

Beginning a Framework for a New Economic Model

by Victor Landa

“This ambitious name is temporarily used because it helps to illustrate the nature of this project. Any attempt we can make to modify the status quo of the **ECONOMIC SYSTEM** in place, whether successful or not, is worth the effort. It might not offer significant contribution, but may be a source of inspiration, or even show another road that should not be traveled.”

This is the first paragraph of the first document produced for this project. (Emphasis has been added this time) It is relevant at this point because we are addressing the issue of developing a framework that means we have more or less come to terms with a basic understanding of where we stand and where we want to go, this seems then an appropriate point to attempt adjusting the way we identify the project.

Aparigraha (non covetousness) a New Economic Paradigm for a Culture of Peace seems long but at this point it might help us to remained focused on basic principles:

- a) Aparigraha, non covetousness is opposed to greed one of the main maladies that the current “powers” seem to thrive on.
- b) New Economic Paradigm reminds us that we are attempting to a radical change in consciousness, not only a new model.
- c) Culture of Peace reminds us that the foundation of this effort and why we are involved in is because we believe that the present economic system is one of the main roots of violence..

The first question in this point of the agenda is: ***What will it look like?***

The first thing that the document must reflect is a humanistic egalitarian notion starting from the satisfaction of basic needs that would have to be defined in terms of the dignity of the human being, in the best we can accomplish that with reference to the different sacred scriptures.

Second it must emphasize responsibilities rather than “rights.”

Third it must rely strongly in the commonality of the principles of the major religions in reference to those responsibilities. Stressing the point of how they all cater for the needs of the human being rather than for the accumulation of capital or beings.

It must explain the mechanisms to be used in order to generate the sources of satisfaction of those needs.

The notion of spirituality as a fundamental element in the conceptual framework should be very carefully approached to reduce almost inevitable negative reaction from certain groups, that could be used by others to further stimulate strong opposition.

It must categorically define and contain the principles of “Abundance”, “Cooperation” and “Duty”, as opposed to “Scarcity”, “Competition” and “Incentives”, stressing the abysmal difference between one and another leading in one case to destruction and separation in the other to construction and union.

The negative effect of the “Free Market” should be contrasted with the need to satisfy the basic needs of all the sectors of humankind. This could prove a difficult point but PROUT or PARECON could provide good frames of reference for this purpose.

This is just to get started, the second question Who does what? Will be determined once a clear outline is drafted.

November 1st. 2005 VL