

Today's food and energy crisis is the big challenge for human beings. To begin with, we must find the way out of the arguable question 'how can society improve its wellbeing?' Second, are we not comfortable yet? Or do we really need to make better our welfare? The world's population is increasing rapidly together with the scientific evolution, causing our society of materialism and consumerism. Industrialized countries are living comfortably enough. Society doesn't need to improve its welfare. Instead, society needs to share it better with the rest of the world. This is our mission, and we have to figure it out together.

Globalizing...

Nowadays in the overpopulated world, natural resources like forests and fossil fuels are being consumed heavily to fulfill human desires. This is all thanks to scientific development for improving the quality of human life in recent generations. Deforestation and fuel combustion increase greenhouse gases that induce greater global climate change. Variability of global temperature changes agricultural yields through the increase in the intensity of extreme weather events, causing food reduction. In conjunction with food crisis we have only enough oil to last about 54 years. We are all faced with today's food and energy crisis. How can we improve its wellbeing?

Struggling...

Due to food yield reductions from global climate change and energy crisis from scarce reserves of non-renewable sources, the problem can't be solved without the proper solution. We know that the causes of these problems are from fossil fuels -- from its greenhouse gases and non-renewability. Saying that we are running out of resources is partially true, obviously we still have resources left, but on the other hand it'll be shortly used up if we continue our 'materialism' direction.

It is impossible, in order to fix the situation, to turn economies upside down by stopping the usage of fuel-cars and switching to horse drawn carriages, or shutting all electricity off and living in the dark. The world has been developed so far that we can't return back to the way of life of the past. All we can do is compromisingly adapt, in order for our social trends to turn into sustainable directions of **alternative energy** usage.

Endeavoring...

Biodiesel is represented as 'a new hope' since it performs similarly in power as diesel. It is biodegradable and non-toxic; creating significantly reduced harmful exhaust emissions when compared with fossil fuels. With the proper implementation it could possibly be the right answer. The major disadvantage of biodiesel is the production procedure. To produce enough vegetable oil for the whole world each year would require a million square kilometers of land, causing farmers to devote larger parts of their crops to fuel production. Land and resources available for food production, where reduced, would effect the food crisis correspondingly from the resulted less food available for human consumption. It isn't a viable answer, at least for the time being, until we can find a better way to create biodiesel more efficiently. The crops needed to fill the tank of an average car with biofuel, amounts to as much food as an average African person consumes in an entire year.

The next choice focuses on a modern technology like **fuel cells**, using hydrogen as energy storage. The most widely known source for hydrogen is water. Electrolysis is a liberal method for splitting hydrogen from water with electricity. This method is currently inefficient, although it has the potential to produce LARGE amounts of clean energy. The problem of the cost of energy storage makes it unrealistic to replace fossil fuels on a large scale.

A lab-scale sized 'Sun + Water = Fuel' is the promising way to separate hydrogen from water with the catalysts created by MIT chemist Daniel Noceras; "The catalysts with special dye molecules are designed to absorb sunlight. The energy captured by the dyes would drive the water-splitting reaction. Solar energy would be converted into hydrogen fuel that could be easily stored and used whenever it's needed." If the process can be scaled up, it would make history as the new form of world energy. This too, with adequate research could be a possible solution to the world's food and fuel crises.

Changing...

Technology is a good example in proving Mankind's adaptability. Looking back in the world's history, the world has been faced with countless variables to become what it has. Examples of this are the countless impacts from meteors, Oxygen production from plant's photosynthesis and even an ice age. If the Oxygen levels hadn't formed through millions of years there would be another dominant species on the earth. There is no doubt, the world can live without us, but we can't survive without the world. Should we continue to be so arrogant?

To figure out the best solution, the answer is not: "This is how we can adept natural to suite human desires." but, "This is how we can adapt ourselves to better fit our natural environment." Technology can play a big role as a change for humankind, but we also need to make a change by ourselves too. It can already be said that industrialized countries are living comfortably enough, which means society doesn't need to improve its welfare. Instead, society needs to spread it better through the world. So let's make it happen together!

Sufficiency economic theory: The king of Thailand has a theory. **King Bhumipol's** theory focused on living a moderate, self-dependent life without greed or overexploitation of natural resources. Self-sufficient economy (Localism) offers the idea of limited production for the purpose of saving the environment and scarce resources. The production is limited to a level that is enough for individual consumption, and the excess of the consumption will be for sale.

Furthermore, we only need worry about fixing the energy and food problems without trying to improve our wellbeing. Sufficiency economic theory is a good example for the sustainable solution to our difficulties, and we should try to live in the same way.

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The Editor:

Brett Hunter (A very nice friend of mine).