



Indigenous Thinking - The REM Management Paradigm

"Indigenous thinking" in the context of REM World is the means by which societies, sectors, organisations and individuals are able to create new directions or reframe, realign or redesign services and management practices to incorporate contemporary (LAW) and customary (LORE) concepts and principles in the delivery of policy, programme or project outcomes.

"Indigenous Thinking" establishes a framework of dialogue that allows stakeholders on either side of the LAW/LORE, equation to negotiate a way through their issues and establish sustainable and durable outcomes that result from analysis of the options generated when this type of dialogue is implemented. REM World is designed to create new data platforms for societies, sectors, organisations and individuals wishing to incorporate "Indigenous Thinking" in the outcomes they deliver.

In New Zealand, "Indigenous Thinking" is epitomised by the way in which the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi is incorporated in domestic Law. The Contemporary dialogue (LAW) speaks of values related to the ownership of possessions, re-enforced by a legal System that legitimises individual entitlement and ownership of possessions. The Customary dialogue (LORE) speaks of values related to a way of life re-enforced by whanaungatanga (family bonds) and legitimised by whakapapa (connectedness). Possessions legitimised by LORE are not owned by an individual but are part of the whakapapa of a people who treat them as gifts (taonga) to be treasured and kept in safe keeping to be passed on to the next generation. Under the contemporary LAW such possessions, if owned individually, can be bought and sold at will.

"Indigenous Thinking" is inherent in all human endeavours and is not solely related to cultural ethnicity. From an organisational perspective, corporate culture has a significant impact on the type of dialogue that is permissible and how it is legitimised. In a world dominated by a Western European cultural management paradigm, "Indigenous Thinking" provides an alternative approach to developing service and management practices that are more inclusive and equitable for those seeking to realise their aspirations in a more authentic way.