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Human society and economy in interaction with nature.

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"EOLSS has the goal to provide a firm knowledge base for future activities to prolong the lifetime of the human race in a hospitable environment"

Richard R. Ernst, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry



EOLSS

A Sample of Opinions on the UNESCO-EOLSS project

“Scientific curiosity and technological endeavors are deeply rooted aspects of human nature. They are responsible for the development of human society and welfare. But they are also responsible for much of the environmental problems we are facing today. Solutions for these shortcomings are inconceivable without full scientific and technological support. EOLSS has the goal to provide a firm knowledge base for future activities to prolong the lifetime of the human race in a hospitable environment.” **Richard R. Ernst, Nobel Laureate- Chemistry**

“The EOLSS is not only appropriate, but it is imaginative and, to my knowledge, unique. Much of what we can write about science, about energy, about our far-ranging knowledge base, can indeed be found in major encyclopedias, but as I understand your vision, never as a central theme; the theme of humanity, embedded in nature and constrained to find ways of maintaining a relationship with nature based upon understanding and respect.” **Leon M. Lederman, Nobel Laureate in Physics**

“The population of our planet and its development over the ages sets the scene for considering all global problems and it is reasonable to begin their discussion with population growth. ... Thus we are dealing with an interdisciplinary problem in an attempt to describe the total human experience, right from its very beginning. But without this perspective of time it is not possible to objectively assess what is happening today and provide an objective view of the present state of development, the challenge now facing humanity.” **S.P. Kapitza, UNESCO Kalinga Prize Winner**

“Pursuit of knowledge and truth supersedes present considerations of what nature, life or the world are or should be, for our own vision can only be a narrow one. Ethical evaluation and rules of justice have changed and will change over time and will have to adapt. Law is made for man, not man for law. If it does not fit any more, change it.... Some think that it is being arrogant to try to modify nature; arrogance is to claim that we are perfect as we are! With all the caution that must be exercised and despite the risks that will be encountered, carefully pondering each step, mankind must and will continue along its path, for we have no right to switch off the lights of the future.... We have to walk the path from the tree of knowledge to the control of destiny.” **Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry**

“Ecotechnology involving appropriate blends of traditional technologies and the ecological prudence of the past with frontier technologies such as biotechnology, information technology, space technology, new materials, renewable energy technology and management technology, can help us to promote global sustainable development involving harmony between humankind and nature on the one hand and tolerance and love of diversity and pluralism in human societies on the other. We need shifts in technology and public policy. This is a challenging task to which the Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems should address itself.” **M.S. Swaminathan, First World Food Prize winner**

“EOLSS is concerned with the Life Support Systems... Each of these systems is a very complex one. ...we have to think of all these “systems” as closely related “subsystems” of the Planet Earth System. ...Rational decisions will be more and more possible to envision if one will be able to couple the physical modeling to economic and financial models and to human factors...” **J.L. Lions, Japan Prize winner in Applied Mathematics**

“In the coming decades, the need for working together, across countries, is essential. We need to bring 3 billion poor into society and make it possible for them to lead healthy lives, to get the health interventions that we all take as something as self-evident. It can be done. It is within reach. We need to invest in the future. We need to invest in the health of all people worldwide.” **Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General, WHO**, in an interview with Patricia Morales

“We must learn to live at one with nature. Nature does not bear grudges, but it must not be brought to the point where it can no longer sustain human society and the continuance of humankind on Earth. I believe that one of the most important things is the shaping of a new value system, because nature can live without us, but we cannot live without nature. Instead of a hedonic approach, we should promote an approach that reasonably limits consumerism and which promotes the virtue of enoughness. If we insist on consumerism as the new utopia, nature will reject such a system, as surely as cultural diversity rejected the totalitarian system. Our generation has to face a difficult challenge, but as recent history has proven, walls of difficulty, like the Berlin Wall, can fall.” **Mikhail Gorbachev, Nobel Laureate in Peace**, in an interview with Patricia Morales

“We live in an increasingly interdependent world. As a result, we must cooperate together across all boundaries of nation, culture, faith, and race, and at all levels—locally, nationally, regionally, and globally— if we are to achieve our basic environmental, economic and social goals. Furthermore, if we are to make wise choices and to cooperate together effectively, we urgently need a shared vision of fundamental ethical values to guide us. In other words, the development of global ethics is essential. Our very survival as a species is in doubt if we cannot clarify our ethics and develop common values around such basic issues as environmental protection, justice, human rights, cultural diversity, economic equity, eradication of poverty, and peace.” **Steven C. Rockefeller, Earth Charter Commissioner**, in an interview with Patricia Morales

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UNESCO-Encyclopedia Life Support Systems (EOLSS) has been developed under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It is regarded as the world's largest comprehensive professional publication carrying state-of-the-art, high quality, peer reviewed, thematically organized archival content in many traditional disciplines, and interdisciplinary subjects including the coverage of transdisciplinary pathways. The contributions are from thousands of scholars from over 100 countries and edited by more than 350 subject experts. It also includes up-to-date coverage of various aspects of sustainable development that are relevant to the current state of the world. UNESCO-EOLSS is an integrated compendium of twenty one component encyclopedias:

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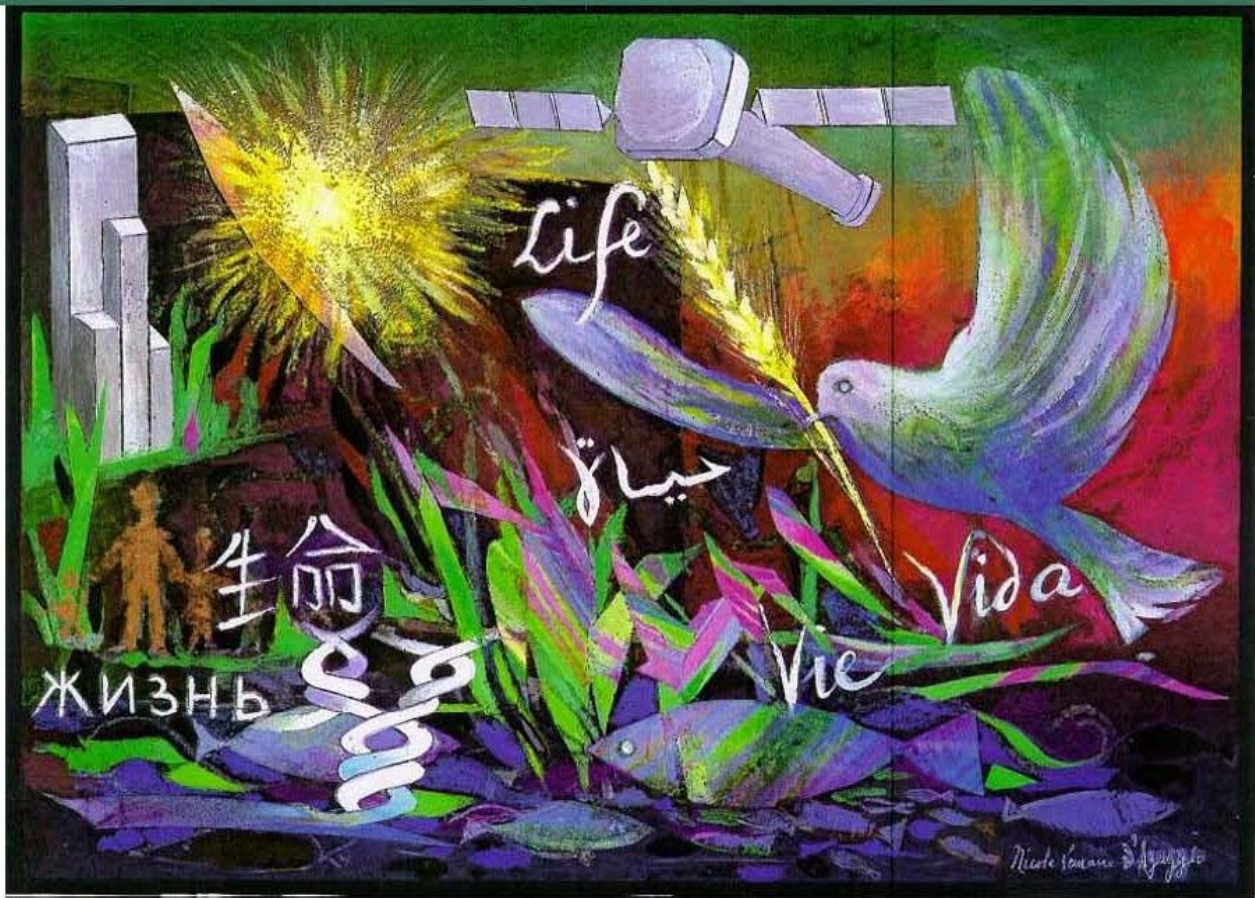
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