

Summary

Today the food and energy crisis is different depending on where you live. It is a matter of where ones priorities lie. However, the crisis of today will not likely disappear with a constant increase of the world's population a long side an increasing concern of our climate. Radical and brave decisions must be made by politicians around the world. Moreover, to reach agreements with large impacts the political leaders needs to come closer. One way to reach that is to aim towards a more equal world that collectively can work for a sustainable improvement of societies well being.

Main essay

It would not be an understatement to say that one of the greatest challenges we stand before is to solve the food and energy crisis. I say solve because it is already here. The energy crisis is here for everyone. The food crisis has been here for a long time, but only for some. As long as I can remember there have been reports about less fortunate areas where famines breaks out due do crop failure. I imagine that far too often these crop failures are results of extreme dry seasons and far too often the youngest are the ones who suffer most. Perhaps these famines and extreme dry seasons are normal things that have been going on since the beginning of time? Or maybe these climate extremes are direct effects from the high levels of consumption. However, with a growing population the problem will not disappear.

Until recently the western society has not cared much or reflected over the consumption. Times have changed though, and it is getting harder and harder for those who want to argue against the facts given by environmental scientists. Facts that clearly show the correlation between fossil fuels and climate changes. These climate changes will not make already dry places less drier, and will not give people in these areas more food. If anything, it will probably be the other way round.

Anyhow, the side effects are not all negative. From the enormous development that went on during the last century that led to globalization, economic growth and increased consumption, we can also get the solution. For the first time ever, the world society has the technology to solve great and complex problems, and the unique ability to solve them together which leads us to next, and maybe the most difficult question - how?

As we all know, politicians are the ones who generally holds the official decision power. Sadly, there have been, and still are too many who makes their decisions on other incentives than making them to serve the interests of the people who elected them. I believe though, that with the already mentioned globalization and technology development, these tendencies will decrease because of the increased common knowledge which partly is a result from the information society of today, i.e. societies are getting more and more open. Ones we can put 100% trust in the people we elect as our leaders, ones there is an opportunity for the whole world to get a healthier society. That is because the politicians have, as human beings, the same essential interest as anyone else.

During the recent years there have been serious discussions about climate changes and how to solve them. We have seen some progress in technology, especially in the field of alternative fuels. Now you can choose to buy a car that runs on ethanol, biogas and biodiesel. They are so called green cars, named so because they are environmentally friendly compared to the old fuels. A fundamental problem though is that the farmers now grow their seed to become fuels for cars and not to satisfy hunger. Here we must get some controversial decisions from influential politicians, before the rumour about it spreads to countries where hunger is a problem. It has been very convenient for car manufacturers to come up with these solutions, and the

politicians have been happy. I am sure that we will see new cars in a near future that are green in its true meaning, it is just a matter of forcing them to launch them and make sure that manufacturers worldwide have the same prerequisites. When they have that, they will probably be able to do it. Have they ever failed before?

Another interesting and complicated issue that has aroused not long ago is the question of what will happen when countries like India with approximately 1 billion people wants to have the same standard as in western countries. To use India as an example, this country has progressed a lot during recent years with a high level of knowledge especially in technology. A problem is that the regulations for waste products are poor with a lot of pollution of air and fresh water. Now when leaders around the world, especially from Europe, have proclaimed that there must be worldwide regulations for pollution, i.e. impose taxes, countries like India suddenly will loose all competitiveness they have. People in India ask why and how western countries, that are accountable for the majority of pollution, can prohibit other countries to develop and pay for something they are not responsible for. It is a justified question!

One more time we see how politicians come up with solutions that are not sustainable. I believe that the world society has a unique situation when being in this economic recession. Now we have the opportunity to build a foundation for future economic development. It is a great time to come up with ideas and plans of how developing countries can develop, skipping some of the steps that the industrial world has gone through. I believe that one step could be the offering of scholarships to young people in developing countries which would be a great investment for the future. In this way the world will get one step closer to be more equalized, and that is one step closer towards the improvement of societies' well being!