

Example of AppliedEI – Interdependence

Fritjof Capra PhD is a physicist and systems theorist. He is on the faculty of Schumacher College, an international centre for ecological studies in Devon, England. He delivers management seminars for top executives on business and sustainability. Capra's first principle of sustainability is interdependence:

Interdependence – *All members of a community are interconnected in a vast and intricate network of relationships and are mutually dependent on one another. The success of the whole community depends on the success of each member and the success of each member depends on the success of the community. Understanding ecological interdependence means understanding relationships. Nourishing the community means nourishing the relationships.*

Whether we interpret 'community' to mean team, department, workplace, family or company, the issues are the same – we are social animals who are mutually dependent on one another for our societal, personal, business, financial, technical and service interactions both in-house and in our global village. Effective interpersonal relationships are therefore crucial to success.

If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most common basic link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal. - John F Kennedy (1963)

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