

THE HUDE MONASTERY MEETING

TOWARDS GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL & GLOBAL COMMONS

Dr. J. Daniel Dahm

20. August 2008

BACKGROUND

This working meeting is aimed at fostering strategic collaboration among civil society actors from the local to the global levels. We will discuss ways of creating a new feeling of world citizenship and an awareness of the global commons. Perception of a cultural evolutionary leap is necessary in realising cross-border social cohesion. We believe that new dimensions of consciousness will be required to address the challenges of sustainable development, human security and empowerment, and global governance.

To meet such challenges, cooperation among civil society actors must be defined, and common goals be delineated. To discuss these perspectives, we are inviting a medium-sized group, representing some of the world's most powerful civil society networks. Partners at the meeting will be asked to contribute their expertise and which, when combined, can strengthen civil society worldwide and change the existing paradigms that have contributed to the present fragmented state of global society. The gathering at Hude Monastery is intended to forge an alliance of relevant organisations for raising the level of our strategic global cooperation.

A COMPLEMENTARY STRATEGY OF GOVERNANCE

We are proposing a new strategy and understanding of governance complementary to the present local, regional, national and transnational political structures. We believe the gap between local and global governance needs to be bridged beyond the existing range of civil society bodies, enabling commensurate relationships between specific local needs and existing and emerging global standards. According to the principle of complementarity civil society organisations, local communities, social institutions and concerned individuals should play an increasingly prominent role in political decision-making processes. We recognise that the cooperative integration of diverse local and regional civil society institutions will require new instruments and interfaces of exchange to propel these new alliances and models of governance forward.

A PLATFORM FOR GLOBAL CONSULTATION, COOPERATION & STRATEGIC ACTION

There is much speculation about the synergies that will be created by the next generation of Internet systems, which should be introduced around 2010. It is generally agreed that

Web 3.0 will be able to understand and use information by translating concepts and deducing new information, rather than simply following commands and matching keywords.

As the world anticipates the development of new technological efficiencies which are interoperable, ubiquitous, open, 3-dimensional, predictive, and service-oriented, the outlines of a parallel form of social, cultural, and political collaboration are already becoming clear. We are rapidly making the shift from an individual intelligence shaped through the *public* (one person, one vote) and *private* (one dollar, one vote) *sectors* to a collective intelligence expressed through the *common* (one planet, one vote) *sector*, which is arising through indigenous knowledge and self-establishing global consent. At the same time, we face the inherent limitations of our existing international organisations, which are incapable of directly expressing or formally representing the common interests and consciousness of the world's people.

This is why the marriage between Web 3.0 technology and a newly organising global civil society is so vitally interesting. *Semantic networks* offer humanity a coordinating and administrative platform supported by indigenous knowledge, collective intelligence and global popular consent. These new applications, operating like a digital toolkit, could be combined into a completely new global-local interface for activation and utilisation of collective consciousness, cooperation and governance. This interface will support dynamic, creative and emergent solutions which allow for dynamic and reflective correspondence instead of central control, opening up many new possibilities towards governance of the commons. Some of these anticipated developments may be noted:

- ⇒ The emerging technological platform can lead to greater *accountability*, enabling global civil society to hold governments and markets to new standards, ensure their transparency, and establish the principles of good governance and social responsibility by which they must operate.
- ⇒ This can also lead to greater *legitimacy* of the new process of governance through direct representation, democratic accountability and global identity.
- ⇒ The new platform can increase social and political *participation* by facilitating the cooperation and coordination of local, regional and global processes and initiatives from civil society organisations, local councils, councils of elders and civic facilities, as well as fostering the involvement of the population at large.
- ⇒ It can lead to a new approach to *governance* by connecting the diverse levels of local and regional cultures, social systems and organisational patterns to enable cooperation and concentrated strategic action in avoiding crises, focusing on common values, standards and traditions, and providing new access to citizen dialogue.
- ⇒ The new platform can provide highly effective tools for *development* by providing useful local information, promoting the intelligent use of resources, and fostering

social inclusion -- thereby empowering billions of people, offering new access to education and health care, and enabling sustainable development.

- ⇒ All of these increased advantages can lead to a new approach to *human security*, focused not on traditional definitions of state interests and traditional bases of support, but on the social protection and empowerment of people.

The *Coalition for the Global Commons* (www.global-commons.org), launched on March 5th 2008 in Berlin under the auspices of HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, is working with a number of partners toward the realisation of a platform for governance of the commons along these lines.

TOWARDS A GLOBAL SUMMIT IN 2012

The emerging structure of global civic collaboration requires both virtual and face-to-face communication. It will be necessary to establish different formats from 'intimate' working meetings with selected strategic partners of the Hude Monastery type, to internationally recognised events, and then to combine them strategically on a timeline leading towards a common goal.

The meeting at Hude Monastery could be one among many other steps leading to a global manifestation of cultural change. In the context of the activities of the *Coalition for the Global Commons*, the Hude Monastery Meeting will serve as the preparation for a follow-up planning meeting in 2009 and an international conference in 2010 (possibly in Bali), which will lead to a world summit in 2012. One of the tasks of the Hude Monastery partners will be to plan these conferences.

GOALS OF THE HUDE MONASTERY MEETING

The *Hude Monastery Meeting* will structure and develop the content and form of a complementary governance strategy, and define technical and social requirements for its realisation.

Objectives for this meeting include:

- ⇒ Gathering input from the participants about the facets of the overall strategy which they / their organisation represent
- ⇒ Creating a shared strategic vision
- ⇒ Identifying missing aspects that are not yet represented by the participants (to be addressed at a follow-up meeting)
- ⇒ Formulating the requirements for a new tool of collaboration

- ⇒ Setting appointments for joint action: follow-up in 2009, preparation for an international conference in 2010, and task-sharing for the design and implementation of the collaborative platform
- ⇒ Formulating the requirements for the world summit in 2012

By developing this collaborative platform, it is especially important to transcend any misunderstandings between our present civil society actors and to open up structures for new alliances that have been closed up to now. We recognise that the partners who attempt to launch this self-regulating process cannot control it. However, if our dialogue and the proposals that ensue from it engage larger support, the process may create a new level of moral authority and legitimacy for the process of governance to seek its true representative course.

SETTING OF THE HUDE MONASTERY MEETING

Convenor: Dr. J. Daniel Dahm

Host: Prof. Dr. Prince Rudolf zur Lippe

Date: 24. – 26. October 2008, beginning on Friday, 1:30 pm, ending on Sunday, 2:30 pm.

Place: Hude Monastery / Kloster Hude, Von-Witzleben-Allee 1, D – 27798 Hude, Germany,

Guests: 20 representatives