The Wisdom of Sustainability
Buddhist Economics for the 21st Century
By Sulak Sivaraksa

“Sulak Sivaraksa and I share a conviction that if we are to solve human problems, economic and technological development must be accompanied by an inner spiritual growth.” —H.H. the Dalai Lama

The Wisdom of Sustainability continues E. F. Schumacher’s groundbreaking work on Buddhist economics in Small Is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered. Emphasizing small-scale, indigenous, sustainable alternatives to globalization, Sulak offers hope and alternatives for restructuring our economies based on Buddhist principles and personal development.

Sulak Sivaraksa is one of Asia’s leading social thinkers and activists. His wide-ranging work includes founding the International Network of Engaged Buddhists and dozens of other educational and political grassroots organizations, and authoring more than 100 books in Thai and English, including Seeds of Peace: A Buddhist Vision for Renewing Society. He was nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize, received the Right Livelihood Award, known as the alternative Nobel Peace Prize, and this year will be recipient of the prestigious Niwano Peace Prize.

“Sulak is one of the heroes of our time, offering deep wisdom and refreshingly sane alternatives to the earth-destroying religions of consumerism, greed, and exploitation.” —Joanna Macy, author of World as Lover, World as Self

“The crash of the economy, the question of alternatives to the current economic model has become extremely urgent. Sulak Sivaraksa has been in the forefront of developing a thoroughgoing critique of consumerism.” —Walden Bello, author of Deglobalization: Ideas for a New World Economy

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Introduction. Communally respected values and beliefs are central to what sustainability and wisdom offer. Given the shared assumptions of sustainability and wisdom, the practical frameworks, standards and global benchmarks that sustainability provides to enterprises and organizations (such as the Dow Jones Sustainability Group Index (DJSGI), and Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI)) allow wisdom to manifest in practice. On the other hand, wisdom as a meta-approach.