

# *The Cycle of Conferences – Earth Stewardship*

## *Universal Responsibility*

February 2007

Humanity, having reached great intellectual heights is now challenged to move beyond intellect towards wisdom. It is becoming clear to many thinking people that a better future will depend on knowledge being used more wisely and responsibly in a spirit of shared community with the earth rather than by the exploitation of scarce resources for the immediate benefit of the few. In the words of the Dalai Lama “Today, more than ever before, life must be characterised by a sense of Universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life”.

*The Earth Charter* reminds us that *Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The forces of nature make existence a demanding and uncertain adventure, but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution. The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air. The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.*<sup>1</sup> Thus Humanity must recognise its place in the scheme of things – as an intelligent intermediary between the higher states of planetary consciousness and the lower kingdoms of nature. This recognition requires a universal outlook.

There is now greater awareness that planet Earth is a complex integrated living system where all parts contribute to the greater whole. Evidence of the fragility of the Earth system is brought into sharp focus when, as a result of human activities, there is dis-integration due, for example, to de-forestation, industrial scale fishing of the seas, soil erosion, air, land and water pollution, toxic agriculture, depletion of the earth's finite natural resources. All of the component parts of the complex integrated system that constitute planet Earth must be in good health for the system to flourish. Energies and forces in all of the kingdoms of nature, including human thought forms, have to circulate around the whole system for the common good and not be used selfishly. The same principle applies to the individual human being where, for example, the circulatory system has to be in good working order for the human body to function effectively.

Taking a broader view we know our planet is part of that greater whole known as the Solar system with our local star the Sun at its centre; life on earth depends on sunlight. Some scientists believe that the Sun plays a role in the earth's climate, for example, sunspot activity although there is no consensus as to the extent of this influence. Interestingly, from an esoteric perspective it's said that “all parts of the solar system are interdependent... all the forces and energies are in constant flux and mutation... every form [is linked] with every other form”.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, deep reflection on the Law of Analogy may also bring an intuitive awareness that all life in the Cosmos is somehow interrelated, indeed science confirms that cosmic rays - high energy charged particles, originate in outer space and travel at nearly the speed of light and strike the Earth from all directions.<sup>3</sup>

The Ageless Wisdom tradition, which has persisted throughout the rise and fall of civilisations, has long maintained the coherence of the universe. The idea that everything is interrelated is now being re-discovered in the West where, since the time of the industrial revolution, the Earth's resources have been exploited and consumed as if an infinite resource. A key factor in this shift of awareness would seem to be related to the ability of the human mind to observe, from a distance, changes that are taking place on our planet. Human consciousness is clearly making some headway towards the eventual goal of universal responsibility referred to by the Dalai Lama, with initiatives such as the Earth Charter, the Kyoto Protocol and greater public awareness of the need for right stewardship of the planet.

Through the advances of science, humanity is now able to stand back from the immediate detail of daily life and able to make detailed observations of the planet by satellite bringing evidence of changes such as the contraction of the Arctic ice cap, melting glaciers, and depletion of the ozone layer. The Detached Observer is at work - an Observer who is able to see a bigger picture than before, and using the intelligence of the mind and the understanding of the heart, the spiritually sensitive observer, whether the religious believer, the scientist, the educator, the philosopher, the entrepreneur or politician is helping to shift human consciousness towards a more holistic viewpoint. This understanding in its highest aspect may be connected with what is known as “pure reason” – or, intuitive perception, which has been described as “...the faculty which enables man to enter into contact with the Universal Mind and grasp the plan synthetically, to seize upon divine Ideas or isolate some fundamental and pure truth”.

4.

An exciting example of the detached observer at work in the scientific field with the study of the Earth and its changing environment is *The Earth Observing System* (EOS) initiative; according to the NASA website, since 1958, NASA has been observing the atmosphere, oceans, land, ice, and snow, and their influence on climate and weather and have realized that the key to gaining a better understanding of the global environment is exploring how the Earth's systems of air, land, water, and life interact with each other. This approach called - Earth System Science blends together fields like meteorology, oceanography, biology, and atmospheric science. In 1991, a more comprehensive programme was launched to study the Earth as an environmental system, now called the *Earth Science Enterprise*. Through the use of satellites and other tools to study the Earth it's hoped to expand understanding of how natural processes affect humanity and how humanity might be affecting them. Such study will help improve weather forecasts, better management of agriculture and forests, information for fishermen and local planners and, eventually, the ability to predict climate change. The study involves a series of earth-observing satellites, an advanced data system and teams of scientists who will study the data. Key study areas include: clouds; water and energy cycles; oceans; chemistry of the atmosphere; land surface; water and ecosystem processes; glaciers and polar ice sheets; and the solid Earth. NASA consider that they have initiated an era of unprecedented observational capacity for understanding the planet. Just as the first weather and communications satellites fundamentally changed our way of thinking about those fields, so the elements of the Earth Science Enterprise will expand our perspective of the global environment and climate for the benefit of all humanity. 5.

In the spirit of the Earth Charter, humanity must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility”... *identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities... Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.* 6.

Headquarters Group  
Cycle of Conferences

Cycle of Conferences Download Page: [www.lucistrust.org/cycle](http://www.lucistrust.org/cycle)

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1. The Earth Charter: [www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org)

2. Esoteric Psychology 1, p. 151. Alice Bailey.)

3 R.A. Mewaldt. California Inst of Technology. [http://www.srl.caltech.edu/personnel/dick/cos\\_encyc.html](http://www.srl.caltech.edu/personnel/dick/cos_encyc.html)

4. A Treatise on White Magic, p.365. Alice Bailey

5. [http://eospsq.gsfc.nasa.gov/eos\\_homepage/description.php](http://eospsq.gsfc.nasa.gov/eos_homepage/description.php)

6. The Earth Charter: [www.earthcharter.org/](http://www.earthcharter.org/)