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a solution to global problems

Dear Friend,

1.6 billion people on our planet have no electricity or clean water – that's 25% of our human family. Most live in remote villages where women and children do most of the daily labor just to survive. A recent visit to India made this wealth-poverty gap all too vivid, and it is unacceptable.

Seldom do we see news of a positive nature about development projects that are improving the lives of people living in poverty. After a year's research on 'best practices' in rural development and electrification, we were impressed and inspired by the number of effective, thoughtful projects creating sustainable lives in the developing countries.

Frustration with the lack of information with a positive perspective sparked an idea. Why not provide a website that focuses on what is working in rural development and electrification that would enable committed people, organizations and projects to connect, exchange ideas and collaborate? NGOs could find solutions to equipment needs; microlenders could fund village development projects -- and thus accelerate the pace of entire communities moving themselves up and out of poverty.

This became the motivation for the Village Projects Website -- a rich, multiple database website that will generate visibility for successful projects, providing villages the access to suppliers of clean electricity and energy efficient 'tools.' And especially allow the public-at-large to learn about and participate in supporting these village based projects.

The Village Projects site will take advantage of the extensive tools of the internet – databases, rich photos and video imagery, locator maps on Google, fund raising, blogging and social networking – to shine a light on the world of poverty, on how villagers – with a little help from friends – are lifting themselves out of poverty.

Buckminster Fuller designed the World Game™ in the late 60s based on the following question which motivates this project:

“How do you have the world work for 100% of humanity  
in the shortest possible time through spontaneous cooperation  
without ecological damage or disadvantage to anyone?”

We intend that this Website be a tool to foster 'spontaneous cooperation' and accelerate on-the-ground solutions for sustainable rural development and electrification. Please review the Executive Summary, watch the videos, and if you are so moved, join us in making the Village Projects site a reality.

In partnership  
Peter Meisen  
President, GENI

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World Trade Center of San Diego 1250 Sixth Ave. Suite 901 San Diego, CA 92101 USA  
+1.619.595.0158 FAX +1.619.595.0403 E-mail [info@geni.org](mailto:info@geni.org) <http://www.geni.org>

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