

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS



Contributions to
**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT, PEACE ECONOMICS AND
DEVELOPMENT VOLUME 26**

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FOREWORD

In this volume, we address questions pertaining to the relationship between business, the natural environment, ethics and spirituality. While traditional economic theory generally assumed firms maximize profits, it has long been acknowledged that other factors may be important to understanding firm activities. The role of ethics and spirituality in society is clearly significant; yet economists have traditionally had little to say on these topics and how they intersect with economic activity. We present contributions from eminent scholars in economics, philosophy, business and spirituality to try to begin to address this gap.

Manas Chatterji
Binghamton, NY, USA

PREFACE

This book, 'Integral Ecology and Sustainable Business', is a collection of chapters from economists, business scholars, philosophers, lawyers, theologians and practitioners who are working in Europe, North America and Asia. The work sets out to highlight the meaning of sustainability in relation to both human and non-human life. It offers a series of new and invigorating approaches to sustainable business practices and sustainability leadership.

In May 2016, the Annual European SPES Conference on 'Integral Ecology, Earth Spirituality and Economics' met in Bodo, Norway, under the auspices of the Center for Ecological Economics and Ethics of the Bodo Graduate School of Business, University of Nordland, and in association with the European SPES Institute and the Business Ethics Center of the Corvinus University of Budapest.

Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be: On the Care of Our Common Home) provided an excellent opportunity and impetus for building a conversation between spirituality, ecology and business. Integral Ecology proposed in the encyclical integrates concerns for people and the planet. Integral Ecology shows a path to sustainable development through frugal consumption, acknowledging the intrinsic value of nature and, for sure, the promotion of social equality.

Here is a selection of the papers presented at our conference in Bodo. We hope the readers will find among them the inspiration to reconsider the role of humanity in nature and to look again, or perhaps for the first time, at the interconnection between ethics, spirituality and ecology, and, hopefully, seeing them in new, creative and progressive ways which will have an impact on their thinking and practice.

Ove Jacobsen
Laszlo Zsolnai
Editors

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