

1. What took you to engage in the idea of sustainable development?

When I began looking issues of inefficiency and waste in the design and construction of the built environment, I was also trying to understand the big picture about human behavior and why we were so thoughtless when it came to consumption and environmental damage. Sustainable development gave me a framework for considering not only these issues, but a range of other matters connected to construction such as quality of life.

2. What is your present occupation?

Professor and Director of a research center

3. What conditions are needed to carry out changes which make possible the realization of the idea of sustainable development?

- (1) A realization by most people that the world is a finite place with finite resources and a limited capability for absorbing waste.
- (2) A realization that nature and ecosystems are essential not only for survival, but also for the economy.
- (3) An understanding that human needs must be met to produce a minimal quality of life before sustainability can in fact be addressed.

4. Do you think that the idea of sustainable development has chance for the realization; when yes, then in what scale?

I don't feel that sustainable development is a goal but a journey; in this sense it will never be reached but it will help humans transition to a stable population with a minimum of impacts.

5. Could you name 3 Polish features which help to realize the idea of SD and 3 which make it difficult?

Realise:

- (1) Poland is in essence developing a new economy and has a chance to decide on sustainable principles as its core concept.
- (2) The huge number of small farms helps Poles connect to nature and they understand the critical role of the Earth in our lives more than most.
- (3) The Polish people are generally well educated and can make intelligent decisions that address long term goals rather than short term profit.

Difficult:

- (1) Polish students and many others feel powerless and do not have experience as agents of change.
- (2) Many think that the west, particularly the U.S., is a model for development.
- (3) Poland has a recent history of heavy industries and resource extraction as the core of its economy and shifting to alternatives will take a significant change in fundamental assumptions about what is needed for strong economic conditions.

5. What are the effects of the course in Poland and for the meaning of the idea of SD?

I think the course is causing effects in Poland because our graduates have been from almost every Polish university and many have returned to teach courses, organize their fellow students, talk to professors, publish articles, do their Master's thesis on sustainability topics, and generally influence everyone around them. In a short time we see that new students are applying to the course with extensive knowledge of sustainability and we now have to make major changes to account for this more extensive exposure to the subject. I think the course has helped everyone, including the instructors, think far more deeply about sustainable

development and I think we are helping to refine how sustainable development applies to Poland.

6. What's your favourite film, and why is it the "Equilibrium"?

ha ha! I really like "Equilibrium" because it takes me into an alternate reality and stretches my thinking, much like sustainability! Also, it inspired what will become the Mogilany Film Festival starting next summer (2004)!

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