

## THE B.I.O. AND THE I.U.B.E. OBSERVATIONS ON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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The Need: To change existing society represented by inverted pyramid to future society represented by second pyramid.

The value systems of society as it exists today are based on conflicting beliefs and speculations about the nature of man and the purpose of life. This situation is marked by the absence of a single, all-pervasive value system capable of confronting and resolving rationally environmental and related human problems affecting bios and arising from rapid technological change. Beliefs and values are based on diverse philosophical and metaphysical systems of thought. The movement towards a harmonious global society in the next millennium necessitates imaginative thinking leading to a synthesis. Broadly speaking, the areas in which a synthesis has to be worked out are:

- A. Monistic and dualistic views of life and universe
- B. Idealism and materialism as understood by Eastern and Western schools of thought.
- C. Evolution and Creationöseeking divinity within man.

Such a synthesis will help formulate a societal value system compatible with human aspirations and essentially common to all beliefs and faiths, in the context of which the path to the solution of environmental problems endangering bios has to be thought. In meeting this challenge the importance of the popularisation of the study of evolution and anthropology cannot be overemphasised. The end product of evolution is the unique animalöman, possessing the creative potential to change himself and in the process shape the future. By giving evolution a conscious, deliberate purpose, it may be possible to achieve the desired synthesis. Genetic research is "dramatically changing the understanding of who we are, how we got here and where we are headed." Hence the potential and implications of genetic engineering are key factors in regulating and guiding the movement towards the stable society of the future and should be singled out for intensive study and understanding at popular level. This awe-inspiring potential places a tremendous moral responsibility on scientists, theologians and policy makers alike.

### **Education**

The Platonic concept of a philosopher king found expression in the development in Greece of an education system in which philosophy was a key subject in the training of future rulers of an aristocratic state. In a modern democracy where all the people without exception are presumed to rule, the study of philosophy can no longer be confined within the rarefied atmosphere of the universities but made intelligible and meaningful to everyone. Only an education system based on a philosophy of life which places potentially divine man in the centre could hope to bring about the desired synthesis explained earlier and provide the moral and ethical basis for a societal value system that emphasises a genuine concern for bio-environment leading to the creation of a stable society as represented by the second pyramid.

### **Methods**

- A. Meetings representative of academicians, theologians, environmentalists, educationists at horizontal institutional levelöi.e. universities, research institutes, UN agencies, churches, other multilateral agencies.
- B. Vertical meetings representative of different levels in the educational and religious hierarchy.
- C. Meetings representative of theologians and clergy of various religions.
- D. Getting the message across through the mass media in a language and idiom intelligible to the people.
- E. Publication of low cost books, periodicals, booklets, tracts at academic and popular level.

### **References**

1. Vlavianos-Arvanitis, A., (1989) Biopolitics: Bio-Syllabus. Biopolitics International Organisation, Athens.

**Kumaran Fernando** is Founder and Secretary General of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka and has represented the UNA at conferences all over the world. Founder and Chairman of the Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka, the only one of its kind in Asia and Africa, he has been a member of many professional organisations including the Audubon Society of America, and is an honorary member of the UN Associations of the UK and the USA, as well as the Sagala Trust and the VASLA Flag Society.