

It's a small world after all

There is a **ride** in the Disneyworld theme park in Orlando, Florida called: It's a Small World. **Enter** a small boat and **float** past little toy children of a **host** of nationalities singing the **catchy tune** It's a Small World After All over and over, and in many languages.

Erected in the 1960s, this ride sings the hope that people from all parts of the globe come together. We are one big happy family is the **main gist**. And from the look of things, this is happening.

Globalization, while **abhorred** by some, is bringing us closer together. Raw materials **foraged** in one part of the world are routinely put together in another and consumed in a third. While this equation has gone on for some time, nowadays the country where the consumption is taking place could easily be China.

A new **catch-phrase** has **blossomed**: "The shifting power of economies," and with it the understanding that world powers are moving. Who is today's global economic king? The answer depends on what factors are **taken into account**.

Moreover, given the amount of **intertwining** alliances, you have to wonder the relevance. Indian companies are many times subsidiaries of foreign firms – or, increasingly, vice versa. Considering the size of U.S. **treasuries** held by the Chinese, you can easily **ponder** who owns America. International unity, once just an ideal, is now a reality.

For China, this is a reason to smile. The country largely avoided the global **slowdown** and continued to **prosper** even during the depths of the **recessionary malaise**. The **staggering** sums currently invested in public infrastructure – some EUR 62 billion just for urban rail transportation – is enough to make any country **blush with envy**. Investments into China also continue to top record amounts. Companies everywhere are **tapping into** Chinese flexible production, smart **business acumen** and the growing wealth of its consumers.

For our children, these are exciting times. They will be able to travel abroad faster and easier than we can possibly imagine. Thanks to electronic communications, they will also reach out in ways we are only now pioneering. **Unburdened by antiquated** thinking about who is a superpower, they will see the world as dynamic and **approachable**. Now, isn't it a small world after all?

Glossary

abhor	avsky
antiquated	gammaldags, dammigt
approachable	mottaglig, lätt att närma sig
blossom	här: slå igenom
blush with envy	bli grön av avund
business acumen	affärssinne
catch-phrase	slogan
catchy tune	slagdänga, trallvänlig låt
enter	här: stiga ombord
erect	här: öppna
float	flyta, guppa
forage	samla ihop, skaffa
host	massor, många
intertwining	sammanflätade
main gist	här: budskapet
ponder	grubbla över
prosper	blomstra
recessionary malaise	"lågkonjunkturssjukan"
ride	åkattraktion (på nöjesfält)
slowdown	avmattning
staggering	hjäpnadsväckande
take into account	ta i beaktande
tapping into	här: dra nytta av
treasuries	statsobligationer
unburdened by	obekymrad av, fri från