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The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of Southeast Asia

The region of Southeast Asia has seen significant economic growth, however due to the inadequate infrastructure in several nations, the region has not yet reaped the full benefits. Currently, Chinese railway companies have started or are planning on building railways to connect southern China to nations like Vietnam, Thailand, and the city state of Singapore. Nations must consider the impacts of disasters and climate change within the region by using methods like underground pumps to reduce flooding conditions or using submerged drip irrigation for vegetation.

Germany has one of the most sophisticated infrastructure in the world. From our efficient high speed railway that connects large cities in our nation as well as international routes to our use of renewable energy. Our nation has created objectives to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels, and has also used the carbon tax on companies in Germany. We have increased quality of the roads in rural areas by repaving and or replacing the previous roads in order to give farmers easy access to major markets and consumers. With the ever increasing threat of climate change, our government has reviewed and adjusted our disaster relief plan in 2015, and will do it again in 2020. –(We have played an important role within Southeast Asia and many NGOs are also stationed in Germany. We have created scholarship programs aimed towards girls to pursue work in engineering and agricultural fields. Road safety needs to be addressed in the region. In Germany we have a strict seat belt policy that applies to everyone, and minors are always encouraged to wear helmets while on bicycles or any vehicle with only two wheels. Many nations have worked on expensive underground metros or subways, however in order to decrease traffic, government should create laws that promote the use of public transportation. This could also reduce the amount of carbon emitted in traffic jams.

Future of Food

The rapid growing population has put a strain on agriculture within Southeast Asia. Disasters have a large role in a slow decrease in the growth of rice specifically in Vietnam. Flooding, drought and other natural disasters have decreased the amount of annual yields of rice. -(New York Times, 2016) There has been an increase need to look at different options to grow more food such as the vertical farms in Singapore, which has also been used in other larger cities like Shanghai.

Germany understands that the future of food is quite broad, however the increased amount of infrastructure, communication, and environmental awareness will be critical in securing a positive future for the people of the region. We understand that pesticides can be extremely harmful, which is why we have a large campaign to reduce the use of pesticides. The campaign started in 2005, and we have seen a steady decrease in the use of pesticides, however we have not outlawed it, instead the campaigns discussed the effects pesticides have on fresh water sources. –(FAO, 2016) While in our own nation there is no rampant issue of cyanide or blast fishing, we have continuously aided Vietnam and the Philippines on their campaigns to stop the environmentally unsustainable methods of fishing. Women play a large role in agriculture, and currently 43% of the agricultural sector is made up by women. -(FAO, 2016) However, the gender gap has been increasing widening. Governments need to encourage young women to pursue higher education, even if that means fighting cultural norms. In our own nation, the wage gap is nearly unnoticeable, for we have passed many laws that make it illegal to pay a person differently based on religion, sexual orientation, or gender, which has proven to be effective.

Labor Migration and Illegal Trafficking in the Asia-Pacific

There are currently over 230 million migrant workers, and approximately 66% of them come from Asia. The remittances is estimated to be worth around 526 billion USD. Many nations have relied heavily on remittances such as India, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. There are many social stigmas against migrant workers, and in some cases they are attacked. The majority of migrant workers take low paying jobs, some of which are extremely dangerous. In Qatar over 1,200 migrants (mainly from India and Nepal) have died just in the construction of the 2022 World Cup stadium. In the Pacific, emigration has been plaguing nations like Fiji where nearly 100,000 people have left since the two coups in 1987. With the instability of the region, the economic costs have been worth 574 million USD lost annually to Fiji’s economy.

Germany has been a critical player in helping migrant workers. With the influx of refugees, there have also become a steady influx in migrant workers. With this in mind, the German people have been very accommodating and willing to accommodate the migrants into our own society. Many German companies have started to hire more and more migrants for various jobs in various fields. According to our government over 1 million migrant workers are in the process of being employed or are employed within Germany. While it is true that many of these migrants have been taking low paying jobs, our government continues to regulate and ensure the safety of the migrant workers. –(New York Times, 2016)We understand that educating the migrants will be extremely vital in helping both parties, which is why we have continued to implement programs and offer classes directly to migrants on teaching them German. We have divided classes which allow cultural unity, and an overall quicker learning experience for the workers and their families. We have offered 150,000 migrants free classes already, and our German Federal Employment Agency will continue to create more classes that are fairly cheap or even free. –(New York Times, 2016) Our nation will continue to protect the rights that every migrant worker and their family deserve.

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