



Harmonization Science (HarS)

From Sustainability to Harmonization

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Abstract

The international community has been making efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations by 2030. There are concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic will significantly delay its realization. The occurrence of this pandemic has once again questioned how humans interact with nature. Here, I argue that the post-SDGs world should be shifted to a harmonized world in terms of all aspects of human and nature. It is therefore necessary and inevitable to create a truly trans-disciplinary field, named "Harmonization Science" (HarS), for the development of human society further beyond the SDGs. And I further argue that the next development goals for the global society after Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and SDGs should be Harmonized Development Goals (HDGs).

Harmonization

The essence of things or phenomena is "change". Therefore, all events/happenings are tentative. When a "sustainable" state is achieved, the next thing that always happens is the occurrence of an "unsustainable" state. In this case, harmonization is a dynamic process that can maintain the balance between the "sustainable" states and the "unsustainable" states, recognizing that the two states are constantly swapped. Harmonization also refers to a balance between a solution for a problem event and the side effects associated with the implementation of the solution, or a balance across multiple solutions. Generally speaking, harmonization is not a state, but a dynamic process by balancing multiple elements into an organic whole.

Harmonization is a concept that transcends sustainability and involves a transformative process for accommodating diversity and minimizing conflicts, ensuring a dynamic balance of all things (i.e., non-reductionism).

Harmonization Science (HarS)

Harmonization Science deals with changes and how to co-exist with changes. Here, it is proposed as a new discipline about wisdoms for addressing what our future global society should move forward and what should be done. It is a transformative discipline serving



for building the post-SDGs world: i.e., a harmonized world. It argues the importance of paradigm shift from sustainability to harmonization.

Concerning an optimal balanced state, mathematically, solutions can be obtained by solving an optimization problem under some constrained conditions. However, if such a problem could be solved mathematically, Harmonization Science would not be needed. It is Harmonization Science that deals with "wicked problems", which do not have any correct answers. Furthermore, Harmonization Science should be created as a truly scientific system.

About scientific systems

extracted from Zhang (2017).

As argued by the famous psychologist Kantor (1958), scientific systems must aspire toward *validity*, *significance*, and *comprehensiveness* (Fryling and Hayes, 2010). Validity refers to internal consistency or lack of contradiction. Significance describes the relationship of an individual scientific system to others. When an individual scientific system shares the meta-assumptions of others, it is considered significant. Validity is a prerequisite for significant interactions with other scientific systems, but validity itself does not assure significance. Comprehensiveness means an adequate account of all of the events that fall within the scope of the scientific system. Importantly, comprehensiveness is only valued when it is construed within a system that is both valid and significant.

From a perspective of harmonized development, both human society and nature are a complex system consisting of multiple elements, where the system has common processes and mechanisms that form collective behaviors from individual behaviors (*significance*). The human system is a part of the nature system, while the nature system is indispensable to the human system. This suggests that the two systems are interacted and cannot be treated separately. In other words, it is necessary to comprehensively capture all about human and nature systems (*comprehensiveness*). Furthermore, because of interactions between human and nature systems, neither of human and nature systems could not be correctly understood without the support of theories with coherency reflecting the interactions (*validity*). Harmonization Science that jointly deals with human and nature systems needs to simultaneously meet the three conditions of *validity*, *significance*, and *comprehensiveness*. And it is possible to create Harmonization Science as a truly scientific system.

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References

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