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HUMAN AND GLOBAL
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Human and Global Development Research Institute

Goals | Tasks | Programme

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In the 21st century, the world is facing great challenges. On the one hand, there are „external“ challenges: global resources, the climate and the environment. On the other hand we have our „internal“ challenges: human consciousness, coexistence, cultural progress. Between these two spheres, there are interactions to which not enough attention is paid. In order to express it with a common phrase: The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. And vice-versa. On this basis, challenges cannot be overcome. Progress is only possible if those two spheres are linked in thinking and action.

The DRI was founded in 2013 as an independent research and education institute to make a contribution to this. Human development and global progress are interdependent – the research on this topic is one of DRI's strengths.

The DRI has three fields of action: research, dialogue and education, it works in an interdisciplinary way and does research on the interactions between human development and global progress, it promotes dialogue between the economy, science and culture and offers educational programmes.

In addition, DRI proposes the amendment of the „universal human rights“ by „human obligations“, which all of us have regarding others, the environment and ourselves.

About the DRI

Foundation and goals

The Human and Global Development Research Institute (DRI) was founded in 2013 as an independent and non-profit research and educational institute based in Vienna.

The purpose of the institute is the promotion of common welfare by research, dialogue and education:

1. *Research*

- on global development,
- on human development and
- on their interactions. This is the main topic and one of DRI's strengths.

2. *Dialogue*

- Promotion of dialogue between the economy, science and culture

3. *Education*

- Offers to educate future generations

DRI should contribute to understanding the challenges of humanity in the 21st century.

The **synopsis** of two great challenges and the analysis of its **interactions** are key:

- On the one hand, great **global challenges** like resources, climate and world peace
- on the other hand, **socio-cultural and individual challenges** of the development of humans themselves.

Human development and global progress are interdependent – the research of this is one of DRI's strengths. For this purpose, DRI conducts and promotes research, releases publications, organises seminars, lectures and events, offers educational programmes and takes part in the discourse on development policy.

Moreover, DRI suggests the amendment of the „universal human rights“ by „**human obligations**“ which all of us have regarding others, the environment and ourselves.

Management

Since its foundation, DRI is managed by Mag. Dr. Dr. Peter J. Gowin. Dr. Gowin is a philosopher, holding a PhD in natural sciences and in the science of psychotherapy. He has held several management positions for the United Nations over the past 15 years and released over 60 publications on knowledge management, sustainable global development and personal development.

Research – the topics

Humanity faces great challenges in the 21st century, reaching from the climate (a global challenge), the loss of social cohesion (a socio-cultural challenge) to the lack of meaning making (an individual challenge). There is a consensus on this to a large extent. DRI deals with these challenges and the accurate goals for **human and global development** in two categories:

Human development

In the field of human development, DRI pays attention to the following topics from cultural and social sciences.

These developments come more from the **“inside” of people, from their psyche** which bears their essence just like the outside world and determines their thinking and actions.

Human development

- Forms of human coexistence
- Socio-cultural development
- Consciousness development
- Personal development

Global development

In the field of global development, DRI pays attention to the following topics which are listed as great challenges for humanity in the 21st century in the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

These are development goals lying more on the **“outside”, the material world** which surrounds and carries us.

Global development

- Resources (food, water and energy)
- Climate
- Environment
- Security and world peace

Research – the current discourse

Global challenges as well as human challenges are **being discussed intensively at the moment**.

1. On the one hand, there are well-developed ideas, especially in the field of **global development**, which are typically carried out by UN organisations, development aid organisations and thinktanks close to politics.

They are especially concentrating on what DRI calls “global development”. These are challenges in the “outside world”, more of a material kind, like water, energy, climate, security and feeding the world. The scientific community is oriented towards natural sciences, engineering and political science there.

2. On the other hand, there are well-developed discourses dealing with **human development**, with topics like social cohesion, psychological health, cultural development, the meaning of life and also with religion and spirituality. These discussions are carried by cultural scientists, philosophers, theologians and anthropologists.

These developmental questions concern the “inside” of people, the picture we have of the world in us, our attitude and values.

The strength of DRI is the synopsis of these two discourses, each of them indispensable, but they only create a whole picture together on the situation of humans in the world, all of the problems but also on possible solutions. **DRI is concentrating on this niche.**

What does DRI regard as its task?

DRI sees a **gap in research and insights** when it comes to **discussions between** global and human development, because

- they are **separated from an organisational point of view**, which means: different groups deal with them which have their own forums and have their “own language”.
- On the other hand, they are **separated from a content point of view**, there is a lack of the exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Nevertheless, both discussions are important and indispensable. DRI made it its mission to close this gap and ask, how developmental goals on the “outside”, in the world, can be reached better if simultaneously, de-

velopmental goals on the “inside”, inside the psyche of people and humanity, are considered.

This task is of – so to say – **historical dimension** and can under no circumstances be solved by one institution on its own and most probably also not within just a couple of years.

The connection of cultures and discourses, **such as the exchange of Western and Eastern culture** is a long process, but this is exactly the reason why it can have a great social impact.

DRI can and would like to initiate and promote this exchange, do research on it and try to win the participating protagonists for this dialogue as well as **offer educational programme for the next generation**.

What is the main message of DRI?

Human development and global progress are linked.

Humanity will only cope with the challenges of the 21st century if both aspects are taken into account.

Examples for successful human and global development

Human development and global progress are interdependent – research on this is one of DRI's strengths. We can take three examples in order to explain the mutual influence of human and global development:

1. **Modern states need mature adults in terms of consciousness.** Modern institutional constructions such as a constitutional democracy can only work with people who live on a high level of human consciousness. Archaic people in terms of consciousness, who only know „knocking down“ and „escaping“ as a reaction to „rage and stress“, cannot deal with the discourse culture of a modern democracy. Therefore, consciousness (human development) has to be an aspect of the answer to the question of right state institutions (global development) .
2. **Human rights.** The second example originates from the history of Europe: **The change of our human self-perception by the addition of human rights.** This change of the self-perception of people, in the field of human cultural development, had extensive impact on global development and still **influences constitutions, legal systems and international relations**, based on the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.

3. **The Franco-German Friendship.** A third example originates from the history of Germany and France, who for a long time regarded each other as arch enemies. Generations grew up with new, culturally learned hatred against their neighbours. This **hatred was overcome** after the Second World War, carried by Adenauer and de Gaulle in **an act of a purposeful change of consciousness and replacement by friendship.** Today, new generations grow up with a widely praised climate of „Franco-German Friendship“ and state relations are remarkably constructive. The reason for this was a change in consciousness.

These three examples show remarkably, which effect human development can have on global development.

- A culture of discourse makes democracy possible;
- human rights are the basis of state actions; and
- a change of mind leads to peace.

The work programme of DRI

Research

1. **DRI working papers** should observe systematically over the course of the next couple of years, which developmental human and global challenges we could already identify.
2. The **analysis** of interactions based on these findings is a task which demands the cooperation of numerous partners. DRI can support this cooperation and provide organisational support.

Dialogue

1. **DRI lectures** in a loose series should highlight one aspect which makes the connection between global and human development visible. Until today, lectures on personal development, Confucius, the term humanity and the significance of a dialogue in favour of civilisation and culture have been published.
2. **DRI seminars** serve the scientific discussion and the exchange of opinions such as the Viennese Friedrich von Hayek seminar on liberalism, founded in 2014.

Education

- a. DRI creates **offerings for education**, such as
 - b. **the support of young students** who dedicate their seminar, bachelor or master thesis to these topics
 - c. **Courses for personal development and self-experience** for the “high potentials” of the next generation.
2. DRI suggests the amendment of the already commonly accepted „**universal human rights**“ by „**human obligations**“. To put it in simple terms, when there are rights, there should be obligations too, which all of us have regarding others, the environment and ourselves. This proposal was promoted prominently in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations and has been supported by numerous global masterminds ever since.

These obligations which people have concerning themselves, others and the environment would of course not be legally binding but a **guiding star for worldwide moral and ethical development**.

Commitment

Visionary ideas need people who think innovatively. With your commitment, you support science, the **progress of humanity** and the next generation. As a supporter, you can become part of an ethical movement for human responsibility, which has already been joined by numerous well-known masterminds and statesmen. You are promoting **scientific pioneer work** and investing in the future of our society.

Participation

DRI is open to participation of **individuals and institutions**.

Participation by

- **Participation** in discussions of DRI
- **Publication** of research results or position papers
- **Participation** in seminars and events

Become a patron

DRI is funded by donations of **patrons** only.

Become a patron by

- **Donating**
- **Providing** location
- **Help** with communication, office work and office work

DRI is a **charitable** organisation and therefore, donations enjoy **tax incentives**.

Contact

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