

Addendum to Reaction Paper to Prof. Nien-he Hsieh's "An Ethical Compass for the Digital Age"

The Re-evangelization Imperative – the Church CAPP must RESPOND!

The existential risks to society (and to man) of a digital age ***without an ethical compass*** have been made abundantly clear.

- A. The objective is ***not*** to impede the inevitable development (and indeed, flowering of) technology but to ensure that the Digital Economy remains ***an instrument*** in realizing man's fundamental/higher mission in life.
- B. This means:
 1. Bridging the "digital divide" and enabling ***the many***, to have access to the tools of the digital age.
 2. Communicating and sharing our fundamental social values (subsidiarity and solidarity) with the ***youth***; collaborating and assisting them develop a "roadmap" towards a just and compassionate world.
 3. ***Strongly advocating*** the following paradigms with respect to business enterprise:
 - a) Maximization of long-term stakeholder interests (which, almost by definition, must be inclusive).
 - b) Stewardship. All investment institutions and investors are accountable, not just to deliver an acceptable risk-adjusted return on investment but, (of equal importance), to ensure that investments made promote long term, inclusive and sustainable development for all stakeholders.
 4. Still with respect to business enterprise:
 - a) Utilizing the board of directors of enterprise as a means of ensuring that all business strategies and operating plans are consistent with, and respectful of, 3a and b above, by:

Writing this into the explicit legal responsibilities of board (or Supervisory Board, where applicable) members.

b) Strongly encouraging major investment institutions to commit to/sign Stewardship Codes consistent with 3a and b above.

C. How might the desired change in Enterprise Paradigm take place?

By using the Church/CAPP, its networks and that of its members to:

1. Partner with credible/influential institutions i.e. OECD, the development finance sector (multilaterals like IBRD, ADB, EDB, LADB, AfDB, etc. as well as bi-lateral development institutions), institutes of corporate directors, associations of major investment institutions, and academe (business schools and schools of economics) to promote the same.
2. Work with appropriate partners (including those referred to above) to lobby the relevant regulatory authorities in most major jurisdictions to **enact and enforce** policies consistent with the same.
3. Promote and endorse “**responsible investing**” among investment institutions, corporations and major family offices.

D. Renewal

The measures described in the foregoing (relating to the enterprise sector and the agencies that influence it) represent a short-term “rear guard action” in response to the indicated dangers.

The more fundamental solutions require a renewal of a focus on the family and its obligation as educator of our young. It is here where the initial understanding of ethics begins.

Schools, which operate “**in loco parentis**”, while a strong and important complement, are not a substitute.

The challenge is for parents and educators (“learning managers”) to collaborate, develop, identify and implement the relevant content and pedagogy relevant to our times. That is, I submit, a continuing challenge of all Catholic schools.

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