The Age of Green Economics

Economic growth is extremely energy intensive and in order to modernize, our world’s industries have been consuming an incredible amount of polluting fuels such as oil, gas and coal.

Moreover, for the past century, we have ignored the impact of these polluting fuels on our environment and it is now at a critical juncture that we have to change our way of industrializing through cleaner technologies.

Nonetheless, we must find a way to increase our economic growth, and in particular for the developing countries, without destroying our planet.

This raises the question: “how may we continue to develop without affecting our environment?”, lately the method that reached the most consensus has been “green technologies”.

According to experts, we are on the verge of a new industrial revolution which will most certainly focus on “green technologies”, thus developed and developing countries are researching in alternative energy methods but such studies are time consuming and extremely costly.

The greatest cost will most certainly be the development of green technologies, for this reason many countries still hesitate to completely switch from polluting fuels to alternative energy.

In addition, according to the UN’s 1986 “right to development” poorer countries can justify the use of polluting fuels. Furthermore, how can the developed countries legitimately ask developing countries to find a less polluting way to modernize, when for 150 years the West was the leading polluter?

During the opening session on Tuesday, European and Asian delegates clashed on the topic of green technologies, countries such as the Philippines and India criticized France and Germany of unfairly demanding a cleaner industrialization which would mean a slower and unstable economic growth.

There is no doubt that an age of green economies is unfolding before us but to which cost?

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Paradoxically, the leading country in the development of “green technology” is China which allocates 34% of its stimulus package (USD 200.8 billion) in this particular sector of its economy.

Does this mean that alternative energy could lead to a new competitive market? And in this case should the developing countries seize the opportunity to allocate its budget to “green technology”? What’s more, South Korea is spending more than 80% of its recovery budget in cleaner and eco-friendly technologies.

Regarding the introductory clauses proposed by the Model ASEM delegates, we would like to emphasize on the statement proposed by Vietnam: “Recognizing the gap existing between European and Asian countries regarding energy production infrastructures and seeking unity and cooperation between the two”.

In order to develop “green technologies” efficiently, both European and Asian countries must work hand in hand. Therefore, a meeting such as the Model ASEM can lead our regions in working together to preserve our planet and participate in economic growth.

Our delegates had an insight of Normandy’s beauty, embodied by Fecamp and its Palais Bénédictine. This latter is a mix of both Gothic and Renaissance revival architectures, and also includes a museum and a distillery which produces its own liqueur.

However, the region is abundant with other wonderful places: the city of Deauville, for instance, which is famous for its walkway, but mostly for its American Film Festival that gathers every year Hollywood’s stars. Moreover, if you are looking for a quiet and beautiful small city, we can’t help advising you Honfleur, in which you will find plenty of painters devoted to their passion within the port. Last but not least, on saturday, you will discover Rouen, which nickname is “the one hundred steeples town”.

Question Session:

Today we interviewed Taehoon KIM, who comes from South Korea and represents Czech Republic during this edition of Model ASEM.

The Daily Voice: How is it going so far?

Taehoon KIM: Well, I think it’s very good, the conferences are very intense, and I think everyone is very smart! The quality of conferences is much higher than I expected. And I liked the walking tour in Paris, on the first day, although it was very tiring, I think it’s very great to have both conferences and a tour.

D.V: Today you attended the economic pillar, which position did you attempt to defend in your statement?

T.K: We only covered introductory clauses, and one of them was a very general one, stating that our countries must recognize the magnitude of the current problems. The second one was about the importance of competent NGOs in this matter, and that they should take a larger role in it by investing in green technologies.

D.V: Did you have any trouble assimilating the organization rules of pillar sessions, such as the introductory clauses, the amendments, etc.?

T.K: At first I was kind of confused, but I did attend some other conferences similar to this one, and I found a lot of similarities from this conference to other ones, so it’s easy to learn.

Gossip Corner

This “gossip corner” is the place where all readers and participants can post what they have heard, seen or experienced and would like to share with the rest of us.

According to inside sources, several chairs went out for a drink last night and had a hard time getting back to the youth hostel...next time you go out why don’t you call us to join you?

Did you know that the “frenchie” on the organizing team has a tattoo?

Quote of the day:

“We have experienced several great economic transformations: the industrial revolution, the technology revolution, our modern era of globalization. We’re now on the threshold of another – the age of green economics.”

Ban Ki-moon, UN’s Secretary General