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**Topic 1: The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of South East Asia**

In an era of widespread globalization, the South East Asian economy is at a crossroads. As some nations face unparalleled economic growth, others are left behind to fend for themselves. Whether it be due the social challenges associated to progression, geographic inequality or poor governance, an imbalance in growth can prove detrimental to the whole continent. In recent years, there has been a significant improvement in both the quality and quantity of infrastructure in the region but it definitely is not enough; in comparison to western nations, they are severely lagging.

The United Kingdom has been highly invested in supporting the economic growth of the 10 ASEAN member states. Presently, they have a combined GDP similar to the UK’s, making it an extremely viable trading partner. Furthermore, the predicted growth in the region has spiked interest in independent British investors. Additionally, UK is set to quadruple investment in China in the next 4 years, a plan that was put in place in 2015. As a high-income nation, the United Kingdom has all the resources it needs to support those nations in need of support. By considering it an investment for the future, the UK has been fully committed to assisting promising nations.

The United Kingdom urges the international community so see the support of developing nations as *solidarity and not charity*. It is important that the long term consequences are looked at, for not just South East Asian nations but the world as a whole. The reality of diplomacy is a selfish one, and any attempt at denying it will do more harm than good. In a context such as this one, where the issue does not necessary benefit all nations, it is advantageous, if not necessary, to look at the individual gains. In this day and age of modernization, all nations are interconnected; its time policies reflect such.

**Topic 2: Future of Food**

In conjunction with the ever-present issue of climate change is the fate and future of food. At the present time, the destruction of ecosystems and alterations in food chains is indirectly having a consequence on the livelihoods on numerous communities in the Asia-Pacific region. As a result, individuals in communities are having to look elsewhere for basic nourishment. Arising from this, are the issues of poverty, starvation and even avoidable death. Though often overlooked, it is critical to mention that the end to hunger is included in the Sustainable Development Goals. While the challenges communities face are plentiful, the solutions are relatively simple and straight forward. What it takes now is the commitment and dedication of the international community, as well as proper governance.

In January of 2011, the United Kingdom published a report on the future of food and farming, exploring the challenges the global food market will face up to 2050. It addresses the issues of a raising global population, and the need for sustainable food. This comprehensive report addresses the key drivers of change affecting the global food system. It also speaks to the ever raising demand and production challenges, as well as the challenges the future of food will face.

The United Kingdom urges nations to put in place systems of alternative livelihood. Not only will this assist with diminishing food supply and food security in certain regions, a proper system may also support economic growth. Furthermore, a concrete trading network formulated by taking into consideration the supply and demand model must be created. The use of this economic model will prove beneficial once again in boosting economies and creating an interdependent international community. Furthermore, a commitment should be made to invest in the research necessary to find, or produce, foods that can overcome the effect of climate change (i.e. climate-smart agriculture). As an issue that will eventually catch up to the world as a whole, it makes complete sense for all nations to get on board and contribute in some capacity or another.

**Topic 3: Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficking in the Asia-Pacific**

Labour migration is an issue which, though it is somewhat specific in who it addresses, is applicable to the whole world. There tends to be a strong influx of immigrants from South Asian countries when more developed nations with questionable laws need the man power. A recent example of this is the building of the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar for the 2022 World Cup. The migrant workers, some of whom are forced labourers, have been found to be living in atrocious conditions under the abusive fists of their superiors. The lack of support in their own nations as well as the promise for a better life tend to push individuals, especially males of a certain age group, into a broken and unregulated system. Modern day labour migration draws parallels to slavery, which society prides itself on having abolished.

In the United Kingdom, non-European labour migration was on a rise from 1991 until approximately 2005. Since then it has been on a decline. In recent times, there has been serious talk about the creation of a global coalition, an idea that the UK government has had numerous discussions about. The National Crime Agency has officially declared this modern slavery and condemned the actions of those nations that turn a blind eye on the matter.

A major problem with labour migration is the unreliability of the statistics surrounding it. As a generally illegal practice, the statistics and data presented may be false and must be treated as such. A global coalition must be created against such actions and the repercussions of going against the rules must be strict and enforceable. It is only then that all nations will truly abid by the rules and regulations of the international community. Furthermore, a global coalition must be created along with self-sustaining projects and campaigns on the matter.

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