

# ECOLOGICAL ECONOMY AS A PERSPECTIVE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND

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## ABSTRACT

Rapid development of ecological situation requires cardinal reconsideration of structure and content of social subjects. One of the basic subjects must be "Ecological economics", the applied aspects of which will be "Economics of ecological agriculture", "Mathematical ecology" and "Ecological and economic substantiation of economic decisions".

**Keywords:** ecology, economy, crisis, alternative, stable development, ecological economics

Economic sciences as sciences concerning people's economic activity reflect social relations, political views, the mode of production and other historically developed ideological and public values. In the present day situation, when the humanity in its development has reached such heights that it essentially influences all global processes on our planet, economic theories of the past and present whose basic aim was and is to conquer the forces of nature in order to satisfy the ever-growing needs of the mankind are not only ineffective; but are becoming dangerous, above all for the society itself and other ecological systems. According to the materials of UN conferences on environment and stable development held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 1992), New York (USA, 1997) and Johannesburg (South Africa, 2002), the present day ecological crisis was caused first of all by technological and economic progress and people's realization of their place and role in nature, where the development of social and psychological awareness is lagging much behind the level of productive forces. That is why, just as in previous historic epochs the attempts to realize the sense of the acquired economic experience gave rise to corresponding economic theories, so today at the time of global economic crisis a new economic theory and a new understanding of economic and social relation are to appear. Such theory based on historic analysis is to reveal the tendencies of the economic mentality, to find the ways of improving ecological and social relation, to work out recommendations for ecologically safe economy, to solve the problem of ecological tension, etc, i. e. it has to ensure the transition from the existing traditional to a new ecological economy.

The necessity and even inevitability of the transition to new ecological public, social and economic relations have manifested themselves in mass public ecological movements, in the restructuring of political forces in the world in the above-mentioned UN conferences and other international ecological forums, in the appearance of environmental economics departments, ecological faculties and even universities, such as the State Agroecological University in Zhitomir, Ukraine.

Unfortunately, all these efforts of the humanity on the way to transformation of traditional economy have been so far of little effect, as no considerable progress has been achieved on this way during the ten-year period after Rio de Janeiro conference. Moreover the mankind began to realize that stable development in many respects resembles utopia, a beautiful dream which can hardly come true in the foreseeable future, and Johannesburg summit where such conclusion was made was called "an assembly of lost opportunities – nothing for the poor, nothing for the climate". Still, there is no other alternative for the mankind except the transition to the ecological economy, which has been distinctly realized by underdeveloped countries. Developing countries begin to realize it and developed countries must realize it.

The Institute of the World Observation of the progress towards the stable society published its first report in 1984. In this report the institute covered the basic problems of the humanity: namely global population growth, high oil prices, enormous external debts of the underdeveloped and developing countries and great damage to forest caused by a new phenomenon – acid rainfalls. The institute assumed that the majority of the mentioned problems would have been solved by the end of the second millennium and the humanity would approach the stable world economy, but in 1999 authors of the 17<sup>th</sup> report of this institute "The world situation in 2000" had to state that none of these problems had been solved. Moreover, the challenge to the future of the world economy turned out to be more complicated than it seemed 10 years ago. In the "preamble to the Agenda for the XXI century" adopted at the summit in Rio de Janeiro – 92 it is stated that the greatest pressure on the environment by means of using its resources is exerted by 20% of the richest people of the planet who earn 82.7% of the world's income, account for 81.2% world trade turnover, obtain 94.6% of commercial credits, possess 80.6% of commercial savings, carry out 80.3% domestic investments. For 20% of the poorest population these indices account for about 1%, the gap between the level of consumption of the world wealth by the rich and the poor is increasing. That's why the principal idea of the programme of activities for the XXI century, adopted by Rio de Janeiro 1992 summit lies in the fact that those who damage the environment, those who use its resources more than others do, and derive more profits, must bear much more responsibility for the state of our planet – our common home. They must incur greater part of expenses connected with the liquidation of negative ecological phenomena, for renewal and even improvement of the environment.

But as it was noted before the expectations of the mankind majority as to the solution of the world problems of poverty and hunger, epidemics and catastrophes,

protection of rights and property of the poor, etc. don't come true so far. They cannot come true within the framework of traditional economic paradigm, where the determining principle is that of competition in the unlimited enrichment and consumption of the limited or scarce resources of the environment.

The essence of ecological economics as a new educational subject is to be a detailed study of economic theories of the past with the purpose of determining the reasons and tendencies of the origin of ecological catastrophes (economical, social, technogenic, natural etc.), establishment of causal and effective relation among them, thorough description of the well – known ecological, economical and social laws of the development of mankind and nature as a whole, substantiation of new laws of such development. Understanding and systematization of the mentioned laws will give a possibility to carry out real analysis of reasons of the origins of catastrophic situations, to predict ecological and economic results of either economic activity, to realize proper synthesis of ecological and economical, ecological and technical and other objects and systems, i.e. to realize a substantiated choice of mankind's development trends.

That is why ecological economics must be a break-down of mankind's consciousness into the sphere of ecology as the science of self-organization, self-adaptation and self-development of all natural systems of our planet including anthropogenic ones. Thus ecological economics must be integrational, generally intellectual, fundamental, generally educational subject like philosophy, political economy, sociology, ethics etc, which must be studied by all students of higher and secondary educational institutions. The problem of disproportion of consciousness and technical progress development can be solved only when ecological and economic ideology will be reflected in the minds of all members of the society. Since social being determines consciousness realization of ideas of ecological economics will stimulate a new approach to the comprehension of other social subjects, forming new progressive historical and philosophic, social and political, scientific and technical views. All the world scientists should contribute significantly to the creation of this science.

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