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“Changing behavior and developing knowledge”

- ▶ We find it important to accept the idea of continuous economic development but only with the important addition that it must become sustainable. To achieve this goal all participants of the economy have to build environmental awareness into their strategy as well as into their day to day practice.
- ▶ As it is clear since the Stockholm Conference (1972) that the environmental problems cannot be solved without their integration into the perspectives of economic progress, the concept of sustainable development is gaining ground among the economic organizations as well.
- ▶ As a member of the Brundtland Commission (World Commission on Environment and Development) I took part in creating the document which became known as: “Our Common Future”. Among others this report emphasized the need to harmonize the requirements of industry with the interest of environmental protection. „Resource and environmental considerations must be integrated into the industrial planning and decision – making processes. This will allow a steady reduction in the energy and resource content of future growth by increasing the efficiency of resource use, reducing waste, and encouraging resource recovery and recycling ...”
- ▶ Thinking about sustainable development the human aspects more and more appear to come into the foreground. The way and quality of life, consciousness, preservation of values, traditions, and health, maintenance of employment, as well as the respect for human rights and the democratic institutions are also important for sustainable development. In Hungary it is related to creation of jobs, starting environmentally friendly industrial activity to the less developed regions.
- ▶ I think that without radical and definitive change of the present practice development cannot be maintained long. However, we can achieve the positive changes only by a longer transition period, and we have to accept a stepwise incremental progress if the direction is correct.
- ▶ The process of transition into the sustainable stage of economy will certainly take some decades in Hungary. This process will be directed and organized by the students of today. Therefore, all those who want to help this progress can act positively by supporting education at the basic, middle and university level, and also to support research, as it is the thinking and behavior of people and the development of their knowledge that makes the most important difference in creating new and environmentally friendly products and life style of future generations.