



18/01/2023

## COP28: A Serious Global Stocktaking “Wisdom Fuelling the Future!”

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join our two-day intensive **World Café** session – “**Wisdom Fuelling the Future!**” on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, at the Academy Officers Club, Dubai, between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm.

Most think our big challenge is in mastering the transition from a “**fossil fuel**” economy to one based on “**renewables**?” But could the real question be, what is an “**enduring**” economy both for ourselves **AND** our great-grandchildren and theirs for many millions of years to come?

The truth is that if we were to live wisely on our little Blue Planet, we could be here for well over 500 million years until the Sun is so hot water fails us. In other words, our “**stocktaking**” is NOT how we solve our immediate problems, but instead, how we envision a wholesome and regenerative approach for life for all! In this spirit, the **Club of Rome** has just issued an exciting study, “**Earth for All.**” <https://www.clubofrome.org/publication/earth4all-book/>

As **Dr. Sultan Al Jaber**, President of COP28, clearly states in reference to the call of the **Paris Agreement** to “**take stock**” of our progress to keeping temperatures down to **1.5C**, “*We are way off track ... and the hard reality is that to achieve this goal, global emissions must fall 43% by 2030. ... To add to the challenge, we must decrease emissions at a time of continued economic uncertainty, heightened geopolitical tensions, and increasing pressure on energy security.*” (Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week).

**Stepping back on track**, that is, mastering the transition from fossil fuels to renewables, upon deep study, is not at all an easy undertaking. Prof. Simon Michaux, Professor of Geometallurgy at the Geological Survey of Finland documents the practical challenges in gaining the necessary rare earth metals for this transition. Yes, the recent discovery in Sweden will help, but we to carefully study his message in preparation for COP28. Here is a very recent presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMRdZCyXqzE> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEM9THuK0G8>

For too long, we’ve been **encased** in an outdated **paradigm** as dramatic as the one **Copernicus** overcame when he helped us realize the earth is not the center of the universe. We’ve also been imprisoned in the paradigm that puts the “**selfish self-interested individual**” at the center of our economic thinking. But this could be ending as Dr. Maja Göpel suggest in this fascinating presentation a few days ago: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Gjifx13RMo>

Most think that the **Brundtland Report** of 1987 (**Our Common Future**) simply put the urgent notion of “**sustainability**” into our global vocabulary. It did more in asking us to shift paradigms, realizing again what the **Ubuntu** have never forgotten: “*I am because you are.*” In other words, it is not self-interested individuals, but a vibrant “**community**” both on the local **AND** global level that is essential for our long-term residency on this wonderful planet. (The **Zayed Foundation for the Environment** awarded **Gro Harlem Brundtland** its Environmental Prize in 2008 -[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayed\\_International\\_Prize\\_for\\_the\\_Environment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zayed_International_Prize_for_the_Environment)

Therefore, instead of thinking that renewables are enough, do we not really need **WISDOM** to fuel a more harmonious, inspiring, and responsible **FUTURE** for all of life on our little planet? The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** (MBRF) provides an excellent base to begin our transition to a wiser future, one which, as we will remember, **Carl Linnaeus** called for in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of *Systema Naturae* in 1757 by awakening us to the fact that our species is “**Homo Sapiens**” (Wise Humans).

Our hope is to contribute to the develop a set of timely questions and rich insights that could greatly enrich the process and outcome of **COP28**, especially as we broaden the scope of reflection beyond **money** and **technology** and build broader acceptance around the globe.

With the discovery of **Mother Nature’s** rich store of “**fossil fuels**” in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the world economy brought tremendous growth and comfort to so very many. Yet, in the exuberance of “**climbing the ladders of success**,” we have overlooked many fundamental elements connecting us to and with one another and **Nature**. We have created our own **Black Holes** through “**short-sightedness**,” which may well lead to the **Sixth Extinction** of living matter on our little planet. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Sixth\\_Extinction:\\_An\\_Unnatural\\_History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sixth_Extinction:_An_Unnatural_History)

The **World Economic Forum’s** just published “**Global Risks 2023: Tensions Peak between Urgent Costs of Living Crisis and Sustainable Climate Action.**” Here it is clear that our traditional Industrial Era “**problem solving approach**” is inadequate for the multiple polycrises facing us all. Volatility, fragmentation, and the weaponization of resources characterize these challenges. <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-risks-report-2023/>

For example, rising water temperatures and increased pollution are giving rise to the explosive growth of harmful algal blooms, impacting drinking water and harming our human health. In a careful study of these dynamics, we find that **as different sectors optimize their success, the results can be devastating to other sectors**. When farmers use artificial nitrogen and phosphorus materials, they run off into the rivers and oceans, generating unwelcome and explosive algae blooms. <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230110-the-pollution-causing-harmful-algal-blooms>

Remember a thousand years ago when **Ibn Al-Haytham** (Alhazen) realized that the technology was not available to build an Aswan Dam of the Nile River? He enclosed himself in a house in Cairo, feigning madness to protect himself from the wrath of the Caliph Hakim. Here, between 1011 and 1021, he wrote **Kitab al-Manazir**, (Book of Optics), explaining how vision occurs when light reflects from an object and passes through one’s eyes and that vision occurs in the brain where it is subjective and affected by personal experience.

Could we, in his spirit, master the “**Optics of Insights**” in our World Café, where we discover in deep reflective conversing the underlying and dynamic interrelationships between the

multiple factors in our dynamic universe of life? This “**Wisdom Thinking**” is also very complementary and supportive, as we’ve said above, of the focus of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF).

The **James Webb Space Telescope**, thanks to its eighteen carefully aligned mirrors, is able to see the tiniest and most complex of objects and the background dynamics of our universe in new and exciting ways. The newly developing **Inner Development Goals (IDG)**, complementing the **Sustainable Development Goals**, may be the first set of capabilities we can build upon to see life’s background dynamics in new and clearer ways. <https://www.innerdevelopmentgoals.org/>

It is one thing to see these dynamics but another to understand their **meaning**. Were we to reconnect with the spirit and curiosity of the **House of Wisdom** that once graced Baghdad between about 800 and 1248, might we rediscover human capabilities that bring so much more into focus, especially as we also master the **Optics of Insights**? Prof. Salim Al-Hassani and others have worked hard to make this valuable information available for us. Please see:

- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/1001-Inventions-Civilization-Reference-Annotated-ebook/dp/B0775TFKVY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=879kqbx9rqc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxJ2OC7iXo0>
- <https://www.amazon.ca/House-Wisdom-Transformed-Western-Civilization/dp/1608190587>

In other words, our World Café will take us way beyond the traditional **Industrial Era** of the “**smart**” approach of “**problem-solving**” and lead us into new and exciting dimensions, “**wisely**” seeing and composing a dynamic future in a reflective global community.

What we do not realize is that **Wisdom** is not just being super **Smart**. Quite the contrary, a **truly wise person** is one who is profoundly aware of her or his own “**ignorance**.” Therefore, curiosity to connect the unexpected is the wonderful underlying dynamic. Might we experience this process during our World Café session, and this way, enriching and inspiring all of us to see the multiple dimensionalities of life in new ways?

Of course, to get there, we will also need to be ready to “**unlearn**” many of the thought patterns and paradigms of our Industrial world. We have mastered the **division and subdivision of labour** (i.e., the boxes and lines model of organization), the **timeclock** (linear time, where the past is gone and the future is not yet here), and the **competition** for every scarce resource.

We are learning that companies that work with a **VENN** model of overlapping responsibilities discover opportunities more quickly and can take responsibility for resources in more timely ways (i.e., the emergence of the **ESG** (Environmental, Social, and corporate Governance). Moreover, to find the meaning and significance of the multiple factors, we need to move beyond linear time to an openness to “**Inner Time Consciousness**,” where the interplay between elements and insights of the PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE become clear and alive.

This ability moves us to **Ibn Al-Haytham 2.0’s “Optics of Insights!”** And when we realize that life itself has a richness of meaning so far beyond “**scarcity**,” we will be amazed and excited. Think of the richness of the **Souq Okaz** poetry festivals in Taif as an example. Why? Because the simple power of poetry is designed to weave together unexpected necessary interconnections that inspire us.

It is with great pleasure to invite you to the **World Café – Wisely Fuelling the Future**, organized by the **Zayed International Foundation for the Environment**, in the format of a “**Discoveryshop**” that triggers thoughts about the wise living and linking our past, present and future in a multi-dimension prism focused on the relationship of humankind with our natural resources and mainly water, which is the source of life. Linking the inventions of the golden ages with the intention in which they have been brought up with our efforts and reason for organizing the **COP28** will give us more insight on unlearning the conventional way of being smart, but rather move towards the wise perception of life. Under the scope of the IDGs, each participant will be able to dive into their own self and assess themselves, as knowing the universe starts with knowing the self.

Following the steps of the **House of Wisdom**, there is a possibility not only to answer the most puzzling questions but also to ask the right questions. Asking if there is life after birth rather than if there is life after death and prioritizing sensing over knowing.

**Date: Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2023 – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

**Agenda of the World Café:**

- Opening Session by Dr. Mohammad Bin Fahad, Chairman of Zayed International Foundation for the Environment
- Introduction of the workshop and the theme “Wisdom Fuelling the Future” by our Moderators: Dr. Eisa Mohamed Abellatif, Ph.D. Ecology and Dr. Charles Savage, Ph.D., KEE International
- Acknowledgment of our sponsors and invited officials
- Reflective discussions in Groups of four Persons
- Mixing between Groups to discover critical linkages and insights
- Very brief presentation of the powerful questions, key insights, and themes
- Showcase of the Outcome Map of Resolutions
- Closing Ceremony

**Venue:** Dubai Police Academy, Officers Club, Al Sufouh 2, Dubai, UAE

**Guests:** Environment and climate activists, all ages included.

**Registration:** Confirmation of participation via link

Acknowledging your tremendous impact regionally or globally, we are thrilled to invite you to be part of this workshop. A detailed agenda will be shared with you after your registration,

Kindest regards,

Dr Mohammad Bin Fahad