**Honouring good work**

**[Atle Hetland](https://nation.com.pk/Columnist/atle-hetland)**

February 11, 2021

It is often easier to criticise than to say something positive, honouring the hard and good work of others. Yet, the fact is that if we notice and honour what others do, better results can be achieved. If others tell us how we can improve what we do, we will do better. True, we must also criticise when we think things are not right, but done in such a way that others will actually listen, not be discouraged, but helped on the way.

Today, I shall draw attention to some fields and people where good work has been done: the handling of the corona pandemic in Norway and Pakistan, and, secondly, the work of the World Economic Forum under Professor Klaus Schwab’s leadership, supported by his wife Hilde Schwab.

The Pakistani leaders and people seem to have handled the corona pandemic well, all things considered. We should be proud of that, and certainly grateful. Well, the battle is not over yet; unexpected and unwanted things can happen here as in other countries, including in my home country Norway, which until now has done particularly well handling the pandemic, having had economic resources, good politicians, health workers, national and local leaders, and down to hearth and practical people, living in a ‘trust society’. Less than six hundred people have died of corona in Norway, mostly very old persons, often with other illnesses.

[Trump impeachment team seeks to obscure blame for riot](https://nation.com.pk/13-Feb-2021/trump-impeachment-team-seeks-to-obscure-blame-for-riot)

Yet, the Norwegians are not faultless; almost half of the infected belong to the immigrant population, who constitute about one million people in a total population of well over five million. Many immigrants live in densely populated urban areas, and many immigrants and foreign workers are employed in critical sectors such as transport, trade, construction work, and the health sector, and some live in temporary and crowded houses and apartments. It has taken the government long to realise the need for special protection measures for these groups, and they are not yet considered for early vaccination. Vaccination has begun slowly in Norway, prioritising the very old and those in particular risk groups.

It should be realised that every year, Norway needs about a quarter million foreign workers, including a large group for harvesting and in the winter fishing season in North Norway, which is so important for the export economy. Just now though, the Norwegian leaders are particularly worried about controlling the spread of the mutated English and South African viruses. At the same time, focusing on controlling the spread of the ordinary virus, but reduction seems to have stagnated.

[US removes Yemen's Houthi rebels from terror list](https://nation.com.pk/13-Feb-2021/us-removes-yemen-s-houthi-rebels-from-terror-list)

I believe there are many known and unknown heroes and heroines in the pandemic, leaders as well as ordinary people. The Norwegians have mostly done well, under PM Erna Solberg and other leaders and workers, and ordinary people. Norway has access to ‘all that money can buy’, being rich from oil, fish, tourism, hydropower, and more.

Pakistan, too, not (yet) a wealthy country, has also handled the pandemic better than many other countries, including neighbours. I don’t know how this has been possible, but we will learn about it later, so that experience can be made good use of in the rest of the current pandemic and in protection and control of future epidemics and pandemics when they strike—and experts warn that it is likely that others will strike, perhaps even worse ones. All in all, let us honour the good work done to handle the corona pandemic.

Last week, I wrote about the impressive work of the World Economic Forum (WEF) under the leadership of Professor Klaus Schwab and his wife Hilde Schwab, from 1971 till now. WEF held this year’s Davos event mainly digitally, and that too was done well. But exchanges are done best in person hence a special annual meeting has been planned for August 2021, to be held in Singapore. The philosophy behind WEF is to bring people together to exchange experience, empirical data, theory, ideas, plans, prospects, and more. It gathers people from all levels of society, indeed top politicians and experts, but also civil society leaders, youth, artists, and others. WEF has always believed in the strength of dialogue and debate even when politicians and others have been more confrontational. Today, the private sector is called to show greater concern for the common good which in the long run will benefit all. Focus on their own profit at the expense of the majority of people and nature, will in the long run not benefit any, not even those who may gain huge profits today. In his new book, ‘Stakeholder Capitalism’, Schwab discusses these issues underlining that economic gain is no aim in itself; everything must be for the good of people at the present time and in the future.

[India's unwillingness to bring peace in occupied Kashmir](https://nation.com.pk/13-Feb-2021/india-s-unwillingness-to-bring-peace-in-occupied-kashmir)

We should honour Professor Klaus Schwab and Hilde Schwab for their tremendous contribution to the world we live in, for their emphasis on peaceful, non-confrontational dialog, building on logical thinking, so that we can all be more responsible. I believe that the impact of the work of WEF and Professor Schwab is more than what is immediately visible since many leaders and others have had the opportunity to meet and learn under his auspices in Davos, through his books and more. Being a Norwegian myself, I’d mention that there is no harm in WEF having a Norwegian CEO or President, namely Børge Brende, a former Norwegian minister of foreign affairs, yes, for the Conservative Party, which in Norway is quite moderate and in the political centre. As the left, the conservatives too, realise the need for a strong welfare state. I believe Brende, too, like his WEF Chair Professor Schwab, has that ability to help people engage in genuine dialogue; that good work we must honour.

[Lahore-Sialkot motorway closed due to dense fog](https://nation.com.pk/13-Feb-2021/lahore-sialkot-motorway-closed-owing-to-dense-fog)

Also, it doesn’t hurt to get on in age, and still be active, as Schwab and his wife are. As we grow older, it is important that we take advantage of the years God has given us in a positive way. Older people may be allowed to speak their mind more freely; we can do that without having to be as tactical as earlier, thinking of future gains, positions and power. We can even encourage those we disagree with to do what they believe in, helping them in their eagerness to contribute and finding new solutions, especially young people. I believe that Professor Schwab, with reference to science and academic work, and a concern for people, has all his life been able to focus on what he sees as important, making his societal and economic teaching more acceptable irrespective of political leaning. Let us all draw lessons from such approaches. Let us honour his good work, and let us all find our ways of contributing. Again, we must always honour good work when we see it. Instead of searching for faults, let us build on the positive; through seeing and doing good, more good will be realised.