

# DEVELOPMENT AID for the rich west!

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**S**ometimes things aren't complicated when you distance yourself. When you're in the middle of something, it's practically impossible to put things into perspective. This also applies if you want something very badly and work very hard for it, for example success in sports, or being accepted into that prestigious course, or the attention of someone you have a secret crush on. When things go very differently, it can be difficult to pick up the thread and keep track of the many other possibilities that remain. One moment people simply have much more resilience than the next. Timing – (bad) luck - always plays a role. Everything is cyclical, if you happen to see a dream shatter at a really bad time...

It seems easier to talk about the end of humanity than about giving up the internet or giving up driving. In our developed 'first' world, we now need development aid ourselves. We are “blind” at the mercy of technological “progress”, which we continue to see against our better judgement, as the way to a heaven on earth! We are working 24/7 in every conceivable direction to bring new technologies to the market, preferably digitally, because then they can be further developed directly with data and at the expense of users, the entire world population. A smart as well as disastrous revenue model: “obsolescence” is generated by continuous “improvement” updates. Road widening will ultimately irrevocably lead to more traffic, more convenience to more nuisance, more technology to less ecology and continuous development to fatal developmental delays for much life on our planet. Pandora's Box: to give (dora) all (pan) is to take (own) all, a nightmare, which the ancient Greeks warned against. Neither complicated nor easy, because we find it hard to imagine that we can restore balance simply by not doing certain things anymore, instead of adding new ones all the time.

Our 'enlightened' ancestors brought running water everywhere, car mobility and control over agriculture (such as fertilizers that allowed the soil to grow independently of its own biotope). Their dream paradise on earth slowly turns into a nightmare. We are heading for an unliveable world, but we cling to their dream, to their gifts (“dora”, including beliefs) that they imposed on all (“pan”) the peoples of the world, as merchants followed by the engineers and ministers, often out of charity, doubtless because they could not foresee what the consequences would be. Development aid? The more highways, the more traffic. The more technological development aid you give, the more the need grows, until eventually the whole world is addicted to it. Pandora!

Now we need development aid. The few peoples who still live completely ecologically sustainable lives must gradually become our teachers, so that BigTech companies no longer determine our future. After a few months of quarantine, world leaders such as Elon Musk and Biden would learn from, for example, real Aborigines to turn the tide, stop using all superfluous technology and work in harmony with nature. To feel our connection to life rather than technology. Personal responsibility for ecology instead of possessed by possession.

Hard to imagine? Let's try. Imagine, next Tuesday the internet will go down for good. From then on, everyone will have one year to download important data that will remain available for another 2 years and store it on their own media (paper, CDs, USB and hard disks). Other stipulations follow, such as in 5 years the maximum distance between work and home is 20 miles. People are encouraged to grow fruit and vegetables on the land together. Car mobility is limited to a maximum of 40 miles per day, and can be saved up to a maximum of 500 miles per year. Three and more lane roads are removed and nature is restored. We will have to reinvent ourselves completely, gradually.

We can! You can't always get what you want. Recognizing that we need development aid is a first step. Do we dare to ask for help?