

Anton Komat

Civilization is not the Economy of Power - Six Pictures of one `Hologram

This planet of limited natural resources is ruled by a short-sighted motive of profit and contemporary techno-science based on neo-Darwinism and a reductionist (inductive) scientific method. The human being has superseded nature by means of reductionist rationality. As a result, human beings have become responsible for all risks caused by upsetting the fragile punctuated equilibrium. This may plunge the world into an unexpected and uncontrollable chaos which human beings will no longer be able to control. Infatuation with rationality has brought the world to a profound global environmental crisis and existential anxiety, which have in some ways put the existence of homo sapiens under threat.

The evolution of the planet's biosphere is not based on reductionist rationality, but on the symbiosis of all living beings. The risks of reductionist rationality can be outweighed by a new cosmology of the human being, which is founded on eutenics and places the human being again in a symbiotic relationship with the planet's life. Since humans are social beings, we can also talk of a symbiotic human being in the social context. It is therefore beneficial for all humans to replace the concept of survival of the fittest (at all levels, both social and biological) with the concept of symbiosis.

Bojan Radej

A Sketch attempting to define the Economic Concepts of Sustainable Development

The article tries to define the concepts of sustainable development economics needed for the annual monitoring and evaluating of development trends in Slovenia. This task is undertaken by defining the underlying economic problem of bridging the gap between the main needs and available economic resources. Firstly, the theoretical assumptions of bridging the gap by conventional economic development are compared to the theoretical assumptions of bridging the gap by sustainable development in order to allow an assessment of the bridging capacity and particularities of the two. Then, the conventional knowledge of economics, which mainly involves the economic aspects of bridging the gap, is transposed into the sustainable paradigm: their common denominator is the contribution of commercial- and profit-driven development to the accumulation of material goods and the advancement of knowledge about the technologies of bridging the gap. The negative aspects of bridging the gap through profit-driven development, seen in terms of sustainability, are understood as indications of the benefits of bridging the gap in a naturalistic way (i.e. environmental development) and co-operative way (i.e. social development). All three styles are equivalent from the point of view of sustainability, however, this is not so in practice because the short-term benefits of bridging the gap in the economic way are valued more highly than its long-term negative aspects. The reverse is revealed by the fact that the short-term weaknesses of the co-operative and, in particular, naturalistic style of bridging the gap - i.e. the slow accumulation of economic factors and the slow replenishment of used economic wealth - are overestimated in comparison to the long-term non-economic potential, i.e. greater compatibility of individual economic constraints and greater freedom for economic co-operation in bridging the gap.

By studying sustainable development for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating development trends in Slovenia, we have come to the conclusion that it is time to stop favouring economic development against environmental and social development. The role currently played by the accumulation of economic capital is being taken over by social wealth, i.e. accumulation of the capacity for economic co-operation in the process of defining the two sides of the gap at the beginning of each development cycle: a list of priorities of the main needs and changes in rules (privileges) governing access to economic wealth. The final conclusion is that today's unsustainability is a reverse function of the human mind built into bridging of the gap, i.e. knowledge about technology and the capability of integrating particular economic constraints with common ones.

Janez Rogelj

Modelling Economic and Environmental Processes

This article aims to establish the connections between economic activity on one hand and its impact on the environment on the other. The point of departure is a theoretical assumption motivated by a wish to measure and manage these connections by means of models. The article presents the importance, types and main features of these models. They are economic, environmental, and combined economic-environmental models. The article describes differences between these models, their constraints and shortcomings that have emerged in the process of developing and building models. The article concludes by showing the practical problems of economic and environmental modelling.

Franko Nemac

The Potential of Renewable Energy Sources in Slovenia

Renewable energy sources are the most important long-term primary source of energy because of their minimal environmental impact. They are energy from the environment (the sun, water, air) and energy from waste. Slovenia is one of the most developed European countries in terms of the share of renewable energy sources in the primary energy balance and electricity generation. This is primarily due to large hydro-electric power plants and the exploitation of wood for energy through traditional techniques. In the future, the use of renewable energy sources cannot be subject to natural endowment alone; it should be expanded by decisive steps taken in the areas of the economy, energy and the environment. This paper tries to assess the potential of renewable energy sources in Slovenia and suggests the framework for measures that should be taken to significantly increase their use in the future. Financial incentives should mainly be given to supply and consumption units, while non-financial incentives mainly involve the lifting of institutional barriers to bolstering the use of renewable energy sources.