



# Quality and the Seven Environmental Challenges of the Planet

### **World Quality Forum - Budapest**



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### Acknowledgements

### Grateful acknowledgements are due to many:

Fellows and Associates of LEAD India: Snehil Kumar (Quality consultant), Bhawana Luthra (Director Programs and Operations, LEAD India), Asha Ramachandran (Editor, The Statesman), C. Made Gowda (Program Associate, ATREE), Leena Verenkar, (AGM, CSR), Mamatha Gowda (CEO, Zilla Panchayat, Tumkur, Karnataka), and Ramya Gowda (Manager, Radio Active CR90.4 MHz Station), all of whom contributed to the AHP exercise on a Sunday afternoon to prioritize the seven global challenges

Aditya and Parul for the AHP exercise on the seven countermeasure matrices, and for penetrating insights into the nature of the countermeasures

♦Glenn Mazur, Academician, IAQ, whose AHP software template in Excel was essential to the exercise



### **Seven Interconnected Global Challenges**



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- •Pesticides in food and ground water
- •Antibiotics and hormones fed to livestock
- •Fertilizer use, and nutritional and soil depletion
- •Salt, chemicals in processed foods
- •Thermal & chemical treatment of edible oils
- •Refined sugar, flour
- •No living enzymes, even in juices



The purpose of food-processing industry is to improve shelf life.



### 2. The Resources We Deplete

- •Soil –loss of top soil and salinization
- •Rain forests, disappearing fast
- •Genetic diversity accelerated extinction
- •Marine life over-fishing
- •Fossil fuels still lukewarm to substitutes
- •Minerals some believe they will last for ever
- •Fresh water depletion and contamination of fresh water



Our GDP calculation is unaffected by our depletion of irreplaceable resources of the planet



- •Hazardous waste
- •Municipal waste
- •Industrial solid waste
- •E-waste
- •Gaseous waste
- •Medical waste, including infectious waste
- •Nuclear waste

500000 chemicals - many with "Toxicity unknown." Two-thirds of all hazardous waste are chemicals Air, water and Soil pollution



### 4. The Diseases We Treat

Common infectious diseases mainly afflict the poor, the new ones may hit anyone



Degenerative diseases – heart disease, diabetes, cancer, allergies, obesity...

Global cancer rates could increase by 50% to 15 million by 2020 - W.H.O

About 800 million classified hungry by UN.

One in four will experience mental illness – W.H.O

"... going back to 1913, ... cancer ... was very rare but it has become more frequent since... it is obvious to connect ... increase of cancer with the increased use of salt by the natives.

-Albert Schweitzer, in Gabon



### 5. The Climate We Warm Up

The average global air temperature near the Earth's surface has increased 0.87 degrees Celsius since 1880

#### Effects of warming:

Rising Sea levels
More hurricanes
More floods and droughts
Fresh water scarcity
More infectious diseases
Forest cover loss



Correlation of CO2 ppm with global temperatures







# 7 billion going on 10



#### World Population Growth Through History

### **Population impacts each challenge**

- •Pressure on food availability
- •Accelerated depletion of resources
- •Generation of more waste,
- •Risk of more diseases
- •Consumption of more energy

### Targeting illiteracy and infant mortality by simple means are two of the best countermeasures



# 7. Irradiating ourselves

• WHO: Lists mobile phone use in the same "carcinogenic hazard" category as lead, engine exhaust and chloroform. Microwave 'cooking of the brain'



- Microwave oven radiation effects
- High tension cables EMF pollution & static electricity
- Medical Excess
- Radiation from nuclear plants, nuclear waste and testing of weapons



### A New Definition for Quality



Fulfill stated, implied and latent needs of customers in a manner that preserves the earth not only for future generations of humans but for all living beings.



### **Some Technical Challenges**

Technical solutions available -	Technical challenges remain -				
more or less - Examples	Examples				
<ul> <li>Solar Energy</li> <li>Wind Energy</li> <li>Geothermal Energy</li> <li>Biogas Energy</li> <li>Nuclear Energy</li> <li>Small hydroelectric energy</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Tidal Energy</li> <li>Hydrogen fuel cells</li> <li>Smart grids to handle</li></ul>				
projects	intermittent energy <li>Storage of energy</li> <li>Shipping without fossil fuels</li> <li>CO2 sequestering</li>				

### Many technical challenges addressed, implementation lags



### Examples of good human response

- Montreal Protocol on refrigerant gases
- Multiple laws to cut pollution
- Eradication of smallpox, polio...



Human challenges seem harder to overcome

### Examples of major human challenges ahead

- Binding agreements on capping CO2
- Conflict of environmental requirements with WTO agreements
- Responsibility for past contribution to the status
- Capping of extraction especially Tar sands
- World wide cooperation on eradication of diseases such as malaria



# Levels of Countermeasures

### Countermeasures are required at multiple levels



# This paper illustrates the approach to countermeasures on a global scale



- Developing national leaders with global mindsets
- Enrolling those still in denial



### Some Plausible Global Countermeasures

### Reach international agreements to...

- 1. Mandate energy generation mix
- 2. Mandate energy use patterns
- 3. Deindustrialize farming and sickness care
- 4. Put a price on carbon
- 5. Supplant GDP with modified measurements
- 6. Supplement GDP with well-being indices
- 7. Mandate taxes based on environment in place of other systems
- 8. Mandate standards for forestry, water use etc.
- 9. Mandate new laws on packaged food, tobacco use, disclosures...

10. Create fund paid into by countries which exceed standard ratios



### Four Chosen Countermeasures (Strategies)

- 1. Supplant GDP (with other measures)
- 2. Price carbon
- 3. Recast taxes, based on environment
- 4. Create fund based on ratios





### **Countermeasure: Supplant GDP**

- Start with a measure called "ea-NDP"
- Net Domestic product subtracts depreciation from GDP
- Ea-NDP: subtract cost of resource depletion<sup>\*</sup> and environmental degradation

(\*Fossil fuels, minerals and ores, water, trees, genetic diversity)

In addition consider the following in Phase II

•Weight for distribution of income - relate to standard deviation

•Add economic value of household work

•Reduce defensive expenses - such as commuting

From Stiglitz et al



### **Countermeasure: Price Carbon**

- Fix price of carbon-di-oxide or equivalent (such as refrigerants) at source, i.e. production, to be paid monthly by producers to respective governments.
- Common price for the world
- Countries contributing to carbon consumption in excess of global average per capita based on population as of a cut off year – say, 1950 – to year of agreement to pay into international fund
- These 'carbon remittances' may be made in installments (with interest) over the next 'x' years (say, 50)



Market economy understands pricing for damage



### **Countermeasure: Recast Taxes Based on Environment**

#### In addition to price on carbon-di-oxide, agree to:

- Charge for depletion of resources fossil fuels, minerals
- Charge for waste disposal of non-degradable items such as plastics, chemicals..
- Tax for gaseous emissions, water pollution, pesticide use

- Tax at source
- Import duties based on the above
- Supplanting all other taxes with these





# **Countermeasure: Create Fund Based on Ratios**

### A Neo-Marshall Plan!

- Create acceptable ratios for carbon use to GDP, tree cover ratios, population growth ...
- Pay for fishing or mining from international waters or land (such as Antarctica)
- Above standard ratios pay into international fund
- Add into the international fund the carbon remittances

# Overshoot the ratios and pay those who undershoot them

# This too fits in with the thinking of Market Economy proponents





### **Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)**

AHP is a method for breaking down a complex, unstructured situation into its component parts, arranging these parts, or variables, into a hierarchic order, assigning numerical values to subjective judgments on the relative importance of each variable; and synthesizing the judgments to determine which variables have the highest priority and should be acted upon to influence the outcome of the situation.

AHP also provides an effective structure for group decision making by imposing a discipline on the group's thought processes

AHP enables us to structure a system and its environment into mutually interacting parts and then to synthesize them by measuring and ranking the impact of these parts on the entire system



### The Hierarchy



SRF

# AHP – Priorities for the Seven Challenges

Preserve Planet Earth	Food Quality	Resource depletion	Waste generation	Diseases	Climate warming	Population rise	Radiation hazards	weight
Food Quality	1	2/7	7/8	1 4/5	1/4	1/4	3/8	0.061
Resource								
depletion	3 3/5	1	2 2/7	1 2/3	3/8	1/6	7/8	0.116
Waste								
generation	1 1/7	4/9	1	6	1/2	1/4	2 1/4	0.125
Diseases	5/9	3/5	1/6	1	2/9	1/4	1 2/3	0.057
Climate								
warming	4 1/8	2 2/3	2	4 2/3	1	1 3/5	4 1/3	0.276
Population rise	3 5/7	6 1/5	4 1/3	3 3/4	5/8	1	3 3/4	0.291
Radiation								
hazards	2 5/7	1 1/7	1/7	3/5	2/9	1/4	1	0.073

Surprise - population rise most important, climate change is next

Population growth not popular in the post-modernist western world, but it dominates the priorities in poor India!



# **AHP: Three Examples of Countermeasure Priorities**

Resource Depletion	Supplant GDP	Price carbon	Er m ta	oviron- ent xation	Fund based on ratios	W	Weight	
Supplant GDP	1	4		2/5	2/7	C	.185	
Price carbon	1/4	1		2/7	2/7	C	0.084	
Environmental taxation	2 4/9	3 1/2		1	1 2/5	C	.380	
Fund based on ratios	3 1/2	3 1/2	5/7		1		.351	
Waste Generation	Supplant GDP	Price carbor	Er m ta	nviron- ent ixation	Fund based on ratios	١	Veight	
Supplant GDP	1	1/2		1⁄4	5/7		0.124	
Price carbon	2	1		2	2 4/9		0.388	
Environmental taxation	4	1⁄2		1	3		0.345	
Fund based on ratios	1 2/5	2/5		1/3	1		0.143	
Climate Change	Supplant GDP	t Pric carl	e oon	Environ ment taxatior	- Fund based o ratios	n	Weight	
Supplant GDP	Supplant GDP 1		1⁄4	2/5	1/3		0.093	
Price carbon	rice carbon 4		1	2	2		0.428	
Environmental taxation 2 4/			1⁄2	1	2		0.272	
Fund based on ratios	3		1/2	1/2	1		0.206	

Pricing carbon is not always the top strategy. Taxing environment is important. None of the solutions can be ignored

The other matrices are available on request



# **Renormalizing without Population**

Challenges	Weightage including Population	Weightage excluding population
The Dubious food we eat	0.061	0.086
The Resources we deplete	0.116	0.164
The Waste we produce	0.125	0.176
The Diseases we treat	0.057	0.080
The Climate we warm up	0.276	0.389
The population we grow	0.291	
Irradiating ourselves	0.073	0.103

Population growth control needs a different set of strategies

Hence the priorities of the challenges are renormalized after removing population growth from consideration.



### **Overall Priorities of the Four Countermeasures**

Preserving Planet Earth	Food quality	Resource depletion	Waste generation	Diseases	Climate warming	Radiation Hazards	Weighted totals
	0.086	0.164	0.176	0.080	0.389	0.103	1.00
Supplant GDP	0.100	0.185	0.124	0.218	0.093	0.188	0.134
Price carbon	0.488	0.084	0.388	0.175	0.428	0.067	0.311
Environmental taxation	0.251	0.380	0.345	0.504	0.272	0.568	0.349
Fund based on ratios	0.161	0.351	0.143	0.103	0.206	0.176	0.203

Taxing environmental degradation is the top option, closely followed by pricing carbon. Creating a fund and supplanting GDP with better measures are important too



- The multiple, interconnected challenges facing us are really quality issues
- Quality needs a new definition and a new start
- This paper illustrates an approach to identifying challenges and prioritizing countermeasures, but the task remains for world governments and experts
- A package of strategies is required
- There is an opportunity to adopt this approach at the local and national levels
- AHP can replace contentious debates with willingness and accord





# Thank You

