

## **"Faced with a food and energy crisis, how can society improve its well-being?"**

When everything goes wrong - we call it crisis. When stock markets crash and currency bubbles - we know it as financial crisis. When ecosystem of the Earth is being affected by humans - it is undoubtedly environmental crisis. When conflicts on high levels happen - it is often stated that cabinet crisis has occurred. Crisis appears before us as some mythical creature: enormous, horrible, and based not on official facts, but usually on talks and gossips.

Unfortunately, heroes of modern times are usually trying to exterminate the emerged troubles, or kill the creature itself. It is true that the bravest heroes are sometimes able to do that. However, it is much wiser to fight with reasons of appearance of this mythical being, as the creature will definitely be reborn in a long or even short run with much worse consequences.

Today's world crisis can be compared to a fire-drake with many heads, where every head is tightly bound to the others: environmental changes influence agriculture and bring on food crisis. Energy sources are being devastated and lead to energy crisis, and a spike in prices. What is more, this entails economic crisis and foreign-trade crisis. All those processes are so much interconnected that it is almost impossible to overcome the problems nowadays. Terrible wars and conflicts are usually based on money, which has become the greatest value. It is enough to remember the gory attack on Iraq with bloodshed, devastation and brutality; or the gas conflict between Russia and Ukraine, when millions of European civilians suffered from cold.

Due to the unstable situation in the world and the financial crisis, the prices on oil are bouncing up and down. However, prices on food are greatly dependant on this fluctuation. It can be illustrated by Russian supermarkets, where numbers on price tags increase faster than the numbers on your credit card receipt. We have to economize on food buying less fruits and vegetables and switching to cheap unhealthy products, which are a weird mixture of substitutes and preservatives. As a result, less people are provided with minerals and vitamins. Not only do various diseases spread around the world, especially in its poor regions, but such economy leads also to social instability and decrease of the world population. In a phrase, hunger kills.

Civilized people should think about possible solutions as soon as possible. Or else our descendants won't be able to enjoy the beauties of the world, Of course, if we will be able to have children in future.

First of all, the governmental support of domestic manufactures is necessary. It may ensure competitive strength of domestic production to race with international corporations, which settle huge prices on goods basing on costs of import and international workforce. Moreover, it will spur the capital formation and decrease domestic commodity shortage. I am inclined to believe

that farming and agriculture should be revived. The more farmers work on fields, the more fresh, vitaminized and cheap products appear in markets and shops.

Secondly, it is extremely wise to revise eating habits. “Less meat, no fast food and more fruits and vegetables” should be a norm to anyone. Scientists have proved that meat with high level of toxins damages people’s health. We should also keep in mind the fact that cattle-breeding requires huge areas for pasture. Therefore, citizens of those areas lack for greens, while meat is expensive and has no healthy substances after being processed.

Additionally, due to the happening climate change it is obviously more and more difficult to produce food and to produce petroleum. Poetically speaking, the nature itself punishes human beings for being too greedy and insatiable. The more we take from the nature and don’t pay back, the more calamities it will bring. Nearly every day TV news reports tell us about various disasters taking place in almost all corners of the world. Life in harmony with the nature requires self-searching and reappraisal of values first, and it is not a one day business. It may be wise to spend the state budget on social propaganda which popularizes eternal verities and virtues: kindness, love and sincerity.

In addition to that, renewable energy sources should be developed and used widely. It will certainly cost a large sum of money to build a power station, but in response we will receive “clean energy” with no fuels which doesn’t have negative influence on the atmosphere. And it doesn’t cause air or water pollution either. Besides, once a new power station is completed, the energy produced from the it is almost free. Renewable energy is the reasonable alternative to fossil fuels and nuclear power.

In conclusion, I would like to say that all anti-crisis measures should be combined with each other. There is no logic and sense in concentrating on one area of activity: diminution of unemployment, support of farmers, or development of new energy sources. We shouldn’t forget that when fairy-tale knights fought with some many-headed dragons, they tried to chop off all the heads with one stroke. Otherwise, there appeared two heads instead of offcut one.

Our new constantly and radically changing world demands cooperation instead of confrontation. It means that the international community should unite with the common purpose of winning over the crisis. Or else dragons raised by us will begin to breed.

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