



**Add value.
Inspire trust.**



WORLD

CONNECTED BY AN IDEA

16

THE IDEA OF
ONE WORLD

Noémi Kiss is a Hungarian essayist and a convinced European. In this piece she invites us to explore the world of her imagination, where theory and personal experience are woven together.



04

IMPRESSIONS



Things that help to transform our world into "One World." Six selected aspects...



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"ONE WORLD"
TÜV SÜD

Our employees contribute to "One World" in many different ways. Impressions, voices, and images from the global world of TÜV SÜD.





We live in a world where connectivity is king. When technology and humanity come together and work hand in hand across borders and cultures, they can achieve so much more—and this was clear to see long before the pandemic. TÜV SÜD fosters this global cohesion in many different ways. With values that support it. With services that pay into it. And with people that are inspired by it.

ONE WORLD

What is needed to make “One World” livable for as many people as possible?

04

DIVERSITY

Steven (l.) and Lane Mashal and their adopted son Yonatan enjoy a day out at Disneyland Anaheim, California, during the annual “Gay Days.” This special festival at Disney’s resorts is one of the world’s biggest events in the LGBTQ calendar. It expresses a mindset that cherishes diversity in our society and has embraced the potential offered by people’s individuality.







SUSTAINABILITY

When Sa and hundreds of thousands of others cast their nets in the Mekong delta, they are hoping for a catch of healthy fish, not plastic waste. But the Mekong, 4,500 kilometers long, is still one of the ten rivers along which 90 percent of the world's plastic waste is washed into the oceans. A 2018 model project launched in the Mekong delta by the German chapter of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) tackled the roots of the problem: it encouraged waste separation at household level to reduce the amounts of plastic ending up in waterways. Now thousands of households in Vietnam's Long An province are active participants in the project.

CONNECTIVITY

One amazing result of digitalization is the possibility for people all over the world to meet face to face, regardless of time and place. In Lausanne, Switzerland, 103-year-old Helene G.D. is taking part in a video call with the help of her carer Caroline Kanso. Helene can finally say hello to her daughter in the USA and her grandson in the Netherlands once again, and is overwhelmed with emotion. A moment beyond price that transcends these times of pandemic.







RESPONSIBILITY

Every move has to be spot on as these young forest firefighters from a volunteer unit take part in a drill at Lake Baikal in Siberia, practicing their emergency procedures blindfold. Their commitment is urgently needed, and is more vital than ever before in this region where sweeping budget cuts have decimated state emergency forces in recent years.



CULTURAL LIFE

A fond memory of times past: locals and tourists in Barcelona hope they can soon return to celebrating Holi, the annual festival of spring. In India, its country of origin, this Hindu festival sweeps aside all social barriers of caste, gender, and age in a riot of colored powders. This "festival of colors" now enjoys global popularity, most probably due to its ability to bring people together in the best possible sense.









SAFETY

Natsiraishe Maritsa (center) and her sisters warm up for a taekwondo lesson in Epworth, Zimbabwe. The girls' training is their gateway to a safe, secure, and independent life. Natsiraishe makes the most of the martial arts lessons to raise girls' awareness of the risks of unplanned pregnancy. Discrimination and domestic violence are still part of daily life for young women and girls in many African countries.

THE IDEA OF ONE WORLD

The world is a close-knit web of connections, as we have been aware for some time. But what are the origins of this concept, this idea—today virtually a truism—of the world as a single entity made up of many connection points? Where does it lead us? And what, if any, role is still played by the differences between societies and cultures in this “One World”?

AN ESSAY ON OPPORTUNITIES AND BOUNDARIES BY NOÉMI KISS

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PROFILE

Noémi Kiss, born 1974 in Gödöllő/Hungary, is a Hungarian writer, critic, and essayist. Her works, which include the novel “Trans” (2006) and a 2015 collection of travel essays entitled “Rongyos ékszerdoboz” [The Tattered Jewel Box. Travels in Eastern Europe], have been translated into several languages. Her most recent publication is “Balaton,” a collection of novellas. Kiss lives in Budapest and Vienna and is a member of the “A Soul for Europe” initiative.





The world as home of global phenomena is not solely a revelation of this lengthy pandemic, already lasting over a year and taxing us to our limits of endurance. And it is hardly news to us that we are permanently available for others and that the world is an entity made up of networks and nodes in which we can be within reach even of people we never actually meet in reality. As early as the late seventies and early eighties, works such as “The Post-Modern Condition: A Report on Knowledge” by French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard and “Social Systems” by German sociologist Niklas Luhmann were already portraying society as boundless and interconnected, focusing on the enormous significance of information networks in the world as their core idea.

In those days the Cold War was still raging and Europe was rent by the Iron Curtain. A geographical border clove apart the worlds of the east and the west. But that was long ago. Today we already believe that such geographical circumstances no longer play a determining role for global networks.

“THE IDEA OF ONE WORLD” is like the web of an invisible spider, pliable and indestructible, penetrating ever deeper into our daily lives and changing the way we think. In “One World,” borders would be practically eliminated. An apt example is the Berlin-based initiative “A Soul for Europe,” a self-described network of culture professionals seeking to establish dialogue between countries and people, cities, artists, and politicians. Their all-embracing message is “Culture Is an Interdependent World.” My particular interest is the precise moment at which visible and palpable geographical borders lose all significance; the power and magic, one could say, the positive energy of the moment when the network causes borders to dissolve.

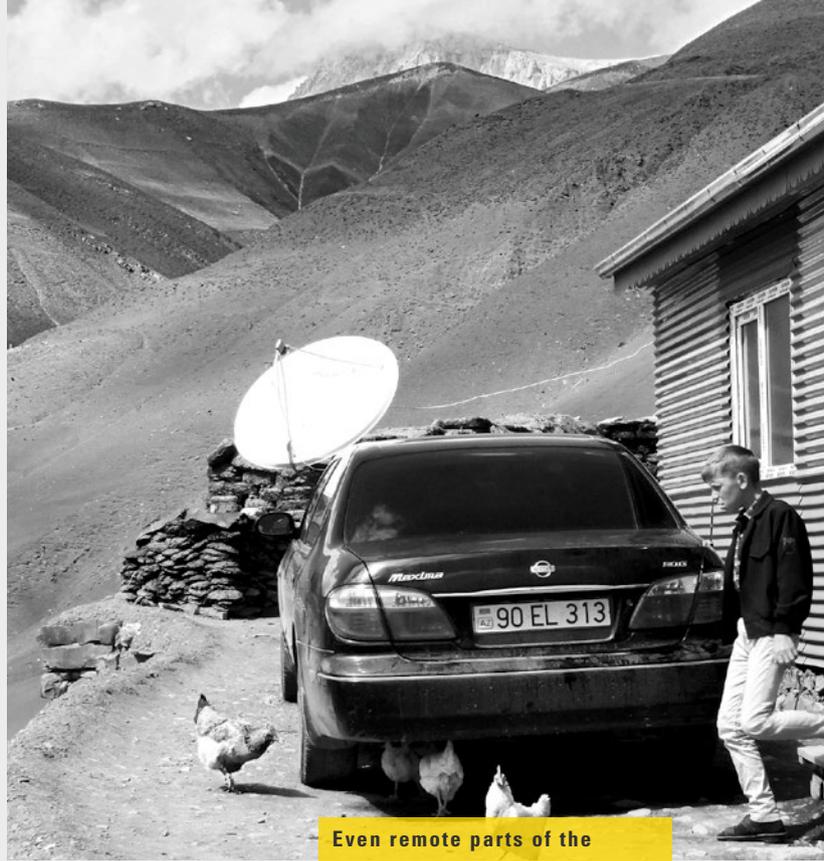
A journey to Austria became one of my most vivid childhood memories.

To pick up the “One World” metaphor, allow me to recount a personal experience, an episode from my upbringing which changed my thinking. I first visited the Western Europe at the end of the 1980s, traveling from Hungary to Graz with my grandparents to visit my uncle. We crossed the border at Kőszeg, where we had to fill out a stack of forms and stand in a line; the checks were time-consuming and the whole procedure was humiliating. In those days it was still standard practice for travelers to be disinfected at the border to Romania. By that time I had already travelled to Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia—but this journey to Austria, passing through the Iron Curtain with its watchtowers and armed soldiers, would remain one of my most vivid childhood memories.

THE JOURNEY was an interesting experience, not because my teenage eyes could spot that the grass really was greener on the other side, nor because I could clearly see the differences in daily life between East and West. Despite the disparities, I naturally understood most of what I saw straight away without any need for special explanations. A network of interrelations was in place, capable of intermeshing the two worlds. In a nutshell, these were worlds that understood each other and spoke the same language.

NO, WHAT LODGED IN MY MEMORY was something quite different. Something I had never previously encountered at home in Budapest, and that had never even cropped up in the stories I had heard. The border was associated not so much with the fence and the watchtowers, the smell of disinfectant, or the presence of the soldiers—but with the array of taboos we felt in Hungary, chief among them the taboo that social differences between East and West existed at all.

In Graz, my uncle asked me one morning whether I wanted to go to Vienna for the day. I jumped at the chance. It was a long journey, and we had to make several stops to get sandwiches and refuel. On one of those stops we witnessed a strange incident. A small house stood close to the road leading to the parking lot, the scene of audible laughter and screams. I could see a group of people high on drugs or drunk, in broad daylight. Cars came and went. I clearly remember a strikingly dressed woman walking back and forth around the parking lot, smoking, and peering through the car windows. Her face was haggard, her hair bleached blond, her lipstick smeared around her mouth; her mascara had run, as if she had been crying. As we were about to leave I saw her fall over onto the curb. I told my uncle, thinking we would go over and help her. He switched off the engine, but stayed in



Even remote parts of the Caucasus, which Kiss has often visited, are benefiting from global networks.

»

The greatest taboo was that social differences between East and West existed at all.

«

the car. A good few minutes went by before someone came out of the house to pick her up. “Oh dear, those alley cats,” said my uncle quietly.

I had rarely seen homeless people on the streets in Budapest, and the prostitutes never approached men on the street obviously enough for a child to notice them. Given this, the incident at the rest stop was one of the strongest impressions I retained from the journey. The very physical sight of social disparities. The fringes of society, the left-behind—and, in a metaphorical sense, the taboos—were right there, confronting us on the street in a way that would have been inconceivable in a major city in the socialist world.



Social systems form networks and continuously expand their knowledge by interacting.

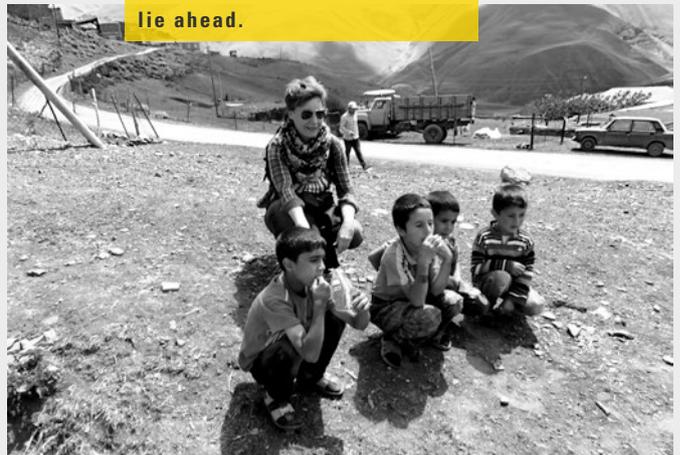
that open up perspectives for the people on its fringes. The network of our world is made up of nodes where knowledge, prosperity, and progress congregate, and that's just fine. But the distance between one node and the next must not be taken as a benchmark of backwardness or neglect.

My travels in the Eighties and my later life—I have lived in many cities and many different worlds since then, from Silicon Valley to the Caucasus—have shown me that fighting to live in a better, healthier, and more sustainable world is a worthwhile pursuit. The idea of “One World” is always a solution: a social network that sweeps away geographical distance, tackles poverty, and promotes a life of greater awareness—all the while respecting cultural characteristics.

A KEY CONCLUSION of Jean-François Lyotard and Niklas Luhman is that social systems form networks and continuously expand their knowledge by interacting. This knowledge acquisition is assisted by taboos and social rules. As a general rule, the larger and more closely-knit the network is, the greater the dialogue or exchange that occurs, and the richer the cultural benefit. The global world thus empowers us to move beyond our existence in small communities and expand our horizons. In the ideal state of “One World,” everything is open and unconcealed. In my view, the primary function of this “One World” is to cultivate joy in an openness that addresses both problems and actions of solidarity alike.

Where knowledge acquisition and dialogue form the core of social networks, elimination of differences and leveling of asymmetrical circumstances are the logical consequence. The aim is not to make everything the same and erase all individual cultural characteristics. Diversity is intrinsic to the “One World” idea. But it means that the wealth of one part of the network must not be left as the privilege of that part alone. “One World” must supply answers

The author with children in the Caucasus, whose own “One World” experiences still lie ahead.



RENEWORLD

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Every day our employees contribute to “One World” in many different ways. Here, nine of them give personal insights as representatives of our more than 25,000 employees: **Sudhir Ethiraj • Riccardo Merello • Jia Honghui • Eva Engström • Karoline Morales • Klaus Langner • Monika Welscher • Bunyarit Hemtanon • Robert Meßmer**



TÜV SÜD

ONE TRUST

Success in the area of cybersecurity and trust in our digital world can only be achieved by cross-sector global collaboration between business, politics, and technology. For me, "One World" is all about building trust in our digitalized and connected world.



You can find out more about Sudhir Ethiraj's contribution to "One World" in his video. Just click the link in our online Annual Report.

SUDHIR ETHIRAJ

Global Head of
Cybersecurity Office (CSO)
Munich • Germany

Sudhir Ethiraj heads TÜV SÜD's Cybersecurity Office and represents the company in the global Charter of Trust initiative.





RICCARDO MERELLO
Managing Director
pH Laboratories
Florence • Italy

Riccardo Merello and his team supplied the Bergamo field hospital with hygiene testing services during the first wave of the pandemic in spring 2020.

ONE CONTRIBUTION

Wholesome food and drink are vital for human health, but in times of pandemic we must also look further. We are therefore expanding our global laboratory network to support the health-care sector in the spirit of “One World.” By supplying new hygiene services and testing procedures for medical devices, we are helping to prevent sickness and disease—and making our contribution to society.



Would you like to know more about the contributions to “One World” made by Riccardo Merello and Jia Honghui? You’ll find all the details in their videos, just a click away in our online Annual Report.

JIA HONGHUI

Project Manager
Shanghai • China

In TÜV SÜD's global "Hytime" project, Jia Honghui supports the development of potential uses for hydrogen as an energy carrier of the future.

**ONE
VISION**

Our world needs energy – and hydrogen is widely considered as an enabler for renewable energies to replace fossil fuels in all industries, from energy to chemicals or even mobility. Through the use of hydrogen and the resulting lower CO₂ emissions, I see it as my mission for a livable "One World" to connect such green initiatives and environmental responsibility. Therefore, I'm proud of this combination of social value and my job at TÜV SÜD.

ONE UNDERSTANDING



EVA ENGSTRÖM
Senior Specialist Talent
Acquisition
Munich • Germany

Eva Engstrom's work involves attracting the brightest minds to choose TÜV SÜD as their employer—and fostering recognition of principles such as independence, impartiality, and expertise at global level.

In my view, "One World" is about building a common understanding of our values as an employer, showcasing the importance of each and every job at TÜV SÜD, and highlighting the attractive career opportunities the company has to offer.



For more fascinating information on TÜV SÜD's contribution to "One World," go to our online Annual Report.



ONE KNOWLEDGE

KAROLINE MORALES

Team Lead Digital Learning
TÜV SÜD Academy
Munich • Germany



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Karoline Morales and her team develop online training courses and innovative training and education concepts that make people smarter wherever and whenever they choose to study.

TÜV SÜD Academy is a major provider of continuing professional training and education at national and international level. We use every opportunity provided by digitalization to the full, tailoring our courses to meet our customers' needs. By doing so, we overcome the constraints of geography and provide access to qualification training even in difficult times. This is our contribution to the "One World" concept.



More details of Karoline Morales' perception of "One World" can be found in her video, available via the link in our online Annual Report.

ONE SUSTAINABILITY

Our new Asian headquarters in Singapore meet the most advanced standards of sustainability and workplace ergonomics. State-of-the-art software tools were deployed in the planning stage to ensure that the facility will operate at maximum efficiency. My colleagues and I have poured our expertise in green building certification into creating this standout facility. This is our contribution to "One World" for the generations to come.

KLAUS LANGNER

Chief Financial Officer
ASMEA Region
Singapore

Over the past three years Klaus Langner has driven the construction of TÜV SÜD's new Asian headquarters, a flagship design focusing on sustainability.



Klaus Langner provides more details in his video, directly accessible from our online Annual Report.



ONE COMMITMENT

MONIKA WELSCHER
Global Commodity Manager
Munich • Germany



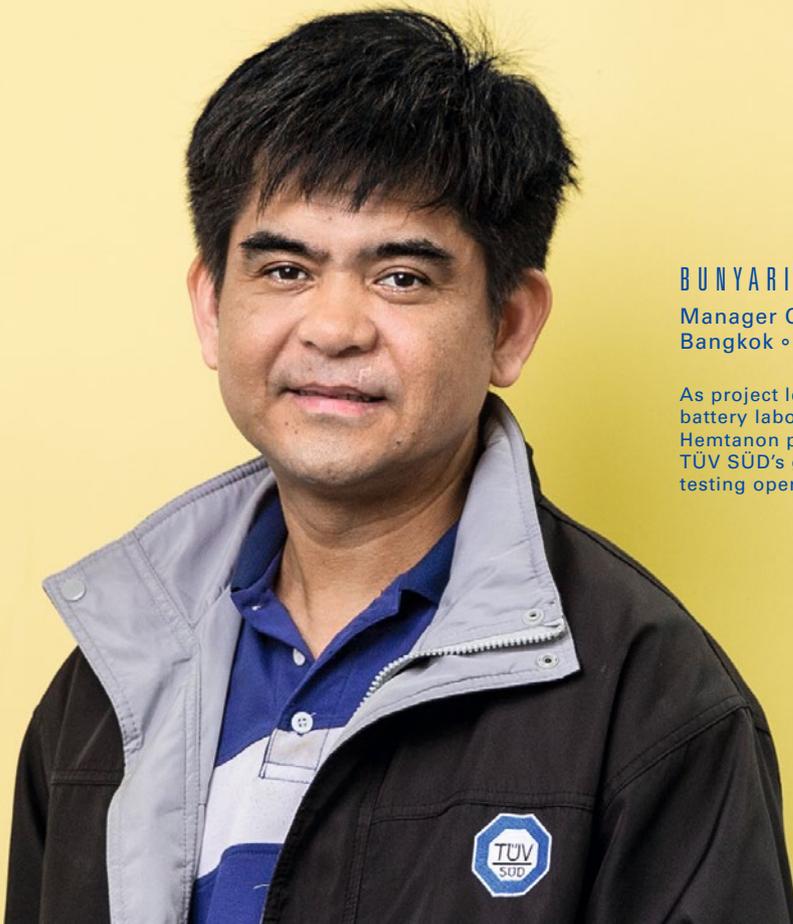
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Since spring 2020, Monika Welscher has ensured that people at TÜV SÜD can continue to work safely despite the pandemic.

In exceptional times like these, the idea of "One World" demands exceptional commitment. In 2020 our primary aim was to protect the health of our employees and, by doing so, keep operations running smoothly and safeguard technical safety. At Corporate Procurement, we collaborated with Global Health & Safety and Real Estate at cross-border and multi-disciplinary level and rapidly established a process for supplying our global colleagues with high-quality masks, disposable gloves, and disinfectants when the pandemic broke out. I'm very proud to be part of this team.



ONE RESPONSIBILITY



BUNYARIT HEMTANON

Manager Commercial Products
Bangkok • Thailand

As project lead at the Thailand battery laboratory, Bunyarit Hemtanon plays a vital role in TÜV SÜD's global network of testing operations.

E-mobility can make a major contribution toward protecting our climate. At TÜV SÜD, we were quick to identify this potential and support the industry's progress by setting up a global network of battery testing laboratories. One of them is currently under construction, right here in Bangkok. For me, this is an electrifying way of bringing "One World" to life!



Our online Annual Report also presents many more fascinating stories about TÜV SÜD's contribution to "One World."

ONE RELIABILITY

ROBERT MESSMER

Technical Service
Center Manager
Munich • Germany

Robert Meßmer heads two of a total of around 500 stations for periodic technical inspection in Germany. He and his team have been at their customers' service throughout even the most trying times.





TÜV SÜD plays an important role when it comes to road safety. And thanks to our many dedicated colleagues, we have been there for our customers throughout the pandemic—of course always complying with the strictest hygiene standards, physical distancing, and safety rules. For me, this commitment lives and breathes the concept of "One World."



For more details about Robert Meßmer's view of "One World," click the link to his video in our online Annual Report.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
AND VIDEOS
ABOUT "ONE
WORLD," VISIT:



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