Speech by Feli x Padel at the openi ng of the Da r wineum at Rostock Zoo,

Germany, on 7

th

September 2012

Herren und Damen, Guten Arbenter und Danke Schön. I thank you profoundly for inviting me here; also

o n behalf o f m y great -great-grandfather and Darwin’s o ther descendents. I’m e xtremely happy to be

here, and see such a wo nderful creation m ade in Darwin’s name!

I appreciate many things abo ut it, in particular its focus on liv ing anim als alo ngside extinct fo rm s , and its

circular plan in preference to the mo re usual linear presentatio n of his theory .

I hope this Darwineum will help promote HOLISTIC thinking. Its presence is particularly appropriate here

in D eutschland, since the co ncept “ Eco lo gy” (“Oiko logie”) was first formed in this co untry by Ernst

Haeck el in the 1860s , after he met Darwin and w as inspired by his “ Economics o f Nature” .

To m e one thing t hat is great in D arwin is the ho listic vision of species interacting and man as an intrinsic

part o f nature.

As a so cial anthropo logist I no te how clo sely t his fits with tribal people’s perspectiv e in different parts o f

the world,

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