

Operation 'Lost Angels' recovers 33 missing children

LOS ANGELES -- On behalf of more than two dozen partner agencies, Assistant Director in Charge Kristi K. Johnson, of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office, announced the results of "Operation Lost Angels," an initiative which began on January 11th and recently culminated in the recovery of 33 children.

During January—Human Trafficking

Awareness Month—the FBI worked with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and more than two dozen law enforcement and non-governmental partners to identify, locate, and recover missing children, particularly those who have been or were suspected of being sexually exploited and/or trafficked.

Of the 33 children recovered, eight were being sexually exploited at the time of recovery. Two were recovered multiple times during the operation while on the "track," a common term used to describe a known location for commercial sex trafficking. It is not uncommon for victims who are rescued to return to commercial sex trafficking either voluntarily or by force, fraud, or coercion. This harmful cycle highlights the challenges victims face and those faced by law enforcement when attempting to keep victims from returning to an abusive situation. Victims may not self-identify as being trafficked or may not even realize they're being trafficked.

Several other victims located had been sexually exploited in the past and were considered vulnerable missing children prior to their recovery. Additionally, the operation resulted in the arrest on state charges of one suspected human trafficker and the opening of multiple investigations.



CDC expands negative COVID-19 test requirement to all air passengers entering the United States

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expanding the requirement for a negative COVID-19 test to all air passengers entering the United States. Testing before and after travel is a critical layer to slow the introduction and spread of COVID-19. This strategy is consistent with the current phase of the pandemic and more efficiently protects the health of Americans.

Variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus continue to emerge in countries around the world, and there is evidence of increased transmissibility of some of these variants. With the US already in surge status, the testing requirement for air passengers will help slow the spread of the virus as we work to vaccinate the American public.



Before departure to the United States, a required test, combined with the CDC recommendations to get tested again 3-5 days after arrival and stay home for 7 days post-travel, will help slow the spread of COVID-19 within US communities from travel-related infections. Pre-departure testing with results known and acted upon before travel begins will help identify infected travelers before they board airplanes.

Air passengers are required to get a viral test (a test for current infection) within the 3 days before their flight to the U.S. departs, and provide written documentation of their laboratory test result (paper or electronic copy) to the airline or provide documentation of having recovered from COVID-19. Airlines must confirm the negative test result for all passengers or documentation of recovery before they board. If a passenger does not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery, or chooses not to take a test, the airline must deny boarding to the passenger.

This order was signed by the CDC Director on January 12, 2021 and becomes effective on January 26, 2021.

DHS Releases Strategic Action Plan to Confront Threats from China

WASHINGTON— On January 11, then-Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf approved a Strategic Action Plan that details DHS's efforts to confront the full spectrum of Chinese threats to the Homeland. The DHS Strategic Action Plan to Counter the Threat Posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC) describes how the Department will continue to leverage the entire Homeland Security Enterprise to respond to the threats posed by the Beijing regime to the American people.

The Strategic Action Plan delineates DHS activities in four key areas:

1. Border Security and Immigration;
2. Trade and Economic Security;
3. Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure; and
4. Maritime Security.

NASA Conducts Test of SLS Rocket Core Stage for Artemis I Moon Mission



The core stage for the first flight of NASA's Space Launch System rocket is seen in the B-2 Test Stand during a hot fire test Jan. 16, 2021, at NASA's Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. (Credits: NASA Television)



The hot fire is the final test of the Green Run test series, a comprehensive assessment of the Space Launch System's core stage prior to launching the Artemis I mission to the Moon. (Credits: NASA Television)

NASA conducted a hot fire on January 16 of the core stage for the agency's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket that will launch the Artemis I mission to the Moon. The hot fire is the final test of the Green Run series.

The test plan called for the rocket's four RS-25 engines to fire for a little more than eight minutes — the same amount of time it will take to send the rocket to space following launch. The team successfully completed the countdown and ignited the engines, but the engines shut down a little more than one minute into the hot fire. Teams are assessing the data to determine what caused the early shutdown, and will determine a path forward.

For the test, the 212-foot core stage generated 1.6 million pounds of thrust, while anchored in the B-2 Test Stand at NASA's Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The hot fire test included loading

733,000 gallons of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen — mirroring the launch countdown procedure — and igniting the engines.

"(The) test was an important step forward to ensure that the core stage of the SLS rocket is ready for the Artemis I mission, and to carry crew on future missions," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, who attended the test. "Although the engines did not fire for the full duration, the team successfully worked through the countdown, ignited the engines, and gained valuable data to inform our path forward."

Support teams across the Stennis test complex provided high-pressure gases to the test stand, delivered all operational electrical power, supplied more than 330,000 gallons of water per minute to protect the test stand flame deflector and ensure the structural integrity of the core stage, and captured data to evaluate the core stage performance.

Thai hospital using US-made da Vinci X robot surgeon



Photo courtesy of https://twitter.com/pr_moph/

One of Bangkok's most prominent hospitals has a new American on staff: a U.S.-made robot surgeon named "da Vinci X" designed to assist surgeons' accuracy during procedures by using 3D high definition technology.

Tanet Thaidumrong, Head of a committee overseeing the robotic surgical system at Rajavithi Hospital, said that da Vinci Xi is the most advanced technology used by any of Thailand's hospitals. And the results have been impressive.

Da Vinci X was developed and manufactured by Intuitive Corporation of Sunnyvale, California. Da Vinci X's technologies enable the robot arms to move, bend, rotate and twist beyond human capabilities, allowing the robot surgeons to operate with a more steady motion than is humanly possible.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Special in this issue is a SUPPLEMENT featuring an Exclusive Interview by Awee Abayari with **DR. CARLOS PUENTE, Ph. D.**, International Lawyer and a Political and Economic Analyst, an Expert in Eastern European Countries, a University Professor and a Book Author, about the world's state of affairs. Read the full interview in English, Spanish & French on Pages 3, 4 & 5.

TSA closes 2020 with dramatic changes in checkpoint operations — commits to ongoing innovation in 2021

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reported the final daily figure of estimated travel volume for calendar year 2020, closing a year that tested the agency's ability to innovate and quickly implement modifications across more than 440 federalized airports nationwide to address the pandemic. Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020, the agency screened a total of approximately 324 million passengers throughout its airport security checkpoints. "In 2020, TSA implemented significant operational changes across its entire security checkpoint environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The speed and degree of change was unmatched in our 19-year history," said TSA Administrator David Pekoske. "The flexibility and agility of the men and women across TSA is a testament to their dedication to our collective transportation security mission."

Tackling health inequities

The COVID-19 pandemic has drawn attention to the deep disparities that persist between and within countries, some of which are being exacerbated and risk widening even further.

In 2021 we will draw on the latest WHO data and build on international commitments (and existing work) to advance universal health coverage and address the broader determinants of health. We will work with countries to monitor and address health inequities related to critical issues such as income, gender, ethnicity, living in remote rural areas or disadvantaged urban areas, education, occupation/employment conditions, and disability.

We will focus on steps the health sector



World Health Organization

can take to ensure equitable access to quality health services across the continuum of care, as well as engage with other sectors to address social and environmental determinants of health.

As part of our year-long campaign, on World Health Day, 7 April 2021, WHO will call for global action to address health inequities. - WHO

SEEKING HOPE AFTER TRAGEDY



After the deaths of her father, brother and uncle all in a short period of time, Danielle was already struggling to cope. So, when her best friend passed away soon after, she was devastated. She tried to fill the void and pain in destructive ways. "I felt like I'd rather die," she says.

Danielle almost got her wish. Homeless for months, she struggled to survive. After a series of bad decisions, she ended up incarcerated. After 3 months in jail, she was given a second chance.

"My daughter drove me to the Mission, and it's the best thing that's ever happened to me," Danielle says.

FINDING PEACE AND ACCEPTANCE

When Danielle first came through our doors, she was scared but had no other choice. "It took a good two months until I accepted the fact it's not a bad program. Now, I'm so grateful I came here," she says.

At the Mission, she found peace and started to accept herself. "My best friend is God. I have forgiven myself. I have no more guilt," Danielle says.

Today, Danielle is clean, sober and full of hope. She looks forward to graduating from the FreshStart program and spending time surrounded by her family.

THANKFUL

Danielle is truly thankful for donors and the support from the Mission's staff. "God bless you. If it weren't for people like you, I probably wouldn't be alive today."

Danielle's future plans include returning home, working at her daughter's in-home health care business and continuing to honor God.

Thank you on behalf of Danielle and others like her who deserve second chances. - LA MISSION

AN APPEAL FOR HELP

December 30, 2020

To all our Family, fellow parishioners, Facebook , friends, classmates, and acquaintances,

Some of you may know that my husband of 33 years, Rey, has had a lot of health challenges through the years. This is a difficult letter for me to write, but the reality our family now grasp is that we need a new kidney for him.

Rey was diagnosed with End Stage Renal Disease and has been on daily dialysis treatments for two years now. A lot has changed since then, he has lost almost a hundred pounds not only from his treatments but also from a lack of appetite due to the many medications he must take, and his deteriorated kidney function. His vision has significantly decreased making basic tasks like driving, reading and writing almost impossible without assistance. Frequent bouts of dizziness and fainting from his uncontrolled blood pressure and glucose levels have made daily activities a challenge. Falls with injuries are also a consequence of these episodes. Dialysis treatments can strip you of every ounce of energy that it leaves you feeling weak, fatigue – and always fighting an uphill battle. Sadly, hospitalizations are quite a norm for our family. A few weeks previously, 911 was called due to him being unresponsive, with his vital signs significantly weak, almost undetectable. Again, it was attributed to his uncontrolled BP and glucose levels.

It is hard to see someone so jovial, so full of life, now struggling with daily life. He served the community as a Registered Nurse for 36 years before retiring due to his disability. He is a family man, a good husband to me and a good father to our three children: Karen, Kristina and Karl. His latest joy is our beautiful granddaughter, Evelyn Lolita – a great source of joy in these difficult times.

ficult times.

We have been in a state of denial for a while, but now it has become obvious that he desperately needs a new kidney. The wait for a deceased kidney donor is 4-8 years but if there is a live kidney donor available, transplant can happen soonest. We have completed all his required pre-op tests at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD and Inova in Fairfax, VA. He is a blood type "O". We (children and I) are applying to be tested for possible donor, but also aware that medical clearance may not be possible for some of us due to existing health problems. If you can help, please do. If you know anyone who might, please forward this on. We would be most grateful. If you think you may be interested, you could get a blood test done to find out your blood type. Even if you are not an exact match, there is always the option of paired donation which allows for "swapping" kidneys with someone who does match. Please contact me at 443 889 4253, or this facebook account. For more helpful information, you can also contact Johns Hopkins Hospital Comprehensive Transplant Center @ 410 614 9345 or INOVA Fairfax Medical Campus, Kidney Transplant Program @ 703 776 6046 or 6056.

Thank You so much for considering and our family will forever be grateful for your bravery, compassion and benevolence. We are praying and hoping to hear from you.

Your kindness will give Rey another chance to live a normal life and enjoy more years with our children and grandchild.

My sincerest thanks,

Maria Ramos (Naty/ Nanette)

Proverbs 27:17 "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another"

Constance's Story



Constance is a hard working, independent mother who has been providing for herself and her family since the age of seventeen. She never expected she would one day need help from The Salvation Army.

She had been welding automotive parts for 14 years when her employer filed for bankruptcy. Thinking it was a temporary setback, one year turned to two; she quickly depleted her saving and didn't know where to turn. As a single mother her biggest concern was providing stability for her family. That's when she found The Salvation Army Bed and Bread program.

"No mother wants to see her kids go to bed hungry. No mother wants to have to tell her child that she can't provide the basic necessities."

The Salvation Army's Bed and Bread Trucks deliver warm meals to communities on a regular basis.

"I just looked for the big red shield on the side of the road."

Since then, Constance has started her own business and has been working hard to provide for her family, regaining the financial independence and stability that she provides for her family. Constance reflects back on the time when The Salvation Army provide basic needs for her family, "They were the world to me at a time where my world was caving in."

The Bed & Bread program is an example of the numerous programs we have that help provide basic needs to individuals and families.

Prayers for People affected by the new Coronavirus

The coronavirus rapidly around the world pandemic by the World March 11. More than have been infected, and 977,000 people. The increase daily, and the disease has impacted about 188 countries, prompting World Vision to launch our global COVID-19 response in March.

As Christians, we turn to God in times of fear and uncertainty as we do in times of joy and celebration. Please join us as we pray for God's heart of love, mercy, and truth to dwell in us and show us how to face the challenges posed by the new coronavirus.

Pray for the new coronavirus to stop spreading.

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea . . . —Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.

St. Luke's Health



At 50 years old, Ann Apel was raising her two sons with her husband. She loved being on the water and gardening, and she served as President of the Civic Association and the Parks Board. Then one day, while out jogging, she experienced shortness of breath and coughed up a blood clot. She was diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma in her lung.

When she learned of this harrowing diagnosis, Ann's heart sunk. She underwent constant monitoring and treatment for two years. Her treatment team worked off a flowchart of procedures from the oncologist's office. She had a complete pneumonectomy of the affected lung. Due to the rigors of her

disease and treatment, Ann experienced a lack of appetite to the point of endangering her life, plus major fatigue, and stomach and lower intestinal cramps. She was physically and emotionally exhausted. But throughout her journey, Ann found hope in her family's support — the strength of her husband, parents, family, and friends.

After a formidable journey and overcoming incredible odds, Ann is now over five years cancer free. She is very grateful to Dr. Burt, her oncologist at St. Luke's Health, and his team for helping her overcome cancer.

Ann has a renewed outlook on life and appreciates each moment.

APPLY FOR U.S. CITIZENSHIP NOW!

**PROTECT YOUR FUTURE -
CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY!**

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT -
FREE CONSULTATION**

LAW OFFICES

*Popkin
Shamir
& Golan*

3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1918
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tel: (213)383-3222 * Fax: (213)365-9922
E-mail: psg@immigrationguru.com
Website: www.immigrationguru.com



Special
SUPPLEMENT

★
INM

INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

An Exclusive Interview by AWEE ABAYARI with CARLOS PUENTE, PhD

International Lawyer and a Political and Economic Analyst • Expert in Eastern European Countries • University Professor and a Book Author

For more of the interview: www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari

Awee Abayari: How would you best describe the Economy of 2020 and the Economy of 2021?

Dr. Carlos Puente: According to recent economic data and forecast, the year 2020 has no precedent in world economy with a huge level of bankruptcy of small and medium businesses and I cannot predict if the bottom of the crisis has been reached or the decline of the economy will continue during 2021. The third pandemic wave has already started in several Western industrial countries and its governments have started to implement new restrictions to business hours and mass consumption due to lockdown, so the first quarter will show negative figures. The uncertainty will last for at least one year, unless vaccine becomes a real answer against the pandemic. The OECD data shows the world economy dropped by 4.2 % in 2020 with an expected real GDP growth of 4.2 % in 2021 and 3.7% in 2022. It does not sound realistic.

Awee Abayari: As an economist, international lawyer and a political scientist, how would you define the current world economic situation? In the United States, in Europe and in Asia?

• In the United States

Dr. Carlos Puente: During the Trump Administration, the USA has improved its economic growth, reduced unemployment rate to a historical level and a certain number of American businesses have moved from abroad to the USA. Presently, the USA is in a transition period after the presidential elections and the arrival of a new Administration. I reckon the American economy will still drive the world economy in spite of the Chinese economic growth. It is expected that the GDP of the United States will grow by 3.2 % in 2021 and 3.5 % in 2022.

• In Europe

The European economy has suffered a huge impact from lockdowns in several Member States of the European Union due to the pandemic. A lack of coordination in health and economic policies is responsible for this situation. The impact of the Covid on national economies depended on each economic structure. Countries depending on tourism or intensive manpower industries have suffered serious decline in economic activity causing an important increase of unemployment rate and business shutdowns. The entertainment industry/show business (movie theaters, concerts, etc.) have also been affected by strict lockdowns. The Euro area suffered a reduction of GDP of - 7.5 % in 2020 and a GDP growth is expected by 3.6 % in 2021 and 3.3 % in 2022. There is an important difference between countries: Germany suffered a reduction in GDP by - 5.5 % in 2020 but future perspectives are positive: 2.8 % (2021) and 3.3 % (2022). Data for French economy is similar: - 9.1 % (2020), 6.0 % (2021) and 3.3 % (2022). Nevertheless, Spain suffered the most important decrease of its GDP (- 11.6 %) in 2020 and with expected positive figures of 5.0 % or less in 2021 and 4.4 % in 2022 but not enough to recover the previous levels of economic activity. In 2020, the GDP of Russia has dropped by - 4.3 % and it is expected to have an increase of 2.8 % in 2021 and 2.2 % in 2022. This situation shows that the recovery of the European economy will be slower than some economists and governments have predicted.

• In Asia

There is no doubt that China has properly managed the impact of Covid in 2020 because its GDP has increased by 1.8 % and its economy is recovering quickly with an increase of 8.0 % in 2021 and 4.9 % in 2022. Western countries must learn from the chaos of the early stage of the pandemic modifying the rules of the global economy. Most industrial countries were depending on the Chinese supply of health products (masks, respirators, etc.). Japan is facing the crisis with difficulties because its economy suffered a decrease by - 5.3 % in 2020 and it is expected to have weak positive figures in 2021 (2.3 %) and 2022 (1.5 %).

Awee Abayari: How did Brexit impact the UK, EU and the U.S.?

Dr. Carlos Puente: The United Kingdom left the European Union on December 31st, 2020 after 47 years of membership. Brexit has been a controversial topic within the country and consequences will appear in the coming years. The UK was an important Member State but its exit will not provoke a huge trouble for the rest of the EU. Towards the end of 2020 both parts reached an agreement to rule future commercial relations in different sectors, including fisheries which is very important for some Member States. There will be a new framework for commercial relations between the EU and the UK and a period to adapt to the new situation has been agreed. Anyway, the EU trade rules will no longer apply in the UK so tariffs on goods will be applied to imports from the UK. New regulations will also be applied on capital and movements of people between the UK and the EU. Border between the Republic of Ireland and the British North Ireland was an important topic during the negotiations. The UK and Spain also share a common border at the colonial territory of Gibraltar which is a sensitive question between both countries and must be solved with intelligence and experience that the current Spanish government has a large deficit of.

The new situation will not affect relations between the European Union and the United States and I do believe that there will be a better understanding. The Trump Administration had promised London to negotiate a good commercial agreement with the UK and now we must wait for the decision from the new tenant of the White House.

Awee Abayari: Do you foresee a recession this year, 2021? Which countries will survive?

Dr. Carlos Puente: Most industrial Western countries have suffered important turbulences due to a pandemic but its economic productive structure is solid enough after the recession of 2008-2011. Now, the situation is quite different, although the external debt problem still remains unsolved. Politicians avoid talking about this topic which affects most industrial countries and may provoke a new crisis. By 2022, most countries will overcome the current crisis due to the

“The Spanish pharmaceutical company Pharma-Mar produces the drug Aplidin, which is used against bone marrow cancer and can be effective against Covid.”

* * *

“The World in 2023 will not be the same as it was in 2019. Globalization will be questioned and multilateralism will succeed.”

* * *

“The future economy will depend more on artificial intelligence and robots may become the best ally of the new citizen.”

Dr. Carlos Puente

Covid 19 but they must face new challenges. I cannot see a second recession but instead a slow economic recovery. We are facing an economic shock in demand for goods and services due to health crises but not a financial crisis as we had suffered in the past.

Awee Abayari: What are the basic common economic problems all countries will face?

Dr. Carlos Puente: The crisis provoked by the pandemic is not yet over and it is very difficult to predict if the vaccine will allow us to consider that the problem is solved. The health of the economy depends on the health of the citizens. The vaccine against Covid 19 or a medicine to treat it is the solution. From the beginning of March 2020 the whole economic system of Western countries have been affected by the bankruptcy of thousands of businesses, higher unemployment, the increase of public expenditure and external debt, etc. Countries depending on intensive workforce and with an important tourist and services sector will face the worst panorama and its recovery will be harder and slower.

Awee Abayari: What businesses / sectors have not been affected, sectors that have been the most affected by this pandemic and which sectors would have the fastest and the slowest recovery and why?

Dr. Carlos Puente: Most economic sectors have been affected around the world but mainly tourism, services, transportation, airlines, hotels, restaurants, small businesses, etc. Other businesses have successfully confronted the crisis: Ecommerce/selling online, supermarkets, media entertainment, internet services, production of medical devices, production and distribution of food, etc. However, many activities will not recover anymore and they will simply shut down its activities because they have been replaced by online business. Industrial production will not have extraordinary problems to resume its activities because its productive structure may resume production quickly.

Awee Abayari: Will the availability of the vaccine help in the improvement of the economy?

Dr. Carlos Puente: There is no doubt that the recovery from the negative growth rate depends on the quick availability of a reliable vaccine. The economic sector cannot work properly with an important mass of consumers and entrepreneurs suffering from the pandemic. It seems that the national health services across the world are already counting on different vaccines manufactured in huge quantities to avoid shortages. Pharmaceutical interest will play a negative role if they try to take advantage of the situation and speculate on drugs that the population urgently needs. In Europe, there is a tight competition among several Pharmaceuticals and the first vaccine that applied (Pfizer) doesn't meet with its commitments and does not supply the necessary quantities. Another option is the application of a medicine that cures the disease. The Spanish pharmaceutical company PharmaMar produces the drug Aplidin, which is used against bone marrow cancer and can be effective against Covid.

Awee Abayari: What foods, products and services do you think should be produced first, how and for whom?

Dr. Carlos Puente: After the experience of the pandemic Covid 19, the behavior of the population will be adapted to the new framework. It is important that governments realize that strategic sectors of the economy, the health and the security must be under national control. New regulations must be adopted to preserve the national independence from any foreign government. Devices related to communications including the internet and computer manufacture, medical supplies and basic food industry should be produced by national companies in quantities that can face future emergencies.

Awee Abayari: What should be the role of the government in helping the economic situation of their own given country?

Dr. Carlos Puente: In Europe, the European Union has adopted a Recovery Fund to shore up national economies of Member States affected deeply by the pandemic. The committed amount is 750,000 billions of Euros to be used during 2021-2027 in specific projects. From the total amount, a large sum of money are in financial aids and the rest are grants. Aside from this EU fund, each government must apply for other economic policies to help sectors that are affected. Most European governments have decided to supply direct financial aid and a reduction of taxes including a long delay to face fiscal obligations. On the opposite side, the social-communist Spanish government has decided to raise taxes which is a wrong decision but it is in line with its political ideology. Spain is a leader in the unemployment rate with the highest level of bankruptcy of small businesses and its GDP in 2020 dropped by -11.6 %, only overcome by Argentina among G-20 countries, whose GDP dropped by -12.9%.

Awee Abayari: What major changes do you think will take place after this

pandemic?

Dr. Carlos Puente: The pandemic of Covid 19 has shown to economists and politicians that globalization has weaknesses in Western economies. It is generally accepted that China is the global factory that supplies all kinds of goods at cheap prices but the pandemic has also shown that China is the main supplier of strategic accessories and devices. Thus, at the beginning of the pandemic all Western industrial countries were depending on supplies from China for masks, respirators, etc. Many countries were fighting each other for enough quantities of masks and other medical devices. It was a pathetic situation: Every man for himself! The conclusion is that globalization has limits and governments must take them into consideration for future deals.

Due to the lockdowns, home office and video teaching were very active and it will remain among us. Some aspects of medical care will also change the traditional way and video consultation will be common.

As strategic means of communication, the internet and a worldwide wifi urban system for free must be set up immediately and updated courses on new technologies should be part not only for high school students but for the elderly people as well. The computer or laptop, the tablet and the mobile phone should be cheaper and made available for the general population.

Unfortunately, due to the lockdowns and curfew laws declared during the pandemic it has shown that freedom is at risk. Some multinational companies and communication platforms may become the “big brother” in the years to come. Democracy cannot be for sale. The control of minds cannot be in the hands of the communication monopolies like google, facebook, twitter, etc. which has set up the new “communidemocracy”. Some governments took advantage of this situation to control citizen's behavior and to set up curfew laws and to suspend parliamentary activities like what happened in Spain,

Awee Abayari: What global issues will be front and center after this challenging experience?

Dr. Carlos Puente: The Covid 19 is not the only challenge for the World economy in the years to come. Other economic problems have remained untouched and it is necessary to solve them unless industrial and other countries would want a new economic crisis. For decades, in most countries, government deficits became unmanageable and external debts remained hidden by the wrong policy of quantitative easing from the Central Banks. The excess of money supply has delayed the solution to the problem of external debts which needed to have been handled with care. Economic deficits transform themselves into external debt and, if economic growth is not enough to reduce such debt, most industrial countries may collapse. Besides, in the coming months we will see the resumption of the commercial war between Western countries and China and it will make the World economy unstable.

Awee Abayari: Is there anything historical that you can remember that can compare to this unbelievable loss of lives, employment etc., to an almost world economic collapse?

Dr. Carlos Puente: In the past 100 years there is no evidence of a pandemic with similar economic consequences like the current Covid. During the 20th century, there have been several epidemic and pandemic diseases which provoked panic and casualties including death, like the Avian flu, the Asian flu of 1957-1958, Dengue, AIDS, etc. The worst pandemic in the 20th Century happened between 1918 and 1920 during the First World War. It was known as the Spanish flu but its origin was in Fort Riley (Kansas, USA) and it affected 500 million people and 50 million people died. In 1923, the International Health Organization was established within the League of Nations, the precedent of UNO due to the consequences of such pandemic.

Awee Abayari: To recapitulate, what do you think will be the new normal after the pandemic?

Dr. Carlos Puente: World economy is presently in a huge economic crisis due to health causes, the pandemic, but a second recession is not in the horizon. All countries expect to overcome this situation and resume the former status of a market economy working properly. The World in 2023 will not be the same as it was in 2019. Globalization will be questioned and multilateralism will succeed.

The functioning of the society will be swift and some businesses will be destroyed and new jobs will appear: Teleworking and telelearning will become a part of our lives. Some sectors will suffer a huge transformation and will provoke a reduction of the employment (banking, administrative services, including government contact with its citizens, transportation system, etc.) The car makers will also suffer from a drop in demand for private vehicles and logistics and delivery business will see a great future. The size of companies will reduce and the demand for offices will drop significantly.

New technologies will allow people to be connected to each other using the internet as a means of communication and for work. Open free wifi areas in towns will be available to the general population. Online shopping companies will improve its efficiency and will merge with banking and production sectors.

The future economy will be depend more on artificial intelligence and robots may become the best ally of the new citizen. Don't forget that “robot” comes from the Czech word robotnik which means “worker”. Citizens will not go to the restaurant for dinner because the restaurant will come to the citizens but tourism will still remain a great attraction to people. How will we pay for this revolution? Will paper money disappear and be replaced by artificial money like the digital currency? And all these dreams depend on a vaccine or a drug to fight Covid 19! . It will also depend on the economic-fiscal policy of the governments. Putting government money in the pocket of its citizens is frequently more effective than increasing the money supply for investments via quantitative easing.

Awee Abayari: Thank you very much.



Special
SUPPLEMENT



INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Entrevista Exclusiva Por AWEE ABAYARI con el Dr. CARLOS PUENTE

ABOGADO INTERNACIONAL Y ANALISTA POLÍTICO Y ECONÓMICO • EXPERTO EN PAÍSES DE EUROPA DEL ESTE • PROFESOR UNIVERSITARIO Y AUTOR DE LIBROS

Awee Abayari: ¿Cómo describiría la economía de 2020 y la economía de 2021?

Dr. Carlos Puente: Según los datos económicos recientes y las previsiones para el año 2021 la situación económica en 2020 no tiene precedentes con un numeroso número de quiebras de pequeñas y medianas empresas y no se puede predecir si se ha tocado fondo en esta crisis o si el declive de la economía continuará durante 2021. La tercera ola de la pandemia ya se ha iniciado en varios países industriales occidentales y sus gobiernos han comenzado a aplicar nuevas restricciones con toques de queda y confinamientos de la población, por lo que el primer trimestre de 2021 mostrará datos económicos negativos. La incertidumbre durará al menos un año, hasta que la vacuna se convierta en una respuesta eficaz contra la pandemia. Los datos de la OCDE muestran que la economía mundial cayó un 4,2% en 2020 y se espera un crecimiento del PIB real del 4,2% en 2021 y del 3,7% en 2022., aunque no parece realista.

Awee Abayari: Como economista, abogado internacional y politólogo, ¿cómo definiría la actual situación económica mundial? ¿En Estados Unidos, Europa y Asia?

Dr. Carlos Puente:

• En Estados Unidos

Durante la Administración Trump, EE. UU. aumentó su crecimiento económico, redujo la tasa de desempleo a un nivel histórico y un cierto número de empresas estadounidenses regresaron del extranjero a EE. UU. Actualmente Estados Unidos se encuentra en un período de transición tras las elecciones presidenciales y la llegada de una nueva Administración. Creo que la economía estadounidense seguirá impulsando la economía mundial a pesar del importante crecimiento económico de China. Se espera que el PIB de Estados Unidos crezca un 3,2% en 2021 y un 3,5% en 2022.

• En Europa

La economía europea ha sufrido un gran impacto por los confinamientos en varios Estados miembros de la Unión Europea debido a la pandemia. La falta de coordinación en las políticas sanitarias y económicas es responsable de esta situación. El impacto del Covid en las economías nacionales depende de su estructura económica. Los países que dependen del turismo o de las industrias intensivas en mano de obra han sufrido una grave caída de la actividad económica que ha provocado un aumento importante de la tasa de desempleo y el cierre de empresas. La industria del ocio y el mundo del espectáculo (cines, conciertos, etc.) también se han visto afectados por los toques de queda. La zona euro sufrió una reducción del PIB del - 7,5% en 2020 y se espera un crecimiento del PIB del 3,6% en 2021 y del 3,3% en 2022. Existe una diferencia importante en la situación de los países: Alemania sufrió una reducción del PIB del - 5,5% en 2020 pero las perspectivas de futuro son positivas: 2,8% (2021) y 3,3% (2022). Los datos de la economía francesa son similares: - 9,1% (2020), 6,0% (2021) y 3,3% (2022). No obstante, España sufrió el descenso más importante de su PIB (-11,6%) en 2020 y se esperan cifras positivas del 5,0% o menos en 2021 y del 4,4% en 2022 pero insuficientes para recuperar los niveles anteriores de actividad económica. En 2020, el PIB de Rusia cayó - 4,3% y se espera que tenga un aumento del 2,8% en 2021 y del 2,2% en 2022. Esta situación muestra que la recuperación de la economía europea será más lenta de lo que han previsto algunos economistas y gobiernos.

• En Asia

No hay duda de que China ha gestionado adecuadamente el impacto de Covid en 2020 porque su PIB ha aumentado un 1,8% y su economía se está recuperando rápidamente con un aumento del 8,0% en 2021 y del 4,9% en 2022. Los países occidentales deben aprender del caos producido en la etapa inicial de la pandemia y deben modificar las normas de la economía global. La mayoría de los países industrializados han dependido del suministro chino de productos sanitarios (máscaras, respiradores, etc.). Japón afronta la crisis con dificultades porque su economía sufrió un descenso del - 5,3% en 2020 y se espera que tenga bajas cifras positivas en 2021 (2,3%) y 2022 (1,5%).

Awee Abayari: ¿Cómo afectó el Brexit al Reino Unido, la UE y los EE.UU.?

Dr. Carlos Puente: El Reino Unido abandonó la Unión Europea el 31 de diciembre de 2020 después de 47 años de membresía. El Brexit ha sido un tema controvertido dentro del país y las consecuencias aparecerán en los próximos años. El Reino Unido era un Estado miembro importante, pero su salida no provocará un gran problema para el resto de la UE. Hacia finales de 2020, ambas partes llegaron a un acuerdo para regular las futuras relaciones comerciales en diferentes sectores, incluida la pesca, que es un sector muy importante para algunos Estados miembros. Habrá un nuevo marco para las relaciones comerciales entre la UE y el Reino Unido y se ha acordado un período transitorio para adaptarse a la nueva situación. De todos modos las reglas comerciales de la UE ya no se aplicarán en el Reino Unido, por lo que se aplicarán aranceles a las mercancías importadas del Reino Unido. También se aplicarán nuevas regulaciones sobre movimientos de capitales y personas entre el Reino Unido y la UE. La frontera entre la República de Irlanda e Irlanda del Norte, que es parte del Reino Unido, fue un punto muy sensible durante las negociaciones. El Reino Unido y España también comparten una frontera común en el territorio colonial de Gibraltar, que es una cuestión delicada entre ambos países y debe resolverse con inteligencia y experiencia de la que el actual gobierno español tiene un gran déficit.

La nueva situación no afectará a las relaciones entre la Unión Europea y Estados Unidos y creo que habrá un mejor entendimiento. La Administración Trump había prometido a Londres negociar un buen acuerdo comercial con Reino Unido y ahora hay que esperar la decisión del nuevo inquilino de la Casa Blanca.

Awee Abayari: ¿Prevé una recesión este año, 2021? ¿Qué países sobrevivirán?

Dr. Carlos Puente: La mayoría de los países industriales occidentales han sufrido importantes turbulencias debido a una pandemia pero su estructura productiva económica es suficientemente sólida después de la recesión de 2008-2011. Ahora la situación es bastante diferente aunque el problema de la deuda externa sigue sin resolverse. Los políticos evitan hablar de este tema que afecta a la mayoría de los países industrializados y puede provocar una nueva crisis. Para el 2022, la mayoría de los países superarán la crisis actual debido al Covid 19 pero deberán enfrentarse a nuevos desafíos. No veo una segunda recesión, sino una lenta recuperación económica. Nos enfrentamos a un shock

“La empresa farmacéutica española PharmaMar ha presentado el medicamento Aplidin, que se utiliza contra el cáncer de medula ósea y que parece ser efectivo contra el Covid.”

* * *

“El mundo en 2023 no será el mismo que el de 2019. Se cuestionará la globalización y el multilateralismo triunfará.”

* * *

“La economía del futuro dependerá más de la inteligencia artificial y los robots pueden convertirse en el mejor aliado del nuevo ciudadano.”

Dr. Carlos Puente

económico en la demanda de bienes y servicios debido a una crisis sanitaria, pero no a una crisis financiera como la que hemos sufrido en el pasado.

Awee Abayari: ¿Cuáles son los problemas económicos fundamentales comunes a los que se enfrentarán todos los países?

Dr. Carlos Puente: La crisis provocada por la pandemia aún no ha terminado y es muy difícil predecir si la vacuna nos permitirá considerar que el problema está resuelto. La salud de la economía depende de la salud de los ciudadanos. La vacuna contra el covid o un medicamento que lo cure es la solución. Desde principios de marzo de 2020 todo el sistema económico de los países occidentales se ha visto afectado por la quiebra de miles de empresas, el aumento del paro, el aumento del gasto público y de la deuda externa, etc. Países dependientes de mano de obra intensiva y con una importante dependencia del turismo y el sector servicios se enfrentará a un peor panorama y su recuperación será más dura y lenta.

Awee Abayari: ¿Qué empresas / sectores no se han visto afectados, sectores que han sido los más afectados por esta pandemia y qué sectores tendrían la recuperación más rápida y lenta y por qué?

Dr. Carlos Puente: La mayoría de los sectores económicos se han visto afectados en todo el mundo pero principalmente el turismo, los servicios, el transporte, las aerolíneas, los hoteles, los restaurantes, las pequeñas empresas, etc. Otros sectores han resistido la crisis mejor: los servicios de internet, los productos relacionados con la salud, la producción y distribución de alimentos, etc. Sin embargo, muchas actividades ya no se recuperarán y simplemente cerrarán sus actividades porque han sido reemplazadas por negocios online. La producción industrial no tendrá problemas extraordinarios para retomar sus actividades porque su estructura productiva podrá reanudar la producción rápidamente.

Awee Abayari: ¿Ayudará la disponibilidad de la vacuna a mejorar la economía?

Dr. Carlos Puente: No hay duda de que la recuperación de la tasa de crecimiento depende de la rápida disponibilidad de una vacuna efectiva. El sector económico no puede funcionar adecuadamente con una masa importante de consumidores y empresarios que sufren la enfermedad. Parece que los servicios de salud nacionales de todo el mundo ya pueden contar con diferentes vacunas fabricadas en grandes cantidades para evitar la escasez. El interés farmacéutico desempeñará un papel negativo si intentan aprovecharse de la situación y especulan con los medicamentos que la población necesita con urgencia. En Europa, existe una fuerte competencia entre varios productos farmacéuticos y la primera vacuna aplicada (Pfizer) no cumple con sus compromisos y no está suministrando las cantidades necesarias. Otra opción es la aplicación de un medicamento que cure la enfermedad. La empresa farmacéutica española PharmaMar ha presentado el medicamento Aplidin, que se utiliza contra el cáncer de medula ósea y que parece ser efectivo contra el Covid.

Awee Abayari: ¿Qué alimentos, productos y servicios crees que deberían producirse primero, cómo y para quién?

Dr. Carlos Puente: Tras la experiencia de la pandemia Covid 19, el comportamiento de la población se adaptará al nuevo marco económico y social. Es importante que los gobiernos se den cuenta de que los sectores estratégicos de la economía y que la salud y la seguridad deben estar bajo control nacional. Deben adoptarse nuevas regulaciones para preservar la independencia nacional de cualquier gobierno extranjero. Los productos relacionados con las comunicaciones, como Internet y la fabricación de ordenadores, los suministros médicos y la industria alimentaria básica, deben ser producidos por empresas nacionales en cantidades suficientes para hacer frente a futuras emergencias.

Awee Abayari: ¿Cuál debería ser el papel del gobierno para ayudar a la situación económica de su propio país?

Dr. Carlos Puente: En Europa, la Unión Europea ha adoptado un Fondo de Recuperación para apuntalar las economías nacionales de los Estados miembros profundamente afectados por la pandemia. La cantidad comprometida es de 750.000 mil millones de euros para ser utilizados durante el período 2021-2027 en proyectos específicos. De la suma total, una gran cantidad se destina a ayudas económicas y el resto a subvenciones. Aparte de este fondo de la UE, cada gobierno debe aplicar otras políticas económicas para ayudar a los sectores afectados. La mayoría de los gobiernos europeos han decidido ofrecer ayuda financiera directa y una reducción de impuestos que incluye una prórroga para cumplir con las obligaciones fiscales. En el lado opuesto, el gobierno social-comunista español ha decidido subir los impuestos, lo que es una decisión equivocada pero está en línea con su ideología política. España es líder en la tasa de paro con mayor nivel de quiebra de pequeñas empresas y su PIB en 2020 cayó un -11,6%, solo superado por Argentina entre los países del G-20, cuyo PIB disminuyó un -12,9%.

Awee Abayari: ¿Qué cambios importantes cree que se producirán después de esta pandemia?

Dr. Carlos Puente: La pandemia de Covid 19 ha demostrado a economistas y políticos que la globalización provoca importantes debilidades en las economías

occidentales. En general, se acepta que China es la fábrica mundial que suministra todo tipo de productos a precios económicos, pero la pandemia también ha demostrado que China es el principal proveedor de accesorios y productos estratégicos. Así, al comienzo de la pandemia, todos los países industriales occidentales dependían de los suministros de China para las mascarillas, respiradores, etc. Muchos países compitieron entre sí para obtener cantidades suficientes de mascarillas y otros dispositivos médicos. Era una situación patética: ¡Sálvese quien pueda! La conclusión es que la globalización tiene límites y los gobiernos deben tenerlos en cuenta para futuros acuerdos.

Debido a los confinamientos de la población, la enseñanza en el hogar y por video ha sido habitual y permanecerá entre nosotros. Algunos aspectos de la atención médica también cambiarán la forma tradicional y la consulta por video será una práctica aceptada por la sociedad.

Como medio estratégico de comunicación, es necesario establecer inmediatamente Internet y un sistema urbano de wifi gratuito en todos los países, y los cursos actualizados sobre nuevas tecnologías deben ser obligatorios no solo para los estudiantes de secundaria sino también para las personas mayores. Una computadora o laptop, una tableta y un teléfono móvil deberían ser más baratos y estar disponibles para la mayoría de la población.

Desafortunadamente, debido a las órdenes de confinamiento y toques de queda declaradas por algunos gobiernos durante la pandemia, se ha demostrado que la libertad está en peligro. Algunas empresas multinacionales y plataformas de comunicación pueden convertirse en el “big brother” en los próximos años. La democracia no se puede vender. El control de las mentes no puede estar en manos de los monopolios de la comunicación como google, facebook, twitter, etc. que han creado la nueva “comunicación”. Algunos gobiernos aprovecharon esta situación para controlar el comportamiento de los ciudadanos y establecer el toque de queda y la suspensión de las actividades parlamentarias como ha ocurrido en España.

Awee Abayari: ¿Qué problemas globales serán prioritarios después de esta desafiante experiencia?

Dr. Carlos Puente: El Covid 19 no es el único desafío para la economía mundial en los próximos años. Otros problemas económicos han permanecido intactos y es necesario resolverlos a menos que los países industriales quieran sufrir una nueva crisis económica. Durante décadas, en la mayoría de los países, el déficit público era incontrolable y la deuda externa se ocultaba por la política monetaria de flexibilización cuantitativa de los bancos centrales. El exceso de oferta monetaria ha retrasado la solución del problema de la deuda externa que debe mantenerse controlada. Como sabemos, el déficit económico se transforma en deuda externa y, si el crecimiento económico no es suficiente para reducir esa deuda, la mayoría de los países industriales podrían colapsar. Además, en los próximos meses veremos la reanudación de la guerra comercial entre los países occidentales y China y aparecerá un período de inestabilidad en la economía mundial.

Awee Abayari: ¿Existe alguna referencia histórica que pueda recordar y compararse con esta increíble pérdida de vidas, empleo, etc., con un colapso económico casi mundial?

Dr. Carlos Puente: En los últimos 100 años no hay evidencia de una pandemia con consecuencias económicas similares a la actual provocada por el Covid. Durante el siglo XX, ha habido varias enfermedades epidémicas y pandémicas que provocaron pánico y víctimas, incluida la muerte, como la gripe aviar, la gripe asiática de 1957-1958, el dengue, el sida, etc. La peor pandemia del siglo XX ocurrió entre 1918 y 1920 durante la Primera Guerra Mundial. Se la conoció como gripe española pero su origen estuvo en Fort Riley (Kansas, EE. UU.) y afectó a 500 millones de personas y 50 millones de personas murieron. En 1923 se creó la Organización Internacional de la Salud dentro de la Liga de Naciones, precedente de la ONU por las consecuencias de dicha pandemia.

Awee Abayari: Para recapitular, ¿cuál cree que será la nueva normalidad después de la pandemia?

Dr. Carlos Puente: La economía mundial se encuentra actualmente en una gran crisis económica debido a causas de salud, la pandemia, y una segunda recesión no está en el horizonte. Todos los países esperan superar esta situación y recuperar la situación anterior, con una economía de mercado funcionando. El mundo en 2023 no será el mismo que el de 2019. Se cuestionará la globalización y el multilateralismo triunfará.

El funcionamiento de la sociedad se acelerará, se destruirán algunos negocios y aparecerán nuevas formas de trabajo: el tele trabajo y la educación a distancia se convertirán en parte de nuestras vidas. Algunos sectores sufrirán una gran transformación y provocarán una reducción del empleo (banca, servicios administrativos, incluida la Administración pública, el sistema de transporte, etc.). Los fabricantes de automóviles también sufrirán una caída en la demanda de vehículos privados y la logística y las empresas de reparto de productos tendrán un gran futuro. El tamaño de las empresas se reducirá y la demanda de locales para oficinas se reducirá significativamente.

Además, las nuevas tecnologías permitirán que las personas se conecten entre sí utilizando Internet como medio de comunicación y de trabajo. Se pondrán a disposición de la población zonas abiertas con wifi gratuito en las todos los países. Las empresas de compras online mejorarán su eficiencia y se fusionarán con el sector bancario y la producción de bienes.

La economía del futuro dependerá más de la inteligencia artificial y los robots pueden convertirse en el mejor aliado del nuevo ciudadano. No olvidemos que “robot” proviene de la palabra checa robotnik cuyo significado es “trabajador”. El ciudadano no irá al restaurante a cenar porque el restaurante vendrá al ciudadano pero el turismo seguirá siendo un gran atractivo para la gente. ¿Cómo pagaremos esta revolución? ¿Desaparecerá el papel moneda y será reemplazado por moneda digital? ¿Y todos estos sueños dependen de una vacuna o un medicamento para combatir el Covid 19? Y también de la política económico-fiscal de los gobiernos. Poner dinero del gobierno en el bolsillo de los ciudadanos es muchas veces más eficaz que aumentar la oferta monetaria para la inversión via flexibilización cuantitativa.

Awee Abayari: Muchísimas Gracias.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Entretien Exclusive Par AWEE ABAYARI avec Dr CARLOS PUENTE

AVOCAT INTERNATIONAL ET ANALYSTE POLITIQUE ET ÉCONOMIQUE • EXPERT DANS LES PAYS D'EUROPE DE L'EST • PROFESSEUR UNIVERSITAIRE ET AUTEUR DE LIVRES

Awée Abayari: Comment décririez-vous l'économie 2020 et l'économie 2021?

Dr Carlos Puente: D'après des données économiques récentes et des prévisions pour 2021, la situation économique en 2020 est une situation sans précédent avec un grand nombre de faillites de petites et moyennes entreprises et on ne peut pas prédire si le creux a été atteint dans cette crise ou si le déclin de l'économie se poursuivra en 2021. La troisième vague de la pandémie a déjà commencé dans plusieurs pays industriels occidentaux et leurs gouvernements ont entrepris l'application de nouvelles restrictions avec des couvre-feux et des confinements de la population, de sorte que le premier trimestre de 2021 montrera des données économiques négatives. L'incertitude durera au moins un an, jusqu'à ce que le vaccin devienne une réponse efficace contre la pandémie. Les données de l'OCDE montrent que l'économie mondiale a reculé de 4,2% en 2020 et que la croissance du PIB réel devrait être de 4,2% en 2021 et de 3,7% en 2022, bien que cela semble peu réaliste.

Awée Abayari: En tant qu'économiste, juriste international et politologue, comment définiriez-vous la situation économique mondiale actuelle? Aux États-Unis, en Europe et en Asie?

Dr Carlos Puente:

• **Aux États-Unis:** Sous l'administration Trump, les États-Unis ont augmenté leur croissance économique, le taux de chômage s'est réduit à un niveau historique, et un certain nombre d'entreprises américaines sont retournées de l'étranger aux États-Unis. Actuellement, les États-Unis sont dans une période de transition après les élections présidentielles et l'arrivée d'une nouvelle administration. Je crois que l'économie américaine continuera d'être le moteur de l'économie mondiale malgré la forte croissance économique de la Chine. Le PIB des États-Unis devrait augmenter de 3,2% en 2021 et de 3,5% en 2022.

• **En Europe:** L'économie européenne a été fortement touchée par les confinements de la population dans plusieurs États membres de l'Union européenne en raison de la pandémie. Le manque de coordination des politiques sanitaires et économiques est responsable de cette situation. L'impact de Covid sur les économies nationales dépend de leur structure économique. Les pays qui dépendent du tourisme ou des industries à forte intensité de main-d'œuvre ont subi une forte baisse de l'activité économique qui a entraîné une augmentation significative du taux de chômage et des faillites d'entreprises. L'industrie de loisirs et des spectacles (cinémas, concerts, etc.) ont également été touchés par les couvre-feux. La zone euro a subi une baisse du PIB de - 7,5% en 2020 mais il est prévu une croissance du PIB de 3,6% en 2021 et 3,3% en 2022. Il y a une différence significative dans la situation des pays de l'UE: l'Allemagne a subi une réduction du PIB de - 5,5% en 2020 mais les perspectives d'avenir sont positives: 2,8% (2021) et 3,3% (2022). Les données de l'économie française sont semblables: - 9,1% (2020), 6,0% (2021) et 3,3% (2022). Cependant, l'Espagne a subi la baisse la plus significative dans son PIB (-11,6%) en 2020 et une croissance de 5,0% ou moins sont attendus en 2021 et 4,4% en 2022, mais insuffisants pour reprendre les niveaux précédents d'activité économique. En 2020, le PIB de la Russie a baissé de 4,3% et devrait augmenter de 2,8% en 2021 et de 2,2% en 2022. Cette situation montre que la reprise de l'économie européenne sera plus lente que ce que certains économistes et gouvernements ont prévu.

• **En Asie:** Il n'y a aucun doute que la Chine a bien géré l'impact de Covid en 2020 car son PIB a augmenté de 1,8% et son économie se redresse rapidement avec une augmentation de 8,0% en 2021 et 4,9% en 2022. Les pays occidentaux doivent tirer les leçons du chaos produit au stade initial de la pandémie et il faut changer les règles de l'économie mondiale. La plupart des pays industrialisés se sont appuyés sur les fournitures chinoises pour les dispositifs médicaux (masques, respirateurs, etc.). Le Japon fait face à la crise avec des difficultés car son économie a subi une baisse de -5,3% en 2020 et devrait avoir un accroissement en 2021 de 2,3% et en 2022 de 1,5%.

Awée Abayari: Comment le Brexit a-t-il affecté le Royaume-Uni, l'UE et les États-Unis?

Dr Carlos Puente: Le Royaume-Uni a quitté l'Union européenne le 31 décembre 2020 après 47 ans d'adhésion. Le Brexit a été une question controversée dans le pays et les conséquences apparaîtront dans les années à venir. Le Royaume-Uni était un État membre important, mais son départ ne posera pas beaucoup de problèmes au reste de l'UE. Vers la fin de 2020, les deux parties sont parvenues à un accord pour régler les futures relations commerciales dans différents secteurs, y compris la pêche, qui est un secteur très important pour certains États membres. Il y aura un nouveau cadre pour les relations commerciales entre l'UE et le Royaume-Uni et une période de transition a été convenue pour s'adapter à la nouvelle situation. Cependant, les règles commerciales de l'UE ne s'appliqueront plus au Royaume-Uni, de sorte que les tarifs s'appliqueront aux marchandises importées du Royaume-Uni. De nouvelles réglementations sur la circulation des capitaux et des personnes entre le Royaume-Uni et l'UE s'appliqueront également. La frontière entre la République d'Irlande et l'Irlande du Nord, qui fait partie du Royaume-Uni, a été un point très sensible lors des négociations. Le Royaume-Uni et l'Espagne partagent également une frontière commune dans le territoire colonial de Gibraltar, qui est une question délicate entre les deux pays et doit être résolue avec l'intelligence et l'expérience dont le gouvernement espagnol actuel a un déficit important.

La nouvelle situation n'affectera pas les relations entre l'Union européenne et les États-Unis et je pense qu'il y aura une meilleure compréhension. L'administration Trump avait promis à Londres de négocier un bon accord commercial avec le Royaume-Uni et il faut maintenant attendre la décision du nouveau locataire de la Maison Blanche.

Awée Abayari: Prévoyez-vous une récession cette année, 2021? Quels pays survivront?

Dr Carlos Puente: La plupart des pays industrialisés occidentaux ont subi d'importantes turbulences dues à une pandémie, mais leur structure de production économique est suffisamment solide après la récession de 2008-2011. Aujourd'hui, la situation est bien différente, même si le problème de la dette extérieure reste non résolu. Les politiciens évitent de parler de cette question qui affecte la plupart des pays industrialisés et peut provoquer une nouvelle crise. D'ici 2022, la plupart des pays surmonteront la crise actuelle due à Covid 19 mais devront faire face à de nouveaux défis. Je ne vois pas

“La société pharmaceutique espagnole PharmaMar a présenté le médicament Aplidin, qui est utilisé contre le cancer de la moelle osseuse et qui semble être efficace contre Covid.”

* * *

“Le monde en 2023 ne sera pas le même qu'en 2019. La mondialisation sera remise en question et le multilatéralisme triomphera.”

* * *

L'économie du futur dépendra davantage de l'intelligence artificielle et les robots pourront devenir le meilleur allié du nouveau citoyen.”
Dr. Carlos Puente

une deuxième récession, mais une lente reprise économique. Nous sommes confrontés à un choc économique de la demande de biens et de services en raison de la crise sanitaire, mais pas à une crise financière comme celle que nous avons subie dans le passé.

Awée Abayari: Quels sont les problèmes économiques fondamentaux communs auxquels tous les pays seront confrontés?

Dr Carlos Puente: La crise provoquée par la pandémie n'est pas encore terminée et il est très difficile de prédire si le vaccin nous permettra de considérer que le problème est résolu. La santé de l'économie dépend de la santé des citoyens. Le vaccin contre le covid ou un médicament qui le guérit est la solution. Depuis début mars 2020, tout le système économique des pays occidentaux est touché par la faillite de milliers d'entreprises, la hausse du chômage, l'augmentation des dépenses publiques et de la dette extérieure, etc. Les pays dépendant d'une main-d'œuvre intensive et fortement dépendants du tourisme et du secteur des services connaîtront des perspectives peu positives et leur reprise sera plus difficile et plus lente.

Awée Abayari: Quelles entreprises / secteurs n'ont pas été touchés, quels secteurs ont été les plus touchés par cette pandémie et quels secteurs auraient la reprise la plus rapide et la plus lente et pourquoi?

Dr Carlos Puente: La plupart des secteurs économiques ont été touchés à travers le monde mais principalement le tourisme, les services, les transports, les compagnies aériennes, les hôtels, les restaurants, les petites entreprises, etc. D'autres secteurs ont mieux résisté à la crise: services internet, produits liés à la santé, production et distribution alimentaires, etc. Cependant, de nombreuses activités ne reprendront plus et s'arrêteront simplement parce qu'elles ont été remplacées par des entreprises on-line. La production industrielle n'aura pas de problèmes extraordinaires pour reprendre ses activités car sa structure productive pourra reprendre la production rapidement.

Awée Abayari: La disponibilité du vaccin contribuera-t-elle à améliorer l'économie?

Dr Carlos Puente: Il n'y a pas de doute que le rétablissement du taux de croissance dépend de la disponibilité rapide d'un vaccin efficace. Le secteur économique ne peut pas fonctionner correctement avec une masse importante de consommateurs et d'entrepreneurs souffrant de la maladie. Il apparaît que les services de santé nationaux du monde entier peuvent déjà compter sur différents vaccins fabriqués en grande quantité pour éviter les pénuries. L'attitude des sociétés pharmaceutiques jouera un rôle négatif s'ils essaient de profiter de la situation et de spéculer sur les médicaments dont la population a un besoin urgent. En Europe, il existe une forte concurrence entre les différents entreprises pharmaceutiques et la société Pfizer qui a commercialisée le premier vaccin ne respecte pas ses engagements et ne fournit pas les quantités nécessaires. Une autre option est l'application d'un médicament qui guérit la maladie. La société pharmaceutique espagnole PharmaMar a présenté le médicament Aplidin, qui est utilisé contre le cancer de la moelle osseuse et qui semble être efficace contre Covid.

Awée Abayari: Selon vous, quels aliments, produits et services devraient être produits en premier, comment et pour qui?

Dr Carlos Puente: Après l'expérience de la pandémie Covid 19, le comportement de la population s'adaptera au nouveau cadre économique et social. Il est important que les gouvernements se rendent compte que les secteurs stratégiques de l'économie et que la santé et la sécurité doivent être sous contrôle national. De nouvelles réglementations doivent être adoptées pour préserver l'indépendance nationale de tout gouvernement étranger. Les produits liés aux communications, tels que l'Internet et la fabrication d'ordinateurs, les fournitures médicales et l'industrie alimentaire de base, doivent être produits par des entreprises nationales en quantités suffisantes pour faire face aux futures situations d'urgence.

Awée Abayari: Quel devrait être le rôle du gouvernement pour améliorer la situation économique de votre propre pays?

Dr Carlos Puente: En Europe, l'Union européenne a adopté un fonds de récupération Covid pour soutenir les économies nationales des États membres profondément touchés par la pandémie. Le montant engagé est de 750 000 milliards d'euros à utiliser sur la période 2021-2027 dans des projets spécifiques. Sur le montant total, une grande partie sera de l'aide financière et le reste des subventions. En dehors de ce fonds de l'UE, chaque gouvernement doit appliquer d'autres politiques économiques pour aider les secteurs concernés. La plupart des gouvernements européens ont décidé d'offrir une aide financière directe et une réduction d'impôt qui comprend un délai des obligations fiscales. Par contre, le gouvernement social-communiste espagnol a décidé d'augmenter les impôts, ce qui est une mauvaise décision mais qui est conforme à son idéologie politique. L'Espagne est le leader du taux de chômage avec le plus haut niveau de faillite des petites entreprises et son PIB en 2020 a chuté de -11,6%, seulement dépassé par l'Argentine parmi les pays du G-20, dont le PIB a diminué de -12,9%.

Awée Abayari: Selon vous, quels changements majeurs viendront après cette pandémie?

Dr Carlos Puente: La pandémie de Covid 19 a montré aux économistes et aux politiciens que la mondialisation provoque des faiblesses importantes dans les économies occidentales. La Chine est généralement acceptée comme l'usine mondiale fournis-

sant de toutes sortes de produits à des prix abordables, mais la pandémie a également montré que la Chine est le premier fournisseur d'accessoires et de produits stratégiques. Ainsi, au début de la pandémie, tous les pays industriels occidentaux dépendaient de l'approvisionnement de la Chine pour les masques, les respirateurs, etc. De nombreux pays se sont fait concurrence pour obtenir des quantités suffisantes de masques et d'autres dispositifs médicaux. C'était une situation pathétique: Sauve qui peut! En fin de compte, la mondialisation a des limites et les gouvernements doivent en tenir compte dans les accords futurs.

En raison du confinement de la population, la télé-enseignement et par vidéo est maintenant courant et restera chez nous. Certains aspects des soins de santé changeront également la manière traditionnelle et la consultation par vidéo sera une pratique acceptée par la société.

En tant que moyen de communication stratégique, il est nécessaire d'établir immédiatement Internet et un système Wi-Fi urbain gratuit dans tous les pays, et des cours actualisés sur les nouvelles technologies devraient être obligatoires non seulement pour les lycéens mais aussi pour les personnes âgées. Un ordinateur, un portable, une tablette et un téléphone portable devraient être moins chers et disponibles pour la majorité de la population.

Malheureusement, en raison des confinements de la population et des couvre-feux déclarés par certains gouvernements pendant la pandémie, la liberté s'est avérée menacée. Certaines entreprises multinationales et des plateformes de communication pourraient devenir le «big brother» dans les années à venir. La démocratie ne peut pas être en soldes. Le contrôle des gens ne peut pas être entre les mains de monopoles de communication tels que Google, Facebook, Twitter, etc. qui ont créé la nouvelle «démocratie surveillée». Certains gouvernements ont profité de cette situation pour contrôler le comportement des citoyens et instaurer un couvre-feu et la suspension des activités parlementaires, comme cela s'est produit en Espagne.

Awée Abayari: Quels problèmes mondiaux seront une priorité après cette expérience difficile?

Dr Carlos Puente: Covid 19 n'est pas le seul défi pour l'économie mondiale dans les années à venir. D'autres problèmes économiques sont restés intacts et doivent être résolus à moins que les pays industrialisés veuillent subir une nouvelle crise économique. Pendant des décennies, dans la plupart des pays, le déficit public était incontrôlable et la dette extérieure est restée masquée par la politique monétaire d'assouplissement quantitatif des banques centrales. L'excès de masse monétaire a retardé la solution du problème de la dette extérieure qui doit être maîtrisée. Comme nous le savons, le déficit économique se transforme en dette extérieure et, si la croissance économique ne suffit pas à réduire cette dette, la plupart des pays industrialisés pourraient s'effondrer. De plus, dans les mois à venir, nous verrons la reprise de la guerre commerciale entre les pays occidentaux et la Chine et une période d'instabilité apparaîtra dans l'économie mondiale.

Awée Abayari: Y a-t-il quelque chose d'histoire dont vous vous souvenez que vous pouvez comparer cette incroyable perte de vies, d'emplois, etc., à un effondrement économique quasi mondial?

Dr Carlos Puente: Au cours des 100 dernières années, il n'y a aucune expérience d'une pandémie avec des conséquences économiques semblables à celle actuellement causée par Covid. Au cours du 20e siècle, il y a eu plusieurs maladies épidémiques et pandémiques qui ont provoqué la panique et des victimes, y compris décédés, comme la grippe aviaire, la grippe asiatique de 1957-1958, la dengue, le sida, etc. La pire pandémie du 20e siècle s'est produite entre 1918 et 1920 pendant la Première Guerre mondiale. Elle était connue sous le nom de grippe espagnole mais son origine était à Fort Riley (Kansas, USA) et elle a affecté 500 millions de personnes et 50 millions de personnes ont décédé. En 1923, l'Organisation internationale de la santé a été créée au sein de la Société des Nations, un précédent de l'ONU, en raison des conséquences de cette pandémie.

Awée ABAYARI: Pour récapituler, quelle sera selon vous la nouvelle normalité après la pandémie?

Dr. Carlos Puente: L'économie mondiale traverse actuellement une crise économique majeure due à des causes sanitaires, à la pandémie, et une deuxième récession n'est pas à l'horizon. Tous les pays prévoient surmonter cette situation et retrouver la situation antérieure, avec une économie de marché viable. Le monde en 2023 ne sera pas le même qu'en 2019. La mondialisation sera remise en question et le multilatéralisme triomphera.

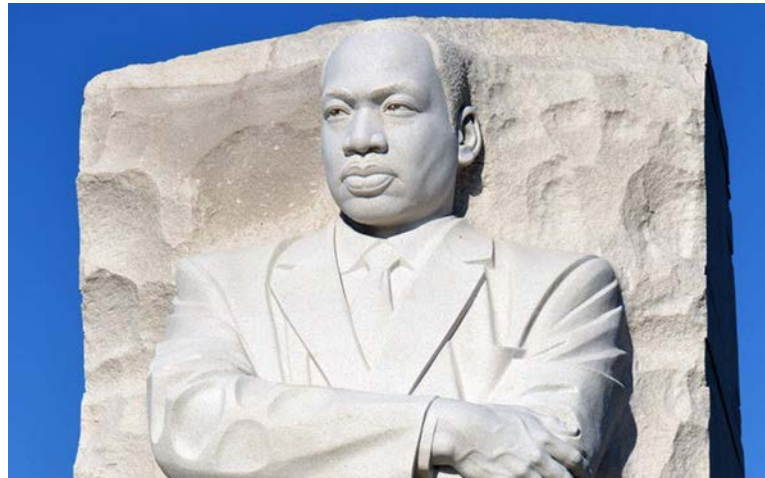
Le fonctionnement de la société s'accéléra, certaines entreprises seront détruites et de nouveaux emplois apparaîtront: le télétravail et l'enseignement à distance feront partie de nos vies. Certains secteurs vont subir une transformation majeure et entraîneront une réduction de l'emploi (banque, services administratifs, y compris l'administration publique, le système de transport, etc.). Les constructeurs d'automobiles subiront également une baisse de la demande de voitures privées et les entreprises de logistique et de livraison de produits auront un bel avenir. La taille des entreprises sera réduite et la demande de bureaux sera considérablement réduite aussi.

En outre, les nouvelles technologies permettront aux gens de se connecter les uns aux autres en utilisant Internet comme moyen de communication et de travail. Des espaces ouverts avec Wi-Fi gratuit seront mis à la disposition de la population de tous les pays. Les entreprises d'achat en ligne amélioreront leur efficacité et fusionneront avec le secteur bancaire et la production de biens.

L'économie du futur dépendra davantage de l'intelligence artificielle et les robots pourront devenir le meilleur allié du nouveau citoyen. N'oublions pas que "robot" est d'après le mot tchèque robotnik, qui signifie "travailleur". Le citoyen n'ira pas au restaurant pour le dîner parce que le restaurant viendra au citoyen, mais le tourisme continuera d'être une grande attraction pour les gens. Comment allons-nous payer cette révolution? Le papier-monnaie disparaîtra-t-il et sera-t-il remplacé par la monnaie numérique? Et tous ces rêves dépendent d'un vaccin ou d'un médicament pour combattre Covid 19! Et aussi de la politique économique et fiscale des gouvernements. Mettre l'argent du gouvernement dans la poche des citoyens est bien plus efficace que d'augmenter la masse monétaire pour l'investissement via un assouplissement quantitatif.

Awée Abayari: Merci beaucoup.

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.



"On August 28, 1963, nearly a quarter of a million people gathered in the August heat on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to hear the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speak. People traveled to our Nation's Capital from places as far away as Atlanta and Los Angeles to witness one of the defining moments in American history. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King articulated the founding dream of America, the vision of our Founders for all Americans to live as 'an heir of the legacy of dignity and worth.' Today, we pause to honor the incredible life and accomplishments of Dr. King, who helped shape the Civil Rights Movement, gave hope to millions experiencing discrimination, and whose enduring memory inspires us to pursue a more just and equal society." - White House Proclamation on Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday 2020

BUILDING A HEALTHIER DIGITAL FUTURE

On Monday 25 January, the EDPS hosted an online side event in the margins of the 2021 CPDP conference: Data for the public good: building a healthier digital future.

Our aim is to assess, in broad terms, the impact of measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and identify ways in which data can be used to be better prepared for the next one.

The online event comprised two sessions and engaged experts from the public health community in the EU and other international organisations to consider:

1) Which of the current emergency measures will remain and become our "new normal"?

What are the criteria that define the need for a temporary emergency measure? What measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have and haven't worked?

2) How can we ensure a safer and healthier digital future? How can data be used to be better prepared for the next pandemic? - EU

IMMIGRATION UPDATE



HOSTED BY AWEE ABAYARI



50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

Send your questions to: radiotvanchor1@gmail.com
www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari


INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

President Duterte inaugurates Skyway Stage 3 project

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte inaugurated on Thursday, January 14, the third stage of the Metro Manila Skyway Project (MMSS-3) built to ease traffic congestion in Metro Manila, saying the administration's Build, Build, Build program has started to bear fruit.

"The successful completion of the Skyway is a testament to the efficiency, reliability, and sustainability of our Build, Build, Build Program," President Duterte said in a speech during the inauguration rites held at Del Monte Toll Plaza in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

"It attests to the endless possibilities that we can accomplish through the dynamic partnership between the government and the private sector."

As Filipinos marvel the feat of completing the Skyway project, the President said he hopes that people in government will be reminded of their responsibility to not only ensure the timely completion of all public infrastructure projects, but also to shield the



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte leads the unveiling of the marker of the Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3 (MMSS-3) Project during the inauguration ceremony at the Del Monte Toll Plaza in Quezon City on January 14, 2021. (Alfred Frias/ Presidential Photo)

public from all forms of inconvenience during constructions.

At the same time, he assured Filipino that his administration would continue to

pursue its Build, Build, Build program guided by the highest standards of integrity, transparency and accountability.

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Stone visits Brazil on a multilateral mission

TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING

RIO DE JANEIRO – The U.S. Coast Guard's brand new National Security Cutter, the USCGC Stone, departed from Pascagoula, Mississippi, on December 22, 2020, on its inaugural sail, the Operation Southern Cross, aimed to counter illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing in the South Atlantic. Operation Southern Cross will strengthen relationships with partner nations towards maritime cooperation and security in the region. The ship entered Brazilian waters and its crew partnered with the Brazilian Navy on joint trainings and patrol on January 19 and 20 in Rio de Janeiro.

"This multilateral mission demonstrates the importance dedicated by the U.S. to global efforts to tackle illegal fishing, including multilateral work to strengthen the rules governing international fisheries, improve maritime governance and foment collaborative and enduring security partnerships," says the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Todd Chapman.

Fish is an essential protein source to over 40 percent of the global population. IUU fishing inhibits access to this valuable protein resource, especially for more vulnerable coastal countries.



Rio de Janeiro and Salvador are on the vessel's route during its first sail across the South Atlantic as part of Operation Southern Cross.

The U.S. Coast Guard is skilled at developing and implementing enforcement mechanisms and transferring that knowledge to willing and capable partner nations to create a united front to combat IUU fishing in every ocean.

MERYAME KITIR RELEASES 4 MILLION EUROS TO MAKE VACCINE ALSO ACCESSIBLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

No country in the world will be safe from COVID-19 as long as not all countries are safe. That is why the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation Meryame Kitir is making 4 million euros available for the COVAX initiative. COVAX is a global collaboration with governments and pharmaceutical companies to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are available and accessible to all countries worldwide.

Currently, most of the approved and available vaccines have been purchased by the 'richer' countries that turn very quickly to their internal needs. "Belgium is part of this, so we will not be short of anything," says Meryame Kitir, Minister of Development Cooperation.

That is the reason why Kitir decided to release 4 million euros for COVAX.

Hong Kong: Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the mass arrest of people involved in the July 2020 pro-democracy primary elections

The authorities in Hong Kong arrested over 50 people on 6 January 2021 on charges pursuant to the National Security Law (NSL). The charges in question relate to the holding in July 2020 of pro-democracy primary elections aimed at identifying candidates for the next Legislative Council elections. Those arrested include former opposition lawmakers and civil society activists.

These arrests penalise political activity that should be entirely legitimate in any political system that respects basic democratic principles. They are the latest indication that the National Security Law is being used by the Hong Kong and mainland authorities to stifle political pluralism in Hong Kong, and the exercise of human rights and political freedoms that are protected under Hong Kong law and international law.

The EU calls for the immediate release of those arrested. The EU urges the authorities

to respect Hong Kong's rule of law, human rights, democratic principles and high degree of autonomy under the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle, as enshrined in the Hong Kong Basic Law and in line with domestic and international obligations.

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do."
– Mark Twain

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person. Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, and it can occur in any U.S. community—cities, suburbs, and even rural areas. The FBI works human trafficking cases under its Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking program. We take a trauma informed, victim-centered approach in investigating these cases.

Here in the United States, both U.S. residents and foreign nationals are being bought and sold like modern-day slaves. Traffickers use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to exploit victims. Victims are forced to work as prostitutes or to take jobs as migrant, domestic, restaurant, or factory workers with little or no pay. Human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits the most vulnerable in society.

Under the human trafficking program, the FBI investigates:

- Sex trafficking: When individuals are compelled by force, fraud, or coercion to engage in commercial sex acts. Sex trafficking of a minor occurs when the victim is under the age of 18. For cases involving minors, it is not necessary to prove force, fraud, or coercion.
- Labor trafficking: When individuals are compelled by force, threats, or fraud to perform labor or service.
- Domestic servitude: When individuals within a household appear to be nannies, housekeepers, or other types of domestic workers, but they are being controlled and exploited.

NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

CALL THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE AT 1-888-373-7888 OR TEXT 233733 TO SEEK HELP OR REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Report Trafficking & Get Help

If you are a human trafficking victim or have information about a potential trafficking situation, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733. NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline, with specialists available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also submit a tip on the NHTRC website.

If you believe a child is involved in a trafficking situation, submit a tip through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline or call 1-800-THE-LOST. FBI personnel assigned to NCMEC review information that is provided to the CyberTipline.

Public Affairs

with AWEE ABAYARI

TOPICS :

- Public Service • Education • Culture •
- International Affairs • Law and Justice • Environment •
- Housing • Employment • Health • Social Services •
- Transportation • Politics • Communications, etc. •

For questions:
radiotvanchor1@gmail.com • www.youtube.com/Awee Abayari

INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

Coping with Debt

Having trouble paying your bills? Getting dunning notices from creditors? Are your accounts being turned over to debt collectors? Are you worried about losing your home or your car? You're not alone. Many people face a financial crisis at some point in their lives.

Whether the crisis is caused by personal or family illness, the loss of a job, or overspending, it can seem overwhelming. But often, it can be overcome. Your financial situation doesn't have to go from bad to worse.

If you or someone you know is in financial hot water, consider these options: self-help using realistic budgeting and other techniques; debt relief services, like credit counseling or debt settlement from a reputable organization; debt consolidation; or bankruptcy.

How do you know which will work best for you? It depends on your level of debt, your



level of discipline, and your prospects for the future.

SELF-HELP

- Developing a Budget*

The first step toward taking control of your financial situation is to do a realistic assessment of how much money you take in and how much money you spend. Start by listing your income from all sources. Then, list your "fixed" expenses — those that are the same each month — like mortgage payments or rent, car payments, and insur-

ance premiums. Next, list the expenses that vary — like groceries, entertainment, and clothing. Writing down all your expenses, is a helpful way to track your spending patterns, identify necessary expenses, and prioritize the rest. The goal is to make sure you can make ends meet on the basics: housing, food, health care, insurance, and education. You can find information about budgeting and money management techniques online, at your public library, and in bookstores.

Contacting Your Creditors

Contact your creditors immediately if you're having trouble making ends meet. Tell them why it's difficult for you, and try to work out a modified payment plan that reduces your payments to a more manageable level. Don't wait until your accounts have been turned over to a debt collector. At that point, your creditors have given up on you.

Driving & Auto

15-Passenger Van Safety

15-Passenger Vans

The vehicle design of 15 passenger vans requires drivers and passengers to be aware of some unique limitations and techniques regarding the operation, handling and packing that will help ensure a safe trip.

AAA recommends the following driver safety tips:

Pre-Driving Preparation

- First and foremost, make sure all passengers are using seat belts. Carry no more passengers than available seatbelts.
- Secure all cargo carefully, and avoid using the rear-most storage area.
- Be aware of any blind spots in the front and sides of the vehicle.
- Check with your state's Department of Vehicle services for special any



special licensing and training requirements. Some states require a commercial driver's license.

Driving, Operation & Handling

- Recognize that these vehicles are not automobiles. The design features of

these vehicles —longer length, additional weight, especially when fully loaded, and higher center of gravity — make them more difficult to drive and control in emergency situations , and under certain weather conditions, such as high winds.

- 15 passenger vans require more time (distance) to accelerate, turn and stop. Steering and braking maneuvers at highway speeds must be performed gradually and smoothly to minimize large weight shifts that can lead to loss of control.
- Understand that the vehicle weighs more than other passenger vehicles and braking distance is greater.
- When entering a highway, allow more room to merge into traffic because of the size of the vehicle and its diminished acceleration capability.

Source: AAA

PUBLIC ADVISORY ON QUARANTINE FACILITIES FOR PASSENGERS TRAVELING TO THE PHILIPPINES

2 January 2021

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington DC wishes to inform FILIPINO CITIZENS travelling from the United States to the Philippines during the effectivity of the temporary travel restrictions relative to the new SARS-COV-2 variant, that they have the option to reserve at their personal expense the quarantine facility of their preference for the 14-day quarantine required for travelers arriving from the United States, provided that the facility has been certified and accredited by the Department of Health.

Overseas Filipino Workers will continue to be provided quarantine facilities by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

The Embassy calls on *kababayans* to consider postponing their trips until after the end of the travel restrictions, to avoid personal inconvenience and possible additional expenses, as well as help prevent the incidence of the new COVID-19 variant in the country.

They are advised to check ahead of travel dates with their airlines before departure or before booking a ticket as information published could change at any time.

###

is an eco-friendly, digital publication of
INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA
For FREE SUBSCRIPTION

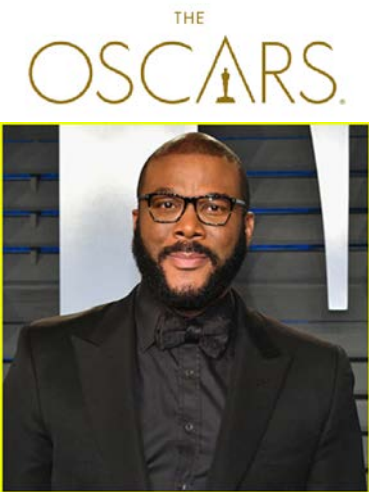
Send email to:
radiotvanchor1@gmail.com

THE ACADEMY TO HONOR TYLER PERRY AND THE MOTION PICTURE & TELEVISION FUND WITH JEAN HERSHOLT HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Academy recently announced that its Board of Governors voted to present Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Awards to filmmaker Tyler Perry and to the Motion Picture & Television Fund (MPTF). The Oscar® statuettes will be presented at the 93rd Oscars®, which airs live on ABC and broadcast outlets worldwide on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

“There has been such widespread generosity in our industry that limiting the Hersholt Humanitarian Award to one recipient, this year in particular, was impossible. So, we are breaking with tradition and giving two awards to honor that spirit,” said Academy President David Rubin.

“Tyler’s cultural influence extends far beyond his work as a filmmaker. He has quietly and steadily focused on humanitarian and social justice causes from the beginning of his career, caring for people who are most often ignored. The work of the MPTF is more vital than ever, and the organization has gone above and beyond to help our community. The sheer number of individuals and families—from every



corner of our industry’s workforce—aided during the pandemic and over the last 100 years is nothing short of extraordinary.”

Perry is a prolific producer, director, actor, writer, entrepreneur and philanthropist, whose commitment to a wide spectrum of charitable and social justice causes has been particularly impactful during the challenges of the past year, addressing economic distress caused by the pandemic, racial reckoning and homelessness in his community.

Las Vegas resorts and attractions joined together to show support of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES)

LAS VEGAS - Las Vegas resorts and attractions joined together to show support of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) with an orchestrated marquee display hours before the start of the annual show. CES, which has been held in Las Vegas for more than four decades, is being held virtually this year in light of the pandemic.

More than two dozen marquees along the famed Las Vegas Strip and downtown were lit with a ‘We miss you and can’t wait to welcome you back in 2022’ message the evening of Sunday, Jan. 10. Footage of the marquee display was shared with all CES attendees as part of programming. Multiple resorts destination-wide also delivered the message on their respective social media handles.

“CES is one of the largest and longest-standing conventions in the destination and we miss the show’s organizers and attendees greatly this year,” says Steve Hill, LVCVA president & CEO.

“The support and long-term partnership we have with Las Vegas is invaluable,” said CTA president and CEO Gary Shapiro. “For decades the city’s hotels, workers and community have welcomed us with an outpouring of hospitality. CES looks forward to returning in 2022 and having a five-sense experience that includes the magic of Vegas.”

The following resorts and attractions that participated include: ARIA Resort & Casino, Bally’s, Bellagio, Caesars Palace, Circa Resort

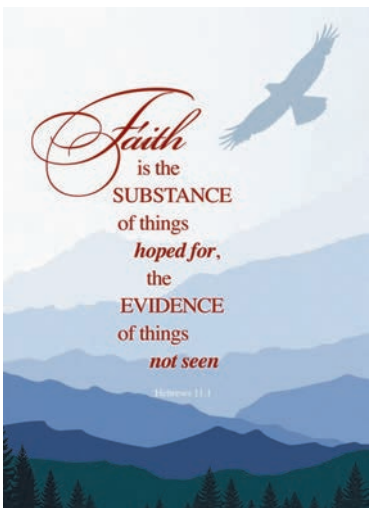
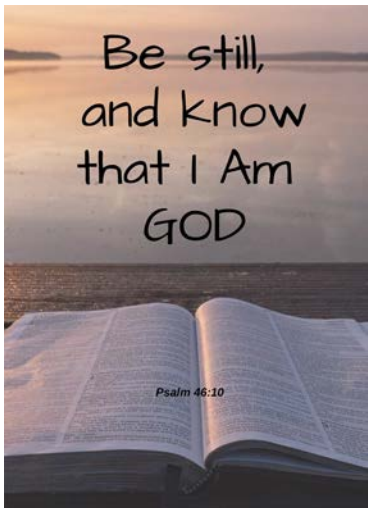


& Casino, Excalibur Hotel & Casino, Fremont Street Experience, Golden Gate Hotel & Casino, Harrah’s Las Vegas, Luxor Hotel & Casino, Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, MGM Grand, Mirage, New York – New York, Paris Las Vegas, Park MGM, Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, Resorts World Las Vegas, The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, The Cromwell, The D Las Vegas, The LINQ Hotel + Experience, SAHARA Las Vegas, The STRAT Hotel, Casino and Skypod, The Venetian Resort Las Vegas, Treasure Island – TI Hotel & Casino, Tropicana Las Vegas, Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino.

INSPIRING QUOTES



If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.”
– Albert Einstein



GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH AT THE HEART OF THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC SPORTS PROGRAMME

The Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved the event programme and athlete quotas for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, which are centred on gender equality and youth.

Skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing and breaking were confirmed as additional sports proposed by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee. This new flexibility is part of the reforms of Olympic Agenda 2020. The decision will help to make the Olympic Games Paris 2024 fit for a post-corona world.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Olympic Programme Commission, the main features of Paris 2024’s Olympic programme include:

- Exactly 50 per cent male and female participation, following on from the gender equality already achieved for Tokyo 2020, which will have 48.8 per cent female participation.
- Growth of mixed gender events,



from 18 to 22, compared to Tokyo 2020.

- Skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing and breaking confirmed as additional sports based on a proposal by Paris 2024. Breaking will make its Olympic debut.
- Reduction in the overall athlete quota (including all new sports) to exactly 10,500.
- Reduction in the overall number of events, with a final programme of 329 events.



JULIET POSADAS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Graduate . UP Conservatory of Music
Scholar of Yamaha Organ School of Music
Celebrity concert artist, accomplished singer, pianist, organist, arranger

- Offers private lessons and group classes for all ages
 - Teaches a variety of musical styles: classical, pop music, light jazz and Broadway
- Prepares students for recitals and performances
- Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes

Certification of Achievement upon completion

For a FREE initial consultation :
Call : 213 422 2646
Email : julietposadas1@gmail.com

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

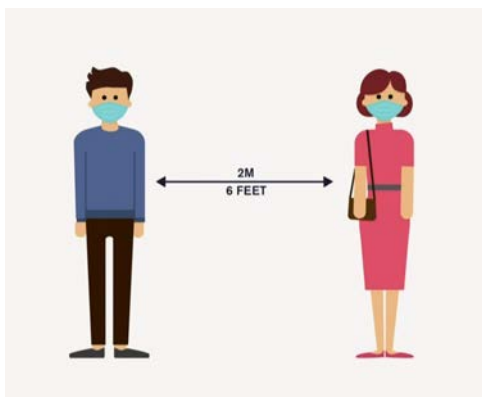
THREE IMPORTANT WAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

- Wear a mask to protect yourself and others and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds. The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN GOING OUT

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.



IF YOU ARE AT RISK OF GETTING VERY SICK

- People of any age can get COVID-19, even healthy young adults and children.
- People who are older or have certain underlying medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
- Other groups may be at higher risk for getting COVID-19 or having more severe illness.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE SICK

- Stay home except to get medical care.
- Isolate yourself from other members of your family to prevent spread to them and the people that they may have contact with, like grandparents.
- Even if you don't feel sick, you can spread COVID-19 to others.
- Get care immediately if you are having emergency warning signs, like trouble breathing, pain or pressure in chest.



HOW TO GET A TEST FOR CURRENT INFECTION

- You can visit your state or local health department's website to look for the latest local information on testing.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first.
- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and choose to not get tested, it is important to stay home. Find out what to do if you are sick.



HOW TO COPE WITH STRESS

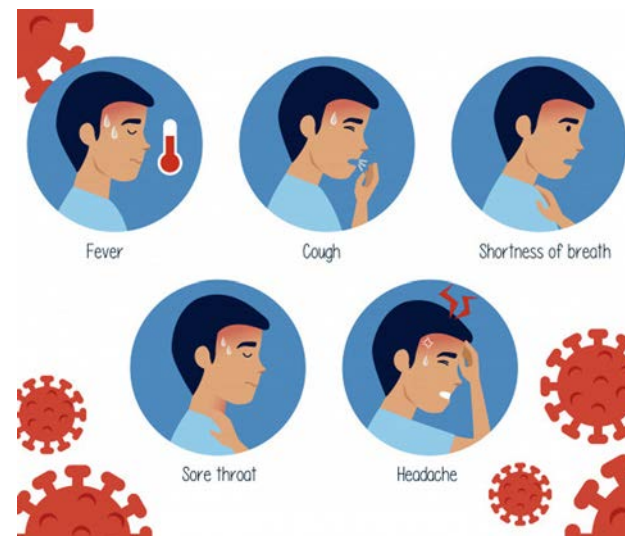
- Care for yourself one small way each day.
- Unwind by doing yoga, listening to music, or gardening.
- Find new ways to connect with family and friends, get support, and share feelings.
- Eat healthy foods and get enough rest.
- Relax by reading, listening to music, or starting a new hobby.



WHAT SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are

- Fever
- Cough
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Diarrhea



Other symptoms are signs of serious illness. If someone has trouble breathing, chest pain or pressure, or difficulty staying awake, get medical care immediately.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How does the virus spread?

- The virus that causes COVID-19 most commonly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet, or 2 arm lengths).
- It spreads through respiratory droplets or small particles, such as those in aerosols, produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks, or breathes.
- These particles can be inhaled into the nose, mouth, airways, and lungs and cause infection. This is thought to be the main way the virus spreads.
- Droplets can also land on surfaces and objects and be transferred by touch. A person may get COVID-19 by touching the surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. Spread from touching surfaces is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.
- It is possible that COVID-19 may spread through the droplets and

airborne particles that are formed when a person who has COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, sings, talks, or breathes. There is growing evidence that droplets and airborne particles can remain suspended in the air and be breathed in by others, and travel distances beyond 6 feet (for example, during choir practice, in restaurants, or in fitness classes). In general, indoor environments without good ventilation increase this risk.

Am I at risk for COVID 19 from mail, products or packages?

There is still a lot that is unknown about COVID-19 and how it spreads. Coronaviruses are thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Although the virus can survive for a short period on some surfaces, it is unlikely to be spread from domestic or international mail, products or packaging. However, it may be possible that people can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Should I use soap and water or hand sanitizer to protect against Covid 19?

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

FOR ALL TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION

- When using any type of transportation, follow these general principles:
 - Practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
 - Social distance
 - Wear a mask
 - Rideshare, carpool, taxi, limo for-hire vehicle passengers
 - Avoid riding with unmasked drivers or passengers
 - Avoid touching surfaces
 - Social distance
 - Improve ventilation
 - Practice hand hygiene
 - After leaving the vehicle, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
 - When you arrive at your destination, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Centers For Disease
Control and Prevention