

My Personal Story---Jelle U. Hielkema---born 25-02-1947

My personal origins lie on a cattle ranch in the south of Fryslan, [Friesland] northern province of The Netherlands [independent from Holland until 1345] , in the beautiful region of Gaasterland . My father was a farmer and in addition also a politician of the '50's and '60's. At that time that involved broad and integrated social and political engagement from "low to high", well ahead of the more 'specialist politicians' of later times with all the dire consequences we have been able to witness over the years, particularly from the '90s onward! He was not yet 50 years old when he died and just a month before I decided to go to Wageningen University to study Agriculture or rather Soil Science.

It was rather common in those post-war years , as the second son of a farmer, to become a clergyman but this did not really attract me and tax inspectors were there apparently suddenly enough! As a child with an interest in all that is connected with "weather & climate" I noticed that the Netherlands had considerably more 'abroad' than 'inbroad' and over time this curiosity grew fairly naturally and Wageningen seemed a good choice for broadening my personal horizons . Even though in Soil Science my immediate 'environment of focus' measured only 1 meter 20 by 1 meter 20 but I was lucky with a number of circumstances, generally referred to as 'chance', to 'launch' my self out of the 'soil pit' and into a considerably broader space. Also I have always , without too much exaggeration, been interested in ' people and what moves and drives them ' and the more ' colour ' the better!

In good Wageningen where I arrived in early September '65, I met, again by 'chance', in the first week Diederik Koning, son of a medical doctor from Leeuwarden, the capital of our small province. Both rather curious about the freedoms of the 'reality' of being students now we searched and found without much difficulty a pub near 'Blote Jan' [right next to the famous Hotel De Wereld where the German capitulation was signed in May 1945] a rather famous statue in Holland. We both ordered a beer as that goes. Those were followed by a substantial number more and at number ten we were in full agreement that Wageningen was 'not so bad' and that we should study there for ten years. So 'said and done' and, finally, 'finished' both on the same day with our joint graduation in June 1975. This after, except for a lot of study and related activity, many nice student assistant positions, many beautiful fieldworks as a 'budding soil scientist', including with a boy from Groningen [our next door province and for us Frisians 'foreigners'] but since then a friend for life. Without going into the truly incredible detail on

how this 'came about', marrying a beautiful Frisian girl resulting in two beautiful female offspring and still married to after 45 years. 18 months of military service during which my main 'personal discovery' was that I could run rather faster than anybody else around and....did! An exciting mapping practice in the "'Drowned Land Saeftinge" in Zeeland', also 'foreign' as it was best reached via Belgium at that time. All very good times!

Diederik and I found a beautiful residence on Nude 23 in Wageningen and at that time I had no 'inkling' that that number, in different ways, would play a major influence in my life. Diederik was generally a very good and reasonably creative cook and I had no problem with the dishes and ensuring basic hygiene with the vacuum cleaner, not that we took 'hygiene' too seriously as students! We artfully managed the various 'tightropes' of student life for which SSR, my student association, offered ample opportunities. We 'managed' for 'one cardinal examination point' to fail our first year and the logical consequence was a second year with 'forced' introduction into 'business' at a fruit auction in nearby Kesteren in the major 'fruit zone' of Holland which was most instructive and also provided our still rather 'limited life' some broader horizons among working people and a little taste of what would come in 'real life'.

My Dispute [Dutch word 'dispuut', i.e. where one talks & argues & drinks] "Scotia" had the 'holy purpose' to protect the Loch Ness Monster in Scotland. This consisted primarily of drinking ad fundum (otherwise good) Scottish whisky which I have not touched afterwards for about 20 years!

In March 1968 I fell 'head over heels and over my ears', as we say in Dutch, in love with the woman with whom I'm still happily married . I consequently completely 'missed' the world-famous student revolt of May '68 in Europe as I only came somewhat to my 'worldly senses' in September of that year. " Life is what we pay attention to" 'they' say and they could really do this without me I guess and frequently wonder whether it has become all that much better! Candidate A and B was then just a matter of much biking up and down the 'mountain' in Wageningen and you were willingly and ably guided by the scholars of that time. And there were interesting characters around in professorial professions at that post-war age with fast developing economies and rapid socio-cultural changes. After my required field practice period, because I had been a bit slack with 'progress according to the university rules' and on top of that a sudden shortage of officers in the Dutch armed forces, I had to do my military service. That was not a punishment at all because, among other things, I

discovered that I could outrun virtually anyone else and so became the 'delegate runner' - a little 'Forrest Gump' of the 'barracks' and could spend considerable time in the forest behind those barracks in Ede to keep the physical condition sharp. And in the evening off on the (military green) bike home in Wageningen! Two months before my final graduation in June '75 I was already an associate expert at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome [how I got there is a truly remarkable story in itself] in its newly created Remote Sensing Unit. This after initially having been selected for doing a PhD dissertation in the Tsavo National Park in Kenya, which however fell through for a temporary shortage of funding. Afterward I was glad about that as in the meantime, following an obligatory excursion for my Soil Science formation to Germany and Italy, my wife and I made a lightning European car trip including the most beautiful 'Boot Peninsula' during which we both fell in completely love with Italy. We are now nearly 40 years hence and, still utterly delighted by its rich combination of history, nature and culture and....people and.....take the often [very] messy politics as it comes and....goes! Having left Soil Science left through the ITC in Holland, which deals with all forms of Earth Observation primarily by satellite, my first job at the FAO was in the new field of Remote Sensing. This had been given a real boost after the Americans when they launched the first Earth observation satellite in 1972, making our Earth instantly and comprehensibly visible in great detail. I knew some, but not too much, about this new and promising field of human endeavour and got, with the able and dedicated help of a Frisian friend, amice Klaas de Jong, member earlier of the same student association, who occupied a key spot of responsibility in the Dutch Representation to FAO at the right time for me, the Dutch Government and the FAO to agree and fund in '77 / '78 a sabbatical year in England and America. The 'negotiations' on this with FAO yielded a formal transfer to the mid-West of the USA and....four tickets Rome-San Francisco with....17 stops on them. This gave me a wonderful chance to 'get in' into this new technical field and to get ready for practice in the developing world! I went first for two months to the University of Bristol in the UK and then with my wife and two children nine months to America. My very first thought when I 'landed' on the other side of the Atlantic in January 1978 was " What a backward country ". But that was, I think [because I was coming from a very old country] because of the still youthful age of America and..... frankly...they are still not much further, a multitude of very good sides certainly being there! It was a special experience for a Frisian farm boy from Gaasterland

in Friesland to be there 'in the forefront of space exploration' at a time when the successful and to the global imagination speaking Apollo programme was actually just concluded and the Space Shuttle launches were on the immediate horizon. My three months at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and NASA Headquarters were a great professional as well as personal experience, full of positive energy and good human relations. My sabbatical took me, except through various government space agencies, also to a number of American universities a bit everywhere in the country and this enabled us as a family to see much of America, Mexico and Canada. A unique experience with two small children. And what a space and natural beauty and human diversity in this big country'!

That sabbatical, the first and....last under the Dutch Associate Expert Scheme [still proud of that!], has given me considerably broadened horizons, a lot of useful technical and organizational knowledge plus... a lot of good contacts and friends and prepared me optimally for my FAO career, ultimately as Senior Remote Sensing Officer (Environmental Monitoring). This involved the conceptualization, development and implementation of a number of interregional and regional projects funded by the Governments of the Netherlands and Japan. These have over time contributed to making our planet more visible and helped spotting 'troubling conditions' in Agriculture and related Food Security for a variety of policy makers and people in the countries to actually to take remedial action in emergencies. And amice Jan Sonneveld 's [Dutch Permanent Representative to FAO for quite some time during these developments] (good) ear was always open to solicit advice. I consider it a great privilege to have been able to do this with my colleagues over the years which was expanded in time to cover five continents and allowed me to visit and experience the most diverse places of our beautiful, if troubled, planet. A special 'day and night filling' and fascinating existence to which I said goodbye with due regret after 30 years at the end of April 2005, leaving a lot a lot of friends scattered all over the earth 'to their own devices' but keeping to this date actively in touch with many of them for which the communication technologies of our age are a true blessing. After my farewell to FAO I still worked for over two years as a consultant, active in a "rehearsal" for the United Nations organs, about 33 in this area, to better and more effectively to work together in the use of geospatial information, which is now one of the main bases for supporting decision-making in many areas, such as agriculture, food security and - distribution, health, environment and climate change and

emergency assistance for displaced people. Most interesting and challenging as, given Human Nature, it is not easy to get everyone on the same direction and keeping and the UN for that matter a BIG and also rather stubborn 'beast' where....frequently 'asses' and 'elbows' are 'distant cousins'!

I did not become tax inspector [who work mainly with figures] but made 'coincidentally' active contact with numbers and their relationship with names and language. This was, I think through my father 's genes, connected to an interest in the interaction between philosophy, science, art, religion and politics . This has, to make a long story short, led to the publication in the first half of 2010, of my first [and probably last] book in the Netherlands and the United States under the pseudonym 'Number Six', entitled "The Natural Theory of **Dealism 21 'Quest for a Better Understanding between Humanity and Nature'** . " The core message of the book, working with a number-letter code from the Ancient Chaldeans, is, paraphrasing Dutch master entertainer Toon Hermans of that time, "**Put down that Ego**" and.....you'll eat more and tastier (Wageningen) spinach food because it will be "in a better and a more balanced and happier world" in which Agriculture has to play an important if not central role ! Also the book proposes, based on my 'observations and [highly consistent] findings' that we might, as an strongly interrelated global community, benefit from in addition to each person's natural mother tongue of a 'father tongue' based on the Laws of Nature through Numbers as expressed through the English language. This could help international and regional as well as national conflict management through a truly commonly understood language. My experience in the development of this book over the years, involving many people and situations around the world, has been that 'Happiness lies in Understanding'. The book can be found through Amazon on the internet and goes to shows where proper academic training In Wageningen can lead to, all 'by chance'! In summary, a life in which 'coincidence' seems to have been 'central and my 'stay' in Wageningen and in SSR-W has substantially contributed to it all!

Finally, I would like to say that to 'Our Lord ', or who ever controls and manages "The Order of All" that I am very grateful that I was able to live, work, travel & 'play' widely in a Time when "innocence" still had an important role and function, in which we felt that 'the planet' more or less belonged to us and in which the concept of ' security ' was used in a balanced way before it fell to the current paranoid, misguided and commercialized version which really predominantly creates uneasiness and sorrow for many a 'good soul' and an alienation from our natural & true selves.

C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

(summary)

Jelle U. Hielkema

Age 67 on 25 February 2014

Sex male

Marital status married; 2 daughters

Nationality Dutch (Frisian)

Languages: Frisian, Dutch, English, Italian, French, German, CL

Residing in Rome, Italy since April 1975

University Education

1965-75 University of Wageningen, The Netherlands; MSc eq. degree in Soil Science and Nature Conservation; International Institute for Geo-Information Sciences and Earth Observation (ITC), The Netherlands; degree courses in Remote Sensing and Vegetation Science;

Employment

1975-77 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations; Rome, Italy Technical Remote Sensing Officer; Netherlands Associate Expert;

1977-78 Sabbatical Leave under Netherlands Associate Expert Programme for advanced training in satellite remote sensing in the U.K. (University of Bristol) and USA (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC); NOAA NESDIS; USGS EROS Data Center);

1978-91 FAO Technical Remote Sensing Officer responsible, a.o., for the conceptualization, development and implementation of the ARTEMIS and DIANA

[in cooperation with NASA and ESA] satellite environmental monitoring and communication systems;

1982 Recipient of the annual Eurosense Award for the best remote sensing publication by a European research worker for the paper "Desert locust habitat monitoring with satellite remote sensing" ` A new technology for an old problem'; ITC Journal 1981-4;

1991-2005 FAO Senior Remote Sensing Officer (Environmental Monitoring) responsible for the Environmental Monitoring Group of the Environment and Natural Resources Service (SDRN); Sustainable Development Department (SD); implementation of a number of regional field projects and initiation and supervision of the development of the FAO-WFP-UNEP-OCHA GeoNetwork open source geospatial information management capacity;

1997 First Executive Secretary of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS);

April 2005 Retirement from FAO;

2006-2008 Consultant through FAO for the UN Geospatial Information Working Group (UNGIWG) on the formulation and establishment of the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI); organizer of the first UNSDI Global Partners Meeting (UGPM); hosted by ESA in Frascati, Italy; 1 and 2 March 2007; Participant in UNGIWG-7 and 8 Plenaries in Santiago de Chile and Bangkok, Thailand resp. in Nov.2006/'07;

Formulation of a logframe for an FAO SDI development;

Member of the Programme Committee for the 33rd Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE); Stresa, Italy 4-8 May 2009;

Particulars

Travelled widely over five continents during 33 years

Author of the book **"The Natural Theory of Dealism"; 21; 'Quest for a better Understanding between Humanity and Nature'** under the pen name Number Six;

Published in The Netherlands; February 2010 and the USA; March 2010.

Co-author with Aubrey Meyer, Director Global Commons Institute (GCI), U.K. of **"Pythagoras Renewed for our Common Global Future"**; August, 2011

Lead author with Prof. Herman Wijffels of **"Can Binary Bipeds transcend 'Duality' in Times of Climate Change"**; September, 2011