

"SOLIDARITÄT die ankommt!" – Well-targeted SOLIDARITY – for sustainable development – a new book published by Peter Hesse – www.solidarity.org – with and for the Global Marshallplan Initiative.

Poverty reduction, fulfilment of basic needs and sustainable development in ONE world in diversity – especially to reach the millennium goals (MDGs) in 2015 – need more resources than are now available. For the acquisition of funds, realistic problem solving concepts are outlined in the concept of a Global Marshallplan. For its implementation, an appropriate political will is needed. Precondition is, however, a deepened and widened consciousness. Such consciousness will have to develop anyway, otherwise our world might end in disaster. In any case, in a world where corruption and mismanagement are widely spread, the problem of **effective use of funds** must be solved. This is the subject of a new book (in German) that has been published in the framework of the Global Marshallplan (GMP) Initiative in 2006.

Especially – but not only – where governments cannot be trusted to practice good transparent, efficient governance and to limit corrupt mismanagement of funds, a direct basic approach is needed. Goals of a "bottom-up" approach are:

- **empowerment** of those without power
- **capacity development** to initiate self-help structures
- **ownership** of development measures by those who want to develop themselves and their communities.

The ultimate goal must, however, maintain that national governments themselves are providing for the basic needs of their own people, observe internationally agreed social and environmental standards and provide a safe, just and fair framework for their countries' own social and economic development. In such cases, a country's **ownership** of development measures (on a macro-level) does not conflict with its people's ownership on a micro-level.

Guiding principles – both on a country's macro- and micro-level – are

- **SUBSIDIARITY**, giving preference to the smallest possible unit,
- **TRANSPARENCY** of all goals, objectives, plans and activities,
- **SUSTAINABILITY** of the natural environment, the base of all existence,
- as well as of all social, cultural and economical structures – and
- **PARTICIPATION** of all who are concerned for true holistic development.

Although there is no general recipe for development and although nothing and nobody can **be** developed, there are some outstanding "instruments" for development which have proven their worth and can be considered as pillars of self-development:

- **Micro-finance** instruments, especially socially administered micro-credit systems but also financial bottle-neck opening systems using small well target funds through trustworthy facilitators in the field – and for long-term sustainable development:
- **Learning** in all its forms. Outstanding learning-models are being described in this new German book "SOLIDARITÄT die ankommt!".

But learning is also of vital importance for each individual to enable a successful, dignified life in all its possible variety. Such learning must start early in life – from birth with the help of loving parents or care-takers and from around the age of 3 years through various forms of well-guided conscious support, one of them being good quality child-centred preschools (like Montessori). Early learning should be followed by the best possible primary school – and various culturally and individually adapted life-long learning systems. Highest priority should, however, be given to earliest learning – wherever it is possible. It is worth the effort. However: As long as such framework conditions for development are not fully developed, individual and global solidarity are needed for a dignified life in our **ONE world in diversity**.