

GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

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Ninth Edition

JAKIR CHOWDHURY:
TAKING FLIGHT IN
CHARITABLE WORK AND
SERIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD:
GLOBAL DEBT CRISIS LOOMS AS
ECONOMIES STRUGGLE TO RECOVER
AMIDST GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

UNRAVELING THE RIPPLES:
HOW THE CONFLICT OF ISRAEL
AND PALESTINE IS SHAPING THE
GLOBAL ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE



**EXEMPLARY ENTREPRENEUR
AND PHILANTHROPIST**

ALVIN SOH

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED INTERVIEW

GLOBAL TIMES MAGAZINE



About Global Times Magazine

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Ninth Edition

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JUSTINA MUTALE
ARIELA FRANCO
MELVIN TARLUE
ARIANA SANCHEZ
MITJA LAHARNAR

Editor in Chief:

NICOLE S. FARRELL

GTM Chairman:

DEJAN ŠTANCER

Find us on:



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The Project Developer:





MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT:

EMBRACING PEACE: A CALL FOR UNITY AMIDST GROWING CONFLICTS AND CHAOS

Dejan Štancer, President of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders

Dear readers,

As we anticipated the arrival of the most enchanting time of the year, our hopes for a collective spirit of collaboration were shattered by the unwelcome arrival of a new conflict. Instead of fostering unity, we found ourselves in the clutches of an unyielding rivalry, gifting us only anguish and suffering. This perpetual struggle, much like the ones that have come before, leaves no victors, only a trail of shattered lives in its wake. It pains me to witness the divisive stance taken by many, aligning themselves with either the Jews or the Palestinians, as if this were merely a sporting event where one team must triumph over the other.

Yet, we must acknowledge that wars are never spontaneous; they are driven by calculated motives. Although these motives remain veiled, they are undoubtedly driven by a select few who reap the benefits at the expense of countless innocents. The majority, unfortunately, bears the brunt of irreversible consequences. History bears witness to the catastrophic aftermath of wars, which continue to haunt generations, leaving a devastating impact that spares no one, especially the vulnerable children.

We must not be blind to the growing tension beneath the surface, the subtle warning signs of an imminent catastrophe. The absence of conflict today does not guarantee its absence tomorrow. It simply signifies that the puppeteers behind the scenes have yet to find a reason to trigger it. Remember this: Peace is beyond measure. It is the fertile ground where humanity flourishes, paving the way for genuine progress and sustainable solutions for our future generations.

Choosing sides in any conflict is akin to perpetuating the illness of conflict itself. While self-defense is a justified response during an attack, it must not transform into a catalyst for further aggression. Otherwise, it perpetuates an endless cycle of self-defense, leaving no room for resolution. The only path to reconciliation lies in dialogue, and dialogue, in turn, requires trust. We can foster this trust through fostering cooperation and joint efforts in shaping a shared future. After all, we are co-inhabitants of this planet, facing numerous predicaments that, if left unaddressed, will undoubtedly spell doom for our collective future.

Do you now understand the urgency of our need for peace?

Do not be an advocate for one or the other side of the conflict, but regardless of what you believe, stand firmly on the side of peace, which is the only thing that is just and can stop conflict. This is the only way forward!

Dejan Štancer

EDITOR'S NOTE:

FOUR QUARTERS ALMOST DONE: PENNY FOR MY THOUGHTS?

Nicole S. Farrell, Chief Editor of the Global Times Magazine



October, which marks the beginning of Q4, seemed to have gulped several energy drinks and to have run on the most charged batteries. It certainly seemed to fly. However, while the calendar dates might have been ticked off quickly, time would've seemed to stand still for thousands, if not millions, around the world, either because they were directly involved in and impacted by some of the most devastating occurrences or simply because they were watching it occur from a distance but passionately so.

It didn't matter which social media platforms you were on, you could not escape breathtakingly regular updates on catastrophic climate events, graphic images and videos of the effects of brutal widespread attacks of historic proportions and the global network of citizens chiming in on all that was happening. It all made for a gloomy outlook, really, on what people's lives had become but with some capacity for others who were directly unaffected to have reason to be grateful for 'small mercies'.

It is said that good can come from bad and that all things work together for our good. One positive thing that became evident throughout the heartbreaking events was that humanity still existed in many quarters. Feisty comments on social media posts denouncing unprovoked attacks on innocent citizens; emotional sentiments expressed by news reporters which, by the way, is not common; fearless volunteers venturing into unknown territories in solidarity; groups of friends and strangers alike, regardless of age, gender, economic status, religion, etc. uniting in prayer; tear-jerking reactions from those who were strangers to victims of heinous acts but who felt incredibly moved simply because... If nothing else, we saw and are seeing glimmers and extraordinary bursts of the light of humanity that are encouraging in these times.

Our 9th Edition of the Global Times Magazine has an interesting mix of what can be deemed as the highs and lows of our current world and some people who are letting their personal light shine not only in entrepreneurship but in community work as well.

On a bright note, we turned the spotlight on two of our Executives - our Cover Story with Alvin Soh, and an interview with Jakir Chowdhury, the GCBL Delegates for Malaysia and Bangladesh, respectively.

Additionally, we've introduced a new feature, "The Prose of Business", where exclusive short articles written by our Executives are exhibited. This month, Enrique Acosta Gonzalez (Delegate for USA) expounds on accountability in the corporate realm and Billy Issa (Delegate for the Democratic Republic of Congo) presents on transformational leadership.

We have a fully loaded Issue for you!

Nicole S. Farrell

Dear Readers, in this edition of the:



we are thrilled to present a new series of articles that are essential reads. And are marked with this sign:

This article

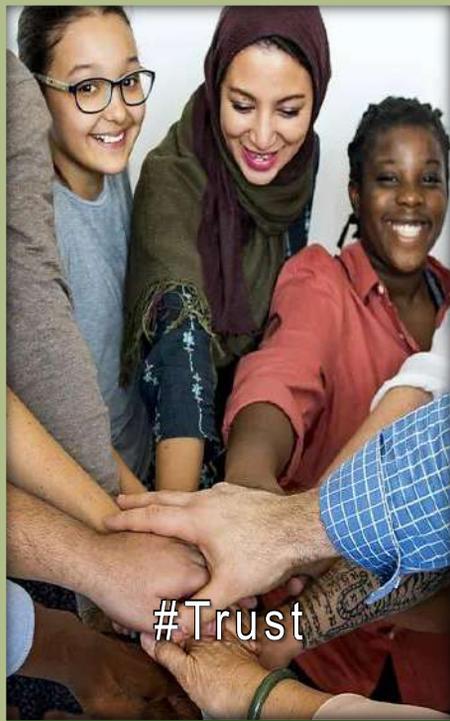
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RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD:

GLOBAL DEBT CRISIS LOOMS AS ECONOMIES STRUGGLE TO RECOVER AMIDST GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

The Index, Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic has left the world grappling with unprecedented levels of debt, sending economies into a precarious spiral. As the global landscape continues to navigate various challenges, the interplay of mounting debt, economic stagnation, and geopolitical tension casts a shadow of uncertainty over the path to recovery. The dynamics of debt accumulation and its repercussions vary across different regions, revealing a complex web of economic vulnerabilities and social struggles.

World Debt Burden: A Perilous Journey Through The Decades

Since the onset of the pandemic, the global debt-to-GDP ratio has surged to alarming levels, leaving economies teetering on the edge of instability. Despite some stabilization in specific regions, the underlying trends underscore a worrying reality. For instance, the United States, the European Union, and China have experienced staggering increases in their debt levels, setting off a chain reaction of economic repercussions.

The United States: Navigating The Perilous Debt Ceiling

In the United States, the escalating public debt has not only shattered previous records but has also triggered intense political debates around fiscal responsibility and debt management. As the country grapples with surpassing its legal debt limit, it faces the daunting challenge of servicing a colossal debt exceeding \$33 trillion. The recent negotiations between political factions have underscored the urgency of curbing spending and stabilizing the debt trajectory to avert a potential financial catastrophe.

The European Union: Struggling Amidst Regional Disparities And Energy Crisis

Within the European Union, the picture is a mosaic of divergent debt scenarios. While countries like Germany, the economic powerhouse of the EU, navigate challenges with slowing growth, nations like Italy find themselves ensnared in high public spending and limited room for economic maneuvering. The region's struggle is further compounded by the ramifications of the war in Ukraine, which have triggered an energy crisis, further straining economic stability and regional unity.



China's Looming Real Estate Crisis and Hidden Debt

China, once hailed for its economic resilience, is now grappling with a real estate crisis that threatens to send shockwaves through its financial sector. The country's debt levels, especially the opaque nature of its public and private debt, have raised concerns among analysts, pointing to potential hidden risks that may further exacerbate the ongoing crisis. With the real estate sector contributing significantly to the national GDP, the repercussions of its instability could be far-reaching and deeply entrenched.

Developing Countries: A Precarious Balancing Act Amidst Rising Hunger and Economic Instability

For low-income developing countries, the burden of debt has intensified, leading to a dangerous cycle of financial instability and food insecurity. Many of these nations, despite making significant



Global public debt tripled since the mid-1970s to reach 92 percent of GDP (or just above \$91 trillion) by end-2022. Private debt also tripled to 146 percent of GDP (or close to \$144 trillion), but over a longer time span between 1960 and 2022.

strides in debt reduction in the early 21st century, now find themselves struggling to feed their populations and meet their debt obligations. The rising food prices, exacerbated by regional conflicts and global market fluctuations, have worsened the plight of millions, heralding an imminent humanitarian crisis that demands urgent attention from the international community.

Geopolitical Uncertainty: A Looming Threat To Global Economic Stability

As geopolitical tensions escalate worldwide, the specter of conflicts looms large, posing a significant threat to the already fragile global economic landscape. The confluence of mounting debt, economic



Today, China is the largest producer of electric cars. Especially in the West, China is accused of illegal state aid, which represents unfair competition to others, especially Western manufacturers of electric cars.

vulnerability, and political turmoil has heightened the risks of a deeper crisis, amplifying the interconnectedness of the world's economies and the potential domino effect of any major economic or political upheaval.

Conclusion:

The global economy stands at a critical juncture, where the burden of debt, exacerbated by geopolitical uncertainties and regional instabilities, poses a severe threat to the prospects of sustainable recovery. The need for coordinated international efforts to address the underlying challenges, including debt restructuring, humanitarian aid, and conflict resolution, has never been more urgent. As the world grapples with the complexities of debt management and economic resilience, collective action and prudent policy decisions remain the key to charting a path towards a more stable and equitable global economic landscape.



PIC:881860175

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Announcement of

MISS PINK

at
"WOMEN IN PINK"



to support all the Women with Breast Cancer. To give them HOPE and LOVE

An initiative by

H.E. LAILA RAHHAL

In a world where women are breaking barriers and defying norms, their unity in celebrating achievements, fostering connections, and supporting vital causes is more important than ever.

This October, a remarkable gathering was taking place, bringing together a multitude of women from the business world, all adorned in the vibrant hue of pink. The event aims to facilitate discussions that inspire and empower, while also serving as a platform to raise awareness about the significance of breast cancer.

Celebrating Success and Sisterhood:

Organized by the Women's Business Circle under the esteemed leadership of H.E. Laila Rahhal, the Vice-President of the Gulf Region at the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, this special Pink October event holds a dual purpose. It is designed not only to honor the remarkable accomplishments of women in various industries but also to shed light on the importance of early detection and support for those affected by breast cancer.

Empowering Through Networking:

The Pink October Gathering provides a unique opportunity for women to connect, exchange experiences, and offer mutual support. In the competitive landscape of the business world, the ability to build meaningful connections with like-minded individuals can often be a pivotal factor for success. This event serves as a conduit for fostering these crucial connections and alliances.

Renowned Speakers Supporting a Noble Cause:

One of the standout features of this event is its striking visual theme – the color pink. Attendees are encouraged to dress in pink attire as a symbol of solidarity in the fight against breast cancer. This visual representation serves as a poignant reminder that, even within the corporate sphere, women have the power to come together and make a significant impact in support of a greater cause.

This gathering is not only a celebration of individual achievements but also a springboard for continued collaboration and support within the



a significant impact in support of a greater cause.

This gathering is not only a celebration of individual achievements but also a springboard for continued collaboration and support within the

Women's Business Circle. It is an invitation to be part of a collective movement that champions the spirit of empowerment and unity among women in the Gulf Region.

Join this impactful initiative and be an integral part of the ongoing journey with the Global Chamber of Business Leaders' Women's Business Circle in the Gulf Region.



The Pink October gathering serves as a launchpad for continued collaboration and support within the group. Join this great initiative and become a part of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders' Business Circle in the Gulf Region. Join us Now!

Berlin, Germany

Dear Readers,

You are warmly invited to be part of the Global Women Forum, supported by the Global Chamber of Business Leaders.

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Global Women Forum.

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DARK PREDICTION OF AN IMPENDING DISASTER:

FINANCIAL CATASTROPHE IS COMING, THE MARKETS TO BE CRASHED VERY SOON

The Newsweek, Global Times Magazine editorial team



FINANCE
GLOBAL TIMES



Dark prediction of an impending financial disaster and market crash has sent shockwaves through the global financial community, triggering a cascade of concerns regarding the stability of the international economic landscape.

In an insightful exposition delivered by Gary Gensler, President of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, during his recent interview with the Financial Times, the dire consequences of an over-reliance on AI-based trading systems became unmistakably apparent. Gensler's admonition regarding the impending catastrophe within the financial markets echoed a sense of urgency, demanding immediate regulatory intervention to avert what appears to be an inevitable crisis.

The heart of the issue, as emphasized by Gensler, lies in the uniformity of AI models adopted by prominent financial institutions. This phenomenon breeds a herd mentality, where decisions are largely driven by collective actions rather than individual assessments of risk and market dynamics. This synchronization, while initially fostering a semblance of stability, ultimately amplifies systemic vulnerabilities, exposing the market to a heightened susceptibility to shocks and disruptions.

The ramifications of this phenomenon are multifaceted and complex. Gensler underscored the challenge of pinpointing the exact sector that might serve as the epicenter of the projected financial collapse. Could it originate in the real estate sector, where the convergence of AI-driven decision-making perpetuates an unsustainable housing market bubble? Or would it manifest itself as a profound shock in the capital market, triggering a domino effect that reverberates throughout the global financial network?

The looming catastrophe, as envisioned by Gensler, is predicated on the intertwining of unforeseen geopolitical events and the delicate intricacies of financial decision-making, heavily influenced by AI algorithms. Should such an event materialize, it could potentially propel the financial market into a downward spiral, further exacerbating the already precarious global economic landscape.

Despite the gravity of the situation, the regulatory landscape remains a contentious terrain fraught with challenges and limitations. Gensler



LEHMANS BROTHERS MOMENT

The domino effect within the financial world can potentially lay bare a host of underlying issues within banks and other financial institutions, including vulnerabilities such as illiquidity and the extensive use of leverage.

This dynamic was starkly evident during the early stages of the global financial crisis in 2008. The illiquidity predicament faced by Bear Stearns in the American financial markets acted as a catalyst, unearthing the precarious financial practices of other investment banks, notably Lehman Brothers, which, at the time, stood as one of the foremost institutions of its kind globally.

The subsequent declaration of bankruptcy by Lehman Brothers merely months later stands as a seminal moment in the annals of the 2008–2009 global financial crisis, signifying the triggering point for the cascading series of events that followed. The reverberations of Lehman's collapse were profound, leading to the precipitous decline of international stock and financial markets, further exacerbated by the occurrence of "bank runs," characterized by mass withdrawals of funds or investments, particularly evident in the case of AIG.

The fallout from Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy reverberated across the global financial landscape, inflicting substantial losses on numerous international financial institutions with exposure to Lehman Brothers. This resonating impact gave rise to the popular term "Lehman moment," not just within the realms of financial and investment circles but in broader discourse, encapsulating the idea that the predicaments of one entity can swiftly cascade into systemic risks affecting the entire financial ecosystem.

risk management protocols and adhere to regulatory guidelines that account for the complexities introduced by advanced AI systems.

The critical question that resonates within financial circles is not merely about the plausibility of this dark prophecy, but rather about the collective responsibility of global regulatory bodies to foster an environment conducive to sustainable financial practices. As the world grapples with the integration of transformative technologies, the imperative to strike a delicate balance between innovation and risk management has never been more pressing. The forthcoming years will undoubtedly witness a pivotal juncture in the evolution of financial regulation, where the prudent harnessing of technological advancements will pave the way for a more resilient and stable global financial ecosystem.

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Time For The Planet

ALVIN SOH:

ASPIRING TO BECOME MALAYSIA'S EXEMPLARY ENTREPRENEUR AND PHILANTHROPIST

Alvin Soh, Delegate for Malaysia, GCBL's Committee for Summit & Events

A go-getter who sees and knows what he wants and goes after it. That can easily describe Alvin Soh.

Hailing from the land of the Petronas Twin Towers, Soh is a native of Malaysia. An entrepreneur and innovator of sorts in some forums, he is also the Delegate for Malaysia within the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL). It's a position he's held for the past three years, and during that time, he has formed a Malaysian Chapter of the GCBL.

Reflecting on his time with the GCBL thus far, he shared how he started the Chapter and spoke of initiatives of which he is extremely proud.

Said Soh, "Generally, as the new non-profit organization in Malaysia, there are definitely challenges to connect sound and reputable business-owners and C-Level executives into GCBL Malaysia. When I was appointed to lead the GCBL (Chapter), the first step was to connect industry-recognized individuals into GCBL as the testament to others. As such, I have recommended one affluent figure being the Executive Director of World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur as the Panel Advisor, and ultimately made WTCKL as the Asia Headquarter for GCBL. This showed the value proposition of GCBL Malaysia to new members whom I introduced."

"Since then, prior to the establishment of the structure of GCBL Malaysia, I connected several prominent projects with GCBL as part of building the name. Three notable projects were 100 Series Live Pitching 2021, Affluent Women Personalities Engagement Series 2022 and National CSR Excellence Conference 2022, which was held in conjunction with the 10th International Abilympics."

"In Malaysia, we have approximately fifteen active Executives who have helped to develop the GCBL whenever it comes to unique campaigns and they have extended their support to promote and recommend the GCBL to their circle of friends and similar peers.

To name some, Puan Sri Sabrina being the Pahang Chapter President; Ms. Miranda Merrie Mirie being the Sabah Chapter President; Ms. Karen Puah being the Penang Chapter President and Datin Seri Hafflin being the Kelantan Chapter President. We also have other distinguished members, namely, Puan Sri Nisa Bakri who is also the recognized celebrity chef; Datin Heather Lee being the Founder of Rainbow Wellness; Datin Shivajini Seelan, Founder of JS Partners; Dr. Jillian Yeoh, Founder of IMM Carehub; Mr. Andrew Lim being in charge of Business Development for PR Newswire; Ms. Kiranjit Kaur, CEO of Knight





EXEMPLARY ENTREPRENEUR
AND PHILANTHROPIST

ALVIN SOH

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED INTERVIEW

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Capital; Prof. Vinitha Guptan, Vice-Chancellor of Saito University College; Mr. YC Wang, CEO of Ezon Berhad; Ms. Chrysalis Chea, Founder of Chrysalis Image Grooming; Dr. Christina Foo, Founder of CrisVLab; Ms. Zahira Tahir, Founder of Universal Holidays; Ms. Junita Rashid, Founder of Boss Mama,m; Mr. Kent Lee, Founder of Smuzcity and Mr. Michael Tan, Founder of MX Design."

At its core, what does the GCBL represent to him? "GCBL, as the world's leading civil and society-oriented organization, the name itself reflected the unique positioning in serving the diversified business community."

A mover and shaker in his own right, Soh has conscientiously built his company, Brand 21, over time. His pride and joy, he said, "Brand 21 is the ecosystem builder and we have gained extensive recognition as the industry's leading community-driven organization. We are only focusing on four main pillars, namely, Educational, Learning Development, Lifestyle and Wellness initiatives by serving the youth community and emerging entrepreneur groups."

One of his proudest feats is the national project, CSR Excellence Conference 2022, that he launched in conjunction with the 10th International Abilympics. "(The) National CSR Excellence Conference 2022 was a special initiative curated by Brand 21 in supporting the Council better known as Malaysian Council For Rehabilitation, which is also the main catalyst for the International Abilympics competition. The Conference focused on a few specific community groups such as single mothers, disabled individuals, as well as low-income families known as B40. We brought in numerous supporting partners and industry practitioners to support the good course of actions."

To name a few, (there was) Malaysia's leading smart computing

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Alvin Soh is a prominent and respected businessman in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he attends many business charity events.



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A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED INTERVIEW

subscription platform owner for PCs/laptops; an educational institution which supports the low-income families for pursuing studies for Diploma in Retail Management; a rehabilitation center for old folks to undergo rehab treatment; a financial institution which provides financing and funding channels to SMEs and new start-up entrepreneurs; a hospital which focuses on Cancer treatment and therapy; a bank which supports emerging women entrepreneurs and others. These supporting partners contributed their greatest support and resources to the specific community groups."

Such a project would've been a monumental mission to say the least. One that might have been daunting to some. What was his inspiration to create such an event? What was the process like getting everything organised?

"The inspiration came from one senior friend who always advocates CSR-driven initiatives and whom I have known since 2004. She came to me one fine day to help us to structure the launching ceremony of the 10th International Abilympics. The skills-based competition was relatively new to me and I took time to listen and understand the entire objective and goals behind it. When I knew it was a national agenda for positioning Malaysia in the global arena, I confirmed with my senior friend that I will render all my resources to ensure the great launching ceremony for the abilympians. Fortunately, I have built my reputation in the market. I managed to connect the dots and received great support from all my friends. I reached out to one good buddy who is managing the longest historical shopping mall in Malaysia and it became our main venue sponsor."

"Gradually, one after another, our line-up of industry Panel Speakers to enhance the agenda of the CSR Conference became bigger and bigger. We successfully launched the

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Attended the prestigious event with distinguished GCBL member (*Second from the Left) Ms. Nasim Khanam, Advisor at the Embassy of Afghanistan and (*Third from the Left) Puan Sri Nisa Bakri, Founder of Nisa Bakri Gourmet.



EXEMPLARY ENTREPRENEUR
AND PHILANTHROPIST
ALVIN SOH

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED INTERVIEW



National CSR Excellence Conference 2022. The 10th International Abilitylympics was successfully launched in the presence of Ministry (officials) who came to grace the ceremony. Proudly speaking, we have made the nation proud this year by winning five medals and (getting) recognition for this year's competition, which was held in France. Our achievement was (even) published in the news media."

What was his reaction to such success, especially as this was a new venture for him?

"Indeed, I still feel the joy and happiness the moment our abilitylympians won the medals and recognition for the country. It is not easy, especially for them due to personal disabilities. Hence, I took my first step to engage one abilitylympian as our full-time photographer to take care of all our events. The effort was seen by my other friends and everyone came to ask for his professional services. This small step is truly encouraging to everyone. This will help to improve his livelihood and at times, (avoiding) majority organizations and individuals



stereotyping disabled people."

The Abilitylympics aka Olympics of Abilities being a series of vocational skill competitions specifically designed for persons with disabilities, it would have been proof that differently-abled individuals could very well operate efficiently in various regular settings. With corporate entities around the world slowly but surely becoming inclined to integrating differently-abled people into the workforce, what did he think could or should be done on a corporate level to provide adequately for the types of differently-abled individuals within the workplace?

"In Malaysia, our nation is truly the supportive one whenever it comes to national agenda and also flagship campaigns deemed important to support the (challenged) groups. Many sizeable corporations have actually implanted CSR into their workplace by encouraging internal stakeholders participation. My role as the ecosystem builder enhanced such community campaigns, particularly with communicating the main objectives and goals to the relevant parties. As I always liaise with business-owners and C-Level executives, I have managed to communicate well with all levels to ensure whatever campaigns are well executed across the organizations."

Taking risks and traversing new territory is nothing new to Soh. While he has enjoyed much success though, he has not escaped the figurative



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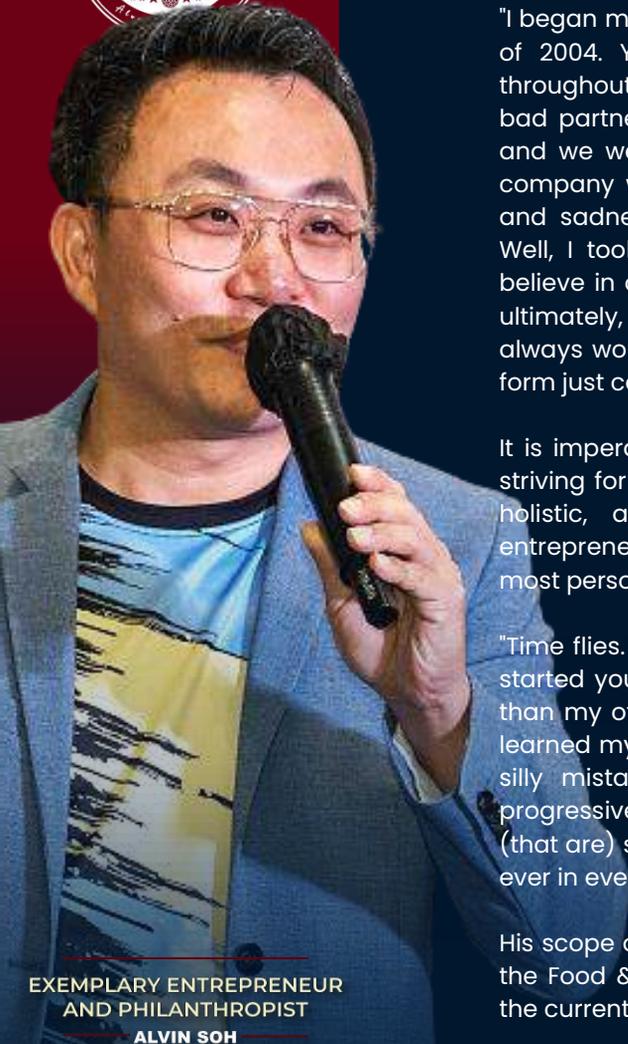
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EXEMPLARY ENTREPRENEUR
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'trap' of the situational snares of entrepreneurship. He has spoken at times about having 'low lows' and 'high highs' during his entrepreneurial journey. Being enquired about one particularly challenging period and how he eventually overcame it, Soh related the following.

"I began my entrepreneurship journey at the age of 23 back in the year of 2004. Yes, I have encountered lots of challenges and failures throughout my journey. The one and only bad experience was due to bad partnership when company stakeholders had different thoughts and we were not aligned. My greatest failure was by dissolving my company which I built from scratch. The tears, total disappointment and sadness were something not understandable to many people. Well, I took the challenges and rebounded stronger and smarter. I believe in one simple philosophy: helping everyone around me, which ultimately, these friends will return their favors in the near future. It always worked for me whenever I needed help. The assistance in any form just came to me without me knowing."

It is imperative that one learns how to navigate failure and continue striving for whatever they deem as success. Growth should always be holistic, as in personally and professionally. Having been an entrepreneur for two decades, in which areas did he think he's had the most personal growth?

"Time flies. Looking back, I was pretty (full of) ego and very stubborn. I started young, made my fortune and have enjoyed different lifestyles than my other similar peers. When I had failed miserably back then, I learned my mistakes and (I) always remind myself not to repeat those silly mistakes which will be really damaging. I have become a progressive person now with better anger management, setting goals (that are) smarter and wiser these days and seeing things clearer than ever in every aspect of work."

His scope of clientele being vast, he has worked with clients who are in the Food & Beverage and Beauty industries, among others. Based on the current economic uncertainty in many countries, what is a general



tip he'd give to business-owners of these industries as possible measures to try to achieve continued operations for years to come?

Continue

"I have served a diversified clientele covering numerous industries. The food and beverage sector, as well as the beauty sector, are nothing new to me. One good (piece of) advice is to strategize the product line by leveraging on other possible resources to lower CAPEX and OPEX in order to drive the profit margin. For instance, F&B retailers loved to increase their menu in the past but that does not increase your profit at all, which eventually becomes a waste of raw materials and ingredients. The smarter way these days is to minimize the menu list and focus on just 3-5 main products by creating a loyalty community, which will then become the recurring base of customers."

He must have been doing something right because accolades have been bestowed upon him and his company, Brand 21. The company was awarded



EXEMPLARY ENTREPRENEUR
AND PHILANTHROPIST
ALVIN SOH

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED INTERVIEW

GLOBAL TIMES
BIG INTERVIEW

the "Business Excellence Certificate" by the World Confederation of Businesses. Out of curiosity, he was asked what criteria is used to determine candidates for this award?

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Left: Dr. Jillian Yeoh, Founder of IMM Carehub, Ms. Nicole Chai, Ms. Joy Tan, the organizer of Cancer Awareness Campaign 2023, Ms. Alice Tan, F&B KOL is involved in numerous commercial ads and movie filming

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"Brand 21 was awarded Business Excellence Certification by the World Confederation of Businesses in 2019. The criteria was based on scorecards. The scorecards cover company vision and mission statement, industry positioning, unique core value within the organization and competitive advantage. Brand 21 obtained the excellence certification through our flagship campaign better known as "100 Series Live Pitching Season One 2019", which we built our name on when we first launched in the market. The objective was very clear in that we serve young entrepreneurs and soon-to-become entrepreneurs.

We received a huge reception to which the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Entrepreneurs Malaysia came to officiate our ceremony. Our ceremony reflected our strengths and we are honoured to have received the recognition



EXEMPLARY ENTREPRENEUR
AND PHILANTHROPIST
ALVIN SOH

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED INTERVIEW



by the World Confederation of Businesses and it has become our encouragement to improve further and, of course, to work harder."

Another award that he received was the "Leadership Excellence Certificate", which was also awarded by the World Confederation of Businesses.

"Besides recognition to Brand 21, on a personal level, I obtained the Leadership Excellence Certification too. It comes together with the Business Excellence Certification scorecards. Overall, it is related to individual leadership towards developing the company to what it is."

A humanitarian at heart as well, he has dedicated time to community work at a personal and business level.

"Generally, I have been involved in community work ever since 2004 when I first started a creative media agency. My previous agency was awarded the online branding contract to revamp the official website for the National Council Welfare Social Development Malaysia. Besides that, I have also



Left: Ms. Yan Ooi, the aspiring women entrepreneur in F&B packaging machinery.
Right: Ms. Queeney Koay, the owner of Robohook Engineering

assisted the President of the Council in other society and community works such as fund-raising dinners and the first premier screening of 'Pirates of the Caribbean' in local cinemas. In 2011, I structured our workforce for the shaved ice chain by hiring disabled individuals to work at our shaved ice kiosks. We gave training alongside nurturing the disabled person into operating the kiosk."

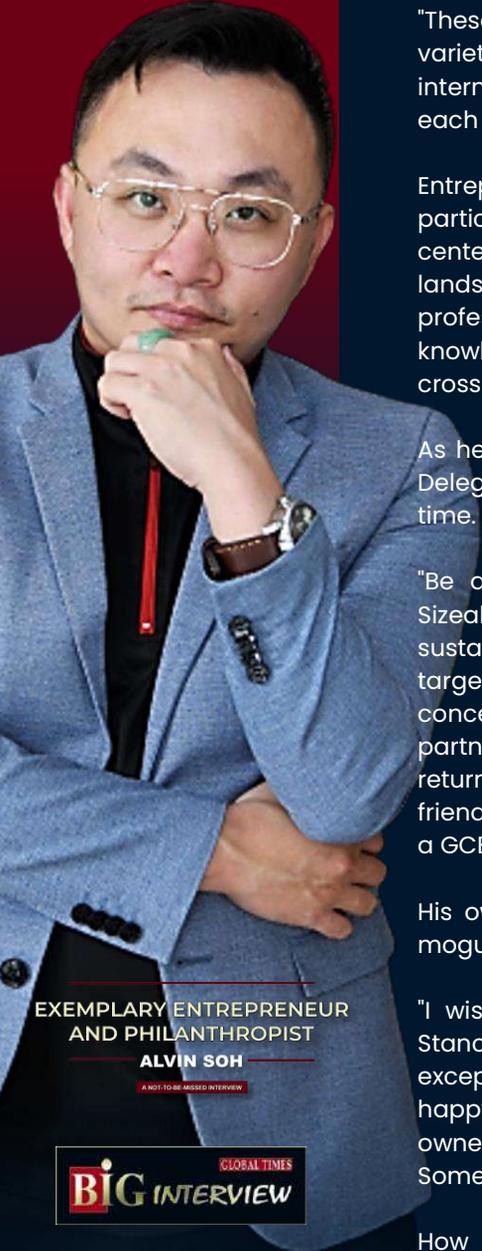
"Experience gained on those days were later transformed into a business level in that I structured the new framework in Brand 21 into executing a series of community-driven campaigns based on four main pillars, namely educational, learning development, lifestyle and wellness verticals. All of these pillars cover the youth and women entrepreneurs communities, as well as disabled groups."

Citing Malaysia as a country with expatriate-friendly policies, he acknowledged the scope of personal and professional success one can have.

"Malaysia My Second Home Programme, better known as MM2H, has been well

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received by the majority expatriate community. The pull factors are affordable living, friendly society, ease of doing business, multilingual schools and academic programmes."

With Malaysia being ranked as one of the most affordable countries in which to live, what would Soh encourage entrepreneurs, professionals or companies/organisations to invest in or be involved in?

"These days, consumer behaviours have changed tremendously. Food varieties in Malaysia, especially heritage cuisine, is something unique to the international community despite the rich aroma and historical story behind each cuisine across various states in Malaysia.

Entrepreneurs as well as business-owners from other countries can always participate in any trade show, expo and forum held in major convention centers in Malaysia as part of gaining the latest insights about the domestic landscape, as well as meeting new friends and potential stakeholders. As for professionals, we always welcome expatriates with different sets of skills and knowledge into strategic collaboration and partnership. This will then lead to cross border marketplace development."

As he continues to devise his way forward with GCBL, he had this advice for Delegates who are very new to the GCBL and to those who will be appointed in time.

"Be aspiring and continuously inject new ideas into various campaigns. Sizeable campaigns always attract people and ultimately become a sustainable community. It will be much easier to launch domestic campaigns targeting young entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurs. Once a campaign concept is curated, constantly connect industry players as supporting partners by giving them the value and benefits which they are seeking in return. Always render good support and assistance to similar peers and friends, as well as stakeholders. This will significantly result in a loyalty group in a GCBL Chapter (that extends to) around the world."

His own fantasy for a sizeable initiative surrounds a high-ticket event with mogul, Elon Musk.

"I wish to personally welcome him and our beloved President, Mr. Dejan Stancer, for a courtesy visit to Malaysia for a roundtable meeting and exceptional dinner at a prestigious restaurant. Should the venue allow, I will be happy to launch an award dinner setting of 1,000 VIPs, comprising business-owners and C-Level and industry thought leaders for an idea exchange forum. Something unique yet impactful.

How about an impactful engagement night themed 'GCBL Global Times Award' under the patronage of Elon Musk, with all inspirational titles of recognition presented by the President of the GCBL?

Every recipient of an award will get to interact with Elon Musk for that precious advice and sharing together."

Asked to speak his native language, Bahasa Melayu, he stated, "Bersama Kita Hala Maju Dan Mencipta Masa Depan", which is the tagline of the GCBL - Together We Are Shaping The Future.

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UNRAVELING THE RIPPLES:

HOW THE CONFLICT OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE IS SHAPING THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



The enduring Israeli-Palestinian conflict has cast a long shadow over not just the Middle East but the global economic landscape, significantly impacting various sectors and contributing to pervasive instability in international markets. The protracted nature of this conflict has perpetuated a climate of uncertainty, deterring potential investors and impeding the growth of economies far beyond the immediate region.

One of the primary channels through which the Israeli-Palestinian conflict reverberates across the global economy is the volatility it introduces to the energy markets. The Middle East, including Israel and the Palestinian territories, remains a critical hub for global energy supply, with the region housing substantial oil reserves and serving as a strategic conduit for energy transportation. Escalations in the conflict frequently trigger concerns about the security of oil supply routes, leading to fluctuations in oil prices that have far-reaching consequences for economies heavily reliant on energy imports.

Furthermore, the persistent state of geopolitical instability stemming from the conflict has implications for global trade dynamics. Heightened political tensions often lead to disruptions in trade flows, hampering cross-border commerce and adversely impacting global supply chains.

The ripple effects of such disruptions are felt across various industries, causing delays in production, increased costs, and supply shortages, all of which can contribute to broader economic uncertainty and market volatilities.

Moreover, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has ramifications for international aid and development efforts, particularly in the context of foreign aid and humanitarian assistance. The diversion of resources to address the immediate needs arising from the conflict can strain the capacity of international organizations and donor countries, potentially impeding aid programs in other parts of the world.

This strain on resources not only hampers the provision of critical assistance to conflict-affected regions but also disrupts the implementation of development projects vital for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation globally.



In addition, the long-standing conflict has implications for investor confidence and capital flows in the Middle East and beyond.

Heightened political and security risks associated with the region can deter foreign direct investment and discourage business expansion, limiting opportunities for economic development and stifling the potential for job creation.

The prevailing climate of uncertainty undermines investor confidence, leading to a cautious approach to investments in not only the affected region but also in global markets that exhibit sensitivity to geopolitical risks.

Furthermore, the socio-economic repercussions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resonate beyond the immediate region, impacting the stability of financial markets worldwide. Investor sentiments often reflect the prevailing geopolitical climate, with escalations in the conflict triggering risk aversion and market corrections.

The resulting market volatilities and fluctuations in asset prices can amplify global economic uncertainties, influencing consumer spending patterns and business investment decisions, and thereby affecting overall global economic growth.

The complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict necessitate a comprehensive and concerted effort to foster sustainable peace and stability in the region, laying the groundwork for inclusive economic development and prosperity.

A resolution to the conflict holds the potential to not only restore stability within the region but also foster a conducive environment for global economic growth, promoting increased trade, investment, and collaboration across borders.

As the international community continues to navigate the multifaceted challenges posed by this enduring conflict, prioritizing diplomatic efforts and constructive dialogue remains paramount in ensuring a more stable and resilient global economic landscape.

Article End



The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has ramifications for international aid and development efforts, particularly in the context of foreign aid and humanitarian assistance.



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THE ESSENCE OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Enrique Acosta Gonzalez, GCBL Delegate for the USA, Membership Committee Co-Chair

Accountability is a fundamental concept in corporate and management practices, shaping the culture and success of organizations. Here are five key points to consider:

Clear Expectations: Accountability begins with setting clear expectations. Managers should define each team member's roles, responsibilities, and performance metrics. When everyone understands their duties, it becomes easier to measure accountability.

Ownership and Responsibility: In a corporate setting, accountability means taking ownership of one's tasks and responsibilities. Managers should foster a culture where employees feel responsible for their work and its outcomes. This sense of ownership drives initiative and commitment.

Transparent Communication: Effective communication is pivotal. Managers must maintain open and transparent channels for dialogue. Team members should feel comfortable discussing challenges, seeking guidance and reporting progress. Transparent communication fosters a culture of accountability.

Performance Metrics: Develop objective performance metrics and key performance indicators (KPIs). Regularly review and assess these metrics to evaluate progress and outcomes. This data-driven approach encourages accountability and helps team members understand how their efforts help their organization attain its goals.

Consequences and Recognition: Accountability is a two-sided coin. On one side, there should be consequences for failing to meet expectations. On the other side, recognize and reward those who consistently demonstrate accountability. This balance ensures that accountability remains a driving force for success in the corporate world.

It's crucial for management to be accountable to their staff to foster a healthy work environment and build trust. Here are some tips on how Management can demonstrate accountability to their employees:

Lead by Example: Managers should always model the behaviour they expect from their staff. If accountability is a priority, it should start with leadership.

Listen Actively: Actively listen to employees' concerns, ideas and feedback. Show that their input is valued and that you're willing to consider their perspectives.

Provide Support and Resources: Ensure that employees have the necessary tools, training, space and resources to meet their goals. When they encounter obstacles, offer assistance and guidance and use your power to move their mountains.

Regularly Assess and Improve Management Practices: Continuously evaluate management practices and be willing to make changes based on feedback and evolving needs.



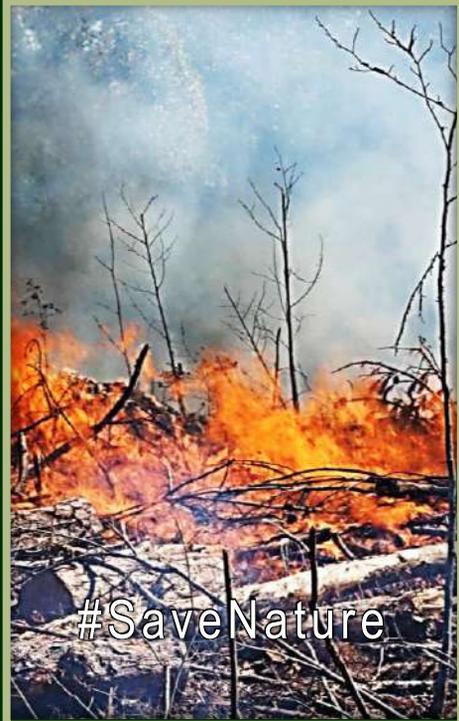
Accountability is the cornerstone of effective corporate management. By establishing clear expectations, promoting ownership, fostering transparent communication, relying on performance metrics and applying appropriate consequences and recognition, organizations can create a culture where accountability thrives and leads to success.



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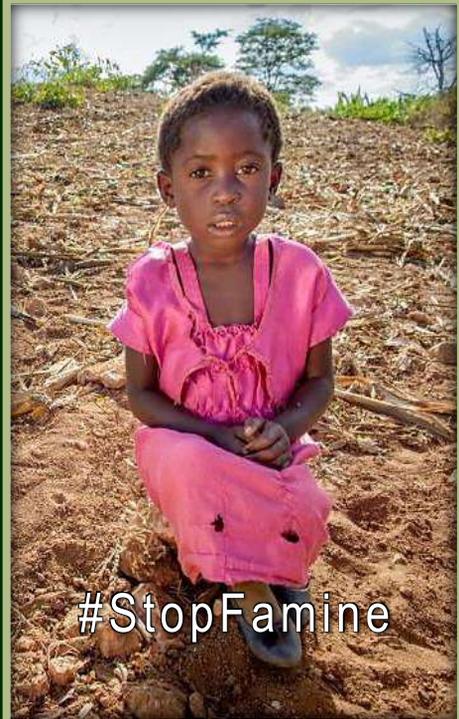
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CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY:

THE VITAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



AGRICULTURE
GLOBAL TIMES



Amidst the contemporary discourse on sustainable living and environmental conservation, the pivotal role of agriculture, specifically biological and ecological agriculture, stands as a beacon of hope for fostering a harmonious relationship between human development and the natural world.

Recognized as a cornerstone of human civilization, agriculture serves as the bedrock of global food security and the backbone of countless economies worldwide. However, the recent resurgence of interest in biological and ecological agriculture underscores a critical paradigm shift toward more sustainable and environmentally conscious farming

Ecological farming includes all methods, including organic, which regenerate ecosystem services like: prevention of soil erosion, water infiltration and retention, carbon sequestration in the form of humus, and increased biodiversity.

practices.

Biological agriculture, often synonymous with organic farming, embodies a holistic approach that prioritizes the preservation of ecological balance and biodiversity. Embracing a philosophy that shuns the use of synthetic chemicals and genetically modified organisms, biological agriculture nurtures the natural ecosystem, fostering the proliferation of beneficial insects and microorganisms that promote soil health and fertility. By eschewing conventional pesticides and fertilizers, this approach safeguards the integrity of the ecosystem, minimizing the potential risks associated with chemical runoff and soil degradation, while also mitigating the detrimental impact on human health.

Ecological agriculture, on the other hand, transcends the boundaries of individual farming practices, emphasizing the interconnectedness



between agricultural systems and broader ecological processes. Rooted in the principles of agroecology, this approach integrates traditional farming wisdom with modern scientific insights, promoting sustainable land management techniques that prioritize soil conservation, water efficiency, and the preservation of biodiversity. By harnessing the resilience of natural ecosystems, ecological agriculture fosters agricultural resilience in the face of climate variability, offering a sustainable solution to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agricultural productivity and food security.

The significance of biological and ecological agriculture extends far beyond the realm of food production, encompassing a myriad of far-reaching benefits that contribute to the overall well-being of both the environment and human society. By promoting biodiversity conservation, these practices foster the proliferation of natural habitats, supporting the survival of vital pollinators and wildlife crucial for the ecological balance.

Moreover, the cultivation of diverse crops and the implementation of crop rotation techniques within these frameworks bolster soil fertility and structure, enhancing the long-term sustainability of agricultural lands and safeguarding against soil erosion and nutrient depletion.

Furthermore, the adoption of biological and ecological agriculture holds the potential to mitigate the environmental footprint of conventional farming practices, curbing greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing the carbon footprint associated with industrial agriculture. By prioritizing renewable resources and minimizing energy-intensive inputs, these practices contribute to the mitigation of climate change, offering a viable pathway toward a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND ORGANIC FARMING?

Pest and Disease Management: Both organic and biological farming avoid the use of synthetic pesticides and chemicals. However, biological farming relies more on natural pest and disease control methods such as biological control, habitat manipulation, and use of natural predators.

As the global community grapples with the imperative to reconcile the growing demands of a burgeoning population with the pressing need for environmental conservation, the revitalization of biological and ecological agriculture emerges as a beacon of hope. Empowering farmers with the knowledge and resources to transition toward more sustainable and regenerative farming practices not only ensures the preservation of natural resources but also lays the foundation for a more resilient and food-secure future for generations to come.

As the world embraces the transformative potential of these holistic agricultural practices, the imperative to foster a sustainable coexistence between human development and the natural world remains paramount in shaping a more sustainable and equitable future for all.



Agriculture is becoming an increasingly important economic sector, which is especially important in times of growing population around the world. The pressing problem remains the self-sufficiency of the population with food, which could be a problem in the future.

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THE ACCELERATING TIDE:

ASSESSING THE GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE SURGE AND ITS IMPACT ON EARTH'S DYNAMIC LANDSCAPE

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



In the face of two major recessions and the enduring challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic, the global surge in the number of cars on our planet continues to reach unprecedented heights.

What may have seemed like a staggering figure merely 14 years ago has now escalated dramatically, primarily fueled by the expanding reliability of automobiles and the robust growth of the Chinese market, which has emerged as a pivotal catalyst for the exponential increase in the global car count.

According to the latest estimates from Hedges & Company, the total

HOW MANY EMISSIONS ARE EMITTED BY CARS ANNUALLY?

Passenger cars produced approximately three billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide in 2020. The emissions produced by passenger cars have been steadily rising over the past two decades, increasing from 2.2 billion metric tons in 2000 to a peak of 3.2 million metric tons.

number of cars currently navigating the Earth's roadways has reached a staggering 1.47 billion, encompassing both vintage and contemporary models. This staggering statistic not only underscores the significant role of automobiles in contemporary society but also raises pertinent questions about the environmental, infrastructural, and socio-economic impacts of this exponential surge in global automotive ownership.

Delving into the regional breakdown of these numbers, it becomes evident that the once dominant presence of cars in North America has now been eclipsed by the remarkable growth witnessed in the Chinese automobile market. With an astonishing 415 million registered cars in 2022, China has firmly secured its position as the global leader in automotive ownership. Furthermore, when considering the continental distribution, Asia emerges as the frontrunner, boasting a total of 543 million cars, closely followed by Europe with 413 million cars and North



America with 358 million cars, of which a significant 78% can be attributed to the United States alone.

Despite these staggering figures, the concentration of cars in relation to the global population reveals a nuanced picture of automotive ownership trends and disparities across different regions. With the world's current population estimated at 8.1 billion, the ratio of cars to inhabitants stands at approximately one car for every 5.75 individuals, signifying that approximately 17% of the global population has access to an automobile.

Unveiling the regional discrepancies in car ownership concentration further illuminates the stark contrasts in automotive accessibility and penetration across different continents. Notably, the Chinese landscape reflects a concentration of one car for every 3.5 inhabitants, underscoring the rapid motorization and burgeoning middle class in the region. In contrast, the density of cars in other parts of Asia remains relatively moderate, with approximately 140 cars per 1,000 inhabitants. Notably, North America emerges as the global leader in car concentration, boasting an astounding 710 cars per 1,000 inhabitants, a figure that showcases the deeply ingrained automotive culture and reliance on personal vehicles within the region. This concentration is exemplified by the United States, where the prevalence of cars is nearly three times higher than that of China, with approximately one car for every 1.2 individuals, highlighting the pervasive car ownership culture ingrained within American society.

Despite the variations in car ownership concentrations, the overarching narrative highlights the burgeoning global dependence on automobiles and the need for concerted efforts to address the environmental and infrastructural challenges associated with this

EXACTLY HOW MANY CARS ARE THERE IN THE WORLD?

The number of cars in the world is estimated to be around 1.47 billion vehicles. You might think that the U.S. has the most cars in the world, but that trophy actually goes to China, which is one of the largest automotive markets and producers.

exponential growth. As the world navigates the complexities of a rapidly evolving automotive landscape, the imperative to foster sustainable mobility solutions and cultivate a balanced approach to transportation planning and infrastructure development remains paramount in ensuring a resilient and environmentally sustainable future for generations to come.



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Jakir Chowdhury:

TAKING FLIGHT IN CHARITABLE WORK AND SERIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Jakir Chowdhury, Delegate of the GCBL for Bangladesh

Jakir Chowdhury always seems to have the distinguished look of a Statesman and that essence has solidified his personal branding when it comes to physical image.

A multi-faceted professional, he has gained significant experience in the financial and aviation sectors and the Public Relations field. He is not one to limit himself in any regard. He has a special perspective in that the world is "a local place without any boundaries". Explaining this quote, he said, "Being an entrepreneur, I believe there are no boundaries for exploring the potential in learning, operating, buying and selling, as long as you master strong communication skills and an understanding for whom you are sitting across from."

Speaking of business, he is also of the opinion that "any business is achievable if people follow the Code of Ethics on deals". Elaborating on this train of thought, Chowdhury opined, "Each business has their own merit and entities but the overall cornerstone has to be based on ethics and scrupulousness. If the foundation base is amoral, then this will not only affect the frontline but also jeopardise the entire chain."

The Delegate for Bangladesh within the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL), he has been with the organisation since early 2023. How has being a member of the GCBL's Executive Team impacted him personally and/or professionally thus far?

"It is a great pleasure to be part of the Global Business Leaders (team) and to strive for its success. Since my time with the GCBL, I have developed a broader understanding and vision and have been able to conquer more with the skill set and knowledge that I am surrounded with. The GCBL is not simply an organisation; it is a tool to operate from a platform which includes various paths to limitless sectors and opportunities."

The Founder and CEO of JC & Hunter Capital, he has expertise in financial markets, business mergers and acquisitions, asset management, consulting in aviation and sustainable entrepreneurship development in the United Kingdom and globally.

How would Jakir Chowdhury describe the ideology behind sustainable entrepreneurship development?

"I believe that sustainable entrepreneurship integrates economic, environmental and social (elements) into a firm's goals, activities and planning to create a long-term value for the firm, its stakeholders



and broader society while protecting, sustaining and enhancing the natural resources that will be needed in the future. Doing good is not just the right thing to do but also the smart thing to do.”

“Consider that there is a positive-sum relationship between economic growth, environmental protection and distributive justice and finding a balance between economic development, environmental protection and social well-being. Moreover, sustainable entrepreneurship can create new markets and opportunities for sustainable growth and services. Sustainable business-owners can accelerate the shift to a circular economy and help achieve the goals by satisfying the rising demand for sustainable goods and services. The COVID-19 pandemic was a wake-up call regarding external uncertainty that impacted all small and medium enterprises (SMEs).”

What are three general recommendations he would give to

“Entrepreneurship development is the process of creating, nurturing and expanding entrepreneurial ventures that can generate economic and social value.”

entrepreneurs in the SMEs category bearing on the topic of sustainable entrepreneurship development?

“Entrepreneurship development is the process of creating, nurturing and expanding entrepreneurial ventures that can generate economic and social value. It can also contribute to environmental sustainability by promoting innovation, efficiency and responsibility in the use of natural resources.

By starting new firms and businesses, entrepreneurs play a key role in shaping the economy and creating a more dynamic and diverse business landscape. Entrepreneurship also promotes innovation and competition, leading to new and improved products and services that contribute to economic growth and development.

A tool to success is a growth mindset. As the business expands, one must constantly adapt to market shifts and overcome new challenges, unique experiences, a rewarding career, flexibility and work-life autonomy.”

Chowdhury is also behind the company, Knightsbridge Asset Management LLC, which was founded in 2018. He spoke of his motivation behind the company’s creation.

“The reason for creating Knightsbridge Asset Management LLC is because I have always felt that there has been a gap between availability and affordability for many young people to start their journey in becoming an entrepreneur. The motivation behind Knightsbridge Asset Management was to promote inclusivity and

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allow the younger generation to grow their portfolio by providing them with the opportunity to utilise their Small Fund in the real estate market in order to fund their entrepreneurship."

Flexibility, generally speaking, also takes the form of delving into new areas of interests and of course, Chowdhury has done this. He is a former Co-Founder and member of the Board of Directors within a private airline company, which later progressed into the largest private airline in the country after the national carrier. The company then became the first airline company to enter the capital market. Online sources have claimed that private aviation travel showed an increase in 2022. In his view, what did he think has contributed to this growing trend?

"The aviation industry, like many others, faced unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel restrictions, lockdowns and health concerns led to a sharp decline in air travel,

"The project of setting up a children's brain injury rehabilitation centre is a very treasured Cause which gives me satisfaction that I am heavily involved."

impacting airlines, airports and related businesses. However, as the world slowly emerged from the pandemic, the aviation industry began to demonstrate its remarkable resilience. The aviation industry post-COVID is now showing trends that are propelling it to new heights. Increasing global connectivity, expansion of low-cost airlines, fleet modernization and technological advancements, growing cargo and freight operations, emerging markets and infrastructure development."

Does he think there is a possibility that with all that has transpired since the pandemic, people are now finding private aviation travel to be safer or at the very least, an option that provides more peace of mind? Can this be one of the motivating factors?

"Private airlines have always been of preference for many individuals, specifically on short to mid-haul flights and the demand will continue to increase. We have seen many private airline companies order their new fleets and also some national carriers flourishing their low-cost sister companies with new aircraft fleets."

Chowdhury's time isn't always spent doing business though. He is also about the business of charitable work. Presently, he is heavily involved with the Tafida Raqeeb Foundation (TRF), which is committed to providing rehabilitative services via a special Centre to children with serious neurological injuries and offering support to them and their families.

About his role with the Foundation, he shared, "I have been with the Foundation from the beginning when it was set up in 2021. I am the Public Relation Director and have a major stake in the Foundation.

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I am the main point of contact for the Foundation's growth and I manage and delegate a large team of volunteers within the Foundation."

Earlier this year, the TRF hosted their Annual Charity Gala in London. Fellow GCBL Senior Advisor, Keith Mason, was also involved in the event and the GCBL was a Support Partner. What feelings, if any, did he have about the GCBL being attached to such a treasured Cause, especially seeing that he is very much invested in the Foundation?

"The Annual Gala Dinner (that took place) in June 2023 in London was indeed a very successful event where many celebrities, including Keith Mason, were present. The project of setting up a children's brain injury rehabilitation centre is a very treasured Cause which gives me satisfaction that I am heavily involved. The future is unknown to any



one of us and knowing that this Centre is available for children instantly provides assurance that our children's healthcare is safe and sound. With the GCBL as a partner, we trust that other organisations will come forward to be part of this state-of-the-art project and be the voice of these voiceless children."

On a personal level, he is active in several non-profit organisations and he also volunteers for various community projects, activities and initiatives with his family. Why is this so important to him?

"Charity is an act of kindness, so it is important to understand why charity is important. It has the power to transform lives and create a positive impact on individuals, communities and the world at large. It is crucial in creating a compassionate society where individuals support each other and work towards the greater good. It has numerous benefits, including alleviating poverty, promoting education, providing healthcare access, combating discrimination and addressing social issues.

By supporting charitable acts, we contribute to the betterment of our world and create a ripple effect that inspires others to make a difference. Charity not only benefits society but it also has personal benefits for individuals who engage in charitable acts. Giving back promotes empathy, compassion and a sense of purpose and fulfilment, contributing to overall happiness and well-being. It empowers individuals and communities and inspires change and advocacy, raising awareness about important social issues

Interview

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and promoting social justice.”

“By engaging in charitable acts, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by others. At the community level, charity can unite people, fostering unity and common purpose. Ultimately, the impact of charity extends beyond immediate beneficiaries. By building a more compassionate society, we can work towards a brighter future for all.”

“One of the most significant benefits of charity is its ability to alleviate poverty. Poverty affects millions worldwide, limiting their access to basic needs such as food, water, and shelter. By supporting charities that provide food banks, affordable housing and other essential



resources, we can help those in need and improve their quality of life.”
 “Charity also promotes education, providing opportunities for children and adults to learn and grow. By supporting charities that offer scholarships, after-school programs and other educational resources, we can help combat disparities in education and promote equal opportunities for all. Healthcare access is another crucial area where

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Interview

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2023 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE



Jakir Chowdhury is a successful businessman who frequently travels between London and Dhaka. He is also a well-known philanthropist and a Delegate of the GCBL.



charity can make a significant impact. Supporting charities that provide medical care, medicine and other essential healthcare services can mean the difference between life and death for those in need."

"Discrimination takes on many forms, including racial, gender and religious biases. Supporting charities that promote equality and address discrimination is an important step in combating these issues and creating a more just society. Charitable acts can also help break down social barriers and promote understanding among diverse communities."

'Never underestimate the difference you can make in the lives of others. Step forward, reach out and help. This week, reach out to someone that might need a lift.' – Pablo

"One of the most potent aspects of charity is its ripple effect. One act of kindness can inspire others to do the same, creating a chain reaction

"Bangladesh's recent economic development journey has so far been a successful one. The country has a nearly unmatched growth rate with a GDP of 7.10%."

of positive change. By supporting charitable causes and engaging in charitable acts, we can create a culture of goodwill and generosity, empowering individuals and communities to make a difference."

"Take, for example, the story of Alex Scott. At just four years old, Alex was diagnosed with childhood Cancer. Despite her illness, she started a lemonade stand to raise money for Cancer research, eventually raising over \$1 million. Her story inspired others to start their own lemonade stands and her Foundation, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, has since raised over \$200 million for Cancer research."

'True compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it.' – Daniel Goleman

"Giving back can enhance personal well-being in many ways - it boosts happiness, fosters a sense of purpose and even reduces stress. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' It all starts with one person's decision to give back, whether it's donating money to a Cause, volunteering at a local shelter or simply practicing small acts of kindness on a daily basis. This act can have a profound impact on the person receiving the support but it also has the potential to create a ripple effect that inspires others to get involved. For example, a viral video of a young boy raising money for his local animal shelter inspired thousands of people to donate to the Cause, leading to an outpouring of support for the Shelter and its mission. This one act of kindness created a ripple effect that spread worldwide, demonstrating the power of charitable acts to inspire change and make a difference."

Interview

GLOBAL TIMES



"As we give, we gain a better understanding of the struggles of others and we begin to value compassion and empathy more deeply. This awareness can inspire us to be more intentional about our interactions with others and be more patient, understanding and supportive. By promoting these qualities within ourselves, we can create a ripple effect of kindness and positivity that can spread far beyond the initial act of charity. 'No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.' – Aesop

"By introducing children and young adults to philanthropic initiatives, we can cultivate empathy, compassion and a lifelong commitment to making a difference. One way to engage the next generation is to involve them in family or community-oriented charity events. From food drives to charity walks, participating in charitable acts as a family or community can be a fun and impactful way for children and young adults to learn about giving back. It also creates a sense of belonging and community involvement, which can further fuel their passion for charitable acts."

"Additionally, schools and youth organizations can play an important role in engaging the next generation in charitable acts. Teachers and youth leaders can incorporate charitable initiatives into their curriculums, encourage volunteering and provide opportunities for students to get involved in their communities.

This can help students develop leadership and teamwork skills, while also nurturing their sense of empathy and compassion. Parents and guardians can also promote charitable acts outside of organized events, by talking to their children about the importance of giving and encouraging them to get involved in Causes that resonate with them. This can be as simple as donating clothes or toys or volunteering at a local shelter or community centre."

"Visit our website www.tr-foundation.org and learn more about the importance of charity and how you can get involved."

His penchant for giving willingly and earnestly swings back to the GCBL. With reference to the GCBL, what is his vision for 2024, especially in terms of what he'd like to contribute?

"Bangladesh's recent economic development journey has so far been a successful one. The country has a nearly unmatched growth rate with a GDP of 7.10%. Poverty has rapidly reduced from over 40 per cent in 1991 to around 14 per cent in 2016/2017, according to the World Bank. The largest least developed country (LDC) in the world in terms of both population and economic size, Bangladesh hopes to graduate from the UN's LDC category in 2024."

"The country has been hailed by The Economist as the new Asian Tiger and the investor appetite reflects this. In 2019, it received its highest ever level of foreign direct investment (FDI) at \$3.61 billion, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. This sharp rise illustrates the untapped potential within the domestic market and the lack of FDI Bangladesh has attracted until recently."

"Bangladesh is following similar development reforms to those experienced by India in recent years and we believe it could emerge as one of the strongest economies in the region.

Interview

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20 GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS
23 THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

I have been investing in Bangladesh for more than a decade and I'm excited by the country's potential economic growth and the benefits this can bring to its people. With a population of just over 160 million, the country has a strong consumer demand and the consumer goods market, ranging from white goods and clothes to fintech, is growing fast. Investors have invested in electronics, an electronic goods manufacturer and one of the largest employers in the country outside of the garment industry.



This investment has shown that producing these goods domestically can help to make them more affordable and drive consumption – and further develop the strength of the domestic manufacturing base.

Furthermore, there has been environmental and social changes, which has brought real added value to a business and helped its ambitions to expand into international markets."

"Beyond manufacturing, I have seen diversification within the economy.

More than half of GDP – around 45 per cent – is generated through the service sector, and 45 percent of Bangladeshis are employed in the agriculture sector, with rice being the single most important product, and jute and cotton production also being prevalent.

There are opportunities to develop the country's burgeoning service industry and the rise in population and GDP growth has knock-on effects into other areas of the economy, such as the need for infrastructure development which

is now taking place. The country is reforming in infrastructure."

Interview

GLOBAL TIMES

"My vision for the GCBL for 2024 is that I want to take GCBL to Bangladesh and host a Summit in the Capital and launch our organization there. I want to bring trade and investment to Bangladesh, and at the same time, expand Bangladesh into an international market.

One of the areas where Bangladesh is thriving is the pharmaceutical industry and garments. Companies can base their manufacturing in Bangladesh which would reduce the overheads drastically, and at the same time, produce the same quality products. Leading brands are manufacturing in Bangladesh."

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KEITH MASON:

BRITISH ACTOR LAUNCHES NON-PROFIT SPORTSWEAR BRAND TO HELP CHILDREN WITH BRAIN INJURIES

Melvin Tarlue, Daily Guide Network, GTM Editorial Team



Keith Mason, a British actor and former professional Rugby player and member of the GGBL's Board of Advisors, has launched a non-profit sportswear brand to help raise funds for a £25 million brain injury hospital for children in the UK who are not provided NHS treatment.

Funds to be generated through the sales of the MasonMerch sportswear line will be donated to the **Tafida Raqeeda Foundation** towards the construction of the hospital.

The non-profit MasonMerch clothing line is available for purchase through: <https://shop.gutentog ltd.com/collections/keith-mason>

Every single purchase of MasonMerch sportswear stands to help save the life of a little one who is counting on the benevolent support of everyone to survive. Aside from purchasing the charity clothing, Keith Mason is also encouraging everyone to donate directly to the Tafida Raqeeda Foundation towards the construction of the hospital, a facility needed to save the lives of thousands of children.

In 2019, a little girl aged five, Tafida Raqeeda, suffered a traumatic brain injury. Before sustaining the unexpected brain injury, Tafida was a perfectly healthy child, leaving her fighting for her life.

Not captured under the NHS treatment scheme, there were attempts in the UK to withdraw Tafida from medical care, which led to legal proceedings. The legal proceedings which took place in a UK High Court, resulted in a landmark victory for little Tafida and her family and she was later sent to the Genoa's Gaslini Hospital in Italy for treatment. She had been receiving treatment at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, East London.

Her mother, solicitor Shelina Begum, and father, construction consultant, Mohammed Raqeeda, then established the Tafida Raqeeda Foundation, and in 2022, launched a campaign to construct the second medical center in Britain for treating brain-damaged children.

There IS an estimated 6,000 children in the United Kingdom who are battling various degrees of brain injuries. Keith Mason, the 'Imperative' movie lead actor and Ambassador of the Tafida Raqeeda Foundation, says the plan is to build the hospital in London. According to him, a number of fundraising events took place in London, and in Leeds in 2023.

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Keith Mason

GCBL Board of Advisors Member,
Movie Actor, and Philanthropist



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UNRAVELING THE TIDES OF CHANGE:

DECONSTRUCTING SOCIETAL SHIFTS AND GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY IN THE CONTEMPORARY ERA

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



Amidst the prevalent cultural and political rhetoric, the familiar phrases echoing sentiments of irreversibility, change, and nostalgia have found resonance in various arenas of discourse, especially in the realm of politics, where new regimes often assert their departure from previous policies with resounding emphasis.

Occasionally, these phrases also serve to underscore a fundamental shift in perspective, typically following groundbreaking discoveries or watershed events. Yet, at their core, these expressions encapsulate emotional and romantic undertones, evoking a longing for past socio-political orders, or even a personal reminiscence of a bygone era.

TURNING POINTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

In the 20th century, we had several turning points that left a world behind - they were certainly the end of the world wars in 1918 and 1945, the fall of the real-socialist regimes in 1989 - 1992, and most likely the terrorist attack on "Gemini" in New York in 2001, at the very beginning of the 21st century.

Nevertheless, their scope extends beyond the personal and political, assuming a global significance that encompasses paradigm-shifting occurrences with far-reaching societal repercussions. Consider, for instance, Thucydides' accounts of the Athenian plague, a pivotal event that transformed the very fabric of Athenian society. Similarly, the advent of significant industrial revolutions and great geographical discoveries wielded transformative influence throughout human history, leaving an indelible imprint on the collective consciousness of humanity.

In the annals of the 20th century, pivotal turning points such as the conclusion of the World Wars in 1918 and 1945, the collapse of real-socialist regimes in 1989-1992, the harrowing 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the recent global upheaval wrought by the new coronavirus pandemic, have each catalyzed seismic shifts in global consciousness and societal norms. These events have not only prompted the heralding of



a "new normal" but have underscored the irreversible changes that have permeated the fabric of our societies.

Initially employed as an epidemiological and sanitary measure, the concept of the "new normal" quickly cascaded into every sphere of human existence, ushering in a domino effect that left an indelible mark on every facet of societal interaction and global dynamics. Consequently, this discourse transcended its medical origins, giving rise to a comprehensive exploration of the social, interpersonal, and professional dimensions of the global shift.

A retrospective analysis of the world in 2019 presents a tableau characterized by relative tranquillity and stability. Economic revival, waning migratory crises, and a tempered resurgence of right-wing populism portrayed a global landscape relatively insulated from upheavals. However, the passage of time has ushered in a discernible shift, culminating in the uncertainty and instability that define the current global milieu. Escalating inflation, geopolitical tensions, and the resurgence of right-wing populism have instigated a palpable sense of unease, undercutting the foundations of the once-touted "normalcy" of the past.

Underpinning these seismic societal shifts are multifaceted factors that have engendered a profound erosion of public trust in professional and cognitive authorities. Instances of professional failure and the compromising of medical, economic, and geopolitical experts have engendered widespread scepticism, sowing seeds of doubt in established practices and institutions. Such disillusionment has extended to various domains, precipitating scepticism towards scientific consensus, meteorological forecasts, and even geopolitical analyses, thereby fostering a climate of pervasive uncertainty and

WHAT KIND OF WORLD DID WE LEAVE IN 2019, AND TODAY?

The world in 2019 bid farewell amidst relative calm and stability. The echoes of past economic crises had faded, with a thriving economy and a subsiding migrant crisis. The wane of right-wing populism was apparent, and global conflicts had ebbed. Great powers engaged in calculated diplomacy, maintaining a semblance of stability. Energy prices remained steady, and the EU fostered a moderate policy, fostering collaborations with the USA, Russia, and China. The global stage appeared devoid of new international flashpoints.

distrust.

The response to these crises has been marred by a growing trend of implementing illiberal policies within the framework of ostensibly liberal democracies. The pandemic-induced curtailment of civil liberties heightened securitization, and manipulative economic interventions have all heralded a noticeable departure from democratic principles, prompting a reevaluation of the fundamental values underpinning contemporary governance structures.

Compounding this trend is the pervasive moralizing that has permeated policy responses to the crises at hand. Appeals to collective responsibility and virtue signalling have accentuated societal divides, underscoring the growing chasm between socio-political elites and the disenfranchised masses. Such moralizing, while ostensibly well-intentioned, has bred resentment and disillusionment, highlighting the glaring disparity between rhetoric and action in the corridors of power.

Furthermore, the prevailing discourse has witnessed a resurgence of technocratic governance, as political narratives increasingly defer to the expertise of professionals and specialists. The purported elevation of expert opinion has, however, triggered concerns over the dilution of democratic decision-making processes, fueling apprehensions about



the encroaching dominance of technocratic agendas over broader political dialogues and democratic deliberations.

Amidst these sociopolitical transformations, the relentless march of technological progress has kindled debates surrounding the burgeoning spectre of transhumanism. Advances in artificial intelligence and the proliferation of social media platforms have precipitated existential inquiries into the preservation of human agency and the sanctity of interpersonal relations.

While technological innovation offers boundless possibilities for societal advancement, the unchecked proliferation of automation and digitization has exacerbated apprehensions about the erosion of human connection and the proliferation of dehumanized interactions across various spheres of human activity.

In the crucible of these interconnected factors lies the spectre of an emergent dystopia, born out of the toxic amalgamation of eroding public trust, illiberal governance, technological proliferation, and moral posturing.

Concerted efforts must be directed towards addressing the root causes underlying these multifaceted challenges, including the restoration of professional integrity, the reinforcement of democratic values, and the implementation of ethically sound and inclusive technological advancements. Failure to acknowledge and redress these underlying concerns risks propelling humanity toward an uncertain and foreboding future, bereft of the democratic ideals and societal norms that have long underpinned the foundations of human civilization.

Article End

The world was in the grip of a pandemic for more than two years, during which many emergency measures were taken, but at the same time, there were also many measures that drove protesters to the streets.



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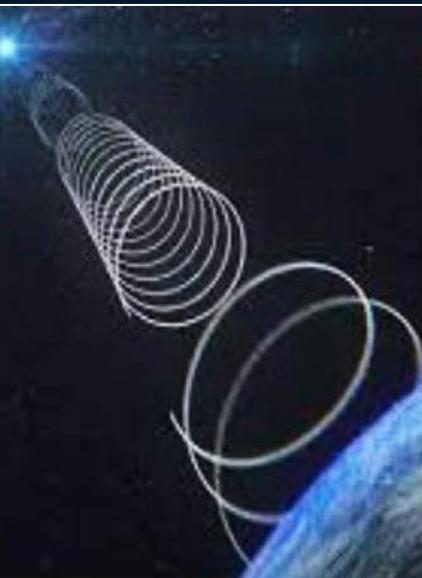


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SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE?

HOW COULD AN 8-BILLION YEAR OLD RADIO SIGNAL HAVE REACHED EARTH?

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



Astronomers recently detected an enigmatic Fast Radio Burst (FRB) known as FRB 20220610A, originating from a distant galaxy that existed 8 billion years ago.

Despite its fleeting nature lasting less than a millisecond, this burst unleashed energy equivalent to the output of our Sun over three decades. These rapid radio wave bursts remain elusive and unpredictable, with some even surpassing the energy of 500 million suns.

Of particular interest are the rare occurrences of repeating FRBs,

A GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERY

Astronomers have recently made a groundbreaking discovery, capturing a radio signal from the remote corners of the universe. It took an astounding 8 billion years for this enigmatic and immensely powerful signal, recognized as a "fast radio burst" (FRB), to traverse the vast expanse of space and finally reach our planet.

Since the initial detection of these millisecond-long bursts of radio waves in 2007, scientists worldwide have been captivated by the mystery surrounding these cosmic phenomena. Despite the observation of hundreds of these elusive flashes over the years, their precise origins continue to confound researchers.

observed intermittently in clusters or small groups of galaxies, giving astronomers valuable insights into the merger processes within these celestial bodies. Utilizing the Australian Square Kilometer Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) and the Very Large Telescope in Chile, researchers traced the source of FRB 20220610A to a distant galaxy involved in a cosmic merging event, potentially linked to the presence of magnetars or high-energy celestial bodies formed post-stellar explosions.

While the exact origin of these powerful bursts remains shrouded in mystery, these findings emphasize the prevalence of FRBs in the universe, underscoring their potential as tools for exploring intergalactic matter and gaining a deeper understanding of the cosmos.



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EXPLORING TRIDIMENSIONAL LEADERSHIP: FROM CHARISMATIC TO TRANSFORMATIONAL

Billy Issa Branham, Delegate for the Democratic Republic of Congo

The recent news on TV and social media tells us one thing: We live in a world that is in crisis. We live in a world with a fragile peace always under constant threat caused by inequalities and injustices that fracture our world. Every crisis is a crisis of leadership. The world does not need charismatic leaders anymore, we need transformational leaders.

Many leadership studies focus on charismatic traits to define leaders and leadership and we failed because we looked for leaders with those charismatic traits: extraversion, confidence, eloquence, etc. Leadership is more about connectivity rather than about being a great speaker. Most of the time, leadership speakers and experts confuse communication with eloquence.

Charismatic leadership philosophy gave us wrong leadership traits. The world needs transformational leadership and it starts with empathy. Empathy leads to responsibility. Responsibility leads to initiative and that leads to impact. As Dr. Myles Munroe said, leadership is not about followers, it's about purpose. Leadership is the capacity to create lasting change. That's what transformational leadership is about. There are three dimensions to transformational leadership:

Responsibility: Compassion is the source of responsibility. Leaders are producers of compassion and empathy, not ambition. Responsiveness is the capacity to respond. Leaders are responders to crises. Leaders emerge in times of crises. They are crisis solvers. There is a specific problem in the world that you were born to solve and your leadership begins when you discover it. Those charismatic leaders focused on mass manipulation and intimidation to influence people, it is the abuse of power. True leaders are not followers-driven. They are purpose-driven. Leadership is the fulfilment of a purpose. It should never be about power.

Impact: The second dimension of transformational leadership is impact. Leadership is about the impact you make, not about your title and position. What problem in the world drives you and that you're obsessed with? By attacking and solving the problem you were created and born to solve, you create a positive impact in the world and that impact makes you a leader. John C. Maxwell said, "The greater the influence, the greater the impact." I say, the greater the impact, the greater the influence. Your influence is born out of your impact because leaders' influence lies on their credibility and credibility lies on impact and integrity. Impact is the result you produce. Integrity is the ethical values behind your results.

Influence: The true and lasting influence of a leader comes from his integrity and impact which are the two pillars of leaders' credibility. Your impact and your integrity inspire people to follow you. What you have to seek as a leader is the evidence of results. Shareholders, partners and employees follow a leader who inspires trust. Trust is the currency of leadership.



I always say that your credibility determines your attractiveness. The credibility of the leader determines the attractiveness of the organization or the nation.

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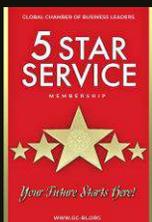
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THE GULF STREAM:

UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF ITS WEAKENING AND GLOBAL IMPACT

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team



Recent research conducted by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts has brought attention to the gradual weakening of the Gulf Stream, a crucial ocean current in the Atlantic.

Despite its significance in maintaining global climate patterns, there is uncertainty about whether this phenomenon is directly linked to climate change. The study, published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, sheds light on the concerning implications of this slowdown and the need for further investigation into its causes.

Unveiling the Weakening Phenomenon: Over the last four decades, the

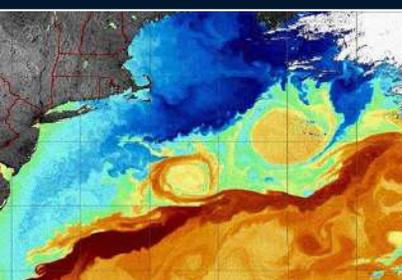
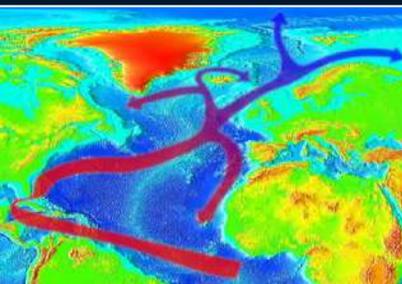
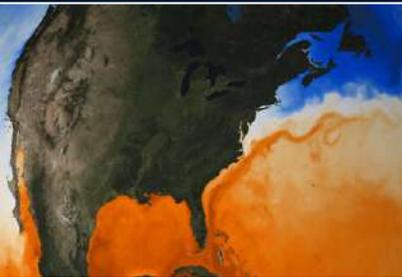
CHRISTOPHER PIECUCH:

"This is the strongest, definitive evidence that this ocean current is weakening," said study lead author Christopher Piecuch, an oceanographer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. At the same time, this is the first definitive and unequivocal evidence that ocean currents have changed. A significant weakening of the Gulf Stream in the last 40 years has been observed in the Florida Straits.

flow of warm water through the Straits of Florida, known as the Gulf Stream, has diminished by 4 percent, according to the study's findings. This decline has far-reaching consequences for the global climate, with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute affirming that this change is not random. Christopher Piecuch, the lead author of the study, highlighted this as the most compelling evidence of the Gulf Stream's weakening to date, emphasizing the urgency of understanding its implications.

Integral Role of the Gulf Stream

The Gulf Stream, a vital component of the thermohaline circulation system, plays a crucial role in regulating sea levels, nutrient distribution, and hurricane activities globally. Its strength serves as an essential indicator for monitoring changes in the North Atlantic's circulation



patterns and understanding the ocean's response to climate fluctuations. However, the underlying factors behind the recent weakening remain uncertain, leaving the scientific community with the challenging task of determining whether this trend is a result of natural variability or a direct consequence of climate change.

Intricacies of the Gulf Stream's Journey

Originating from the Gulf of Mexico as the Florida Current, the Gulf Stream travels northward, merging with the Antilles Current near the Bahamas before becoming the Gulf Current.

Along the United States' coastline, it eventually veers eastwards towards the Atlantic, meandering past Newfoundland. Continuing its path, it bifurcates into the North Atlantic Current near the British Isles, impacting the climate dynamics of Europe. The intricate cycle of heat exchange and oceanic circulation defines the Gulf Stream as a vital lifeline for maintaining global climate equilibrium.

Global Implications and Urgent Concerns

The implications of the Gulf Stream's slowdown extend far beyond localized climate effects, impacting oceanic ecosystems, weather patterns, and global temperatures.

Researchers, utilizing data from various sources including underwater cables, satellite altimeters, and on-site observations, stress the need for comprehensive analysis to discern the underlying causes of this worrisome trend. Helen Czerski, an oceanographer at the University of London, compares the slow decline to the initial stages of a global crisis, urging proactive measures to address this impending

AN OCEANOGRAPHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (UCL)

Helen Czerski, an oceanographer at the University of London (UCL) who was not involved in the study, told Live Science. "It's like in the first days of the covid outbreak. People said: 'There are only 60 cases, we don't care.' Yes, there are only 60, but yesterday there were 30, and the day before 15. If you think only a week in advance, we have a problem," said Czerski.

environmental challenge.

Conclusion

The ongoing debate surrounding the Gulf Stream's weakening underscores the critical need for sustained research and a collaborative effort to discern its intricate dynamics. Unraveling the underlying causes and consequences of this phenomenon will not only enhance our understanding of climate change but also pave the way for informed strategies to mitigate its adverse effects on the planet's delicate ecosystem. As scientists delve deeper into this complex issue, global awareness and concerted action are imperative to safeguard the Gulf Stream's pivotal role in maintaining the Earth's climatic balance.



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A SERIOUS WARNING FROM THE UN:

THE UN WARNS ABOUT SIX IMPENDING CATASTROPHES: A CALL FOR URGENT GLOBAL ACTION

Global Times Magazine Editorial Team, the United Nations Organization



As the planet grapples with a series of interconnected crises, the United Nations has recently issued a stark warning about six critical events that could potentially catalyze global catastrophe. From the looming threat of melting glaciers to the perilous implications of space debris, the UN report has underscored the urgent need for concerted international efforts to address these imminent challenges.

Identifying Tipping Points

The Interrelated Disaster Risks Report by the UN has highlighted the notion of "risk tipping points," signifying critical thresholds beyond which the balance of socio-ecological systems could irreversibly collapse. These tipping points, once crossed, could trigger a domino effect of unprecedented disasters, fundamentally altering the fabric of life on Earth.

The Six Key Areas of Concern

1. Accelerated Extinction

The report emphasizes the rippling ramifications of accelerated extinction across ecosystems. Focusing on specific examples, the report highlights the integral role of endangered species like the gopher tortoise whose existence profoundly impacts the intricate web of life, shaping everything from breeding patterns to the regulation of insect populations.

2. Groundwater Depletion

With a significant focus on the depletion of underground water reservoirs, the report raises concerns about the increasing strain on global freshwater resources. Highlighting regions like Saudi Arabia and India, where water scarcity has surpassed critical tipping points, the report emphasizes the urgent need for sustainable water management strategies.

3. Melting Glaciers

Drawing attention to the rapid decline of glaciers worldwide, the report sheds light on the alarming pace of glacial melt, posing a significant threat to the availability of freshwater resources. From the Himalayas



to the mountains of South America, the report cautions that over 870 million people are at risk of losing a vital source of water if immediate action is not taken.

4. Space Debris

In a striking revelation, the report underscores the escalating risks posed by the burgeoning volume of space debris encircling the Earth. Highlighting the potential chain reaction that could disrupt satellite operations and jeopardize critical functions like early disaster warnings, the report calls for comprehensive measures to mitigate this mounting space hazard.

5. Unbearable Heat

The UN report draws attention to the escalating temperatures worldwide, signaling an ominous trajectory of unbearable heat that could have detrimental effects on human health, agriculture, and ecosystems. Urgent steps to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change are highlighted as crucial to prevent further exacerbation of this concerning trend.

6. An Uncertain Future

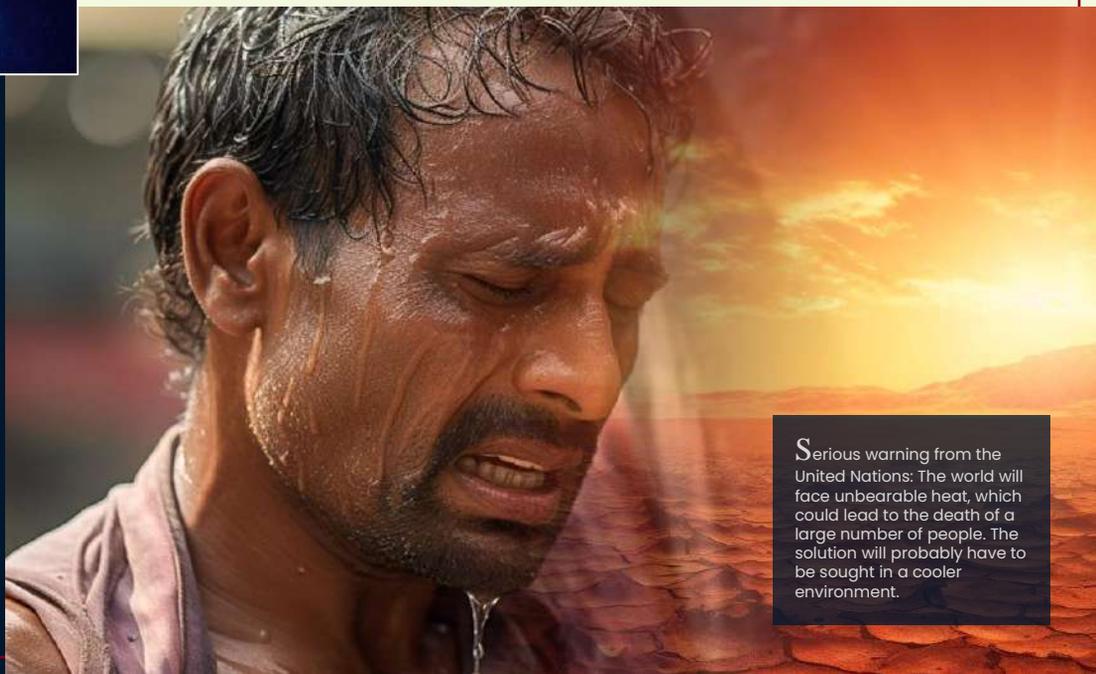
Foreseeing an unpredictable and challenging future, the report emphasizes the critical need for proactive measures that go beyond mere adaptation. It stresses the importance of transformative actions that address the root causes of these impending risks rather than merely postponing the inevitable.

The Urgency for Immediate Global Action

In light of these interconnected and potentially catastrophic events, the report serves as a clarion call for global leaders, policymakers, and communities to prioritize sustainable and collaborative initiatives. By acknowledging the urgency of the situation and working collectively to implement meaningful changes, humanity can strive towards safeguarding the planet and securing a more resilient future for generations to come.

The UN report serves as a stark reminder that the fate of our planet rests in our collective commitment to responsible action, highlighting the critical need for a unified and unwavering global response to these pressing challenges.

Article End



Serious warning from the United Nations: The world will face unbearable heat, which could lead to the death of a large number of people. The solution will probably have to be sought in a cooler environment.



good
honesty
psychology
matters
integrity
ideal
faith
law
questions
wrong
meta-ethics
action
attempt
duty
time
habits
decorum
principle
belief
temperance
attitude
justify
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rectitude
right
probity
descriptive
ideas
philosophy
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humanity
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honor
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