

Session 4.

This session aims to discuss the potentialities of mediating the biospheric perspective on life and the world in Asian and African regions with modern technology and institutions so as to create sustainable humanosphere. In many parts of Asia and Africa, there are local knowledges that see and manage interconnected relations of life between human society, animals and plants, and elements of geospheric nature, such as earth, wind, fire and water. This kind of knowledge has been criticized in the modern West as unscientific and imposing an anthropomorphic view upon nature. Modern science tends to see nature instead as dominated by physical and mechanistic principles whose sphere should be clearly distinguished from human society which is a space for free will and action. Recent developments in natural science, however, suggest that there is much more physical and biological continuity and interconnection between humans and nature than we have assumed. In this context, it is necessary that we re-establish our relationships with nature by creatively combining advanced technology that allows humans to manipulate forms, functions and energy of nature, and the kind of world view that recognizes the interconnected principle of life between humanosphere, biosphere and geosphere. In this session, we examine case studies from India, Turkey, Ethiopia and to ask the following questions. What kind of possibilities do biospheric perspectives in the local knowledge offer for bettering our relationships with the environment? What kind of potentialities and problems does contemporary technology (both "bio" and otherwise) have for making human-nature relations more congenial to each other? What kind of transformations are taking place at the interfaces of local and global knowledges as regards the relationships between humanosphere, biosphere and geosphere? What possibilities are there for creating local knowledges, institutions and technology that can promote sustainable humanosphere?