

The Steps Towards Realization of 2050 Net-Zero

"blah, blah,blah....." These days, we frequently see Korean streets and many other big cities being filled with a little loud noise. Because it's time to vote for new leaders. And these candidates are speaking out their own "blah, blah ,blah" enthusiastically.

"blah, blah, blar ..." On the one hand, this reminds me of one girl who criticized some world leaders enthusiastically. Because this girl thinks these leaders are tentative to take action for the environment and our planet. Well, isn't it pretty amazing that an onomatopoeia we often regard as just meaningless words can give a variety of impressions? But the point is not the impressions but the timing of these blahs.

The first industrial revolution in the 18th century seems to have made many 'blahs', perhaps for the first time. Many groundbreaking inventions, originated from James Watt's steam engine, appeared and changed human life completely. People were amazed at new inventions taking an active role in many ways and some of them would definitely be afraid of these new inventions. Sure enough, there must have been many 'blahs', which would be almost all about pros and cons of the new inventions. Then one day in 1952 in England, 10 thousand people died from the notorious London Smog. Sadly, there seems to have been 'no blahs' expecting this disaster in the 18th century. In the late 19th century, the second industrial revolution based on mass production and mass consumption accelerated capitalism and increased the gap between the rich and the poor. Driven out by fierce competition, people came to pursue only efficiency and economic growth. The shadow of this phenomenon, as we well know, is the Great Depression and rapidly increased greenhouse effect.

Now, we can see that for about 300 years, we, human beings, have mostly focused on economic growth, overlooking environmental aspects reaching its limitation. It's a truly serious fact that the economic growth of the past 300 years has had critical effects on our 45 hundred million year's old earth. It's too fast to figure out the speed of humans' effects on the environment. I think ,needless to say, it's the very time to think about our 'conscious, sensible and insightful blahs.'

Now, we are living in the third industrial revolution era named by the well-known economist Jeremy Rifkin. According to him, this era consists of internet technology and new energy systems. Through the former, we can communicate our righteous blahs with great facility. And the 4th industrial revolution that we're heading for, has many expectations for robot technology and AI. Through these two factors, we can improve and make our various blahs much more efficient and sophisticated. I mean the future technology seems to be on humans' side for the 2050 net zero plan. Now, the important thing is the contents and the realistic possibility of our blahs. We can check about these by looking into the practical aspects of our society.

The first and most important aspect is the humans' consciousness. We have to transport our growth -focused mind to a sustainable and global community-centered mind. For this, the educational institutions for future generations need to concentrate their educational contents on the net zero plan. As for the contents, we can suggest a variety of things from growing future generations' minds to attainable eco-friendly future technology education. The latter can especially interest students because these technology sectors can lead to their future professions. So by arranging future generations' environmental consciousness with their promising future jobs, education will be able to get the future generations ready to be a part of the net zero plan naturally and efficiently.

The second aspect is actual actions on practical and everyday life levels. The 2050 net zero plan should not be a plan only for the future. This is a very urgent and serious problem related to life or death. So by making

and applying many small but easy-to-use devices or apps, we can encourage common people to join the net zero realization. For example, apps which can track down and record individual carbon footprint in everyday life, can be a very useful method that can lead people to participate in net zero practice.

The third aspect is the change of paradigm in energy systems. As we all well know, the major cause of environmental disaster comes from energy resources represented by fossil fuel. To solve this problem, many R&D processes are going on. Many technologies among them need more improvement to adapt to real life. But while I'm researching for this essay, I found that financial problems are a big part of interrupting the introduction of these green technologies. 'Solar panels need to be replaced with new ones', 'Hydrogen stations are too expensive to be built' etc. Most critics about green technologies are based on arithmetical profitability. But we need to make sure that this isn't some business for money and this is the critical task that all human beings have to try to solve for our future destiny. For this, I think there must be more fractionated and specialized, at the same time, integrated organizations. And this organization should be based on the cooperation of every country on the planet.

As the fourth aspect, there should be much more incentives than now. Let's take an example of electric cars. Many diesel locomotive companies have proclaimed their transition to eco - friendly vehicles manufacturers. As for customers, these electric cars seem to be cleaner and quiet. In addition to this, by purchasing these eco -friendly vehicles, the customers can have really good feelings taking care of our planet and environment. But the biggest problem is the huge price for the electric vehicles. Most people can't afford to buy these expensive cars even though some subsidies are being given by governments. It had not been for great subsidies and intensive policies like Certificated Emissions Reduction (CER), Tesla would not have succeeded. It is necessary that the second and the third Teslas keep showing up and keep improving on and on.

This incentive policy needs to be applied to individual levels. A policy like a discount of electricity fee according to carbon emission reduction could be a good example. The 2050 net zero plan can be realized through the cooperation of both individuals and industries so the incentives attractive to all will be a good motivation.

Lastly, it is important to make a convenient and constructive R&D environment. Green technologies, in a sense, are just the starting point. If consistent research and development is impossible just with the reasons such as 'there's no realization possibility' or 'it can't make ends meet', nobody would like to invest their energy and passion for future technology development.

Until now, we have taken a look at a few aspects with regard to the 2050 net zero plan. And I want to tell you that these measurements mentioned above are not everything and perfect enough. In spite of this, I want to stress one fact. It is that There's nothing perfect from the start. On the way working together, some synergy comes to rise. We know this fact from our long history. Human beings have created this unique and only civilization with many ups and downs. So many progresses have come to rise through many failures. So many prosperities have come to rise through countless sacrifices. All of this history could have been achieved on our Mother nature and our home- the Earth. It is our turn to keep our earth safe and our nature alive. Then now, how about making our lively and future oriented blahs together?