



UNIVERSITIES, IT'S JUST THE TIME TO SEIZE POWER OVER THE NEW ECONOMY!: CHIEF EDITOR'S REMARKS

Ukraine has finally reached the degree of social development when politicians are forced to at least change their vocabulary from the mainly post-soviet motives (anti-NATO, CIS, state language, etc) to the motives of socio-economic development. Today, it is just the time for every citizen to think over the locomotive that should drive the country into modernity and the kind of rails to provide the modern-day (or rather ultramodern) speed of this movement.

While searching for the right model of a locomotive to reach the top of the new economy, we should mention the classics who accentuated the need to primarily develop the production of the means of production instead of consumption goods. The former should have ensured our arrival at the aim – the creation of the wealth enabling a transition to communism, when every individual has to act according to his abilities and consume according to his needs. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that the societies which took the risk of following this slogan went bankrupt, the «heavy industry» is still dominating in Ukraine.

It is obvious today that Ukraine can «move» from economic «periphery» to economic «centre» only by joining the group of countries leading in research and technical progress. For that, all available or potentially available resources should be allocated to development of science and education. The former are also present in the university centers that integrate higher educational establishments and research and development institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. In addition, the main objective of scientific and technical institutions including branch R&D institutes, designing institutes and plant laboratories is to adapt the fundamental developments to requirements of practice. Although quite a number of applied developments are implemented, universities could significantly contribute to this growth.

Therefore, universities should be viewed as the source of resolving economic and social problems of the region and the country as a whole. They become the «maternity hospitals» for new idea generation, which is a basis for new product and services creation. They are the product's start in economic life cycle. This is the workplace of the «fathers» of the leading national products. These are the headquarters of the «fathers» of the national, primarily scientific

and technological, elite. Moreover, here created are the schools of thought that initiate and account for creation and functioning of a certain scientific, production or social sector in the aspect of economy's world leadership. In the light of globalization, universities are the starting point of the nation's thorny way to economic core.

Universities' mission is not schooling. The mission of universities is to secure the country's entry into the «major league» of world economic «players» and to gradually ensure its leadership in that league. This is no simple task. The realization of this mission requires that the lion's share of manpower, material, financial, economic, and political power be delegated to universities – the creators of newness. Truly, the one expected to do as much as to produce the Ukrainian economic miracle, should have sufficient resources.

University community should realize that under modern conditions, new leaders of the new type should be fostered in its environment. They should become both the distinguished researches and teachers and the talented managers capable of escorting their new ideas on the world market along the whole life cycle of innovations. At that, their important feature should be the ability to secure long life for their ideas and penetration of those ideas onto the international markets in order to generate maximum benefits from the scope of their use.

The universities' new mission requires a new type of public consciousness. Ukraine is lagging behind in terms of population's life quality growth. The majority of citizens live below the poverty line. Nevertheless, the nation should collect its strength to prefer investing in education and science. In other words, investments into the future should dominate for some time over current spending, and all political forces should give up populist decisions.

Finally, the new economy is unattainable without a new generation of politicians capable of abandoning the «power-at-any-price» rule. Together with the university community, they should foster the nation's readiness to temporary sacrifices for the future's sake.

There were times when the most influential people in a society were hierophants, thinkers and teachers. Their words were of highest weight for their tribe of all generations. Has not the time come for the collective wit of the scientific community – residing beyond the interests of any political force – to set the path of the nation?

Universities! Your time has come! You have the chance to blaze the trail into the nation's glorious future! Use it!



(Yevhen Savelyev)