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

Long time ago in the ancient times, tribes of Incas and Aztecs strongly believed in the power of Gold. Surprisingly their Gold wasn't that what glitters but in food, the corn growing in the ground of North America. It shocked every European civilized man and so felt Francisco Pizarro the conquistador, whose admiration was in a real metal. I wonder what the gold is in our times. What is this precious thing we would even kill for? Would we bet for food we need to survive or energy, vital force powering the world system? It is a choice to take and the clock is ticking.

The greatest problem in our times needs to be resolved, like for yesterday. Change we need to survive before it will crash the whole system we learned to live in. Experts are unanimously certain that in a roughly 50 years the gas oil supplies will be run low. The cheap energy era is ending, that's for sure. At the moment the silent war is happening between Russia, Denmark and Canada to get same free petroleum hidden under cold Greenland. These are at temperatures strongly below zero and at depth of 3 km. The technology to get this extra oil and gas on the surface doesn't exist right now. And even when it will finally happen, the sources will postpone the crisis for couple of years only.

Polish professor Włodzimierz Kotowski wrote that an alternative is paying 100 billion \$ each year for investments' and seeking for a new solution to give the world power. He describes a process of growing prices and need for collaboration in the energy industry. In the other way acts like Russian-Ukrainian conflict about gas will be repeated in many combinations. That's because Politicians will use the resources of energy as a tool to get what they want. Surprisingly the Prime Minister of Russia Wladimir Putin said at a first day of World Economic Forum in Davos "that even though the temptation to use all resources of our countries exists we need to know the boundaries." His point of view was fully liberalized and his idea was to construct the international low base in the energetic safety issue. I fully agree that a global plan like this is needed. We can meet the problem with energy supplies just while getting out of the problems in finance he warned. In fact this should focus the societies about the subject.

Investments are important to find a new source of energy that will be cheap, efficient, widely distributed and not harmful for environment and society. The cons of all alternative energies invented till now are the expensiveness of them and mostly they are available in remote areas only. Biomass, wind, solar thermal and geothermal are truly capital-intensives. The idea to use hydrogen is in progress but still it costs too much. Even in such a developed country like USA, none—hydro renewable are only like 2% of their energy. Still it is quite a number, only in 2003 they generated 3,883 billion (Kwh).

The second biggest problem is the food crisis that suddenly attacked most countries near equator and many others. Usually such problem with inflation is the result of droughts, floods or bad harvest. Why this one is different? Based on an article from "The Economist" it happened simultaneously in many places without any warnings or typical reasons. It also is not one-solution-fits-all problems. Every country needs different help and tools. At the moment „There are fifteen countries particularly vulnerable to high food and energy prices" said World Bank president Robert Zoellick. What are the true reasons of these increases? Mostly it happened because of growing demand for both energy and food in developing

China and India. The Indian Trade Minister Kamal Nath pointed that prices of foodstuff increased when 25million people in his country have moved to take two instead of one meal a day. Another cause is the connections between energy and food crisis are subsidies for biofuels in rich countries. Last year prices of wheat jumped for about 77% but since January till April 2008 it has upgraded 141%. That's why billions of people had been forced to a level of tragic poverty. Governments should know better how spend their money. Distortions like this can provide more problems than hurricanes and floods. These "Green" biofuels destroyed local food markets and up leveled the prices of cereals, rice, sugar cane to the roof of disaster. The chief financial officer of Brazil's state-connected energy group Petrobras, Almir Barbassa, explained that "market forces were at work and farmers could not be told what to grow". We can't argue with the fact that farmers can sow what they want but the Governments role is to subsidize more wisely. If they want to produce new fuel they should over think it before put it on the market. Maybe an idea is to use fields under governmental care to check it first. Subsidies could help to improve technologically the smallholder's yields so they could be more efficient and distribute bigger amounts of healthy food. It is better this way for the whole society when many produce instead of a few huge concerns that monopolize the market.

A balance between liberalize of the market and governments protection should be found. Many tools of politicians provide harms to economies. Both export quotas, duties effects in higher prices on local markets. As it is seen, these distortions can change the whole process of making food. If the balance will be found and a new equilibrium set on markets, the situation will look different. Also food and energy are too related. Production needs a lot of power in fact more than the whole cars in the world. It is almost impossible to estimate what is more important for humanity. "Wherever the production of fuels is going to conflict with the production of food,... obviously we are running into difficult territory," the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change chairman Rajendra Pachauri, told wisely.

To improve our lives we have to think equally about both problems, so the situation with biofuels won't happen again. Most people to be realistic are egocentrics whose profits are the only issues they care about. They should be guided and educated by governments and other organizations. Only this way the smallholders will sow food instead of badly invented fuels and scientists will invent greater ideas for the future. The clock is thinking while world becomes frantic and will do more mistakes. Let's avoid this by thinking together about the future of our planet, our safety and comfort.