the understanding, the natural human mental potential, individual natural mental powers and abilities, necessary mental skills and practices, to understand and manage human existence and development from the inside out and from the ground up, in their essence, in an integrated and holistic way, not from the top down and from the outside in, in a fragmented way in the abstract. It is essential to understand and manage existence and development from inside the mind and mental existence, at the level of the natural conditions of existence, common to all human beings, that lie behind and that are reflected in human experience, the experience of every individual human being. Not, as traditionally is the case, understanding and managing existence and development from the human-created socio-cultural level down to the level of the individual, and the level of the natural conditions of existence. It is necessary to understand and manage them in their essence, in depth and detail, in a holistic, differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way. Not dividing and separating the conditions of existence into different issues, subject matters, disciplines, fields of study, and areas of human activity, specialization and expertise, defined and governed by different, competing and conflicting assumptions, aims, approaches and practices.

Dealing with the ecological crisis and environmental problems and creating the necessary conditions for a sustainable future requires a change in focus from managing the economy to managing human existence and development. It requires understanding and managing human existence and development at the level of the individual, not macro-managing the economy from a higher level up, internationally or globally. Human existence is to be improved through improving understanding and managing the mind and mental existence, not through material possessions and consumption. Changing the way we understand and manage human existence and development requires cultural change and transformation, with every culture changing the historical path and direction of development, taking the next step in human conceptual and mental

development and growth. It will require education and training in conceptual and mental development and growth.

Creating the necessary conditions for a sustainable, peaceful and secure future requires making the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the Century of the mind, mental existence and mental development. Not the scientific study of the mind as a natural phenomena or just another human organ, but understanding and managing the mind and mental existence as the place where we consciously exist and act; the place where individually we are in charge and in control, where we must actively be engaged and take responsibility for what takes place and what we do.

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