

# **Eco-Political Economy (EDE Economic Dimension)**

---

## **Module Eco-Political Economy: Seeing behind the Seen**

We live in an extremely complex and interdependent world. Many things happen to us and we don't know their causes and conditions. These include financial crises of boom and bust, unemployment, continual debt of farmers, extremist & fundamentalist groups of all sorts, regional and civil wars etc. It is important for spiritual leaders and social change makers to understand hidden discourses and underlying structural arrangements, as well as looking into the emerging alternatives around the world. During these 5 days we will also wrestle with big concepts such as neoliberalism, globalization, corporate-capitalism, failings of socialisms, gender justice, consumerism, media analysis, money & debt, social justice, sustainability, etc. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of structural violence and alternatives on contemporary crises.

---

## **Module Gender & Social Justice**

Gender inequality remains a crucial challenge in society because this is one of the earliest ways in which people first learn about hierarchy and accept oppression as a way of life. This module will explore the structural issues underlying gender identity and related discrimination, as well as gain an understanding of how transforming personal perspectives are closely related to structural change. This course will also provide an opportunity to consider how to bring gender and feminist concepts into our life experiences and contemporary social issues. While learning key concepts around gender and social justice, practices of mindfulness and compassion will be integrated to build awareness, help participants consider their and others' behavior, so they are able to authentically advance the change they want in society.

---

## **Module Asian Political Thought**

There is a lot of criticism of negative Western influences in Asia, but do Asians really have their own alternatives? Asia is home not only to great spiritual and religious traditions of the world, but also to philosophies of politics and political ideas. Yet during the period of colonialism, Western concepts of progress and neo-colonialism have both consciously and deliberately erased the path of political ideas and political traditions in Asia. This workshop on Asian political thought explores the classical and contemporary philosophy of politics and political ideas in Asia as well as their influence at the grassroots to this day. This workshop will also explore alternatives to the present globalised political, economic and cultural model from broad non-Western and specific Asian perspectives.

---

## **Module Local Solutions: Alternatives in Practice**

In the last few decades in many non-industrialized societies, real examples of sustainable local community initiatives have been nurtured to challenge the globalised mainstreaming of unsustainable development. Some of these are vibrant and flourishing, others are floundering. Academics have been exploring this field, to identify causes and conditions that contribute to the success of best practices, and cause of failures. This module will take participants to visit initiatives of good practice firsthand as well as meeting and discussing with researchers who are acquainted with these cases. The module will give participants both inspiration and critical understanding of practical sustainable community reconstruction.

---