

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT: THE ROLES OF ETHICS AND TECHNOLOGY

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The earth ecosystem and its ecological future is at stake because the humankind has so far consumed energy and resources without paying careful attention to resource limits and degradation of nature. This anthropocentric way of economic life disrupted ecological food chains and natural circulation or cycles of earth's basic elements such as carbon, water (hydrogen and oxygen), nitrogen, and minerals. Sitting on top of chains, and armed with technologies, the humankind destabilized the cycles to the breaking point. For an example, the disruption of carbon cycle has led to climate change, water cycle to freshwater shortage, and nitrogen cycle to pollution. Ironically the only tools we have for the sustainable development are also technologies, which may be called 'Paradox of Technology'. Perfection of technology ethics, which will complete natural cycles and the circle of God-Human-Nature relationship, is the only hope we have. The energy and environment future depends on remediation of food chains and natural cycles damaged by the human technological activities. Since technology is a product of human intelligence, only our ethical mind can guide the role of technology. The humankind ought to use technologies to enhance the harmony of human and nature as dictated by his ethics of technology. Christian ethics is now reshaped to establish the horizontally linear relationship between God, Human, and Nature from the old vertically linear one. On the other hand the Asian view of the nature makes the relationship between Heaven-Earth-Human to be a full circle, and regards the circle itself the Nature. The Asian view may prevail for the perfection of cycles so that we can preserve our only habitat the Earth better for our coming generations, and also for generations of biospecies.