

SUMMARY

This is a defining moment in the history of humanity. On the basis of such assumption, the onus is on our society to harness, manage and leverage knowledge and learn the lessons from the earlier episodes of recession and crisis. The moral of the story is sobering and should be held front and centre for “Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it”. Hence, what can history teach us? How can we confront with the plague of food and energy shortage now that the consumerism is in its apogee?

In the lines to follow, the overall concept will be unfolded.

To illustrate terms, let’s call to mind a well-known crisis: the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

In history a crisis can and will happen. The question is “When?”

Every endeavour should be made to learn from the past for it is the only data we have at our disposal from which to infer patterns and features of human nature. In an attempt to make those explorations relevant to our own times and problems we should make full use of inductive (sifting historical evidence to produce general truths) and deductive methods (employing those truths to present-day circumstances taken to be more or less analogous). In the light of the aforementioned, let me hand you a hypothetical action plan for prevention and mitigation of the crisis:

1. •Efficient and sustainable ground plan for the global welfare state
2. •Reform of the humanitarian system – sound political will
3. •In a crisis, do not panic – go organic
4. •Profit from experience – our past should be a salutary reminder of our fate
5. •Make full use of bio fuels and eco-friendly solutions
6. •Curtail the waste of food
7. •Practice what we preach!?

Can we not draw a parallel between the Titanic’s “unsinkable” nature and our alleged to be “buoyant” economy.

With every crisis, there is an opportunity. As the Newton’s Third Law stipulates: “For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.” We must seize the opportunities disguised as obstacles in order to rethink concepts and to reflect on intertwined aspects of the global

environment. The current crisis can be perceived as a “wake-up call”, which requires us to tread into hitherto uncharted territory. Such changed an outlook entails putting food issues and energy security back to the global agenda. The time is ripe for us to take bold steps and to mitigate the immediate aftermath of the crisis.

The matter in question is: “Didn’t we know a crisis will occur? Were we prepared?”

Prevention would have included making sure there were enough lifeboats.

The bottom line is that by learning lessons from experience, we can eschew the worst of the past.

The society’s well-being is at stake but the damage can be contained by strong and coordinated actions. An interconnected world calls for concerted efforts not ones with the sole intention of selling political campaigns. It needs national policies that pay greater attention to a range of crossborder effects. No single country can quench the fire by itself for there is an evident need to react globally and in a coherent and effective manner. The chain, as the dictum goes, is no stronger than its weakest link. On the merits of this, we should consider a paradigm shift.

Does history repeats itself?

Although there were a constrained number of lifeboats, many went unfilled because of poor crisis management. There was apparently time “if there had been a plan to be carried out” to save many more passengers.

If we do not update our global political architecture now, we are destined to repeat the mistakes of the past.

So what can we learn from the past?

The first and foremost lesson we should commit to memory is that social phenomena does not occur in a vacuum, ergo there ought to be a collective effort to

tailor the problem individually in the global setting.

On that account, there is no simple answer or 'correct' model. The priority must be to understand the magnitude and the gravity of the situation we are now in. At this point of the history we have reached a cross-road and we are to decide which way to chose. Should we chose the easy road and embark on a journey cruising around, wallowing in opulence and blissful oblivion neglecting the obvious. Or should we have the courage to face the reality, look ahead and ultimately have our moments of introspection. This may be a daunting but equally worthwhile task. Let`s not fall into the trap of believing that the easy road won`t prove harder in the long run.

Trying to learn from the past for such an ambition is both vital and complicated. It is vital since these murky times, we happen to live in, compel us to turn our priorities and values upside down with the outcome of us being reminded that the "mother nature" will inevitably put us to the test of weathering the storm, be it of natural calamity or social disaster. And yes, it is complicated on account of aggression being transformed into courage, war into peace and crisis into an upspring.

The rising trend in food prices, coupled with higher energy demand and the fact that there are larger and larger population in the urban area has triggered social pressure and tension among peer groups in dozens of countries.

Rising global food and energy prices have severe implication for economic growth and social progress. This is a downward spiral we should prevent falling into. The question this time is: "How?"

Time and again "one-size-fits-all" solutions proved their inadequacy to serve the needs of the today`s global problems. There are no universals. It is time to disrupt the status quo by availing ourselves of the collaborative nature of our dilemmas and to begin to profit from experience and the collective knowledge, which is the domain of the future and the next generations. In a sense, "respecting our Past we should embrace our Future."

I leave it to the reader to draw their own conclusion as no one could possibly

provide a glimpse of the dark for someone but himself.