

## 17. World wide Development plan

Where is society going? Does anyone think about that question for more than a few seconds every now and again?

In truth throughout history people relied on the wisdom of a few to guide the collective. Over time this morphed into following and listening to the hierarchy in a religion. Also we gave our power to the governments of our world to decide where we as a society were going. Unfortunately none of these institutions is best placed to perform this task.

Governments generally only look at where the *economy* is heading. It is of paramount importance in our current world, to the detriment of all else. We focus on items like GDP, national debt, trade balances, housing starts, unemployment data, salary levels and spending power. The irony is we don't even end up with long term plans for all of this. More often than not we are reacting to the position of these relative indices. If they are positive all is well with the world and confidence is high, if they are down nothing is right with the world and confidence is shattered. It goes back to the analogy of us living our lives in the choppy waters of the ocean's surface. We will always be reacting to events in this location and we have no power.

We need society plans and plans for our evolution. Again we need to build these from the ground up. If we can get into true sustainable community with our neighbours and our

immediate environments, this means we have broken the dominance of the economy as the primary force in our lives. Instead of feeling like we are in a constant transition, (which so many of our housing solutions make us feel like) we can start to envisage a future where the location we live right now can and will meet all our needs for the future. The way to get that sense of place is to work with our community on making a community development plan for all.

If we are in community with 150 or so people a development plan may incorporate some of the following (and many more);

- Appraisal of skills and services of community members
- Definition of rules and regulations of a bartering system that would get implemented based on the information garnered from point 1 above
- Holistic education plan for children
- Goal setting around percentages of local food production, water recycling, energy generation and waster recycling
- Scheduling of community group time for recreation, barbecues etc.
- Plans for sustainable transport solutions for community
- Plan to integrate ageing population
- Plan for building of shared community building(s)
- Development plan for usage of shared community building(s)
- Support mechanism for care of pre-school children

These development plans would be in place for five, or perhaps ten years. It can be seen from above that far from just looking at the economic plans for the people it covers a whole range of other important areas of life. Obviously these plans will evolve over time and will have different goals and ambitions depending on the demographics of the people in community. Each community would have their own development plans and it would make sense that there would be a huge similarity of plans in communities' worldwide. The needs of people are very similar country to country.

If we have experience of having long term communal planning it makes sense that we would expect our nationalities as a whole and indeed our world itself to have a society goal. If you were to ask anyone today what the world's goal should be, I think you would stump 99.9% of people. Nobody asks such a question. That is all the more reason for us to tease out that very question.

Perhaps for the next twenty years or so our goal should be to secure a non polluting energy source and to also really clean up our environment.

We have many disparate groups world wide trying to find THE magical breakthrough to finding a truly sustainable energy generating source. While that is commendable, unfortunately in a lot of cases it is being done for purely commercial reasons only. Perhaps we need a much more co-ordinated worldwide long term action plan here. Rest assured the one company or institution that cracks this mystery could well end up

becoming the richest and most powerful corporation in the world of the future. Now is the time for us all to try and stake a claim in the collective race to find this solution to our energy needs. Remember in an earlier chapter we spoke about philanthropy feeding money back into society from the back end. It was after the money had been made from society. Similarly why should one company be allowed to use the natural resources of the world to generate energy (sustainably) for the world of the future and earn vast profits from it?

Surely collective society would be much better served if we all owned and shared in these new power sources. It would keep energy cheap permanently for the future. It would have the knock on effect of reducing one of businesses and householders largest costs and therefore require us all to earn far less money in the future to pay for the commodity. Remember any energy source that is sustainable is free, e.g. it will come inevitably from the sun, wind or the water (or some other unforeseen natural sustainable resource), so why should we all have to pay for it exponentially well into the future once we have paid off the technology that is generating it?

One need only look at oil for an example on this. Oil is a gift from the earth. While it is not renewable as a source it was one of the bounties she yielded for us. It was commercialised initially in the US<sup>1</sup> and was quickly adopted for its energy giving qualities. Vast fortunes have been (and are currently) made from its sale to wider society by a few companies that have evolved from those initial prospectors. Oil prices have the ability to cripple economies or to allow them experience huge growth. It is a cornerstone

of the world's economy. If we all owned this bounty of the earth it would not have forced so many people to work so hard for so long. We should not make the same mistake with the next cycle of the world's energy. It has the ability to be a strong tool in our fight to free us from the inflation driven world of today. Hence if our local communities can become more vociferous and engage more with our national governments then hopefully we can work together long term at an international level to get collective ownership as a species over the world's resources and their distribution. Therefore collectively tackling this great modern conundrum facing society (securing the energy needs of the future) is a very noble world wide plan for everyone to work towards solving and ultimately to benefit from equally.

Similarly by cleaning up our environment worldwide (performing so at a local level to enable this), it would also set in train positive changes to do with access to good water and ultimately this would start to alleviate world hunger. That is just my opinion on two areas that we should work on together around the world as part of our generic society long term goals for the next twenty years or so. I am sure there are many other worthy opinions.

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Let's revisit again the governance model I proposed in an earlier chapter where the people matured into their power and ran their local communities, while the elected governments yielded power and stepped down to meet the people. I proposed that the

future national governments be comprised of people who had experience of governing local communities. The same is true for long term planning. These same people who have experience and success at local long term effective planning should be charged with running our national executives to forge long term national and international plans.

It will a position of great responsibility in the future, that of filtering the desires and information from the bottom up, i.e. from the sustainable communities of the world and transferring that information into long term national and world plans.

Then at the end of a long term plan we would collectively develop one for the next 20 years or so. Perhaps during the years 2030-2050 (after we have worked on energy and pollution) we could look at a final weaning away from population growth dependency and more to integration of ageing populations as people live longer and longer while birth rates fall. Of course all the while that we work on these goals collectively as a species we are still living through and implementing our own individual community plans.

Currently we have countries that implement plans in isolation for the future or indeed like the Kyoto agreement we do get collective plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions worldwide over a certain long term period; up to 2020 as per Kyoto. The problem again with these plans is they have not engaged with the people who ultimately need to change their ways. We are being directed from the top down on how to fix something without allowing us to provide the solutions ourselves in our daily lives. People are legislated into

submission. This only leads to rebellion and a dispassionate participation by people at best, or an outright refusal to comply often being the case.

<b>Current Society long term Development</b>	<b>Sustainable Community long term development</b>
Happens organically with no real vision for individual or collective future.  Economic planning takes precedence over everything else (and even this is not long term planning).	Starts out with short term, then medium term and subsequently long term community planning.  Long term national plans merge into collective worldwide plans that have evolved from the wishes of the people.
World's resources there for the taking by the most resourceful, powerful or cunning.	Sharing of earth's bounty to help attain a long term sustainable future for the species of man.