GJ Introduction to Course on Social Power

1. Multi-dimensional Global Challenges

- Peace & Security

- Law & Governance

- Economy & Employment

- Education & Healthcare

- Energy & Ecology

2. Effective solutions require changes at the level of

- Public policies and responsible private initiative

- Institutions for global and national governance

- Educational content and pedagogy

- Theoretical understanding of society and its processes

- Development of mind, thinking, creativity, values and individuality

3. WAAS-WUC Transdisciplinary Courses

- Individuality and Accomplishment – August 2014

- Toward a Transdisciplinary Science of Society – September 2014

- Transformational Leadership – March 2015

- Education for the 21st Century – September 2015

- Mind, Thinking and Creativity – April 2016

- **Social Power – October 31 to Nov 2, 2016**

- New Economic Theory – February 2017

- Creativity and Individuality – November 2017

4. Where can humanity find the power to address these challenges effectively?

5. Accomplishment and Power

- Human beings undertake purposeful activity for accomplishment

- Accomplishment includes meeting material needs, fulfilling social aspirations, satisfying intellectual curiosity, enjoying life, growing personally, developing civilization and culture, and evolving as a species.

- All these forms of accomplishment require power – power of movement, change, growth, development and evolution.

6. Human beings utilize myriad forms of power for –

• Transportation	• Exploration & Discovery
• Communication	• Technological Innovation
• Self-defense & Conquest	• Education
• Law	• Scientific Research
• Governance	• Artistic Creativity
• Organization	• Entertainment
• Production	• Religion
• Distribution	• Growth of civilization
• Interaction	• Development of Culture
• Exchange	• Psychological growth
• Invention	• Spiritual self-discovery

7. All these are forms of Social Power

- They arise from interaction, cooperation, coordination and organization between human beings.
  - o   Language
  - o   Markets & Money
  - o   Internet

- They are all expressions of the capacity of the society to express human energies to achieve the goals and aspirations of the social collective.
  - o   These energies are physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual

8. Process governing expression of social energies

- Awareness of opportunities & challenges generates Energy

- Aspiration for accomplishment converts the energy into Force

- Organization of the directed energy transforms it into Social Power

- Expression of the power generates accomplishment

This process applies to all forms of social energy & all fields of expression

9. The source of these energies is what we call Society

- Society is the sum total of human **individuals** living and acting in families, groups, communities, national and international organizations.

- Society includes the structures, systems, activities, values, customs, beliefs, knowledge, skills, laws and institutions that define the complex nexus of **relationships** between these individuals and groups.

- Society is a **living organism** that is greater than the sum of its parts – rather than a mechanical assemblage of parts, linkages, interactions and interrelationships.

- Society grows, develops and evolves by increasing levels of **awareness, organization and integration** between its geographic units, social groups, institutions, activities, sectors and levels.

10.　Social Power is organized at multiple levels

- Formal organized structures – military, government, law

- Partially organized activities – political, economic, transport, communication, media, education, healthcare, entertainment, etc.

- Informal institutions – values, beliefs, culture, custom and ways of life.

- Social potential – the unlimited reservoir of unorganized aspirations, energies, knowledge, skills, capacities and activities that are available to organize and draw upon by individuals and the collective.

11.　Distribution of Social Power

- The distribution and utilization of social power for individual and collective benefit is determined by both formal and informal institutions, legal and extra-legal factors, national values and culture.
  - o　Concentration & distribution of political power
  - o　Concentration & distribution of wealth and economic power
  - o　Divisions between social classes and castes
  - o　Access to information, knowledge, & education
  - o　Freedom of worship & authority of religious bodies
  - o　Social conformity & freedom of individual thought and self-expression

12.　Themes for Discussion

- The social potential is the source of all the evolutionary achievements humanity has drawn up for its advancement over thousands of years.

- This potential is unlimited, since the more it is drawn upon and effectively organizations, the more it grows, develops and evolves.

- Societies differ widely in their capacity to draw upon and organize this social potential both spatially and temporally.

- The distribution of social power – both legally and illegally – has a profound impact on the overall power of society and its capacity for accomplishment.

- Every society has the potential to vastly increase its capacity to generate, release, direct and organize social potential for higher levels of accomplishment.

- The individual is the key and catalyst for conversion of social potential into effective power.

- Societies develop in the measure they are able to empower their members to access and utilize the available social power for individual and collective benefit.

13.   Objectives of this course

- To become conscious of the enormous underutilized social potential available to modern society to address challenges & tap opportunities

- To identify ways to enhance the generation, direction, organization and expression of social power to promote human welfare & well-being

- To evolve practical strategies for mobilizing greater social power individually and collectively

- To evolve a transdisciplinary conception of human accomplishment applicable to all fields