



Why do I – Karl Schlecht - sponsor the “Worldethos” Idea and since when?

This document is a founder-information from K. Schlecht for friends and KSG- stakeholders.

Please find this SM and others mentioned below in Download Website www.karl-schlecht.de

Looking back from 2017 may I collect here some relevant details on the now over 30 years very long-reaching fixed with overall annual donations of more than € 2 Million programmed for making the Worldethos Idea worldwide to be known and become effective. This includes € 1 Mio annual over 30 years specially for the business focused KSG- World Ethos INSTITUTE Project in Tübingen (WEIT) . All is based on our KSG donation guidelines SM 130225. However WEIT is the only and the highest valued one, based in a notary agreement with its legal mother SWT. It rests on my deep personal commitment and **belief**, that the **basic Ethics** fostering Worldethos Idea- as a derivate of the GOLDEN RULE- can foster **TRUST in business** between all stakeholders, helps to improve personal wellbeing, success and, peace. This is my deep felt contribution to our society.

Looking further back...to the Origin 1977.

In 1977 - then still owner and CEO of Putzmeister - I became impressed when hearing on the radio Erich Fromm in a Sunday morning SWR Series “What Man Needs”(*1). He freely elaborated on “Vita Activa” which touched me deeply. Curious to learn more from him to understand the essence of my entrepreneurial and private life deeper I worked myself through his “The art of loving” (which I repeatedly study till now), studied the deeper going “Man for himself” (Psychoanalyse und Ethik) and finally “To have or to be”. Most of all I already knew superficially. However studying him made all much more conscious, deeper understood and qualifying for me, gave reason for me to found KSG. It especially helped me for better leadership in my meanwhile global Putzmeister company (*2).

My effort to make Putzmeister more effective with following basic ethic rules is often documented, in special with VG 97065, further written after contacting Prof. Küng 1998 the PM 99020 –**Werte bei Putzmeister**. There I added to the golden Rule and Human obligations already Küng’s core Worldethos values in page 2 even before KSG sponsored Küng.

To business friends I gave away more than thousand Fromm-books “The art of loving” as for assisting good entrepreneurship and human winning in life.



Giving all my Putzmeister shares into a newly created foundation KSG during 1997 is based on putting his “To have or to be” into real action.

Thankfulness to Fromm for all this I initiated later 2014 in Tübingen the E. Fromm Foundation, installed there near WEIT with Dr. Funk the EF Archive, and in Berlin the EF-Study-Center at the IPU (see SM 130301-KS Rede)

Realizing that my entrepreneurial mission to foster TRUST in action based on our existing PM company values (CoPhy) can be intensified and cultivated globally with the Tübinger Worldethos Idea made me contact Prof Küng in 1998 (see below). What then developed is described further down.

But: **All that started with Erich Fromm** and what I gradually learned from him. This basically changed my private and business life, building on what my beloved parents and learning what life taught me, learning fundamental scientific thinking and acting at schools and entrepreneurship with hard fight in business. It started with my own business in father's backyard, realizing for him the first mortar-plastering machine in 1957 as my UNI masters-degree (Dipl Ing) with subsequent 50 good business years. They laid the capital basis for all and for KSG....

Stiftung Weltethos Tübingen (SWT)

Looking back to 1998:.

KSG's capital resources then were 12 Mio € in 1998. This fund helped to finance 3 projects with each annually ca € 250 000.-. Besides assisting Worldethos Foundation (SWT) we initiated and started the SEH (Siftungslehrstuhl Entrepreneurship at University Hohenheim; then in 2004 the SWE for Windpower at my Alma Mater, the UNI Stuttgart.

KSG- donation idea to SWT started in 1998 with my idea and entrepreneurial objective to **improve** and widen and globalizing **our value catalogue** in our **international business** processes with Küng's Worldethos idea.

The mission was to foster **trust** building with good ethical **decision making** and actions and also foster our already good company culture, which accompanies all sales for customer appreciation.

When I discovered that the WE Idea **could not be made effective** I initiated the creation of a **business** related version of it. This resulted in 2010 with the well written booklet "Manifesto Global Economic Ethic".

It was too long and found actually no echo to the KSG Mission and vision mentioned above. To make clear what – in some difference to SWT – the meaning for the WE Idea in WEIT for business shall mean, I later in 2015 the one page definition issued as SM 121126 (Was ist die Worldethos Idee).

My consequence in 2011 was to initiate a KSG founded and governed Institute WEIT for active own realizing the original mission for making the WE Idea effective in business. The difficult history of this process is mentioned further down. First it needed money.....much more money. I solved this with a private donation transferring my US- Putzmeister Plant in Racine/Wis. into KSG, creating the **annual one Million €** needed for WEIT...

Note: This sponsoring decision happened one year **before** I decided in Sept 2011 to sell all PM shares to SANY. It was not Prof Küng's decision and nobody else contributed any money for the WEIT idea. (WHY ????)

Earlier WEIT history from KS informing Newcomers in WEIT and KSG:

"The long march..." – and we are still far to the lifelong Vision of Karl Schlecht.

With Prof Engler's predecessor Prof Schaich I proposed in a meeting at UNI Hohenheim ca. 2008 the meanwhile visible SEH- failure to realize the "Master of Business Humanity" (MBH) with a closely related mission as later proposed as "WEIT 7 Leitgedanken" in WD/SM 110204. Prof Schaich fully understood and signalled help in Tübingen. In a subsequent meeting in his Tübingen office he explained, that despite of his search and sympathy he could not find a "home" for such a study or lecture at Tübingen's UNI.

When I presented that idea to be realized in an Institute at UNI Tübingen to his successor Prof Engler in 2010 he also was very positive. However he only was ready to follow this idea when one million Euros p.a. over 10 years could be guaranteed.

With KSG then existing annual possible donations we had no chance – 250 000.-€ went already in 3 channels, one for SWT/Küng, one for SHE in Hohenheim and one to the sponsored chair for Windpower in Stuttgart. The rest of our income of 12 mio Euro was needed for costs and small donations with ca 100 000.- € left.

After no third party was ready to join I agreed with my wife Brigitte to use private real estate income for our Business Trust furthering Worldethos enthusiasm. Erich Fromm's "To have or to be" was a key for this decision.

Our decision was not to die rich but to invest what our life and god donated us in the welfare of people, our society and peace especially for the business world which was our source in life and still rewarded us daily.

The solution was to donate in 2010 my privately owned US – Putzmeister Factory in Racine / Wis to the KSG foundation. In reality I donated its annual rent of ca one mio € to KSG for a Business related Worldethos Institute. This was possible after a fortunate real estate transfer from US to a German nonprofit KSG foundation was possible based on the existing DBA between Germany and USA.

When in early 2011 I proposed this to Prof Küng and Prof Engler they were full of doubts but finally believed that my dream became reality for all. Actually I donated the one Million p.a. not to SWT nor to M Küng but to the "Idea..." and to the University.

Looking from now unfortunately and due to no experience on my side the legal solution was a so-called "An-Institute at the UNI Tübingen – legally attached to the foundation SWT. They claim today to own the now to 30 years limited WEIT donation as their property, which is in its sense wrong – but legally fixed with a notary contract. As stated in WD/SM 110204 I wanted a free WEIT in a synergetic cooperation agreement with SWT.

Looking from today this was my big personal mistake. Like Mr UDO KELLER – the earlier Küng Sponsor – I should have started a comparable Institute legally independent of SWT or similar as later done with my Idea to start a KSG-sponsored China institute – now CCT and the Erich Fromm Center in Berlin.

After the present Evaluation and no good enough result for the main business related part of the Mission (also 7 Leitgedanken) we intent to find a solution close to the original KSG- WEIT missions coming closer to the true statement given to WEIT in 2011, continuing and specific qualifying good suitable WEIT Elements for implanting the trust building vision of the Worldethos idea.

WEIT - Start

Again: After all other efforts to at least partly financing such an entity from other partners or the BW-state fund failed this finally ended in Feb. 2011 with my decision for the **1 Mio € per year** investment of my foundation KSG into the **Weltethos Institut Tübingen**. This was possible after I donated to KSG my **privately** owned US factory.

Officially I agreed to call it WEIT-(Welt Ethos Institute Tübingen – not "Globlethos" as Mr. Küng wrote.) whilst in reality it must be a BUSINESS-Weltethos Institute Tübingen or World Economic Ethics Institute Tübingen (WEIT). I never agreed to call it falsely "Global Ethos Institute" as globe is an astrologic or cosmos body, whilst World means Man made.

After founding WEIT in Feb 2011 with kind assistance of Prof. Sandberger, Assmann and Engler the KSG was enriched one year later 2012 with the KSG sale of all PM shares to SANY.

This opened new chances to expand KSG, including GVA and WEIB at BEIDA. Further sponsoring for SWT became possible when getting a new SWT president (H. Köhler, then E. Stilz) to follow Hans Küng. The new SWT president did not have the "stigma" being a pope criticizer or church rebel like Küng. His background kept renowned industrialists out, but now hopefully will motivate new and higher donators besides KSG to SWT.



In March 2012 I decided that the annual donation amount of 200.000 – 250.000 € for SWT shall be increased annually as needed for 10 years.

Remark: Only based on this financing promise KSG finally could get the agreement for SWT presidency of our earlier Federal President, Prof. Dr. Horst Koehler, to take over the president role from Prof Küng in March 2013

- else he definitely would not have accepted this role. But in Jan 2014 he suddenly quit due to personal reasons. Some months later Mr E. Stilz fortunately took the role of SWT president.

Unpleasant Intermezzo:

Prof Küng needed three months to accept then a needed additional short term annual 50.000 € KSG- donation agreement as he insisted to get a promise for 30 years. He also claimed to be an independent foundation and refused to let KSG know in advance for what the also increased annual funds of totalling ca. 300 000.- were invested. He repeatedly - even in march 2012 - claimed unrealistically to be a FREE INDEPENDENT foundation which does not have to follow such closer professional control as the KSG Kuratorium insisted now due to its now bigger dimension and organization . Only due to intensive efforts of his friend Prof Klaus Leisinger and after I threatened to block further payments he finally signed on 20 September 2012.

Besides this Prof Engler, rector of the university of Tübingen, in general refused that KSG payments to WEIT were regarded as KSG "investment". KSG- Investments in WEIT however focused on creating values in business culture and educating students with lecturing along the 7 guide lines given in WD/SM 110204.

Everybody in WEIT should regard this as obligation to fully dedicate themselves to follow those and the mission statement and the legal rules initiated during the foundation of WEIT. In trustful friendship we personally agreed, that temperately for passing the senate not all 7 founder ideas with the "rotary 4 question probe" could be noted in the legal documents. Nevertheless the rector agreed that the KSG intentions in practice would be followed along the sponsoring of KSG fundamentals. It took however two years to convince the WEIT managers to publish a value catalogue near entrance hall, including the 5-question probe. This was the rotary version added with "Am I honest" as second question.

For the future there is no doubt that we stay with our KSG promise to further and sponsor the Worldethos idea as we understand it



Evidence of the start of the relationship between Küng/ KS / Putzmeister / KSG

The following is the complete text of a fax message sent from Karl Schlecht to Professor Hans Küng on 20 April 1998. He again showed me the text during the WEIT board meeting on 13 September 2012 even though **wrongly** interpreting it`s content. He insisted that the KSG donation should benefit "general social objectives". Understandably, Küng`s focus was not – as I had repeatedly explained to him – to implement the World Ethos Idea into the development of our company culture (see fax dated 20 April 1998). This key success factor for business was formed out of the trust-building company philosophy (CoPhy sheet or company philosophy). Its values should be "ennobled" by the interreligious World Ethos Idea whilst connecting nations and people (see maxims of elementary rules of humanity and core sins, also the human responsibilities set out also by Hans Küng and Helmut Schmidt.)

Website: <http://www.karl-schlecht.de/en/values/human-rights-human-reponsibilities>

When taking up his duties as new WEIT President, open issues could be solved in an amicable way between Eberhard Stilz and KSG.



Sehr geehrter Herr Professor Küng,

mit großem Interesse lese Ich seit Jahren in Ihren Büchern und verwerte deren Inhalt auch für die **Entwicklung unserer Unternehmenskultur bei Putzmeister** hier in Aichtal.

Nachdem wir global tätig sind, hat das Thema Weltethos für uns erfolgswirksame Bedeutung. Viele Elemente daraus finden sich schon in **unseren Firmenbroschüren und unserer Unternehmensphilosophie**.

Ich überlege mir daher, wenn möglich, Ihre Arbeit bezüglich der Stiftung Weltethos zu unterstützen im Rahmen meiner jetzt entstehenden gemeinnützigen Stiftung.

Wäre es daher möglich, dass Sie mich über Ihre Arbeit und Ziele in diesem Sinne informieren mit dem Ziel, in absehbarer Zeit ein konkreteres Gespräch zu führen.

Freundliche Grüße



Dipl.-Ing. Karl Schlecht

Translation of Fax of 20th April 1998 from Karl Schlecht to Prof. Hans Küng:

Dear Professor Küng,

For years I have read your books with great interest and I could evaluate their contents for developing our **company culture here at Putzmeister** in Aichtal.

Since our **business** is global the World Ethos Idea has importance regarding effect on business success. Many of those elements can be found already in our company brochures and our company philosophy.

Therefore, I would like to assist you, if possible, in your efforts concerning the World Ethos Foundation with my newly founded foundation.

Would it therefore be possible that you inform me about the activities and objectives in the field mentioned with the objective to have a constructive conversation basis soon.

Kind regards



Dipl.-Ing. Karl Schlecht
