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Do not forget investment potential of the society

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The modern world, unfortunately, more and more increases the difference in the level of development between its highly developed pole and the other, undeveloped. Increasingly, the new knowledge is created in lesser number of countries, and all the less it can be expected that some significant technological achievements are being made in the underdeveloped part of the world, and even in the part that can be considered as moderately developed. In a word, the created gap is growing, and the polarization is more brutal. Intellectual elite in the developed countries is even more aware that this gap, when becomes socially unbearable, will, potentially, jeopardize its now pleasant position. If the overcoming the gap is metaphorically presented as a construction of a bridge between two distant shores, then it can be ascertained that for some sections of the bridge there are several favorable conditions, but the number of unfavourable and hardly constructing sections is growing.

Favorable conditions are:

- Standard metalanguage of science and development has become only one, and with its usage the language barriers are globally overcoming. My opinion is that the outstanding successes of some underdeveloped countries can be attributed to the English language which is the language of higher education in India, Ireland, Pakistan, etc., and the number of universities with education in English is growing more in China, Japan and other countries which do not positive British colonial legacy.
- Global development of computer telecommunication applications, which has experienced its coronation with the Internet, increasingly facilitates communication among those who are interested in new knowledge. Plenty of print and online articles, books and magazines are essential relief to people in underdeveloped countries to accept the knowledge created in the most developed countries. This relief is substantially aided by cheapening the computer and telecommunication equipment.
- Even long time ago a market's character was recognized as a phenomenon which is relentlessly striving to expand and thereby devalue every effort for prevention of spreading the technological and scientific results. Each administratively imposed embargo on the proliferation of technology, after some time ceases to be effective. Given that fact, even some small countries get their chance, if they define their technology policies in the right way, such as Israel, Finland, etc.

Unfortunately, with these three positive facts their number, mostly, ends.

The main unfavourable section of our bridge is weakness for the actions which arise from poverty:

- Poverty of school systems, especially universities. Now, even in Europe, there are universities with sorrowful 1.000 EUR per student per year, compared to those who have an average of 20.000 EUR per student per year, and the elite numbers tend to be even 50.000 EUR per student per year. It's hard to expect a high quality of education in those first mentioned.
- When poor universities with the help of the talent of a small part of its students succeed to produce a desirable quality for the developed world, the brain drain enters to the scene, because human characteristic is the migration towards better conditions.
- Lack of investment potential required for the development of research institutions and funding research projects in poor countries makes it impossible to create at least somewhat attractive jobs for produced quality elite in the country. I am acquainted with the scientists' responses in my own country, who have achieved beautiful results in diaspora. When asked whether they would return to their country, because there is no more war, their standard response is: "What would I have to do at home?"
- In some countries, even European, in which there is no shortage of certain resources and comparative advantages, which could have some perspective towards the moderate development, inadequate or no development policies are being led, because the decision makers are engaged in nationalist conflicts and manipulation, corruption and other forms of backwardness. Guilt cannot be attributed only to them, because in Europe, none of them came to power in a coup, but has been chosen by "democratic" methods which cast doubt on the meaning that same democratic procedures can be implemented in all circumstances and in all places.
- Solutions to improve the situation are less dependent on the scientific results of natural and exact sciences, but they are more in the sphere of sociology and international political and economic relations. For example, all the scientific and technological knowledge required for building a hydroelectric power plant are known and available to all, over a hundred years, and the problems for building such a source of electric power exist even today, but are in the field of sociology, ecology, etc. This is an example which shows that the development constraints are not only in the scientific results of modern science.

A stock of completed research results in some fields of science is such that some of the results will not be implemented for decades. It is obvious that the definition of investment priority in research must take care of it, and, where appropriate, emphasize in the foreground the researches which lead to the emergency implementation, eg, cheap drugs, available at a price to the wider population, which is now difficult to imagine.

As you can see, the noble title of this forum, "Impact of Science and Technology on Society and Economy", has more obstacles than opportunities when it comes to the underdeveloped parts of the world.

Summary

The modern world, unfortunately, more and more increases the difference in the level of development between its highly developed pole and the other, undeveloped. Increasingly, the new knowledge is created in lesser number of countries, and all the less it can be expected that some significant technological achievements are being made in the underdeveloped part of the world, and even in the part that can be considered as moderately developed. In a word, the created gap is growing, and the polarization is more brutal. Intellectual elite in the developed countries is even more aware that this gap, when becomes socially unbearable, will, potentially, jeopardize its now pleasant position. If the overcoming the gap is metaphorically presented as a construction of a bridge between two distant shores, then it can be ascertained that for some sections of the bridge there are several favorable conditions, but the number of unfavourable and hardly constructing sections is growing.