

## **REGION U ZNAKU PRIRODNIH KATASTROFA; GLOBALNA EKONOMIJA – NA KLACKALICI**

### **THE REGION MARKED BY NATURAL DISASTERS; GLOBAL ECONOMY IN 2014 – AT A TURNING POINT**

Da je ovaj tekst nastao samo nedelju dana ranije, njegov sadržaj bio bi potpuno drugačiji. Nažalost, osnovni utisak koji nosi današnji Dan žalosti u BiH (u Srbiji u znaku žalosti slede čak tri naredna) je da se u srcu Jugoistočne Evrope desila takva prirodna katastrofa kakva se ne pamti na ovim prostorima.

#### **Žalost, neverica, solidarnost – u regionu**

Poplavni talas koji je, bez obzira na dobre prognoze, najave, pa i pripreme, faktički bez života privremeno ostavio čitave gradove i sela srednje veličine, odneo je i desetine života. Bosna i Hercegovina, Srbija i Hrvatska bile su žrtve, ovaj put, neočekivane prirodne, pošasti velikih razmera. Gotovo biblijski pop-top koji nam se desio pokazao je svu silinu prirodne stihije u ekstremnim okolnostima.

Ali nije samo na tome. Pokazalo se i to da vodoprivreda, rečni tokovi, kanali, jezera, i drugi akvatični sistemi zahtevaju sistematsko stručno upravljanje, održavanje, čišćenje, ekološku zaštitu i bezbednosne procese i akcije. Ne bi se baš moglo reći da su zemlje regiona u tom smislu bile dovoljno revnosne. Možda su ih dosadašnja (pretežno umerena) vremenska zbivanja na izvestan način i uljuljkala, jer region nije osobito poznat po ekstremnim zbivanjima i prirodnim katastrofama.

Ako je, istini za volju, bilo relativno malo verovatno da će da se desi nešto što se dešava “jednom u hiljadu godina”, to ipak ne znači da takve mogućnosti nikada ne treba očekivati. Da li će ovdašnji scenariji sa “vrhovima poplavnih talasa”, “alternativnim rečnim tokovima”, “snagom neviđenih bujica” i vode koja probija i odnosi sve pred sobom, ili pro-

If this text had been completed only a week ago, its contents would have been completely different. Unfortunately, the main impression carried by today’s day of mourning in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in Serbia the mourning days are the following three) is that the heart of Southeastern Europe was struck by a natural catastrophe not remembered of happening in this area.

#### **Grief, disbelief, solidarity – in the region**

The flood wave, which, despite optimistic forecasts, announcements and even preparations, actually temporarily desolated entire towns and medium size villages, took dozens of lives. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia were the victims of an unexpected large scale nature-based catastrophe. A flood of nearly biblical proportions that struck us demonstrated the full force of nature’s elements in extreme circumstances.

However, the story does not end there. It also turned out that water management, river flows, canals, lakes, and other aquatic systems require systematic professional management, maintenance, cleaning, environmental protection and security processes and actions. It cannot really be said that the countries of the region were sufficiently zealous with respect to that matter. Perhaps they were lulled by the former (mostly moderate) weather events in a certain way, because the region was not particularly known for extreme events and natural disasters.

Truth be told, it was relatively unlikely for a “once in a thousand years” event to happen, but it does not mean that such possibilities should never be expected. Will the local scenarios with “peaks of flood waves”, “alternative river flows”, “water torrents of unseen power” and water that penetrates and takes away everything in its path, or the problems with the evacuation

blemima sa evakuacijom ljudi, nedostatkom pumpi za vodu i održavanjem vitalnih sistema u funkciji, biti sistematizovana i pretočena u novu bezbednosnu praksu, to treba da se tek pokaže? Treba imati u vidu da ima zemalja i regiona gde su ovakve i slične pojave mnogo češće, pa su i posledice i troškovi veći.

Konačno, bujice i poplavni talasi u iščekivanju, doneli su i nešto veoma pozitivno i tako potrebno na ovim prostorima. To je solidarnost, spremnost za pomoć pa i žrtvovanje. Koliko je samo ljudi iz susednih, kao i najudaljenijih gradova zemlje i regiona, stranih država pritalo u pomoć, prikupljalo hranu, higijenska sredstva, opremu, kao da se to isto upravo njima dešava. Dobija se utisak da postoji daleko viši nivo empatije i solidarnosti prema drugima kada su oni ugroženi od prirode, a ne od nekih drugih ljudi. Pri tome ni od kakve važnosti nije etnička, verska, sociokulturna i druga pripadnost. Zapravo pred razjarenom prirodom čovek je toliko mali i ponekad u toj meri nemoćan, da nema nikakvog smisla razmišljati o pripadanju. Jednostavno, tada je sve besmisleno izuzev čovečnosti. A ona se pokazuje na delu u kritičnim momentima, koji su mnogo više od scena katastrofe na filmu ili u romanima. Verovatno, zato jer je ona prva pretpostavka civilizovanog društvenog i života.

Da li će u svetu prevladati potreba za dinamičnijim rastom ili motivi za novi hladni rat?

Možda bi ovaj uvodnik trebalo ovde završiti, ali valja se pozabaviti onim što preostaje, a nalazi se u samom naslovu časopisa – oikos (kuća dom). Naime, šta preostaje u individualnoj i zajedničkoj kući kada oluja prođe? Valja pospremiti i osposobiti domove, individualne, porodične, preduzetničke, državne, međunarodne, tačnije rečeno, proizvođačke i potrošačke jedinice koje nastavljaju privredni život. Današnje globalno okruženje nije im baš naklonjeno. Naime,

of people, lack of water pumps and maintain vital systems in operation, be systematized and converted into new security practice, remains to be seen. It should be borne in mind that there are countries and regions where such and similar phenomena are more often, therefore making the consequences and costs higher.

Finally, floods and expected flood waves brought something very positive and so much needed in this area - solidarity, willingness to help others and even sacrifice yourself for them. Numerous people both from nearby, and from the most remote towns of the country and the region, from foreign countries rushed to help collect food, hygienic products, equipment, in the same manner as if the same event struck their own people. This gives the impression that there is a much higher level of empathy and solidarity with others when they are threatened by nature, and by some other people. While doing so, ethnic, religious, socio-cultural and other affiliations were of no importance at all. Actually, compared to the raging nature a man is so small, sometimes being rendered powerless therefore making the concept of belonging meaningless. Simply put, in such events, all the other aspects are meaningless except humanity, which is demonstrated in action at critical moments, which are much more of a disaster scene in a movie or a novel. Probably because it is the first assumption of a civilized social life.

Will the need for dynamic growth or the motives for a new Cold War prevail?

Perhaps this editorial should end here, but one has to deal with what is left, and is mentioned in the very title of the Journal - oikos (home). Specifically, what is left in the individual and mutual home when the storm passes? Home, regardless of whether it is an individual, family, entrepreneurship, government, international home, should be cleaned and restored, more precisely, manufacturing and consumer units which continue the economic life. Today's global environment is not very favourable to them. Not even the entire six year

ni čitavih šest proteklih godina svetske krize nije bilo dovoljno da se svetska ekonomsko-politička scena orijentiše isključivo ka potencijalima ekonomskog rasta. Da li će međunarodna trgovina, tehnološka razmena i saradnja ostati u senci naglog pogoršanja političkih odnosa zbog geopolitičkih razlika u vezi sa ključnim žarištima, kao što su do pre nekoliko meseci bila ona na severu Afrike, u Siriji, ili trenutno u Ukrajini?

Interesi velikih geopolitičkih igrača na globalnoj sceni uveliko prete da svet odvedu daleko unazad, u stanje zaoštavanja političkih relacija, sa elementima tzv. kontrolisanih lokalnih sukoba, što bi sigurno donelo velike ekonomske štete, svim involviranim stranama, ali, posebno, globalnoj ekonomiji. Tranzicija vojno-političkih konfrontacija na plan ekonomije (parcijalnim ili frontalnim ekonomskim sankcijama) predstavlja nešto što je viđeno i što je donelo neprocenjive štete, naročito na ovim prostorima.

Poznato je da su početkom modernog trgovačkog doba prosperirale zemlje i gradovi koji su bili otvoreni za trgovinu i preduzetništvo. Jedan od takvih bio je Amsterdam, centar trgovine i slobodne ekonomske saradnje. U tom smislu bio je otvoren za sve nacije sveta i u svakom vremenu, a još u XVI i XVII veku bio je globalna prestonica preduzetništva i trgovine, centar mecenarstva i likovne kulture i umetnosti. Holandani su bili poznati po tome što su omogućavali miran i pouzdan rad čak i pripadnicima onih nacija sa kojima su bili u ratu. Upravo tako, krčili su put u svetsku ekonomsku scenu, kao zemlja sa izrazito oskudnim prirodnim resursima i još nepovoljnijim prostornim uslovima. Četvorostruka linija odbrane Amsterdama od poplava, u uslovima gotovo jedinstvene kriptodepresije u svetskim razmerama, dostojna je istorijskog divljenja. I ugledanja – posebno u našem slučaju. Možda zato što je priroda tamošnji živalj manje mazila i nešto češće opominjala. Ali, možda Holandija nije imala sve argumente i raspoloživa sredstva koja danas imaju velike sile koje se nadmeću u nadsudbinalnoj „volji za moć”

course of the crisis were enough to orientate the global economic and political scene exclusively towards the potentials of economic growth. Perhaps the international trade, technology exchange and cooperation shall remain in the shadow of the rapid deterioration of political relations due to geopolitical differences with regards to key hot spots, such as the ones in North Africa or in Syria, which were active a couple of months ago, or perhaps those in Ukraine, which are currently in the limelight?

The interests of great global geopolitical forces greatly threaten to lead the world far back, into a state of intensifying the political relations with the elements of, so called, controlled local conflicts, which would certainly bring great economic damage to all the parties involved but both to world trade and technological cooperation as well. The transition of the military-political confrontation onto the field of economy (either by partial or frontal economic sanctions) represents something that has already been seen and that has brought immense damage, particularly in this region.

It is well known that at the beginning of the modern commercial era, the countries and cities that were open for trade and entrepreneurship prospered the most. One of them was Amsterdam, the centre of trade and free economic cooperation. In this regard it was open to all nations of the world causing it to become the global capital of business and trade, centre of fine art and culture, a symbol of patronage and art in XVI and XVII century. The Dutch were known for providing peaceful and reliable work even to the members of those nations with whom they were at war. That was exactly the manner they cleared their way into the economic stage of the world, as a country with extremely scarce natural resources and even less favourable physical conditions. Amsterdam's quadruple line of defence against floods, in terms of a unique crypto-depression, even on a world scale, is worthy of a historical admiration and being a perfect role model, at least in our case. Perhaps because the nature warned the Dutch and did not pamper their nation as much as it does ours. But perhaps the Netherlands did not have all the arguments and resources available to great powers of today competing in the supra-national "will to power"

(Niče), ako je ta filozofska sintagma uopšte primerena današnjoj međunarodnoj politici.

Sigurno je jedino to da ukrajinska kriza već uveliko odnosi danak globalnom rastu i tehnološkom razvoju. Ukoliko zaoštavanje na ukrajinskoj klackalici eskalira, ni ostali svetski igrači kao što je Kina, prvenstveno, sigurno ne bi mogli da kapitalizuju posledice tog zaoštavanja, s obzirom na globalni uticaj koji bi u čitavom svetu zasigurno doneo niže stope rasta od onih koje se očekuju u tekućoj godini. Naime, MMF je u najnovijoj reviziji svog Outlooka za april 2014. godine predvideo ne baš minoran rast globane privrede od 3,7 odsto, a u narednoj čak 3,9 odsto. Rast ekonomije (SAD) ove godine trebalo bi da se ubrza na 2,8 odsto, a u MMF-u očekuju i da će rast eurozone u cjelini u ovoj godini iznositi jedan odsto, a u narednoj godini 1,4 odsto. To bi bilo veoma optimistično, za posustalu Evropu da se trgne iz duge letargije i ostvari bar ikakav rast.

#### Da li će izazov obnove da podstakne region?

Za zemlje srednje i istočne Evrope kojima pripada i naš region, projekcija rasta za 2014. iznosi svega 2,8 odsto (jedva malo povoljnija od one prethodne), dok je projektovana stopa rasta za narednu 2015. godinu snižena na 3,1 odsto. Na kratak pa i srednji rok ne može se mnogo šta promeniti, jer nema izgleda za povećanu tražnju kako izvoznju tako i unutrašnju, pa su izgledi za rast i razvoj veoma skromni. Međutim, šok prirodne katastrofe, zajedno sa uspostavljanjem sistema insitucija i „dobre vladavine”, koja promovise makro-stabilnost, konkurenciju, investicije, a destimulise korupciju i političko mešetarenje, možda bi mogao da popravi šanse.

Dana 20. maja 2014. godine

(Nietzsche), if such philosophical phrase is at all appropriate for the international politics of today.

One thing is certain, the Ukrainian crisis already takes toll onto global growth and technological development. If the strain at the Ukrainian seesaw escalates, not even any of the other global powers, such as China, primarily, would not be able to capitalize on the consequences of such escalation, given the global impact which would surely bring lower growth rates than those expected in the current year, on a global scale. Namely, in its latest revision of the Outlook for April of 2014, the IMF predicted not so minor an increase of the global economy of 3.7 per cent, followed by the increase as much as 3.9 percent in the following year. The growth of the economy of the United States in this year should accelerate to 2.8 percent, and the IMF expects the growth in the euro area, as a whole, shall amount to one percent this year, and 1.4 percent next year. Such forecast would be a very optimistic one, for faltering Europe to achieve any growth this year after a long period of lethargy.

#### Will the reconstruction challenge stimulate the region?

For the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which our region belongs to, the growth projections for 2014 amounts to only 2.8 percent (barely more favourable than the previous one) and the forecasted growth rate for the next 2015 year has been reduced to 3.1 percent. Unfortunately, in this respect, both in the short and medium term, not many things can be changed, for there is no prospect of increased export demand nor of the internal demand, therefore resulting in a very modest prospect for growth. However, the natural disaster shock, alongside with the establishment of a system of institutions and “good governance”, which promotes macro-stability, competition, investment, and discourages corruption and political manipulation, could turn the odds to our favour.

20 May 2014

