

OPENING REMARKS: NATURA NON FACIT SALTUM?

Time and again, we have to turn to the problem of the economic future of Ukraine. Time and again, there appears a wish to thrust a broadest discussion about the Ukrainian economic miracle. Is it possible? Where is the economic theory that carries the secrets of economic miracles?

Skeptics can base their arguments on the motto from the A. Marshall's *Principles of Economic Science* – «Natura non facit saltum» (the nature does not make leaps – lat.). This was his way to explain a very vital [in the past] problem of the Great Depression.

Optimists will probably like more the theory of J. Keynes, which says that the state of long-term expectations may change so fast the economy will appear incapable of gradual adaptation. It must make «a leap», and not simply a «regular» leap, but the one to change it once and for all. Of course, this «leap» has to be a successful one, so that it would not lead to a recession, but would allow achieving the utmost, the most inconceivable at first glance, goals.

The world experience proves the «leaps» to be very needed by every economy faced with the task of catching up, making way into leaders or keeping one's lead. This is exactly the strategy that allowed the countries of Asia, former colonies and semi-colonies to realized the leap from the group of economically lagging countries into the group of economically advanced countries in such a relatively short time. Here, we mean new industrial countries of both the «first wave» (Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan) and the «second wave» (Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines). On the European continent, such examples are Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Lithuania, and other countries.

During the last two years, Ukraine has walked a complicated path of democratization, presidential and parliamentary elections. A new government will be formed shortly. Of course, it will face the problem of elaborating the strategy of development of this country as a successful European country worthy of being the full member of the European Union. We sincerely wish the reason behind the new government's activity to be the goal formulated in the President Viktor Yushchenko's appeal to Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on February 9, 2006: «The way to economic prosperity, which has taken Europe hundreds of years to pass, we have to pass in five to seven to maximum ten years. Ukraine can come about

as a full-fledged state only if it realizes an economic leap forward. It must take on this challenge and become the place for development of the new models of economic growth. But this is the problem faced by the political elite».

So, what will be the face of the new government? We do not know yet, but irrespective of its exact composition, we wish it will be able to find the mechanism for realizing the Ukrainian nation's economic leap!

At the same time, the Editorial of the Journal will offer its pages to authors whose studies advance the realization of the task of Ukraine's economic leap, which would correspond to the aspirations of the nation.



(Yevhen Savelyev)