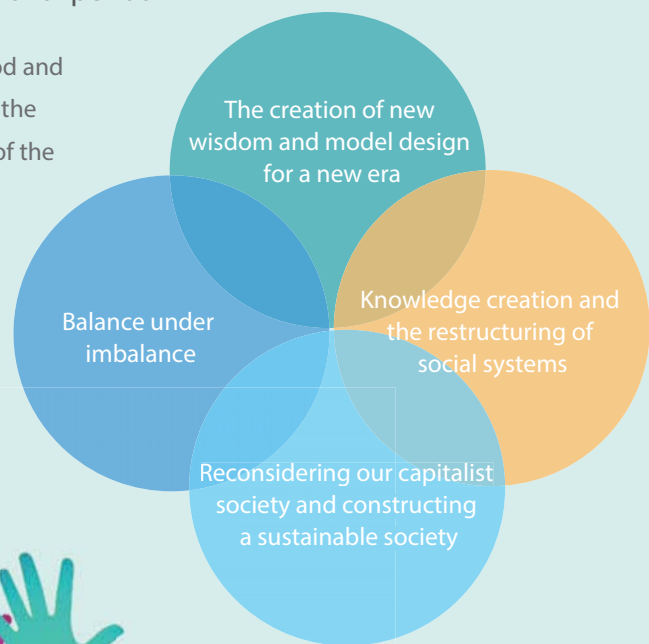


Chapter 3

Identifying issues and perspectives for solutions

- knowledge and practical capability in a transitional period -

The first half of the 21st century will be a transitional period and there are many issues that should be examined. Based on the philosophy and mission of IIAS, as well as the perception of the times and worldview described in Chapter 1 and 2, the problems that IIAS should address henceforth are summarized in this chapter.



1. The creation of new wisdom and model design for a new era

In order to realize a sustainable world in which anyone can live happily, mutual acceptance is necessary not only between countries and peoples but also between religions, languages, and cultures, and based on the principles of generosity and mutual benefit, we must create a new framework for thought and knowledge as well as a "total design" for new social orders and systems. As an aspect of this, the traditional values and spirit of the Japanese people should be considered.

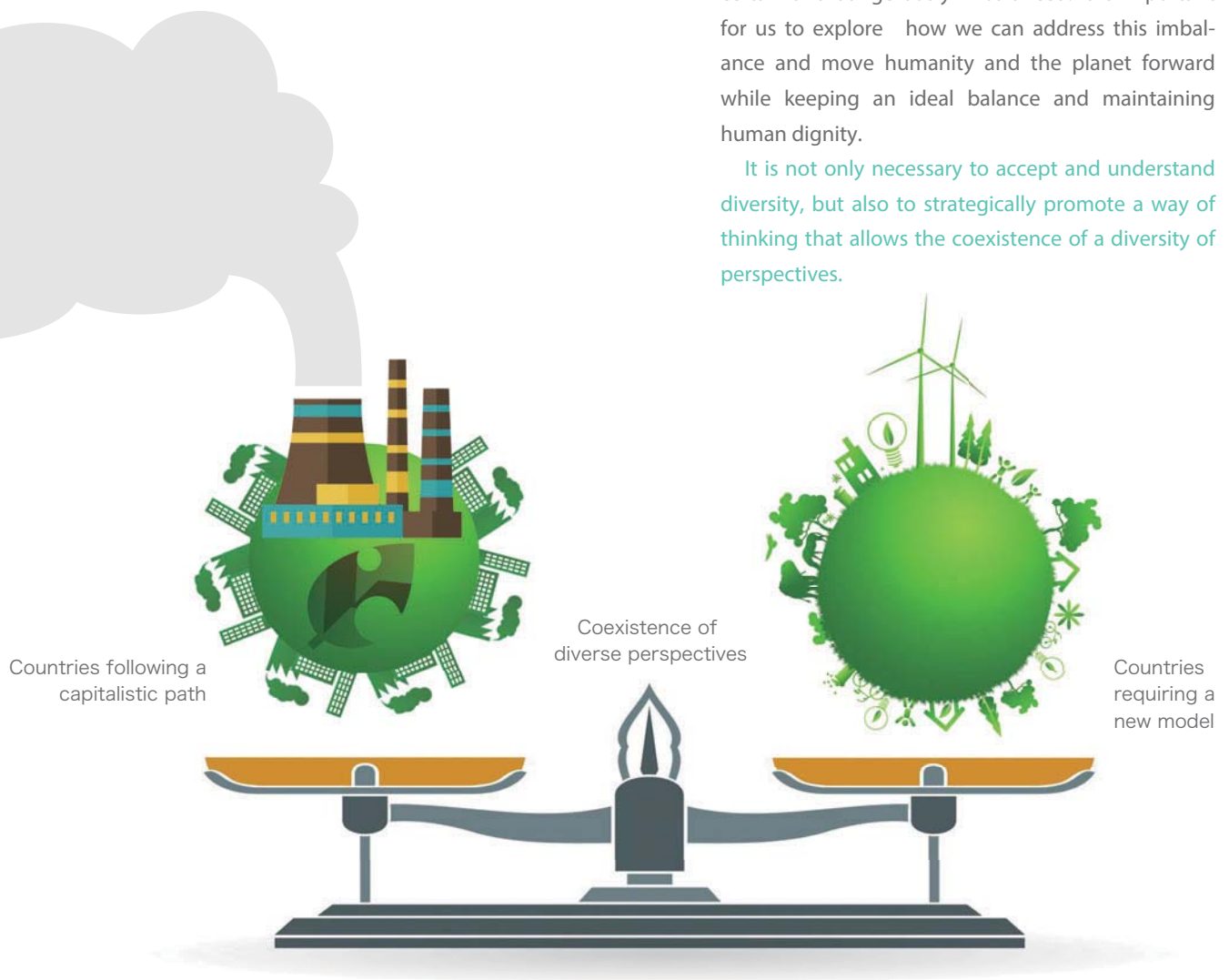
In Japan and other developed countries, population shrinkage is now a certainty, and models for a smaller population must be conceptualized. We must use this reduced model as a basis to consider and propose a new sustainable model for developed countries that enables them to demonstrate their value to the world.



2. Balance under imbalance — wisdom in transition —

While there are countries and regions that require a new model which incorporates shrinkage as a precondition, there are also countries and regions following a capitalistic path towards prosperity on the back of growing population and by boosting production capacity, with the belief that they can achieve it. The first half of the 21st century can be expected to be uncertain and dangerously imbalanced. It is important for us to explore how we can address this imbalance and move humanity and the planet forward while keeping an ideal balance and maintaining human dignity.

It is not only necessary to accept and understand diversity, but also to strategically promote a way of thinking that allows the coexistence of a diversity of perspectives.



3. Knowledge creation and the restructuring of social systems

Looking at society overall, while there are sectors enjoying concentrated investments, there are sectors where the investment of capital is relatively and disproportionately low, such as education, academia, science and technology, culture, security, medical care, nature, landscapes, and other such areas. In order to eliminate the negative effects of this and ensure peace and stability for individuals and society, it is necessary to explore what ideal resource distribution may look like.

It is important for us to review the mechanisms that govern knowledge creation and socioeconomic systems from a broader and more inclusive perspective, and look into the philosophy and methodology that will take us beyond the transitional period and move towards a humanity and planet with new values and sustainable dynamism.

4. Reconsidering our capitalist society and constructing a sustainable society

It is becoming ever more apparent that the planet's resources are limited, and so we must consider how to change conventional capitalism, which centers around using up resources to produce profit. In order to sustain the global community for as long as possible, we have to create a sustainable social system in which all activities worldwide form part of an inter-linked cycle and works with as little energy loss as possible. Exactly how to do this, however, is as yet unknown, so it is essential that we give serious consideration to such issues, with particular consideration being given to how to address global capitalism and the expanding wealth gap.

