

INTERDISCIPLINARY BIO-EDUCATION A COMPLEX SCIENCE IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM

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There are two foreseeable tendencies, presently, that can play a key role in the harmonisation of future society; the issues of human habitat and the ways of improving its quality.

A new technological breakthrough is possible, if only facilitated by an interdisciplinary approach to solving environmental challenges. In this context, it is topical to start training interdisciplinary specialists. This will also be an educational challenge if we bear in mind the huge bodies of accumulated knowledge and the persistent intensity of the information flow. However, a sound alternative can be suggested for the to-know-all-about-nothing approaches, by using new educational technologies and synergistic training programmes. A new educational scheme will cost more than traditional higher education, but a steady development of civilisation can be hardly expected in the absence of adequate professionals.

It is common knowledge that the level of education determines quality of life and lays the groundwork for higher living standards. However few states can currently boast sufficient public concern and sustainable financial support in the education sector. Budgets are always deficient while traditional training cannot provide quick outcomes. Individuals claim their right for prosperity and are willing to pay for the pleasures of the present. Nevertheless, the world community does have to think about future well-being, even though it is budgeted stingily at all times.

This is precisely the reason why the incomes of the Nobel Laureates can never be compared with those of super-stars in the show business. In order to lay the groundwork for sustainable development in the coming millennium we should clearly appreciate these realities and undertake efforts for a more efficient investment in the future, with the above-mentioned priorities in mind. One of the practical solutions is a close collaboration of individuals in the two groups of the highest creativity - artists and scientists - to initiate the "Artiscience Foundation." This foundation - borrowing the assets of the present for future prosperity - could support the universities that would offer the programmes for training encyclopaedia-minded specialists for the recuperation of the human habitat.

Based on the success of the International Sakharov Festival, held in Athens in 1994, the Biopolitics International Organisation is virtually the only institution that could realise this task. The B.I.O. ideals are a strong inspiration, capable of mobilising the creativity of both artists and scientists in a global effort to harmonise our existence with nature and to efficiently confront environmental challenges.

Dr. **Alexander M. Lutsko** was Rector of the International Sakharov College of Radioecology, Minsk, Belarus, from 1992 to 1997. A graduate of Belarus State University, he had over thirty years of scientific experience, including twenty four years of lecturing experience. In his specialisation, the field of nuclear physics, he contributed numerous papers and inventions, and published books and textbooks. Alexander Lutsko passed away September 4, 1997.