

EDITORS NOTE

We present to the Readers papers resulting from the debate on the theme *Should the World be Arranged Differently?* that was organized at the meeting of the Committee of Future Studies “Poland 2000 Plus” at the Presidium of P.Ac.Sc. in March 2013.

Artur Pawłowski and Lucjan Pawłowski in the paper *Conditions of Sustainable Development of Humanity* present, on the basis of the definition of sustainable development, critics of social and economic processes, which currently prevail in the world. Those processes lead to depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation. What is more, they do not provide the necessary minimum living conditions for present and future generations. Despite the immense increase in the production, number of people who do not benefit from such a development is constantly growing. On one hand, the reason for this is the weakening of trade unions representation initiated by Reagan and Thatcher. On the other hand, this reason is related to the growth of transnational corporations, often with greater economic potential than individual countries, which contributes to this difficult situation. This results in an imbalance between the world of work and of capital. It coincided with the deregulation of capital markets, which leads to capital speculations on an unprecedented scale and, consequently, overtaking enormous funds without creating additional goods. Therefore, in order to stimulate sustainable development of human civilization, it is necessary to consider a return to the paradigms of intra and intergenerational justice, which directly result from the concept of sustainable development as the factor that determine the functioning of the socio-political systems.

Maciej Cesarski in the paper *Crisis of the Essence of Capitalism* focuses the attention on the importance and role of the settlement infrastructure in the implementation of sustainable development as an opportunity for a fundamental change in furnishing the world. The basic conclusion is that the settlement infrastructure can be an important – yet little appreciated – platform in the transition to authentic sustainable development. Moving it will not be easy, as it requires fundamental changes in global political circles and challenge the basis and essence of capitalism.

Zbigniew Madej in the paper *Perpetual Problems Associated with the Notion and Measuring the Wealth of Nations* states that *the wealth of nations*, an idea borrowed from Adam Smith’s work, is a notion broad enough to include many similar concepts such as Aristotle’s *abundance of means needed by the home and state*, Marx’s *social global product* and modern meanings of *national income* and *gross domestic product*. Some denote the total amount of goods or services, whereas others describe the seasonal growth of that amount, but they

all fit into the notion of the *wealth of nations*. My aim was to explain which research methods were utilized in order to assign a specific meaning to this idea, for how many centuries the problem has been studied, and how each generation passed the results of their research to their successors. My analyses are based within the framework of the R&D model, in this case used in relation to soft innovations.

Barbara Piontek in the paper *Demand as an Instrument of Shaping the Order of the World* stresses that the change from industrial to post-industrial economy abolished many barriers functioning before. This concerns in particular demand that can become a tool shaping the order of the world provided it will be appropriately shaped itself. Especially important in that is the category of demand pull.

Konrad Prandecki, Katarzyna Nawrot and Mirosław Wawrzyński in the paper *New Centre and New Peripherals in the Middle of XXI Century* describe economic changes taking place in the world; they will mean that by mid-century the balance of power will look differently than today. The advantage of developed countries will decrease in favor of the ACI ((ASEAN, China, India). This is due not only to economic growth but also the development of Asian markets. The increase in domestic consumption is the result of a high level of public investment, the young demographic structure and the process of getting rich. These factors mean that Asian countries are likely to become economic powers, but still their average standard of living will be lower than in developed countries.

In the section *Materials Sent* we have an interesting paper *Most Important Economic Challenges of the World in the Perspective of the Year 2050* by Rafał Antosiewicz, Edward Kirejczyk, Katarzyna Nawrot and Konrad Prandecki. The authors maintain that the two most important megatrends within the next 40 years were recognized in the paper as expanding of the industrial revolution to the developing countries and further progress in science and technology, possible due to invention of the microprocessor. Challenges described in the article are the effects of these two megatrends. The economic centers will transfer from Europe and North America to the Far East and South America. The changes will apply to the production, trade, capital and the importance of national currencies. We can expect progress in globalization, including the convergence of law regulations worldwide. Forecasts concerning the depletion of the majority of raw materials will probably fail to be true. The most important problem around the world will probably be the access to the water of good quality. The number of jobs will decrease and it is difficult to predict the social and political consequences of the process at the present moment. The concentration of population in mega cities and their immediate neighborhood will increase. Consumption will grow rapidly in emerging markets, and very slowly in developed countries. The conclusion of the article is that by 2050 highly qualified labor force and land in mega-cities will become more expensive. Water, raw materials and ara-

ble land will increase in price less then mentioned earlier and the unskilled labor force will get expensive to the littlest extent. The cost of capital will be relatively cheaper than now.

Another material sent is the paper *Regulation Instruments Used by Federal Reserve System and European Central Bank in the Financial Crisis of 2007-2009* by Bartosz Szukalski. The paper recalls that the financial crisis of 2007-2009 affected mainly the highly developed countries and embraced all groups of markets and their participants. Governments and central banks had to face new challenges. The author of the article compares instruments of intervention used by Federal Reserve System and European Central Bank in the time of crisis of 2007-2009. The article consists of three merit parts. In the first one, the author describes briefly causes and the course of the crisis. The second part describes the instruments of intervention used by ECB. The third one presents regulations on the money market implemented by FRS.

In the section *From the World* we discuss the change of opinions of world and Polish economists on the role of free market after informational revolution, as well as several scientific novelties: a record of the speedy creation of a vaccine against new viral diseases versus the slowness and inadequacy of testing the work of quantum computers.

The issue is concluded by a *Chronicle* of recent works of the Committee of Future Studies "Poland 2000 Plus" at the Presidium of P.Ac.Sc.

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