

Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition

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Faced with today's food and energy crisis, how can society improve its well-being?

Summary:

Western countries should realize that the whole planet faces a food and energy crisis without precedents. Faced with this situation it is necessary to take measures that involve to the industry, centered in making aware of this problem to the people and in the development of new techniques that reduce the dependence of the fossil fuels and allow a bigger production of foods. All this coordinated by the international organisms.

Essay:

People usually think that the hunger and the lack of resources is only a problem of the Third World; but with the current situation of overpopulation, the progressive impoverishment of the crops and the exhaustion of the energy reserves, the western countries are heading to a crisis without precedents. Faced with this situation and in order to preserve the population's well-being, the governments of the powers of the self-named 'First World', coordinated by the different international organisms, should start a series of measures to take a short cut to this situation.

In the first place conversations should begin and we should try to reach agreements with the main companies and multinational corporations of the planet since these groups, distributed by the whole globe, constitute one of the biggest factors of environmental pollution and of exploitation of resources of our time. Evidently a great company is not willing to lose benefits, for that reason it is necessary to make them see that the 'green' initiatives are not the enemy but the future.

The energy crisis is not already a ghost but a reality, for that reason it is necessary to persuade to these big corporations that outlines of sustainable production and more efficient energy models exist; that with them big profits can also be achieved and that they can, besides preserving the planet, offer to the society a kind image that would act like an unbeatable publicity.

Of course it is also necessary to carry out more 'visible' projects, from the half citizen's point of view; projects designed not only to the western nations but also to the developing countries. Innovative programs supported by the different scientific and research institutions like for example the construction of the denominated islands of heat or the artificial creation of rain.

The islands of heat are a novel system developed by the Free University of Brussels and the Ben Gurion University of Israel, together with the NASA, consistent in the installation of surfaces of black asphaltic material that retains the heat so that later on it can rise with water vapor to the atmosphere and become clouds and rain. This project, in which noted investigators as the Belgian physique León Brening work, has already begun to be implanted in the desert of the Negev, in the south of Israel, one of the most dry and inhospitable areas in Next East.

On the other hand the bombing of clouds with silver iodide would allow the particles of water of the clouds to have more points where to condense and by this way to increase the volume of precipitations in dry seasons. This system, native of Israel, has already been exported all over the world and it is being used in countries like United States of America, Mexico and China.

Last, but not least, it is necessary to influence much more in people's awareness. Up to now great steps have been taken and nowadays everybody knows initiatives like that of 3R (to reduce, to reuse and to recycle) or that of the separation of the different materials when throwing them to the garbage.

Now that same people have to be convinced of the importance, as much for the planet as for her own pockets, of the importance of using low consumption light bulbs, not leaving the electronic devices in stand-by or the importance of the correct isolation of their houses, mainly windows and doors, to avoid energy losses by way of the radiant heat.

All these individual actions would be added to the international agreements that have already been started for some time, like, for example, the decision taken in the summit of Rome of 2008 of the FAO (United Nations Feeding and Agriculture Organization) of giving maximum priority to the agricultural investment or that of the World Trade Organization of increasing the alimentary security in the developing countries.

Moreover it is also necessary not to forget that the promotion of the use of the renewable energies should be continued worldwide. This field, in which Spain is world leader and that has raised the interest of the new North American administration, comprises the eolic, solar, hydraulics, geothermal and of biomass energy and by means of its progressive installation would decrease the emission of noxious gases to the atmosphere and the threat of the exhaustion of the energy reservations of fossil fuel.

In a nutshell, the world should stop to lose the time with good purposes that are never completed and begin to act in a resolved way against the current food and energy crisis that threatens, and in some cases it already hits, to our lifestyle and our well-being. The solutions are within our reach and now it is the moment to avoid the disaster before it was late.