

A Perspective on

Global Trends and its Implication in our lives

The Indian **economy that gave us** (i.e. our younger generation) **a chance to be productive citizens** (i.e. employed with good paying jobs) **from the 1990s may be adversely affected for a short term** due to what is happening in Europe and USA now. The global stock market lost one trillion (\$1000 billion) on September 23, 2011. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) thinks what G20 nations did to save the world financial crisis in 2008 cannot be repeated in the year 2011 or stop the world entering into another recession. **For those asking why we need to know this, the following perspectives will become clear.**

Some experts say that the historic financial crash that happened in the 1930s led to the 2nd World War. After the 2nd World War, Britain lost its global dominance and was replaced by USA. After the downgrading of USA capital market rating from AAA to AA+ in August 2011, many international experts believe that USA is about to lose its position of global power. At the UN assembly in Sep 2011 Dr. Manmohan Singh said **“The traditional engines of the global economy, such as the United States, Europe and Japan, which are also the sources of global economic and financial stability, are faced with continued economic slowdown.”** The United States’ private economy that used to create three out of every four jobs with the massive 75% private GDP is sitting on the biggest corporate balance sheet. John Schoen of MSNBC news argues that this cash pile is biggest in the last 50 years of US history and they are gripped with fear of recession. Europe, on the other hand, is mainly a public sector GDP, is faced with the worst fear of Euro crisis. Besides Greece, if Italy (a member of the G7 nations) defaults and is not able to pay for their bill, it may affect India’s ability to borrow money from international markets. In that case, Indian economic development and employment creation for the younger generations will be affected in the short term.

Within a brief period of uncertainty (about five to ten years), China will emerge as the world’s dominant economic power. When this happens, the European Union and USA will support India as a counter balance to China’s dominance. This will create opportunities for rapid economic development in India. As a result, communities and villages mainly close to coastal areas may develop at a leapfrog phase. When it happens, **will our young generation be ready with their education and industry**

specific training to take part in the development, or be a spectator? If we are able to make our younger generations ready, it will create tremendous opportunities for our youngsters.

Along with opportunities come challenges for our generations. India's need for further development depends on steady supply of electricity, oil and gas, besides other natural resources. Supply of oil through pipeline from Arabian countries needs Pakistan's cooperation. Whether we admit or not, the need for a peaceful and secure Pakistan is a burning issue not only for ruling parties of India, but for our fishermen's security too. When our fishermen are fishing beyond 200+ nautical miles away from the coast without satellite radio or communication to the land, it is not only a safety issue but also a national security issue. **Due to our fishermen's migratory nature, our traditional lives can be badly affected due to new laws and regulations introduced by our Indian government.** Although we see signs of peace and hope for bilateral trade between India and Pakistan such as the September 27, 2011 Bombay concourse, India is very cautious of Pakistan's peaceful co-existence as a result of the 2004 Bombay attack. Ever since that attack, India has taken tremendous effort to increase maritime security around Indian coastal areas. How will these maritime regulations affect our traditional fishing industry? We are yet to know the impact of these regulations. **Once you are aware of how Bombay attackers managed to land in Bombay after killing fishermen and stealing their boats, you will understand how important these issues are in fishermen's lives.**

Among the fastest developing countries within the G20 nations, five countries called BRICS - **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** - are competing for global natural resources. Like China, India in our hemisphere, will need as much natural and human resources possible to advance development. **If peace with Pakistan is achievable, it will hasten development in India and the rest of the South Asian countries.** Although China and India want to co-exist in peace, India's pursuit of economic development with countries like Vietnam and Burma irritates China. Will China like the idea of a Pakistan living and trading in peace with India? Will the Arab spring encourage Pakistan to be stable and peaceful? Will India's hunger for power generation through nuclear stations (such as the one in Kudankulam) be safe and secure from tsunamis? Will the common man's cry for a corruption free India be achievable in our life time? You must read and understand issues and challenges in proper context.

You, young men and women, are educated and employed. We have the knowledge, experience, and financial resources to come together to take

advantage of the opportunity and to create the right atmosphere for younger generations to participate in the future global economies.

We understand that our commitment to this cause is voluntary. Our first responsibility is to our family and extended family. Any help and guidance we provide to our young men and women of our villages must be done in a coordinated manner to achieve the best results possible. I have always been a proponent of achieving such **results in cooperation with similar development and charitable organizations in our villages, states or country.** In the process of achieving development results, one should not disturb the religious harmony that exists in our villages and towns. As we participate in our villages' development activities, we will face many challenges and opportunities in the future.

As our traditional society grows from villages to flourishing coastal towns and cities, we will face lots of challenges and opportunities including traditional fishing vs large fishing vessels, traditional landing rights vs fishing harbour, our nation's need for food security vs our right to fish, fishermen societies' rights vs Coastal regulations, and India's coastal security vs 'our traditional right to living and recreation.' In order to achieve the best results through a fairer participation in society, we need to evaluate the pros and cons.

Indian economy (which is neither capitalistic nor socialistic) has been growing at a rate of 7 to 9 percent per year. **Some attribute such a growth to India's successful implementation of public- private partnership models.** Could non-profit and NGO communities' activities, at the village level, be mirrored in the same fashion? We will not know until we try. If we are going to try, how it should guide itself?

Two clear examples come to my mind.

1. Our fishermen have given us a working business model that equally divides the revenue from their catch in three ways: one portion for common expenses, one portion for owners and one portion for workers.
2. The Government of India through the landmark Mines and Mineral Development and Regulation (MMDR) Bill, 2011, asked mining companies to keep aside 26 per cent of their net profits to be used for development and rehabilitation of affected people in the tribal areas of the country.

Let us see if our coastal youth can organize themselves and come up with a working model that provides benefit to the most vulnerable and needy in our communities, while protecting the financial capital of the willing and able organizations and individuals. To

start something, we need knowledge, skills, and finance. To be successful and grow, we need expertise and working partnerships. If this article can serve as an impetus for other coastal villages, like Vallavilai and Thoothoor, to come together, I will gladly play a role along with other experts in our communities.

We understand that any and all village level (micro level) activities must **encourage our youth to act locally with other partners to achieve the best results.** If these kinds of village level activities encourage forward looking individuals from each of our villages to think critically and act globally, it will lead our younger generations to take leadership roles. **I feel we should encourage those youth who are taking leadership roles in their villages for a better tomorrow.** If those potential leaders are looking for examples, we have some. How a socially and economically forward community, when it lost its Travancore kingdom came together to move forward. Equally, we should learn from a socially and economically backward community came together to assert its interests in the post-independent India. I thought I could give you this glimpse of reflection so that we may think and act **how we can make use of the opportunities that might come before us.**

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About the Author

Johnson Rayan Franklin, a personality from a lovely coastal village called Vallavilai in Kanyakumari District of India. After Masters degree from Kerala University he moved to Canada in 1985. After 2 years of training in Applied Research (Diploma), MacEwan University, worked with the Govt of Alberta number of years as a Labour Market Analyst. After-degree certificate from the University of Alberta in Public Administration in 1995, he started joint venture activities. He is a Public Policy person and a proponent of achieving results in cooperation with similar development and charitable organizations in our villages, states or country.