

Transcript

How to compare income across countries (3)

PROFESSOR HANS ROSLING:

How best to plot the economic level of countries, that is which scale is best to use? The most common scale called linear scale, it's the same distance between each mark-- 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, 40,000. The richest countries, they have around \$40,000 per person per year.

But the poorest countries are almost at zero. They only have about \$400 per person. And most countries would fall in this lower range.

That's why I like to use what I called a rubber scale. Officially, it is called logarithmic scale. This is the abbreviation used [LOG].

Rubber scale, I call, because I can expand the low incomes. I let this middle one be \$4,000 up here, it's still 40,000. And down here, it's 400. So you see on the linear scale, the same distance add the same amount, whereas on the logarithmic scale, the same distance multiply with the same amount-- times 10 and times 10 again.