

RESOURCES SCARCITY AS THE FACTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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In modern society statements about finiteness of non-renewable resources are less heard. Malthus considered, that growth of population has natural limit determined by food products. However, for example, the recent development of agriculture proves this assumption doubtful.

The history of civilization development has shown that all resource crises are successfully overcome. Probably, in the future the development of society will be determined by the quality of *human resource* use.

Indispensable conditions for overcoming resource famine or crisis are:

1. Presence of necessary means (high level of economic development);
2. Sufficient level of science and technology;
3. Time for the development of resource saving and resource substitute technologies.

As in the modern world first two conditions are fulfilled, in the near future for resource famine not to occur it is necessary to finance *outstripping* programs on the development of resource saving and resource substitute technologies.

The matter is that the period of development of new technologies may not be infinitely small and consequently, it is necessary to have enough time on research works and innovations tests. By modern estimations development of qualitative resource saving technologies, for example, in the sphere of power engineering is about 10-12 years.

It is necessary to note, that to use only market self-regulation mechanisms for the formation of resource saving policies is not always effective. This is because the priority in fundamental developments is very difficult to protect and consequently all interested parties frequently use their result. Therefore, the role of state (association of states) is very important.

Concerning the things stated any occurrence of a resource shock or famine needs to be considered as the consequence of suddenness. For example, the petroleum shock of 1973 happened because of Arabian countries ultimatum to the USA.

The basic trend development of modern economy is intensive industrial growth in less developed countries (India, China, Russia, Brazil etc.). Thus, these countries intensively pass the same stages of development, which were characteristic to the advanced countries. It results in the sharp increase of material and power resources consumption

Because of oil fields scarcity, gas, metal etc., the entry of new players into the club of industrialized countries results in a sharp rise of resources prices. Therefore the modern rise in prices in the near future will probably proceed.

The given situation, which disturbs the advanced countries (the USA, Europe, Japan etc.), is the result of strategic mistakes of the beginning of 90s. Then these countries offered long-term investments in energy- and resource saving technologies for the benefit of accelerated economic growth.

Therefore, it is possible to predict in the near future that under the influence of resource famine there will be economic leveling between advanced and less developed countries. It contradicts the statements about low energy-and material intensity of gross national product units in the countries of "gold billion". But in these countries the per capita resources consumption is maximum, and the low level of resource intensity of gross national product units has arisen not because of technological development, but because of resources prices disequilibrium and transition of industrial production to less developed countries.

Thus, the key goal is in the comprehension of future resource-environmental problems and in the stimulation of technologies development that will help to solve them.

