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A NEED FOR CHEESEFONDUE WORKSHOPS AND FORA ON ETHICS AND SCIENCE FOR THE HUMAN-NATURE RELATION

Mankind is entering a new planetary era: individually and as groups we get acquainted with each other, exchange goods and information, interact socially, politically, and economically, enabling new perspectives of life - but also more dependencies. Worldwide contacts are made possible by scientific developments, new techniques and equipments for communication, travel, and transport. Better mutual understanding and cooperation gives hope for a peacefully united mankind. At the same time, however, the exploitation of resources and raw materials has reached a speed difficult to be increased (e.g. D. Meadows *et al.*, Limits to Growth - The 30-Year Update, 2004; R. Heinberg, The Party's Over, 2004). Competition is likely to become stronger and the risks of economic disasters increase. Either, ways of respectful understanding are found for this imminent period of history - or even more energy and resources are wasted by the old violent processes of exploitation and battling for superiority. Which of both possibilities prevails depends upon our understanding of the sources of human motivation. Are we able to develop better ways of dealing with each other, individually and as members of our respective societies, and also with the environment? Especially the question of justice needs to be addressed. This is mainly a matter of education. The foundations of human driving forces are deeply buried. They have their origin in the individual psychological history, as well as the collective cultural conditions of groups and societies. But deeper down, they are rooted in concrete spiritual sources which are largely inaccessible to intellect and reason; intuition, enthusiasm, and love are the proper ways to tap them. In today's educational practices however, the longing of most human beings for recognition of such mental and emotional needs remains largely neglected. Instead, many of us have a purely intellectual-materialistic view of the human being and the world around us - resulting in a continuous craving for some transcendental nourishment. As this remains unsatisfied by the unbalanced diet, substitutes are sought by the modern human being, e.g. consumerism, personal power and wealth, and search for all kinds of distractions - until he/she discovers that even these do not give satisfaction. Science and education complemented by

intuitive-spiritual ways of cognition are needed for mastering the challenges of sustainability (e.g. Edgar Morin, Les sept savoirs nécessaires à l'éducation du future, Unesco, 1999). New ways and institutions of life-long learning for holistic and truthful education are required, fostering the individual's potential to contribute to a culture of solidarity as motor (e.g. Christine Kessler: Amo ergo sum). Together with the traditional scientific and professional training, a higher level of cognition can be reached: the whole is more than the sum of its parts, has higher qualities and properties. Since 2006, in the Cheesefondue Initiative (www.cheesefondue-workshops.uni-bayreuth.de/CFW09/workshop.html) individuals and groups from various social levels, professions, and cultural backgrounds have decided to help developing and implementing new concepts of education, as others do also (e.g. California Institute of Integral Studies: www.ciis.edu; Denmark www.kaospilot.dk; "World Ethos", "Global Challenges", "Club of Rome", "Club of Budapest"). This was attempted by performing Cheesefondue Workshops on relevant subjects (CFW I, 1-4 March 2006, Science, Culture, and Ethics for a Human Future, St. Marienthal, Germany; CFW II, 23-26 March 2007, Education for Human Energy: Concepts and Integration, Bayreuth, Germany; CFW III, 8-11 Aug 2008, Spirit of the Future: Bridging the Contrasts, Bayreuth, Germany; CFW IV, 22-24 Jan 2010, Justice, a Matter of Respect, Ethics, and Empathy, Bloemfontein, South Africa; CFW V, 5-8 May 2011, Science and Spirit, Responsibility for Freedom; Bayreuth, Germany) and Fora on Ethics and Science for the Environment in Bayreuth (10-12 Jan 2007), Ferrara (23-25 Sep 2008), Torun (12-14 Oct 2008), and Modena (28-30 April 2011). The participants of these events have been and are from all walks of society, including Nobel Laureates (Richard Ernst, Roald Hoffmann), famous scientists (Carl Djerassi, Leo Nefiodof), politicians, entrepreneurs, professionals of all sorts, secretaries, school pupils, etc. Our intention is to raise the recognition and acceptance of the needs of addressing the spiritual reality of the human being in all aspects of life, in particular in education. A level of political resonance should be reached so that concrete actions are started to explore and implement proper ways of formation for humanism.