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Matric No:16/sms01/020
Course code: Eco 410

Question 1a and b

In the past twenty years, the whole world has been experiencing dramatic changes in the economic, technological, political and social arenas. Many academicians and researchers in economics, politics and sociology field refer to these transformations as “Globalization”. Globalization started as a general concept among certain specialized academic groups in the middle of the 1980’s. It is made in reference to the integration of trade blocs (Fernandez and Portes, 1998) in different parts of the world and the rapid development of new advanced technologies. The concept Globalization then started to expand, until became part of our common lexicon. It is now no longer a special term used by economists, political scientists and sociologists.

Later, the concept and uses of the word “Globalization” was started to expand in the universal language, until it became adapted into our common lexicon. It is no longer a special term uses by economists, political scientist and sociologist. It is referred to as the most relevant economic phenomenon until our days. Probably, there isn’t another concept that can define better the fundamental challenges in the world economy in this century as Globalization. But it was not until the 1990’s that Globalization made its formal appearance and consolidation in the international context. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Globalization is defined as an accelerated process of the world economies integrated through the integration of the production, trade, financial flows, technological diffusion, information networks, and cultural currents (Toribio, 2000). Important to mention is that Globalization supported by three basic pillars, there are: the first pillar of Globalization is supported by new institutional focus and deep political reforms based on less public sector participation into the economic activity or market.

The core factors are discussed below:

The current shape and pace of globalization is driven by several factors. Broadly speaking, economic, financial, political, technological and social factors have paved the way to globalization. Economic factors mainly include lower trade and investment barriers. Expansion of financial sector is also considered an important force of globalization . Integration and unification of financial markets around the globe through financial liberalization and deregulation has increased the mutual dependencies of the economies. According to Stiglitz and Greenwald (2003), capital account liberalization is elimination of rigid rule and regulations in developing countries that could advance the flow of money.

- Political factors can be defined in term of government policies that are designed to facilitate trade and commerce in view of globalization. Moreover, these polices are instrumental in channelizing the flow of finance and capital. The process of globalization is led by a number of national and international institutes and countries in formulating policies. Earlier surge of globalization seems to be highly concentrated among developed nations (Maddison, 2001). However, the contribution of emerging market economies in international trade has been increasing significantly in past few years.
- Technology plays an important role in expediting the process of globalization. It is conceived as a major facilitator and a driving force in the globalization processes. Technological improvement has allowed companies to rapidly globalize their products. Multinational food chains are able to reproduce and standardized their products across globe through fine connectivity coordinated by technology. The development of containerized ships and air freight is considered to be a key technological advancement in trade and commerce. Similarly, the introduction of universal bar code has increased the movement and flow of goods worldwide. The creation of personal computers and internet created electronic

business (E-Business) and electronic commerce (E-Commerce), which are used as a justification of recent techno-globalism. Financial sector is also benefitted from technology through electronic banking. Electronic transfer of funds is considered to be the first operating form of global electronic financial system. The modern era of globalization is now experiencing 'internet economies' due to advancement in technology. Internet growth is a key factor for developing interpersonal relationship across the globe. It is one of the necessary components for social globalization, and without the invention of internet it would be incomplete.

- Social factors bring cultural convergence, that is, increasing similarity throughout the world, through significant reduction in transport and communication cost. Now- a-days the cost of transmitting information is almost negligible, shrinking the world to one single market. Individuals and societies are taking advantage of this enormous reduction in cost by using standard brands and services worldwide. As a result, societies are moving towards convergence of taste, which is increasing homogeneity across globe.

The above-mentioned factors have contributed to shaping globalization. These factors are responsible for flattening the world. It is essential to know the potential sources of globalization because the contribution of these factors is not uniform across globe. The extent and intensity of globalization is found to be different among countries and regions. This indicates that the factors which drive the process of globalization affect differently across developed and developing economies owing to the structural condition of one's country.

Question 2

Natural or artificial, all the environmental components are constantly converted in line with the priorities of international capital. Balance between development and environment cannot be achieved under the unavoidable effects of globalization. Cities become consumption centers rather than production. Focusing on more earnings and savings brings about the destruction of the urban environment; it gives irreversible damages to environment.

Today's environmental problems mostly arise from human activities. Pollution and the depletion of natural resources, dwindling plant and animal biodiversity, the loss of wilderness, the degradation of ecosystems, and climate change are all the environmental concerns caused by humans (Cochrane, 2007). With the help of technology and science human has transformed and destroyed nature for centuries. However as a result of this destruction, serious environmental problems threaten the future of his own future. At this point technology is helpless to save the earth. The deterioration of the environment produced by technology is a technological problem for which technology has found, is finding, and will continue to find solutions. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been devoted to improve the quality of the environment and that much more will be spent in the future. Despite these intense efforts expended in 'saving the environment', it is questionable whether current scientific and technological approaches can be sufficiently effective in solving numerous environmental crises (Huesemann, 2001: 271-272).

Humanity faces a dire and growing crisis. Technological advances in the past - such as the mobilization of fossil fuels and the spectacular increases in food production flowing from improved plant breeding techniques have both raised living standards and imposed unanticipated and unwanted side effects on the environment (Bowers, 2010). Industry, mass consumption and the increased energy needs of a growing global population are partly responsible for pollution, resource depletion and species extinction. Globalization has occurred alongside and sometimes nurtured these developments. Globalization, which is partly synonymous with rising international trade, has fostered the rapid production, trade and consumption of material goods in unprecedented quantities. This has weighted the ecological footprint of human activities around the world. While it's still difficult to assess the impact of globalization on the environment, it's quite obvious in some areas. Today globalization's negative environmental effects are more apparent. For example,

increased pollution linked to transport immediately comes to mind (Huvart and Verdier, 2013). These adverse effects show themselves in cities with pollution, unplanned urbanization, destruction of historical environment and overpopulation.

Corona as an example: It has led to ;

1. Downgrades in economic forecasts: The outbreak has led major institutions and banks to cut their forecasts for the global economy. One of the latest to do so is the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In a March report, the OECD said it downgraded its 2020 growth forecasts for almost all economies. China's gross domestic product growth saw the largest downgrade in terms of magnitude, according to the report. The Asian economic giant is expected to grow by 4.9% this year, slower than the earlier forecast of 5.7%, said OECD. Meanwhile, the global economy is expected to grow by 2.4% in 2020 — down from the 2.9% projected earlier, said the report.
2. Slowdown in manufacturing activity: The manufacturing sector in China has been hit hard by the virus outbreak. The Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index — a survey of private companies — showed that China's factory activity contracted in February, coming in at a record-low reading of 40.3. A reading below 50 indicates contraction. Such a slowdown in Chinese manufacturing has hurt countries with close economic links to China, many of which are Asia Pacific economies such as Vietnam, Singapore and South Korea. Factories in China are taking longer than expected to resume operations, several analysts said. That, along with a rapid spread of COVID-19 outside China, means that global manufacturing activity could remain subdued for longer, economists said.
3. Services contraction: The virus outbreak in China has also hit the country's services industry as reduced consumer spending hurt retail stores, restaurants and aviation among others. The Caixin/Markit Services PMI for China came in at just 26.5 in February, the first drop below the 50-point level since the survey began almost 15 years. China is not the only country where the services sector has weakened. The services sector in the U.S., the world's largest consumer market, also contracted in February, according to IHS Markit, which compiles the monthly PMI data. One reason behind the U.S. services contraction was a reduction in "new business from abroad as customers held back from placing orders amid global economic uncertainty and the coronavirus outbreak," said IHS Markit.
4. Declining oil prices: A good reduction in global economic activity has lowered the demand for oil, taking oil prices to multi-year lows. That happened even before a disagreement on production cuts between OPEC and its allies caused the latest plunge in oil prices. Analysts from Singaporean bank DBS said reduced oil demand from the virus outbreak and an expected increase in supply are a "double whammy" for oil markets. China, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak, is the world's largest crude oil importer.

"The spread of the virus in Italy and other parts of Europe is particularly worrying and will likely dampen demand in OECD countries as well," the DBS analysts wrote in a report. For Nigeria, an OPEC member, its path to quickly ramp up production is limited by operational, regulatory and infrastructure challenges. While non-oil GDP growth has shown welcome signs of improvement in recent years, close to 90% of Nigeria's FX revenues still come from oil exports.

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