

Humanity is at a turning point between self-destruction and consensus about survival: Repowering the Globe

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Abstract: Authors are launching a warning about the current global economic practices that are based on one-sidedness and hence irresponsibility rather than on social responsibility of all decision-makers for their own life conditions. They are suggesting several crucial measures aimed at innovation of the given destructive practice. These measures are considered preconditions of survival of humankind's civilization.

Key words: irresponsibility, resource crisis, survival, humankind, sustainable energy

ČLOVEŠTVO JE NA PREKRETNICI MED SAMO-UNIČENJEM IN SPORAZUMOM O PREŽIVETJU: OBNOVITI OBLAST VSEH

Povzetek: Avtorja svarita z opozorilom na sedanje globalne gospodarske navade, ki temeljijo na enostranskosti in zato na neodgovornosti namesto na družbeni odgovornosti vseh, ki odločajo, za lastne življenjske pogoje. Predlagata več bistvenih ukrepov, namenjenih inoviranju sedanje rušilne prakse. Ukrepe štejeta za pogoje preživetja človeške civilizacije.

Ključne besede: neodgovornost, kriza virov, preživetje, človeštvo, sonaravna trajnostna energija

1. Introduction

Human economic practices of recent centuries, and especially recent decades, are showing the terrible consequences of one-sided subordination of human life to profit as a purpose of its own. Here are some cases and some suggestions of measures for humankind to survive by innovation of established habits that are not sustainable enough.

2. Financial Irresponsibility

The dramatic historic fall of the US dollar against most currencies is accompanied by unprecedented oil and gold price inflation, stock crashes and the US mortgage crisis, destroying hundreds of billions savings, and is getting enormous media attention.

Basic common sense about financial risks seems to have vanished from board rooms and bank decision makers, while insane compensation packages worth millions are paid to the incompetent culprits who converted the banks, hitherto responsible for people's savings and investments in job-producing new businesses, into gambling casinos.

Thus, urgently needed funds for innovative investments into clean, renewable energy and into sustainable development in general are wasted in financial speculations without creating any added values.

3. Resource Crisis

The irresponsible squandering of natural resources are driving prices of energy sky-high, endangering the economies - especially of the poorer nations - and the welfare of millions of citizens. The fossil fuels coal, petroleum and gas causing climatologically and lethally dangerous emissions are wasted in hugely inefficient utility vehicles, over-heated homes, as well as in military vehicles and fighter planes in costly wars.

Metals are wasted to make arms and costly machinery to mine non-sustainable coal and uranium and to build risky oil-drilling platforms to produce mineral energy, whose use causes great damage to the health of man, animals and the biosphere.

When will humans learn to use the finite resources on Earth more wisely and recycle materials systematically, or re-use what is still of practical value?

Intensive unsustainable agriculture is sacrificing virgin jungles, insanely disturbing nature's harmonic balance with monocultures, applying harmful agrochemicals and displacing valuable bio-food production by energy crops to feed inefficient combustion engines. When will we learn to safeguard the God-given biodiversity and beauty of nature by extensive instead of intensive farming and by the protection of the million year old flora and fauna?

4. Information Crisis

Daily reports about rising sex abuse, perversions, paedophilia, rape, murder, hijacked victims, war crimes and death penalties fill the newspapers dependent on advertising by the major energy corporations that build the fossil or nuclear fuelled power stations, produce the fossil fuel and the enriched uranium.

Fortunately, the Internet is a blessing in disguise when it comes to ending the pollution of the human mind by the major media, providing unprecedented information on every aspect of life, the economy, politics and science.

5. Human Insanity

What can be considered normal these days? To drive hugely oversized cars, squandering the finite reserves of oil? To overheat or excessively cool buildings? To drive gas-guzzling cars when efficient public transportation is available?

6. Food

When will people understand the causal relationship between eating habits and health cost? When will we see that chemicals add nothing to the nutritional value of food? When will we learn that the healthiest diet does not pass through animals, but is directly at our disposal naturally from a small fraction of the agricultural land hitherto used for animal feedstock?

7. Energy

Utility Point International (www.utilitypoint.com) asked recently the critical question in their editorial “Why Energy Companies are Not Investing in The Future”. Short-sighted speculations with the finite resources override sound long-term clean sustainable energy planning. Energy investments of the order of over a trillion dollars are still thrown year by year into finite unsustainable energy instead of being directed into benign, renewable energy systems. Dr. Ulf Bossel recently showed that the billions of dollars for the Iraq war could have provided a large part of the USA with clean energy forever (www.efcf.com) Report E22. The same is true for the case of German government coal subsidies to the extent of over 180 billion dollars spent in the last 40 years!

8. The Solutions

ISEO (www.uniseo.org) in tandem with the World Circle of the Consensus CMDC (www.cmdc.net) can offer the following solutions to end chemical and nuclear pollution, climate change, health hazards and irresponsible money squandering:

8.1. Energy Policy and Laws

Better energy laws and United Nations directives must prohibit any polluting energy concepts and stop all subsidies for biologically harmful, risky energy systems and unsustainable, finite energy resources.

8.2. Financing

Investments into harmful unsustainable systems with their negative long-term effects on the environment and human health must be replaced by investments into benign, decentralized renewable, i.e. sustainable energy sources. These can be implemented much faster and at a much lower cost than big nuclear power plants needing lengthy legal permit procedures, and now clearly known to greatly increase the incidence of chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes with their releases of highly toxic fission products, hundreds to thousands of times more damaging than medical X-rays or gamma rays from uranium in the ground (www.radiation.org; www.euradcom.org), driving up health care costs and government deficits since the first fallout from nuclear bombs in the 1950s.

8.3. Nutrition, Smoking and Drug Abuse

To bring down excessive medical cost and expensive hospitalization, more natural diets should be promoted by educating on all levels of the population about the health rewards of vegetarian food and a drug and smoke free life (www.dr.schnitzer-de). As an effective contribution to that end, CMDC offers its “Naturally Fit & Healthy” guide for a happy life free of chemistry, alcohol and tobacco in perfect balance with spirit and body (mens sana in corpore sano).

8.4. Agriculture

Intensive chemically poisoned food and energy farming must be replaced by an extensive biological agriculture, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and producing healthy food and raw materials for the people rather than feedstock for animals and energy crops for inefficient engines. Agriculture waste should be used for energy and bio fertilizing.

8.5. Transport

The use of fossil fuel for transportation must be replaced as fast as possible by clean electrical energy, as clearly endorsed by the Ele-Drive conference in Geneva and at the Monaco conference in March 2008 – see ISEO list of events (www.uniseo.org) Newa & Events.

8.6. Accountability

Full cost accounting must become international law, including all external, social costs of technical systems, particularly unsustainable energy generation with its costly side effects on the climate, health and rising government deficits.

8.7. Media

The media must pay much more attention to the real problems, such as the environmental crisis and the solutions for survival on Earth so as to raise the awareness of politicians and decision makers, rather than reporting excessively about quickly passing events and crime.

9. Some conclusions

It is extremely necessary to innovatively change the human habits of so far in practically all crucial aspects of our life, if the current humankind wants to survive and let its children have a decent life. The quoted cases show it clearly. The suggested measures are the urgent minimum.

10. References

References are available on quoted websites and from authors.