

## EDUCATIONAL REFORMS – THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT

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I have the honour to welcome you all in Budapest with grateful respect, right here, at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, on the occasion of this meeting. Allow me to welcome with distinctive, deep respect His Eminence, Mr. Feofan, the Foreign Minister of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Russia.

Building a biocentric society does not seem to be an easy task for the next century. Due to the evolution of our world, we have to face and cope with several new problems. They result from the destruction of the environment, the decrease of energy resources and the lack of balance in the world, and constitute such an important part of our life today that many organisations and governments develop strategies for their solution. There is a general need for formulating a new cultural scale of values and this cannot eliminate the religions that have influenced the cultural scale of values from time to time.

The Biopolitics International Organisation regards the development of education as a solution, since through education a significant change can be achieved in the general way of looking at future societies. The establishment of an educational institution that aims at the promotion of a biocentric approach requires the joining of forces of nations. Personnel training, training of teachers, and the support of research should appear as inherent needs in every country.

Due to the educational reforms in Hungary, it is possible to take environmental training, even as a main subject, in primary schools. Education in environmental protection and human ecology plays an important role in universities and colleges, yet the proportion of students graduating in these fields appears to be low in comparison to the destruction being wrought upon the environment. The approach to environmental protection still belongs to the category of a "unique" speciality in Hungary nowadays, but considerable changes have taken place since 1990. More publicity has been given to conferences like the present one and to mass demonstrations, and there are several civil organisations working on attracting the attention of the population to the dangers that have an impact on the environment. Nevertheless, a significant change in the general attitude has not yet been achieved.

The establishment of the International University for the Bio-Environment appears as a significant step towards the achievement of the purposes of the biopolitical movement. We also intend to take active part in this. We believe that the establishment of peace among nations and religions, and also their harmonious coexistence, is one of the most important aims for biopolitics.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion about the principles of the establishment of the International University for the Bio-Environment, and a productive time here in Budapest. I wish you all a pleasant and effective meeting and much success.

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**Academician Laszlo Kapolyi**, President of System International Foundation, studied Civil Engineering at the Technical University of Budapest, Mining Engineering at the Technical University of Heavy Industries, and Industrial Economics at the University of Economics, Budapest. He was Secretary of State responsible for Energy, and Minister of Industry from 1983 to 1987. He has served as Government Commissioner for Energy Policy, and as Fellow President of the Advising Corps of the Council of Ministers. He is Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Democratic Party, Member of the Committee of the Academy in Veszprem, Member of the Editorial Board of *Acta Geodeatica, Geophysica et Montanistica*, Honorary Doctor of Heavy Industries, Miskolc, and of the Mining University, Moscow, and Visiting Professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA. He is also University Professor of the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy in Krakow, and Member of the Club of Rome and the Presidium of the ASPEN Institute, Italy, as well as Honorary Member of the Russian Academy of Science.