

## **Introduction Message : Memorial conference of MFS on September 8 and November 10, 2020 at Jeju, South Korea**

Ignace Schops, President EUROPARC Federation – Director RLKM gave his speech at the memorial conference of MFS on September 8, 2020 as below..

「Maurice Frederick Strong (April 29, 1929 – November 27, 2015) was a born Canadian. In the early 1970s, he was Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and then became the first executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme. He was President of the Council of the University for Peace from 1998 to 2006, chair of the World Economic Forum and special advisor of the UN and the World Bank.

It was his wish to develop the “WORLD ENVIRONMENT UNIVERSITY” (WEU), an interconnected network of universities, institutions and partners that work together, exchange experiences and knowledge resulting in a new sustainable design for the world.

To date, there is not a lot to celebrate. The COVID crisis obliged us to look at the wider picture. The scientific evidence was clear: the world community needed to adapt and change our lifestyles immediately. And we did. The draconian measures deemed impossible until recently have become a reality today. The impossible suddenly became possible.

Can we count on similar leadership and the same methods for saving Mother Earth and ourselves and can the WEU help us to achieve this objective? A vaccine alone will not tip the balance toward health because COVID19 is not a disease but a symptom of an exhausted planet. Because we “only have one earth” we cannot destroy what keeps us alive. The best vaccine can be found in the restoration of our natural ecosystems, become climate neutral before 2050 while implementing a circular economy that is socially embedded and inclusive.

Just take a glance at the last 50 years. With currently 7.8 billion people, the world's population has doubled, the cultivated area on a global scale has increased by 22 million hectares, 230 million hectares of grassland have been added for cattle, and on top of that, an additional 160 million hectares for arable land. All the extra space was taken from the natural environment. Over one million species are on the brink of extinction (Report IPBES). We were blind to the collapsing natural ecosystems that

kept our climate stable, gave us healthy air and drinkable water. We did not listen to the deafening last words of so many life forms on earth and there was certainly no stock market listing, nor value for a share of nature.

The consequences of an overpopulated world are overwhelming. Each person on this planet now emits on average 21% more CO<sub>2</sub> than 50 years ago and we all emit 47% more! These are the averages, but you need to know that only 10% of the world's population is responsible for 50% of emissions. Per capita, we use 47 times more fossil fuels, consume 65% more meat, produce 447 per cent more plastic and our air travel has increased by 561%! Extreme weather conditions such as hurricanes, floods and extreme drought increased by 44% between 1980 and 2018.

The reset, the necessary sustainable transformation is slowly underway. The first signals of change become visible. The volume of solar energy has increased 400 times, 3.2 million square kilometres of forests have been restored and 27 million square kilometres of marine nature have been protected.

We are still far from reaching the agreed UN SDG objectives! We need to accelerate and speed up in the next 10 years. And we need everyone to help to turn the tide. The World Environment University can be an inspiration for many and one of the drivers for a global sustainable systemic transition.」

## **World Environment University: Institutional Structure, Organization and the Structure of the Academic Program**

Ignace Schops, Chang Hoon Ko, Jung-sup Kim Ph.D., Kenneth McLeod and Ji-hee Kim, at their collaborative article, say that “ The University is to be established as an independent institution, with an appropriate status under the law of Korea. It will require such arrangements, incentives privileges and immunities as will facilitate the recruitment of international staff and the participation of faculty and students from all over the world. The University must be fully autonomous to ensure its intellectual and academic integrity and freedom from ideological constraints. The relationship with United Nations can be achieved without making the University an actual UN organization, through cooperation with UN agencies and organizations and participation of UN personnel in its faculty and programs. The core program centered at the University itself would be

developed initially on the basis of the comparative advantage offered by its location in Jeju and the quality of faculty, full and part time, that could be recruited to the University. To reflect the complexity and range of issues in the field of sustainable development, it is planned that the academic program of the University should be organized from two mutually reinforcing perspectives, core competences underlying the whole program and specific areas of concentration.”

### **Implications of Hometown Love Donation (Hometown Taxation) System to Jeju Island.**

Ki-bong Ko, Young-hoon Kang, Kyung-soo Hwang, at their collaborative article, that “as the low birth rate and aging phenomenon intensify, many local governments are facing a difficult situation of not only reducing population but also for securing financial resources. The national average fiscal independence is not increasing, and the fiscal gap between local governments has not been resolved. Accordingly, the Hometown Love Donation System, which provides tax incentives for donations to local governments, was included in the current government's 100 major national tasks and roadmap for autonomous decentralization.

The hometown tax system was introduced in Japan in 2008 and has been contributing to securing financial resources of local governments, and has been contributing to regional development in recent years by using local specialties as return products, but concerns about overheating of competition are also growing. In Korea, the National Assembly and local governments have continuously reviewed the introduction of the system.

In addition, it is proposed to organize and operate a research conference about the suitability of the environment of Jeju in order to minimize trial and error in the introduction and implementation of the system based on the case of Japan's hometown tax, taking into account domestic and Jeju special self-governing conditions.

In the future, further research is needed in policy making and related systems for the donation deduction system.

### **The United States committed Commicide**

### **in Cheju-Do**

Sang-Soo Hur, Ph.D says, at his article that in South Korea, social healing through justice of Cheju massacres(1947-1954) has progressed considerably since 2000. However, after the March 1, 1947, the US military and US federal governments are still silent about the Cheju massacres and are ignoring the fact-finding demand raised in South Korea. I think that the US Army Military Government in Korea, which occupied and ruled South Korea at the time, branded Cheju Islanders as communists and played a great role in indiscriminate slaughtering without legitimate legal procedures without distinguishing civilians from guerrillas. The United States committed Commicide in Cheju-Do.

### **L2 Motivation and Investment**

Mi-Sun Kim, Cheju Halla University, Korea, at her article, says that Jeju has become an important hub for tourism and English education in Northeast Asia and the importance of English in Jeju cannot be overemphasized. This paper compares the psychological and cognitive approaches of SLA motivation and sociological approaches of investment. Language learning involves the complex identities of language learners. Poststructuralists are interested in how language learners' positions might influence their investments and how their investments affect their identity formation. However, researchers in Jeju have not given enough attention to the identity changes and investment transformation during students' English learning processes. Therefore, it is important to investigate English learners' investment and identity formations in the various sociocultural contexts in Jeju.

The WEIS is no longer “scratching at the surface”. Rather the journal is getting to the heart of the matter”. Indeed, as the world is coming to know more about island people, cultures, islands are becoming important actors on the global stage in an age of World Environment. The World Environment and Island Studies Journal continues not only to provide a forum for discussion and analysis, but also suggests a vision of island civilization model to the world.

In doing so, the Journal offers directions as a lighthouse to ships on the sea in a cooperative age of 21st Asia Pacific, not to mention as a script.

Thank you again for your attention to our journal.

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Editor in chief

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