

Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

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Summary:

Food and energy is the essential resource for economic development. But resource itself is not limitless. How to efficiently utilise current resources to boost economic development and to improve the living standard with the world growing population? My view is if resources reallocation is not realistic, then, we must consider use alternative way (technological innovation) to absorb natural resources more efficient. It needs Developed and developing countries joint together to solve this problem and thereby improving its well-being. And other important factors(e.g: education) which can contribute to our society improving its well-being.

Essay

At the begging, we should know the definition of living standard. It refers to “the quality and quantity of goods and services available to people, and the way these goods and services are distributed within a population. It is generally measured by standards such as real (i.e. inflation adjusted) income per person and poverty rate. Other measures such as access and quality of health care, income growth inequality, educational standards”[1].

As we all know, food and energy resources are the cornerstone of economic and social development, we could not reduce the supply of those kind of resource to hinder economic development, especially the energy resources, such as oil and gas. “Cause those kind of resources are the essential to modern agriculture techniques, a fall in global oil supplies could cause spiking food prices and unprecedented famine in the coming decades”[3]. E.g: 2007–2008 world food price crisis. Therefore, we must choose alternative way to make sure the resources sustainable development. That is innovation, cause all technological and process (but also product) innovation can contribute to eliminating food and energy crisis. Any sort of biotechnological innovation for food industry or technological breakthrough for energy sphere (such as sun power, wind power) can contribute to absorb resources more efficiently. However, due to the resources utilization rate is not equivalent, it is well known that developed countries consumed energy resources much more than that of developing countries. Thus, I think developed countries should have more obligation to protect the resources not being overexploitation and also should have more obligation to contribute the society to improve its well-being. It can grant heavy subsidies on the aspect of education, healthy organization, environmental protection and so on. Of course, the developing countries, especially the rapid population growth countries also have obligation to control the birth rate to make our earth “loose weight”.

As well, the policy guidance is also meaningful for decrease the food crisis. CAP as Common Agriculture Policy of EU, which follows the principles of Hamilton`s mercantilist approach - tariffs, heavy subsidies in favour of EU producers of agricultural products. This implies basically price dumping in comparison to 3rd World countries and for them (exporting countries outside EU) it means decreasing terms of trade. So, they cannot compete with EU producers .

Over the long run, education on children is vital, cause improve the living standard and reduce the food and energy crisis could not achieve only by one generation, it needs several generation, or even dozens of generation to work together to achieve this goals. Therefore, let more and more children has chance to access education is the crucial step we need to take. Let our next generation know what is so called “less is more”, for example, today I less use one paper, maybe one tree can be survived, and the more

trees can survive, we can breath more fresh air. This is the cornerstone of improving our living standard. The living standard could not only use money or specific things to measure.

All in all, improving the society well-being is a long-term goal. Food and energy crisis is more and more serious, we need to take step right now to do something to make the resource utilization more efficiently, and some steps seems can immediately take. Thus, what we should do? The answer is : Action right away!

Reference:

1.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living_standard

2.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fossil_fuel

3.http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_consumption#Demand_for_oil