



One World Community, Nearing Reality—Let it Snow!

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Editorial

November 21, 2014: Caught in the immobilizing Buffalo snowstorm you may have seen on your television sets, yesterday I received a valuable communication from an unmet colleague in Beijing, representing a University there that I actually visited and lectured for in October 1983 on bioengineering topics. The occasion of this recent contact was in reaction to my electronic response to his team's excellent article that just appeared in a specialty Journal, thus opening the way to our international collaboration on an important topic. My message to him, along with a slide summary of our older data, had been publicly presented only in Sweden in the year 2003—and was poorly known otherwise. The current marvels of instant electronic communication around the globe now allow these types of interaction with parties already known and soon to become known, without the need (and often the pleasures, as well as snow delays) of international travel and slowing of research productivity.

Not to diminish the joys of face-to-face meetings, the “common” wisdom of the famous biophysicist, Barry Commoner, regarding the Laws of Ecology addressed in this Journal, is worth sharing once again in writing to our diverse colleagues.

The 4 Laws of Ecology are

- [1] Everything is connected to everything else
- [2] Everything must go somewhere
- [3] Nature knows best
- [4] There is no such thing as a free lunch

Clearly, the activities in which we and our local neighbours engage do not—and, of course, never did—proceed without influence outside our local boundaries. Thus, it is quite valuable for you to share your thoughts and observations as widely as possible, through this Journal and others, so that we may jointly take all necessary and useful preventive or corrective actions to understand these mutually dependent phenomena. The Storm-of-the-21st Century is attributed locally to many different causes—climate warming, global wobble, sunspot actions, and others. Your best thinking, and desired data sets, will contribute to our understanding of such large events. Concerns are already being expressed from Sweden and China. Will your contribution be next?