

The Environment and the Economy

1. The Current Economy Situation

- The rich are getting richer and poor are getting poorer
- Because developed countries buy raw materials cheaply from developing countries and then sell their manufactured goods back to developing countries at much higher prices, developed countries get richer while developing countries get poorer.
- In 1960 the income of the rich was on average 30 times higher than the poor. In 1990, 60 times higher and in 1997, 74 times. The wealth gap between the rich and poor is not only increasing, it is accelerating.
- Our current economic system will never make everybody rich.

2. Resource Depletion

- The gains in the economy are proportional to rate at which we deplete our resources.
- Economic growth accelerates the depletion of natural resources.
- Ultimately, the goal of economic growth is to deplete natural resources.
- Therefore the economy will peak when all our natural resources have been consumed.
- Therefore when economic development reaches its highest point, all the natural resources will be used up.
- All past civilizations that exhausted their natural resources collapsed due to environmental destruction.
- We cannot avoid catastrophe unless we change our economic system.

Resources	Mining possible for the next
Petroleum	40 years
Gas	60 years
Coal	230 years

3. Destruction of the Environment

- The fundamental cause of environmental destruction is our current economical system.
- Destruction of the ozone layer, global warming, deforestation, and much more. Without change, catastrophe will be unavoidable.
- Environmental destruction will cause the collapse of our economy and our means of survival.
- Environmental destruction cannot be stopped without genuine change.

4. Population Growth and Famine

- The current economy system causes population growth.
- The industrialization and urbanization that results from an expanding economy makes food shortages inevitable.

5. The Collapse of the World Economy

- The economic growth of developed countries is built upon sacrificing developing countries into debt.
- Developed countries' savings is equal to developing countries' debts. (Similar to the relationship between lending institutions and workers who fall into "debt-hell.")
- Developing countries have accumulated so much debt that it is impossible for them to repay it, so bankruptcy is unavoidable.
- The bankruptcy of developing countries will lead to the bankruptcy of developed countries.
- The world economy is sure to collapse into bankruptcy.

If we continue on our present course, the exhaustion of natural resources, the destruction of the environment, and ultimately the collapse of the world economy cannot be avoided. In terms of such things as food supply, natural resources and energy, Japan is the most vulnerable country in the world.

Grain self-sufficiency rate	
France	201%
Canada	155%
America	140%
Germany	125%
England	107%
India	99%
China	99%
Japan	26%

Energy self-sufficiency rate	
Australia	174%
Russia	156%
Canada	148%
England	112%
China	105%
India	86%
America	82%
Japan	5%