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Towards Abolition of Wage-Slavery; Perspective to a Non-Violent World Revolution for the Guaranteed Global Basic Income Society, Launching from Elimination of Hunger and Poverty

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Abstract

In the guaranteed Global Basic Income (GBI) society, every individual human being on the earth has the universal and unconditional right to get enough moneys to live along moderately. Given such a condition, wage-slavery, patriarchy, individual economic dependency to nation-states, reluctant workers of environmentally hazardous corporations, and passive mass in public sphere, would be eliminated.

In order to achieve such a revolutionary change, we should launch from elimination of hunger and poverty from the earth. Following the famous pilot projects for distribution of basic income (about PPP\$1) to small villagers in Namibia and Brazil since 2008 and 2009, organized by local social movement activists and funded by local and international people, and succeeded in elimination of hunger at the project-site, the same kind of social movements can be organized individually all over the world with a global networking campaign to make hunger and poverty history step by step, by the 1st GBI(PPP\$1.25), the 2nd GBI(PPP\$2), the 3rd GBI(PPP\$3.61),etc. Cooperation with present development and human rights organizations, and supporting empowerment of neighborhood communities at project-sites., are important. Strategically targeted donors should be transnational corporations.

A table calculated from the World Bank data on 2005, shows us that elimination of hunger, i.e. distribution of the 1st GBI only for middle and low income countries can be financed by 1.9% of all countries' GNI or 2.4% of high income countries' GNI, which are below the growth rate of GDP in 2004-5. Also the 2nd and 3rd GBI are not too heavy burden. After those steps, introduction of basic income in the high-income countries, i.e. the final step to non-violent world revolution, will be able to become a serious political agenda.

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I Introduction

In the guaranteed Global Basic Income (GBI) society, every individual human being on the earth has the universal and unconditional right to get enough moneys to live along moderately (Frankman 1998, 2004a, Global Basic Income Foundation, n.d., Okanouchi 2010a).

Such society does not really exist. The very idea of it has appeared only since 1980s (Van Parijs 1995; 369, n.67). Therefore, some people tend to think such society is a utopia or fantasy. But any type of new society had once been only an idea. After long and strong struggle of social movements, ideas of new societies were realized. Slave-free world appeared gradually after the international abolitionist campaigns in the 19th century. Gender-free political society appeared gradually in the 20th century after the international social movements for women's rights.

The social movement for GBI has not yet appeared. However, small but important moves towards a new society can be seen in the social experiments of basic income grant in Namibia since 2008 and in Brazil since 2009, and the international support for those experiments.

The guaranteed GBI society is really a revolutionary idea. I have already published some articles about the various aspects of the revolution (Okanouchi 2010a, 2010b, 2011, 2012a). In this paper, I would like to show a roadmap towards the revolution, which becomes urgent need in the recent basic income debates in Japan. ¹

II Revolutionary Characteristics of the Guaranteed GBI Society

Revolutionary characteristics of the guaranteed GBI society could be summarized as follows:

- ① Abolition of wage slavery, or modern proletariat as a social class. Wage-work can continue to be, but no one on the earth is obliged to work to get wages in fear of hunger or poverty.
- ② Abolition of economic foundation of patriarchy. Because each family members become independent economically.
- ③ Abolition of economic foundation of nationalism. Because no one on the earth is obliged to be economically dependent to nation-state.
- ④ Elimination of economic motivations to environmental destruction. Because no one on the earth is obliged to do harm to environment in fear of hunger and poverty.
- ⑤ Elimination of passive mass in public sphere. Because no one on the earth is obliged to become too busy and exhausted to participate in and enjoy public debates.

Therefore, the social movement for GBI should confront conservative reactions from the following people:

¹ This paper is a modified English version of Okanouchi 2012b. I should criticize my paper for BIEN Congress in Brazil on economic feasibility of global basic income (Okanouchi 2010c), which has fatal mistakes empirically and theoretically. Empirically, its calculation did not use the purchasing power parity (PPP) estimates, which is important for discussion of basic needs and basic income. Theoretically, its argument that poor countries' small contribution of value production in the global economy means small contribution to the global production of goods or use-value, is incorrect. By using PPP estimates, I showed a new calculation and relevant analysis in this paper.

- ① Capitalist classes, who benefit from competition among wage-workers.
- ② Patriarchic men, who benefit from dependency of family members.
- ③ Bureaucrats and politicians of nation-states, who benefit from economic dependency of the people to nation-state.
- ④ Capitalists, bureaucrats and politicians, who benefit from environmentally destructive businesses.
- ⑤ Capitalists, bureaucrats and politicians, who benefit from commercialized public sphere.

It may seem almost impossible to achieve the guaranteed GBI society. However, we can see some hopeful cracks and contradictions among conservatives as follows:

- ① Intensifying competition among capitalists by cross border M & A in the globalizing economy. Crisis of labor-management cooperation in the welfare state system by financial difficulties and destabilization of labor market.
- ② Breaking down of the traditional family by proletarianization of women and children. No more men's privilege at workshop because of technological innovation.
- ③ Hollowing out of a national economy. Nation-state cannot pretend to be a responsible supporter of the dependent nation as a whole. It becomes a supporter of transnational companies in the globalizing economy.
- ④ Emerging global environmental crisis. Competition between green-technology capitalists and old technology capitalists.
- ⑤ Disenchantment of people from stereo-typed mass media. Emerging individualized, globalized, and possibly communicative and creative media, like internet, SNS, and mobiles.

Therefore, we can expect the GBI-seeking people' power, as follows:

- ① Possible change of labor movement from labor-management cooperation in the welfare state to the social movement unionism, demanding abolition of wage-slavery or basic income. The self-employed people and part of innovationist capitalists could join this movement.
- ② Revitalization of feminist movement against patriarchy, as a social movement of all women and children and part of men, seeking for individual economic independence.
- ③ Possible change of neighborhood community movements from nationalist movements lead by nation-states, to anti-nation-state and global solidarity seeking movements.
- ④ Revitalization of environmental movements by involving passive supporters of environmental destructive businesses into the movement to seek for individuals' economic independence and ecological harmony.
- ⑤ Revitalization of public sphere, connecting face-to-face communication at neighborhood community level with global social movements, by use of internet.

Given such conditions, wage-slavery, patriarchy, economic dependency to nation-states, reluctant workers of environmentally hazardous corporations, and passive mass in public sphere, would be eliminated by introducing GBI. It is an epoch-making revolution in human history. But how can we achieve it?

III Grand Strategy for the Revolution

In order to achieve such a revolutionary change, we should launch from elimination of hunger and poverty from the earth.

The famous pilot projects for distribution of basic income (about PPP\$1), to 1,000 villagers in Namibia since 2008, and to 100 villagers in Brazil since 2009, organized by local social movement activists and funded by local and international people, have already succeeded in elimination of hunger at the project-sites. Although those pilot projects are not intended to launch the revolution for GBI society, their achievements are absolutely provocative for the students of GBI. Being inspired by those projects and supporting social movements, the grand strategy for the GBI revolution could be summarized as follows:

- ① Organizing small pilot projects for basic income grant and supporting local and international social movements, in order to make hunger and poverty history, from the project-site neighborhood communities, like the case of Namibia and Brazil.
- ② Networking and making coalition of those projects and social movements, in order to make the progress of the world revolution for GBI visible for everyone on the earth.
- ③ Targeting big transnational corporations as main and permanent sources of fundraising, in cooperation with campaign against Tax Haven and for global CSR.
- ④ Cooperating with present international development and human rights organizations and movements, especially with the campaign for MDGs.
- ⑤ Supporting empowerment of the project-site neighborhood communities and their movement for GBI, by networking them, including the supporting neighborhood communities in High Income countries.
- ⑥ Making visible objectives of the step-by-step revolution to GBI society, like the 1st GBI (PPP\$1.25 per day per person=international extreme poverty line) to eliminate hunger, the 2nd GBI (PPP\$2=international poverty line) to eliminate poverty, the 3rd GBI (PPP\$3.61=average per capita income of the world in 2005) to guarantee world average income for everyone.

IV Economic Aspects of the Strategy

Table 1, calculated from the World Bank data on 2005, shows us that elimination of hunger can be financed by very little percentages of annual products, i.e. gross national income (GNI), in the world, and just a bit more in the High Income Countries.

- ① Distribution of the 1st GBI, for middle and low income countries can be financed by 1.9% of all countries' GNI or 2.4% of high income countries' GNI, which are below the growth rate of world total GDP in 2004-5, i.e.3.5%(2.3%per capita).
- ② Distribution of the 1st GBI, for East Asia and Pacific middle and low income countries can be financed by 4.8% of Japanese GNI.
- ③ Distribution of the 1st GBI, for South Asia and Sub-Sahara African middle and low income countries can be financed by 2.7% of Euro Countries' GNI.

④ Distribution of the 1st GBI, for middle and low income countries can be financed by 6.5% of United States' GNI.

⑤ Namibia, Brazil and Iran, which have already a kind of Basic Income pilot project, are middle income countries with extreme poor people. The 1st GBI can be financed by 5.7% of GNI in Namibia, 5.5% of GNI in Brazil, and 5.6% of GNI in Iran.

Table 2 also shows us the following points about step by step progress of GBI:

- ① □ The 2nd GBI for middle and low income countries can be financed by 3.0% of all countries' GNI or 3.8% of high income countries' GNI.
- ② □ The 3rd GBI for middle and low income countries can be financed by 5.3% of all countries' GNI or 6.7% of high income countries' GNI.
- ③ □ The 1st GBI for all countries can be financed by 4.8% of all countries' GNI. (Table 1)
- ④ □ The 2nd GBI for all countries can be financed by 7.7% of all countries' GNI.
- ⑤ □ The 3rd GBI for all countries can be financed by 13.8% of all countries' GNI.
- ⑥ □ Full GBI, defined here as average per capita GNI (See note3 in Table2), can be financed in each country's GNI, in USA by 67.3% of GNI, in Japan by 48.9% of GNI, in Germany by 58.8% of GNI, in Brazil by 53.6% of GNI, etc.

These points may suggest big challenges for Basic Income movements for High Income countries. At the same time, successful pilot projects in the low and middle income countries with less difficulties from financial point of view, could make a big wave for GBI social movement in the world.

Table 1. World population, population in hunger and in poverty, gross national income (GNI), the 1st step Global Basic Income, its ratio in GNI, and growth rate of GDP, 2005.

Region(Co untry) by World Bank analytical grouping (1)	Popul ation -milli ons	Population in hunger -millions (% of the regional populatio n) (2)	Population in poverty -millions (% of the regional populatio n) (2)	Gross national income -\$billions [per capita -\$] (3)	GNI -PPP \$billions [Ratio of PPP conversion factor to market exchange rate] (4)	The 1 st step Global Basic Income -\$billion [per capita -\$] (5)	1 st GB I /GNI -%	Growth rate of GDP, 2004-0 5 -% [per capita -%]
World	6,438			45,135.2 [7,011]	60,669.6 [0.744]	2,185.2 [339.4]	4.8	3.5 [2.3]
High Income	1,011			35,643.4 [35,264]	32,899.9 [1.083]	499.7 [494.3]	1.4	2.7 [1.9]
(United States)	296			12,912.9 [43,560]	12,434.4 [1.038]	140.2 [473.6]	1.1	3.2 [2.2]
(Japan)	128			4,976.5 [38,950]	4,013.4 [1.240]	72.4 [565.8]	1.5	2.6 [2.6]
Europe EMU	314			10,075.3 [32,098]	9,076.2 [1.110]	159.0 [506.4]	1.6	1.3 [0.7]
(Germany)	82			2,875.6 [34,870]	2,408.9 [1.194]	44.7 [544.6]	1.6	1.0 [1.0]

Middle Income	3,074			8,137.8 [2,647]	22,133.7 [0.368]	516.1 [167.9]	6.3	6.4 [5.5]
Upper middle	600			3,379.3 [5,634]	6,557.0 [0.515]	141.0 [235.0]	4.2	5.5 [4.9]
Lower middle	2,475			4,759.9 [1,923]	15,624.3 [0.305]	344.4 [139.2]	7.2	7.0 [6.0]
Low Income	2,352			1,377.2 [585]	5,848.6 [x0.235]	252.2 [107.2]	18.3	8.0 [6.1]
Low & Middle Income	5,427	1,374 (25.2)	2,564 (47.0)	9,514.8 [1,753]	27,972.5 [0.340]	841.9 [155.1]	8.8	6.6 [5.3]
East Asia & Pacific	1,885	316 (16.8)	729 (38.7)	3,073.0 [1,630]	11,149.9 [0.276]	237.4 [125.9]	7.7	8.9 [8.0]
(China)	1,305	208 (15.9)	474 (36.3)	2,269.7 [1,740]	8,609.7 [0.264]	157.2 [120.5]	6.9	10.2 [9.5]
(Indonesia)	221	47.7 (21.4)	118.9 (53.8)	282.2 [1,280]	820.5 [0.264]	26.6 [120.3]	9.4	5.6 [4.2]
Europe & Central Asia	472	17 (3.7)	42 (8.9)	1,954.7 [4,143]	4,317.9 [0.453]	97.6 [206.7]	5.0	6.0 [5.9]
Latin America & Carib.	551	45 (8.2)	94 (17.1)	2,227.9 [4,045]	4,469.9 [0.498]	125.2 [227.2]	5.6	4.5 [3.1]
(Brazil) (6)	186	8 (4.3)	19 (10.4)	662.0 [3,550]	1,534.1 [0.432]	36.7 [197.1]	5.5	2.3 [0.9]
Middle East & N. Africa	306	11 (3.6)	51 (16.9)	672.7 [2,198]	1,861.9 [0.361]	50.4 [164.7]	7.5	4.3 [2.4]
(Iran)	68	n.a.	n.a.	177.3 [2,600]	549.4 [0.323]	10.0 [147.2]	5.6	4.4 [2.9]
South Asia	1,470	596 (40.3)	1,092 (73.9)	1,016.9 [692]	4,618.6 [0.220]	147.6 [100.4]	14.5	8.7 [6.9]
(India)	1,095	456 (41.6)	828 (75.6)	804.1 [730]	3,787.3 [0.212]	105.9 [96.7]	13.2	9.2 [7.7]
Sub-Saharan Africa	743	388 (50.9)	556 (72.9)	554.4 [746]	1,489.4 [0.372]	126.1 [169.7]	22.7	5.7 [3.4]
(Namibia) (7)	2	1 (49.1)	1 (62.2)	6.1 [2,990]	16.1 [0.379]	0.3 [172.9]	5.7	3.5 [2.4]

[Notes]

(1) The world map by region, classified according to World Bank analytical grouping, can be available from the back cover page of annual *World Development Indicators*. Its main characteristic is that only Low and Middle Income countries are included in the classification of its geographical regions. The list of excluded High Income countries from the World Bank geographical region is as follows:

East Asia & Pacific: Japan, Korea, Singapore, Brunei, Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia.

Europe & Central Asia: Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia, and all other West (i.e. not former Soviet-bloc or socialist) European countries.

Latin America & the Caribbean: Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, and other Caribbean countries known as “Tax Heaven”, which are part of British Commonwealth realm (Antigua & Barbuda, The

Bahamas, etc.), British Overseas Territories(Bermuda Islands, Cayman Islands, etc.), Dutch Kingdom (Aruba), and Dutch Overseas Territories (Netherlands Antilles).

Middle East and North Africa: Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

South Asia: No High Income countries. (“South Asia” includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)

Sub-Saharan Africa: No High Income countries.

(2) Population in hunger is the people living on per capita income of less than PPP\$1.25 a day. And population in poverty is the people living on per capita income of less than PPP\$2 a day. Those are the international poverty lines defined by the World Bank, as “extreme poverty” and “poverty” .

Numbers of the population are calculated by the author from the rates given in The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2011*, p.62-6.

(3) Gross National Income (GNI) is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad.

(4) PPP\$ is international dollars using the purchasing power parity (PPP) rates. PPP rates provide a standard measure allowing comparison of real level of expenditure between countries, just as conventional price indexes allow comparison of real value over time. The PPP conversions factors are derived from price surveys covering from 118 countries conducted by the International Comparison Program. Ratio of PPP conversion factor to market exchange rate is the price level index. The ratio is 1 in United States by definition. However, it is 1.038, if we divide the GNI figure in \$ by GNI figure in PPP\$, as is shown in this table. More original ratio of PPP conversion factor to market exchange rate is available from the Table 1.a of The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2008*, pp.8-11, but GNI figures for 2005 are not found there. Therefore, I preferred to calculate the ratio from the GNI figures in \$ and GNI figures in PPP\$ in The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007*,pp.14-6.

(5) The first step Global Basic Income (1st GBI) is defined to guarantee per capita income of PPP\$1.25 a day (i.e. PPP\$37.5 per month, or PPP\$456.25 per year).

(6) Population in hunger and in poverty in Brazil is estimated figures for the year of 2008.

(7) Population in hunger and in poverty in Namibia is estimated figures for the year of 1993.

[Source]

Compiled the data in The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007*, pp.14-6, The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2011*, pp.62-6, by the author.

Table 2. The 2nd step GBI, the 3rd step GBI, full GBI, and those ratios in GNI, 2005.

Region(Co untry) by World Bank analytical grouping (1)	The 2 nd step GBI -\$billion [per capita -\$] ⁽²⁾	The 2 nd GBI /GNI -%	The 3 rd step GBI -\$billion [per capita -\$] ⁽³⁾	The 3 rd GBI /GNI -%	Full GBI -\$billion [per capita -\$] ⁽³⁾	Full GBI /GNI -%
World	3,496.5 [543.1]	7.7	6,226.2 [967.1]	13.8		
High Income	799.3 [790.6]	2.2	1,423.4 [1,407.9]	4.0		
(United States)	224.3 [757.7]	1.7	399.4 [1,349.4]	3.1	8,692.9 [29,368]	67.3

(Japan)	115.9 [905.2]	2.3	206.3 [1612.0]	4.1	2,435.1 [19,024]	48.9
Europe EMU	254.4 [810.3]	2.5	367.2 [1,443.0]	3.6		
(Germany)	71.5 [871.6]	2.5	127.3 [1,552.2]	4.4	1,691.7 [20,630]	58.8
Middle Income	825.7 [268.6]	10.1	1,470.6 [478.4]	18.1		
Upper middle	225.6 [376.0]	6.7	401.7 [669.5]	11.9		
Lower middle	551.1 [222.7]	11.6	981.3 [396.5]	20.6		
Low Income	403.5 [171.6]	29.3	718.5 [305.5]	52.2		
Low & Middle Income	1,347.0 [248.2]	14.2	2,398.7 [442.0]	25.2		
East Asia & Pacific	379.8 [201.5]	12.4	676.3 [358.8]	22.0		
(China)	251.5 [192.7]	11.1	447.9 [343.2]	19.7	451.3 [345.8]	19.9
(Indonesi a)	42.6 [192.7]	15.1	75.8 [343.2]	26.9	112.8 [510.6]	40.0
Europe& Central Asia	156.1 [330.7]	8.0	278.0 [588.9]	14.2		
Latin America & Carib.	200.3 [363.5]	9.0	356.7 [647.4]	16.0		
(Brazil)	58.7 [315.4]	8.9	104.5 [561.6]	15.8	354.8 [1,907.7]	53.6
Middle East & N. Africa	80.6 [263.5]	12.0	143.6 [469.3]	21.3		
(Iran)	16.0 [235.8]	9.0	28.6 [419.9]	16.1	115.9 [1,703.8]	65.3
South Asia	236.1 [160.6]	23.2	420.4 [286.0]	41.3		
(India)	169.5 [154.8]	21.1	301.8 [275.6]	37.5	274.6 [250.8]	34.2
Sub-Sahar an Africa	201.8 [271.6]	36.4	359.3 [483.6]	64.8		
(Namibia)	0.6 [276.7]	9.1	1.0 [492.7]	16.2	1.6 [783.8]	25.7

[Notes]

(1) See note (1) of the Table 1.

(2) The second step Global Basic Income (2nd GBI) is defined to guarantee per capita income of PPP\$2 a day (i.e. PPP\$60 per month, or PPP\$730 per year). The 3rd GBI is defined to guarantee per capita income of PPP\$3.61 a day (i.e. PPP\$108.3 per month, or PPP\$1,300 per year). The amount of the 3rd

GBI is the average private consumption per capita of the world population. See, The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2008*, p.4.

- (3) The full GBI is defined here to guarantee average per capita consumption expenditure of the relevant country in the year of 2005. Taking average is especially problematic in a country with too many extreme poor people, as is seen in the case of India, in which the 3rd GBI is higher than full GBI in this table. The figure of per capita consumption expenditure is calculated from the figure of “PPP individual by household final consumption expenditure per capita”, which is defined as “the market value of all goods and services, including durable products, purchased by household. It excludes purchases of dwellings but includes imputed rent for owner-occupied dwellings.” See, The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2008*, pp.8-11.

[Source]

Compiled from the data in The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2007*, pp.14-6, The World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2008*, pp.8-11, by the author.

V Epilogue

John Holloway criticizes conventional revolutionary movements as follows:

Often the revolutionary movement has been constructed as a mirror image of power, army against army, party against party, with the result that power reproduces itself within the revolution itself. Anti-power, then, is not counter-power, but something much more radical: it is the dissolution of power-over, the emancipation of power-to. This is the great, absurd, inevitable challenge of the communist dream: to create a society free of power relations through the dissolution of power-over. (Holloway 2010; 36-7)

Though he never mentions basic income or GBI, the social movement for GBI society will be such kind of an anti-power, non-violent world revolution.

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