



NED Foundation primary Operational Policy on Personal Participation and Empowerment

What distinguishes the NED Foundation from traditional organisations, is the inspiration from its founder Ned Iceton on the principle of the person first, and their task second.

Ned Iceton had a strong belief that it is people who change the world, not organisations, roles or projects. No matter how aspirational, successful or beneficial to the world an organisation is, it is always the quality of the humans engaged in the tasks that make the difference, not the tasks themselves. For this reason, he believed that despite the difficulties people had in working as a group, it was still far preferable than individual-controlled enterprises, because it was all about how we grow and learn as people within a group, that was the critical value. Too many believe their personal vision about how society should operate is the essential element in evolving the world, instead of realising it is the human factor: the personal awakening and expansion of influence through participation and self-empowerment, that holds hope for a life-enhancing future of our planet.

To this extent, whenever Ned Iceton engaged in any daily situation, he would always look through to the personal being of whomever he was dealing with. He would seek to connect to them as a human, not just as a task to be completed, and he would never miss the opportunity to encourage and inspire that person to take responsibility beyond their ascribed role – to participate as broadly as they possibly could, and become an activist towards a better outcome for all. He inspired and supported anyone to become what he called a 'social developer'. He included in this the encouragement towards self-realisation as a necessary element in any effective person.

Ned Iceton would not only encourage you to speak up beyond your role description, but also to meditate and look deeper into your subconscious motivations. The NED Foundation likewise sees these principles as what distinguishes it from other social or market enterprises.

The NED Foundation maintains its founder's philosophy through all its internal and external processes. All those working within the NED Foundation are strongly encouraged to develop their own capacities for wider social benefit, to in effect, use their NED involvement as a spring-board towards greater participation and self-empowerment. We want to foster the philosophy of social and personal development, not just in our organisational purpose and activities, but in the people who carry out those activities.

This means we in the NED Foundation value both the outer activism of responding to social needs, and the inner activism of self-discovery and the search for personal truth.

The NED Foundation perceives you, the human in the organisational, social and market worlds, as the primary focus of the enhancing influence this organisation is set up to promote. Step aside from the narrow role description your position dictates, and take responsibility as an agent for change in every opportunity or demand that presents. As Ned Iceton would say, "Become the adult" in your fields of life.