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SUB-DOMAIN:1. PEOPLE: LIVELIHOOD PURSUITS, EMERGING LEADERSHIP, MARGINAL AND DISPLACED PEOPLE, ISLANDERS, HUNTER-GATHERERS, FOREST DWELLERS

PANEL TITLE:

KEEPING A PACE WITH KNOWLEDGE: TOWARDS A NEW PRAXIS FOR THE HUMAN SURVIVAL

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ABSTRACT

The understanding of the traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), attributed to the long-resident people across the globe, is documented in literatures. Nevertheless, these 'people' do not put any hyphen between human and plant relationship, by virtue of the position, on the apex of the animal kingdom. The accountability of TEK bestows on the 'people' to sustain their embedded life, facilitated by the presence of diversified plants, to be duly undisturbed. There is urgent need to protect it from unrelenting cross-cultural and cross-situational collaborations, in the guise of the commercial encroachment. This is a thought-provoking proposal. It probes how the kinetics of TEK is critically analysed in social science perspectives. It further explores how the hidden treasures of plant serve the purpose of their sustainable life over subsequent generations. This entails its differential meanings, in alignment with the scientific interpretation and policy matters.

The published writings spark the controversies brewed over the definitions of TEK that emerges from etic understanding. It is enriched with the assumptions that have hardly any authenticity. We converge our opinion into kinetics of TEK and the contextuality of TEK with the understanding of biology and ecology at the backdrop of anthropological arguments. There is urgency to explore the evolutionary importance of TEK, its analogy with science. Interpreting TEK through the lens of science demands debate amongst the scientists from different disciplines, policy makers to arrive at an acceptable definition of TEK. It is imperative for good governance and for manging source-resource conflict. Given the criticality of this debate, it is pertinent to argue that TEK per se should be thought as a collaborative concept i.e., mutual tutorial praxis. It serves to invoke collaborators of both (long-residents and urban residents) to continually learn from one another. It is with this design this panel invites presentations from various stakeholders that include scientist, people form the community and activists to engage in a vibrant discussion. This learning is of utmost importance to deliver the appropriate action plan to reduce the climate breakdown.

Keywords: TEK, long-resident, policy, contextuality, climate breakdown

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