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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND GREEN ECONOMIC MODELS

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Abstract: Traditional economic models primarily focus on maximizing economic growth, often at the expense of environmental sustainability. These models rely heavily on fossil fuels, resource extraction, and linear production-consumption patterns, leading to ecological degradation and climate change. In contrast, green economic models prioritize environmental stewardship, resource efficiency, and social equity. They integrate circular economy principles, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable production practices to achieve long-term economic stability and ecological balance. This paper explores the fundamental differences between traditional and green economic models, highlighting their implications for sustainable development, policy-making, and global economic resilience.

Keywords:Traditional economy, green economy, sustainable development, circular economy, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, resource efficiency.

In recent years, the concept of a green economy has gained significant attention as awareness of environmental sustainability continues to grow. A green economy is an economic system structured to ensure environmental sustainability while fostering social inclusivity. Its primary objective is to drive economic growth while reducing adverse environmental effects and enhancing social equity. This paper explores the definition, underlying principles, and historical evolution of the green economy, as well as its distinctions and interrelations with the traditional economic model.

The essence of a green economy encompasses several key elements, including environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and economic growth. At its core, environmental sustainability plays a fundamental role, emphasizing the conservation of natural resources, the reduction of pollution and waste, and the mitigation of environmental harm. Equally important is social inclusion, which seeks to foster social equity and diminish economic and social disparities. Additionally, economic growth remains a vital aspect, as a green economy strives to achieve sustainable development while minimizing ecological damage.

The shift towards a green economy presents considerable challenges and has a profound impact on traditional economic policies. These effects are evident in several key areas:

Influence on Macroeconomic Policies: The transition to a green economy significantly affects fiscal and monetary policies. Conventional economic strategies centered on growth and development may prove inadequate for a sustainable economy. Instead, new macroeconomic frameworks emphasizing environmental sustainability and social equity are required.

Influence on Industrial Policies: The evolution of a green economy also reshapes industrial policies. Traditional approaches that prioritize economic expansion may not align with sustainability goals. Instead, new industrial strategies must focus on resource efficiency, environmental responsibility, and innovation to support sustainable development.

Influence on Environmental Policies: The emergence of a green economy necessitates a transformation in environmental policies. Conventional policies primarily addressing pollution control and resource management may fall short in achieving sustainability. New policies must

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integrate principles of biodiversity conservation, ecological balance, and long-term environmental resilience.

Influence on Energy Policies: Energy policies are another area significantly affected by the green economy. Traditional policies emphasizing energy security and economic growth may not fully support sustainability goals. A green economy demands a shift towards renewable energy sources, improved energy efficiency, and a transition away from carbon-intensive energy production.

A major obstacle in adopting a green economy lies in the transition from traditional economic activities to environmentally sustainable alternatives. Many industries may experience difficulties in adapting, potentially leading to job losses and economic instability. Therefore, it is crucial to design policies and strategies that ease this transition while minimizing social and economic disruptions.

Another pressing challenge is the need for substantial financial resources and investment. The development of green industries requires considerable funding for technology, infrastructure, and skilled labor. As a result, policies must be developed to attract investment and financial support for sustainable economic activities.

Despite these challenges, the transition to a green economy also presents opportunities for policy innovation and reform. It fosters the creation of new strategies that prioritize environmental sustainability and social well-being. Moreover, the shift encourages the growth of emerging economic sectors and generates new employment opportunities, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and inclusive economic future.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has begun transitioning towards a green economy in alignment with sustainable development principles. This transformation has introduced significant differences across various economic sectors. While the traditional economic model relies heavily on industrial production and energy consumption, the green economic model prioritizes environmental sustainability, efficient resource management, and reduced carbon emissions.

1. Energy Production and Consumption

In the traditional economic model, energy is primarily generated from fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal. Uzbekistan's energy sector has historically followed this pattern. However, the green economic model emphasizes the use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biofuels[1]. The government of Uzbekistan aims to increase the share of renewable energy to 30% by 2030[2]

2. Industry and Manufacturing

The traditional economic model is often dependent on industries with high environmental impact. Uzbekistan's economy has long been supported by mining, petrochemicals, and heavy industries. The green economic model, in contrast, promotes "clean technologies" and energy-efficient production processes[3]. For example, Uzbekistan is currently developing electric vehicle manufacturing projects to align with green industry standards

3. Agriculture and Water Resource Management

The traditional economic model in agriculture relies on extensive water use and chemical fertilizers. Uzbekistan has historically focused on cotton and wheat production using conventional farming techniques. The green economic model, however, emphasizes water-saving technologies, organic farming, and sustainable resource management. Drip irrigation systems are being introduced to improve water efficiency[3]

4. Transportation and Urban Infrastructure

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In the traditional economic model, the transportation system primarily relies on fuel-powered vehicles, contributing to high carbon emissions. The green economic model, on the other hand, prioritizes electric vehicles, public transportation, and bicycle-friendly infrastructure. Uzbekistan has implemented tax incentives for electric vehicles and plans to develop eco-friendly urban transport systems in Tashkent.

5. Environmental Impact and Carbon Footprint Reduction

The traditional economic model results in high levels of carbon emissions, partly due to Uzbekistan's role as a major natural gas exporter. The green economic model aims to achieve carbon neutrality through waste recycling, energy efficiency improvements, and the adoption of sustainable practices[4]

Conclusion

Uzbekistan is in the process of shifting from a traditional economic model to a more sustainable green economy. This transition is not only essential for environmental conservation but also for long-term economic efficiency. Through investments in renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and eco-friendly industrial practices, Uzbekistan is taking significant steps toward a green economy.

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