

Dear Friend,

For two decades, I have attended hundreds of conferences, seen countless, impressive presentations on the world's many challenges and heard the proposals to solve them. Clearly, there is no scarcity of thoughtful, knowledgeable, committed people working to make the world a better place.

Yet, in reviewing these PowerPoint slides, maps, charts and documentaries over the years, something has been missing. I am struck by the multiplicity of issues and trends -- climate change, deforestation, fishery and aquifer depletion, topsoil erosion, coral bleaching, population growth, disease migration, hunger and poverty. So many of these issues are inter-related, and I yearn for a way to "see" them presented with a view on the whole in the most comprehensive manner.

The conference format itself has a fundamental shortcoming. Smart people convene for a few days, show their latest work and then go home. I ask myself, where is that place where we can all meet for an extended time to analyze these issues, propose strategies and test implications? Where is the neutral ground, equipped with the latest, most sophisticated technology and the urgency to address peacefully the interrelated, interdependent, global issues of our times? Large scale simulation and visualization tools now allow us to layer information on multiple issues and test best practices. Using these tools, business leaders and policy-makers could foretell outcomes of their decisions and thus make better decisions affecting the whole.

The World Resources Simulation Center (WRSC) is designed to be that place, where "comprehensive anticipatory design science" flourishes. The idea was conceived by Buckminster Fuller in the 1970s and inspires this current proposal. At the same time, the need for such a facility stands on its own merit and speaks to an essential missing aspect of our current approach to complex global issues.

Fuller posed the following question that we think provides the foundation for any investigation of issues that affect us all. The context for the WRSC would live in this inquiry:

"How do we make the world work for 100% of humanity  
in the shortest possible time through spontaneous cooperation  
without ecological damage or disadvantage to anyone?"

I ask that you read and consider this proposal, and if you concur, I invite you to join us in making this a reality.

In partnership  
Peter Meisen  
President, GENI