The Law of the Reversal of Tendencies,

an explication model

by Klaus Schlichtmann

"Omnia sponte fluant; Absit violentia rebus." (Jan Amos Komensky, 1592-1670)

The structure of the explication model:

Perceptive pattern for realization of the Law of the Reversal of Tendencies

A. PERCEPTION OF THE *GLOBAL EMERGENCY*: the Eight Great Dangers;

B. PERCEPTION OF THE *CAUSES*: the Four Factors;

C. PERCEPTION OF THE *GOALS*: development of a Global Society enjoying freedom, prosperity and peace; and

D. PERCEPTION OF THE *WAY TO PROGRESS*: the Eight-Point-Programme for Future Investment and Strategy Planning.

A. PERCEPTION OF THE *GLOBAL EMERGENCY*: the Eight Great Dangers:

1. HUNGER AND MISERY,

2. UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION,

3. THE ARMS RACE AND WAR,

4. POLLUTION AND LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE,

5. DEFORESTATION AND EXTINCTION OF WILD LIFE,

6. EPIDEMICS AND PESTS,

7. DESERT EXPANSION AND DROUGHT (DISAPPEARING WATER RESOURCES), and

8. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONTINENTAL RIFTS.

In many countries poverty, injustice and violence are still common. Exploitation of nature and human resources endanger the life and culture on our planet. Valuable resources are wasted permanently. The ecological disequilibria and dismantling of the foundations of life accelerate.[1]

[1] See Max WEBER, *Collected Essays on the Sociology of Religion*, Tübingen 1920, p. 203, warning expressly of the Moloch of the "modern economic order, tied to technical and economic conditions of mechanical machinized production... which determine the lifestyle of every single person who is born into this machinery ... with overwhelming compulsion, until the last barrel of fossil fuel has been burned away." Translation following Talcott PARSONS (transl.), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, New York, Charles Scribner's 1958, p. 181.

B. *THE FOUR FACTORS:*

(1. MAN AND HIS TOOLS

(2. NATURE, FORESTS AND WILD LIFE

(3. EARTH, RAW MATERIALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES and

(4. DESERTS AND WINDS

These four factors are interdependent. In the course of history the factors (1) and (4) have had a positive tendency (increasing), while the factors (2) and (3) have had a negative tendency (diminishing). Their workings may give us an insight into the environment, ecology, society, industry and economy. Understanding the processes linking 'MAN', 'NATURE', 'EARTH' and 'DESERTS AND WINDS', can help in finding solutions to the problems with which mankind is faced. The basic assumption underlying the 'Law of the Reversal of Tendencies' is that

"When the tendencies have reached their extremes, they become reversed."

It can be shown that we are dealing here with a comprehensive, cybernetic system, perhaps similar to some of the theories developed by Talcott Parsons and others. However, if we continue the "old ways" and fail to adapt to the new circumstances and meet the new challenges, the extremes will build up, leading to further strain; the overall situation becomes worse. The result could be total global collapse, including wars, famines, bio-hazards etc.

You know the story from *Limits to Growth* (1973): "...you own a pond on which a water lily in growing. The lily plant doubles in size each day. If the plant were allowed to grow unchecked, it would completely cover the pond in 30 days, choking off the other forms of life in the water. For a long time the lily plant seems small, so you decide no to worry about it until it covers half the pond. On what day will that be? On the twenty-ninth day. You have just one day to act to save your pond." Could it be that we are now at the point where the pond is half-covered?

C. *DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL SOCIETY ENJOYING FREEDOM, PROSPERITY AND PEACE*[2]

This may include plans like the Garland Canal Project in India,[3] Buckminster Fuller's Global Energy Grid and my own One-Acre Model Farm and Fifty-Acre Global Village.

D. *THE EIGHT-POINT-PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT AND STRATEGY PLANNING*

Political decisions have to be made to 'promote the establishment and maintenance of peace and security with the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources' (Article 26 of the UN-Charter), i.e. to allow each nation only the minimum to safeguard its borders. As stipulated in Article 24 of the UN Charter, nation-states must delegate powers to the United Nations to enable it to function effectively. Only then will it be possible also to 'achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion...' etc. (Article 1,III. UN Charter). Perhaps the best formulation of what the UN should become can be found in the House Concurrent Resolution 64 of 1949, stating that "a fundamental objective of the foreign policy of the United States to support and strengthen the United Nations and to seek its development into a world federation open to all nations with defined and limited powers adequate to preserve peace and prevent aggression through the enactment, interpretation, and enforcement of world law." A realistic program for future development and investment under an effective United Nations could include the following eight points, each counteracting one of the Eight Great Dangers, established under A.:

---

[2] In this rubric I have variously placed the 'River-of-Destiny Project' (see APPENDIX I.), or democratic, federal world government. The smallest workable 'unit' in the 'River-of-Destiny Project' is the 'One-Acre Model Farm' (see APPENDIX III.).

[3] In January 1979 a 'Project for World Unification, Peace and Progress through Cooperation' was adopted by an assembly of concerned global citizens at the World Constitution and Parliament Association's Third Session of the World Constituent's Assembly. The 'River-of-Destiny Project', as it was also called, represents a PERCEPTION of what the *GOALS* might be, if one would work to achieve ***A GLOBAL SOCIETY ENJOYING FREEDOM, PROSPERITY AND PEACE***. (***See*** APPENDICES).

1. **WORLDWIDE ERADICATION OF BELOW-POVERTY CONDITIONS THROUGH DISTRIBUTION OF LAND, WEALTH, TECHNOLOGY AND POWER; INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR BIRTHCONTROL, EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN, RACIAL EQUALITY AND EQUALITY OF CHANCES.**
2. **CULTIVATION OF OCEAN RESOURCES AND EXPLORATION OF OCEAN FLOOR DEPOSITS; CREATION OF A COMMON WORLD CURRENCY.**
3. **ESTABLISHMENT OF WORLD FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS, A UNITED NATIONS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND A BINDING INTERNATIONAL COURT OF LAW.**
4. **RESEARCH IN AND UTILIZATION OF NATURAL ENERGY RESOURCES SUCH AS SOLAR ENERGY, BIOMASS, TIDAL, GEOTHERMAL AND WIND POWER; EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM.**
5. **REFORESTATION AND PROPAGATION OF WILD LIFE; TRIBAL REHABILITATION BY RETURNING THEIR NATURAL HABITAT INTO THEIR POSSESSION.**
6. **IMPROVEMENT AND COORDINATION OF HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION IN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, HEALTH FOOD AND NATURAL LIVING; RETURN TO BIODYNAMIC FARMING AND NON-POLLUTING PEST-CONTROL METHODS.**
7. **RECLAIMING OF DESERT LAND WITH THE HELP OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, LABOUR, FORMER SOLDIERS AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES; IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTER-ASIAN IRRIGATION AND CANAL PROJECT AND A TRANS-POLAR ELECTRIC POWER GRID (see Appendix II).**
8. **ESTABLISHMENT OF 'FOREST ACADEMIES' AND DESERT PROJECTS AS FREE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES AND CENTRES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT; EXTENSION AND COORDINATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

This concept had been first developed in 1973/74 and distributed in 1974 during a foot-pilgrimage in South India along the Eastern Ghats (Koromandel Coast), in English, Bengali and Telegu. An updated version was presented at the *WORLD CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY* in Innsbruck (Austria) in 1977. With only little changes, the concept has remained largely the same, and continues to be a basic framework for my work. As an explication model it can help orientation in peace- and environment-related areas of study. The American designer and future planner Buckminster Fuller confirmed and encouraged the author, writing: "I think your ecological concepts are sound…" (Letter of 31 November 1974)

APPENDIX I

The River-of-Destiny (Garland Canal) Project[4]

It was Willy Brandt, former West-German Chancellor, Chairman of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues (IClDI) and President of the Socialist International, who had repeatedly pointed out that "development aid has become a new dimension of peace policy". However, if we are to build the World of Tomorrow, where our children can live and work in peace, it is necessary to adopt a programs of action, and constructive economic plans, that will move the people, politicians and academics, and to which all peoples and nations can contribute, and in which they can participate. Such a project has been envisaged for the Indian subcontinent.

Already in 1971/1972 a United Nations team of experts evaluated the subcontinental irrigation and canal project, combining, besides irrigation for food production, hydroelectric power generation and navigation. The American futurologist R. Buckminister Fuller wrote about the project:

> "Thinking in the longest time and biggest way about India's problems and India's needs, it becomes dramatically clear that the number one long-distance project to be immediately undertaken and continually served until completion is the building of a North to South chain of great canals and reservoirs leading the waters of the Himalayas southward all the way to the southern tongue of India. The waters that can be impounded in the highlands to produce vast energy generating dams whose waterhead can render India the most favourably energy-served areas in the world while also flowing its water under controlled conditions to all of its fertile fields."[5]

Implementation of the project could call for global collaboration, planetary planning and a transnational investment policy. The *River of Destiny Project for World Unification* as a strategy could raise public consciousness. Individuals, organisations, governments, and the United Nations could collaborate in the scheme. The *River of Destiny Project* is only a beginning. Its cost had in 1971 been estimated at 4 billion dollars. Other projects could follow or be simultaneously implemented, such as the *Sinkiang Base*

---

[4] The `River-of-Destiny Project was presented to the Third Session of the World Constituent Assembly, convened by the WORLD CONSTITUTION AND PARLIAMENT ASSOCIATION (WCPA), at Colombo, Sri Lanka (29 December 1978 to 6 January 1979). The work was the outcome of a group of 13, i.e. the Strategy Commission. The Commission was chaired by Mrs. Helen Tucker from Canada, who also suggested the title 'River-of-Destiniy Project for World Unification, Peace and Progress through Cooperation'. Both a 'Report' and the paper itself were published in *WORLD UNION,* '*focus*', vol.XVX, no.7 (July 1979), pp. 37-45.

[5] R.B. FULLER in a forward to Dinshaw J. Dastur, *This or else...,* Bombay: Jaico Publishing House, 1976.

Project[6] or connecting night and day in a single intercontinental power grid coordinating the electrical generating capacity of Russia, China and the Americas (see Appendix II).

The River of Destiny Project for World Unification, Peace and Progress through Cooperation

1. On the Indian Subcontinent

The Indian Subcontinent, comprising in its ultra-maximum circumference central and South India, the Indus-Ganga-Brahmaputra plains and the great Himalayas, Baluchistan, the Hindukush and Pamir mountain ranges, the Takla Makan desert bordered by the Tien Shan mountains in the north and the Kunlun Mountains in the South, Tibet and Burma, is of unique ecological importance for the whole planet. Traditionally India has been called the 'Cradle of Culture', *Dharma Kumbha*, the 'Motherland', *Matribhumi*, the 'Root Country', *Mulabhumi*, the 'Original Paradise', *Nandankanon* and the 'Land of Action', *Karmabhumi*. Sri Aurobindo, one of the great spiritual leaders of modern India, called her 'The Heart of the Orient'.

India is as distant from Japan as it is from Italy and Greece. China in the East is as far as Mesopotamia in the West. There is historical evidence that the people of the Indus Valley Civilization of Mohenjodaro and Harappa traded with Egypt and other countries on the Mediterranean. Trade-links of equal antiquity, dating back to about 3000 B.C., probably existed between India, China and the Malayo-Polynesians. Both the inhabitants of the Indus Valley and the inhabitants of Bengal were famous for their skill in navigation. Almost surrounded by water, with the Arabian Sea in the West, the Bay of Bengal in the East and the Indian Ocean in the South, India's position is ideal for development of fishing industries, cultivation of ocean resources and marine trade. Arnold Toynbee maintained: 'Indians were the first marines to establish trade with the world'.

Throughout the history of the world, this, India has been known for her culture and wealth. Although its population density is not much different from that of Europe, China and the American West coast, the Indian continent has the advantage that its land can be cultivated throughout the year. Under favourable conditions rice can be harvested three times a year. There is practically no piece of land that cannot produce some crop or other at least once a year. With the availability of water everywhere throughout the year, the subcontinent could become the 'food basket' of the world: it is the cradle of agriculture even today, its variety of raw materials and natural resources which are exported is astounding. Cashew nuts, coconuts, peanuts, oils, fish, meat, tea, coffee, jute, spices, sugar, rubber, cotton, alcohol, long corn rice, silk and pearls, as well as iron ore, graphite, manganese, copper, mica

[6] A project of reforestation and development in the Sinkiang Autonomous Region of the Peoples' Republic of China.

and bauxite are exported to earn foreign exchange for purchasing technological know-how and machinery to help develop and establish the country's industry and technological and economical independence in order to be able to compete with other countries in the international market.

§

2. The Plan

With nearly 1/6th of the world's population modern India is a fast developing economy, promising a bright future. It is the largest democracy, and its Muslim population is a factor to be reckoned with as a political and economic determinator.

According to Dr. Kanuri Lakshmana Rao (1902-1986), former Indian Union Minister for Irrigation, drought areas in India today are located in four regions: the drought region in the Ganges basin itself, a few districts of Orissa and West Bengal, Rajasthan and Gujarat regions which account for one third of the country's arid area, and the peninsular area below the river Tapti in Maharashtra.

With its 14 major rivers, 44 medium rivers and numerous minor rivers, India's biggest water resources are located in the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins, each yielding about 500 million cubic metres annually. The total annual average quantity of water in the river systems and the exploitable underground sources is 1900 million cubic metres.

According to Dr. Rao again, the most important link would be that of the Ganga and Cauvery, linking enroute the Sone, Narmada, the Tapti, Godavari, Krishna and Pennar. The Ganga-Cauvery link involves lifting of the waters of the Ganges to a height of 300/400 metres by constructing a barrage near Patna, to serve the drought areas of U.P. and Bihar. In addition, water will be pumped from the central plateau of India to the dry areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

A barrage of Dhubhri on the Brahmaputra and a 300 km canal will help divert surplus waters of the Brahmaputra to the Ganges, benefiting Bangla Desh also. Water from Navagam on the Narmada in Gujarat could be fed to Hutch and the Luni basis in western Rajasthan. Surplus flood waters of the Narmada could be fed into the system at this point, lowering the draw from the Ganges.

Another link would help utilise the waters of the Chambal across the Aravalli mountain ranges in Ajmir and central Rajasthan. Another link to be considered is of the rivers of the Western Ghats for serving the rain shadow areas in the eastern part of the subcontinent, canalizing wasteful monsoon season flow; Mahanadi shall have to be linked to serve drought areas up to Vamsadhara.

Apart from Irrigation, canalisation may also be used for *navigation and the generation of hydroelectric energy.* As to the navigation, it is clear that a national water grid over and across the length and breadth of India, will greatly enhance transport facilities ill the country. Perhaps even more important, the problem of floods can also be solved by river linking.

The power potential of the Ganga basin in the Himalayas is estimated at 10,000 megawatts, and extensive tunnels and dams are being built for the generation hydroelectric energy to feed a state-wide grid. However, decentralized power-generating units under village supervision would be more appropriate to meet ecological concerns today.

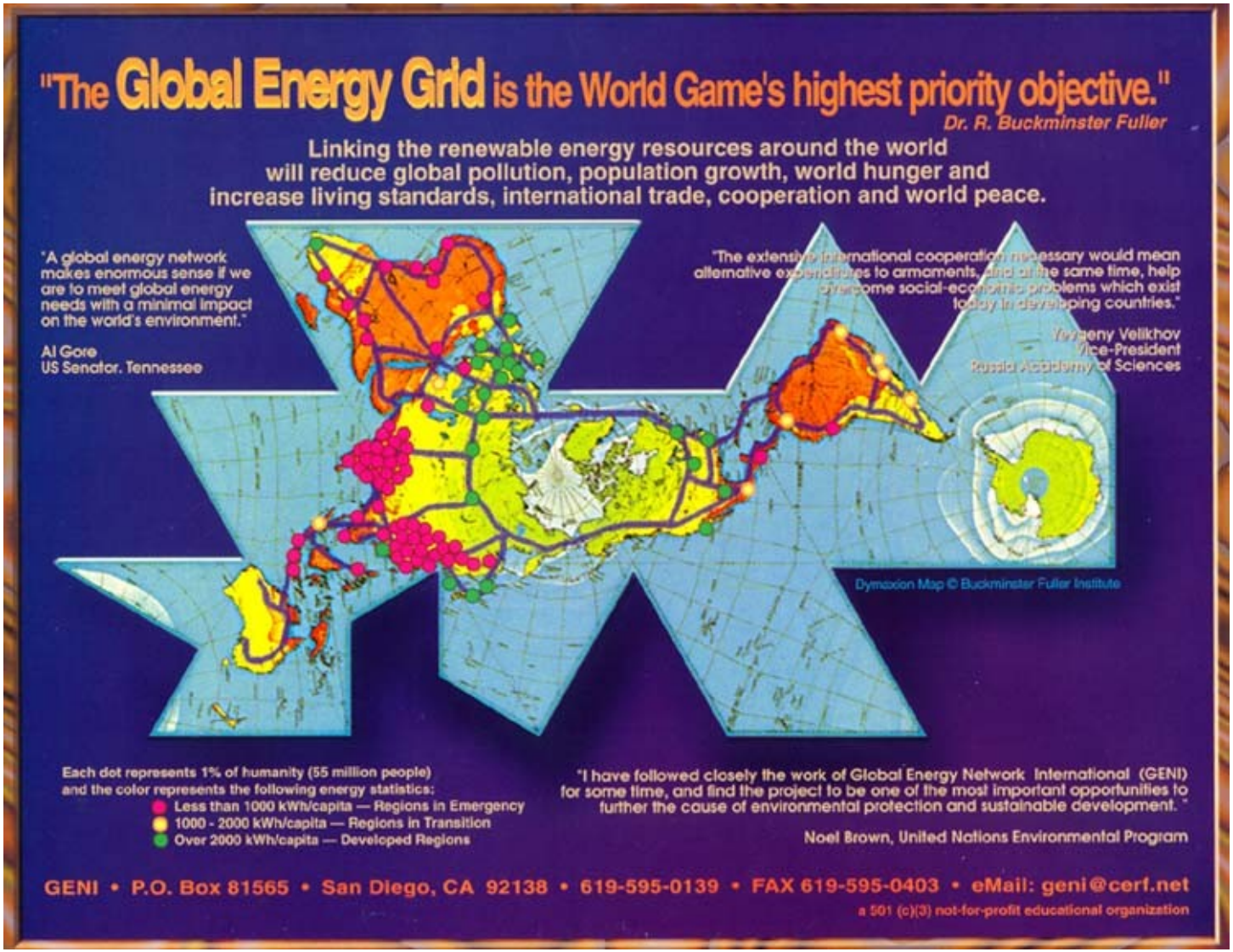
A project of this magnitude perhaps cannot be implemented and carried out without *international cooperation.* The Indian subcontinent is ideally suited, as we have seen, to fulfill the conditions for implementation of a constructive plan of action that would involve all peoples and nations on all levels.

↔

Comment 2011: There have been new developments in India regarding this project, including critical evaluations of its feasibility and impact on the environment. A MIDDLE WAY should be taken, avoiding extremes and implementing small-scale and decentral projects like the One-Acre Model Farm and the Fifty-Acre Global Village. In addition, great numbers of people may be employed to plant trees etc. along the rivers of the world, especially where vegetation on river banks has been reduced significantly, causing floods.

APPENDIX II

R. Buckminister Fuller: "...we must consider a North-South world bound together across the North Pole. Right over the Pole from the Americas are the Soviet Union and China. The technology of ultrahigh-voltage electrical transmission makes it possible to connect, Russia, China and the Americas into a single gigantic power grid. This grid would connect day and night; at one time or another, 50 percent of our electrical generating capacity is not working, but with day and night connected in an intercontinental grid, we suddenly discover that our generating capacity has been 'doubled'. (*NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC,* Vol. 150, No. 1, July 1976)

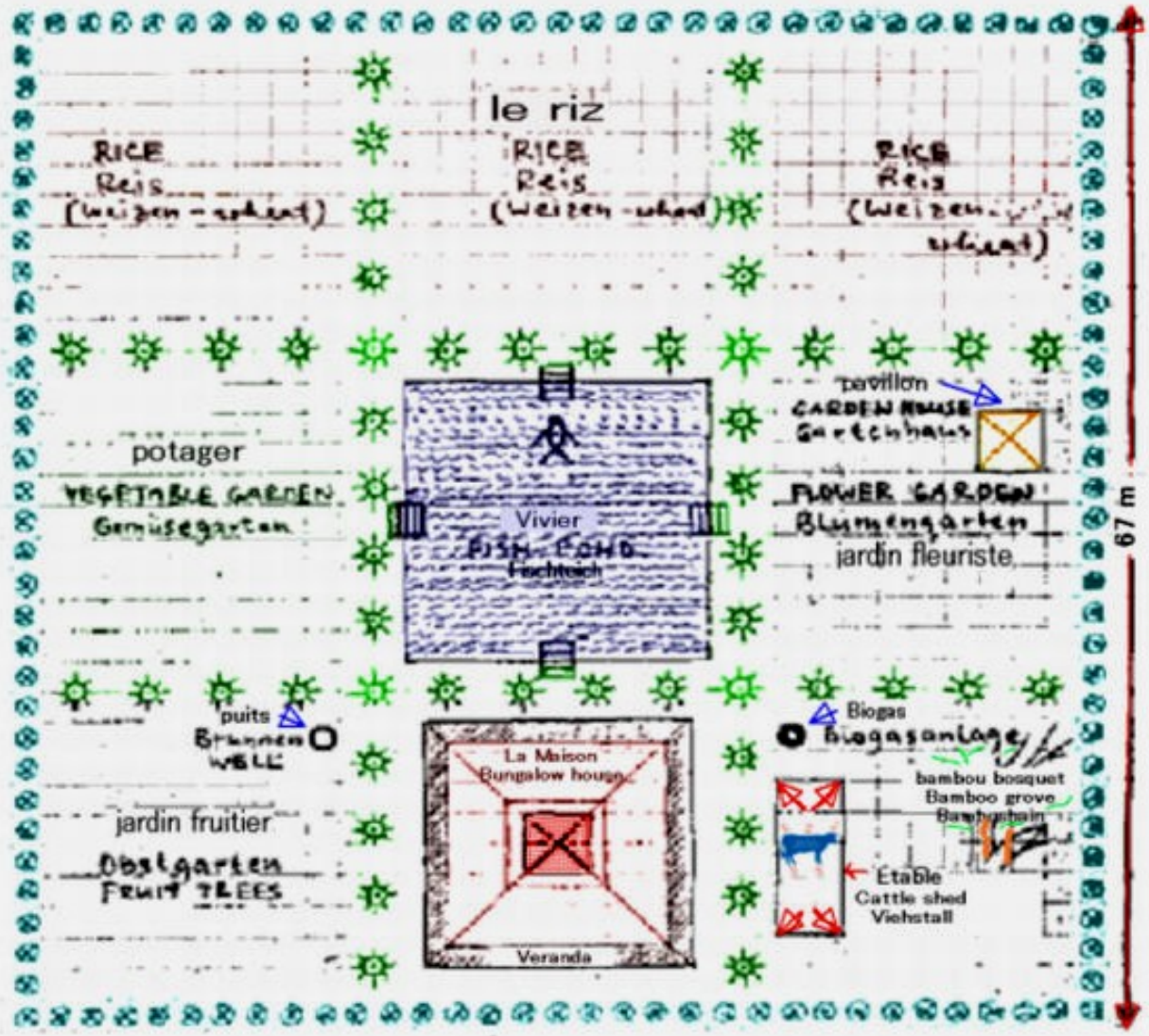


The One-Acre Model Farm (=4489 m²)

This is a constructive plan for the small farmer. With the availability of water throughout the year, the annual output of the farm plant will ideally amount to 1000 kg of rice or wheat (2 harvests), 2000 kg of potatoes (1 harvest), 600 kg of jaggery, about 5000 coconuts, 100 kg of fish, 3000 litres of milk (two cows), 1300 eggs (ten hens), apart from plenty of vegetables and fruit, goat milk and meat, etc.

The capital investment required for establishing the one acre model farm over a period of five years may amount to about 20 000 dollars (my estimate in the 1970s). It is suggested that banks may provide funds for .the purpose to the small farmer, and the project be coordinated within the larger context of global reconstruction and the RIVER-OF-DESTINY Project, focusing on the Indo-Himalayan continent.

It may be an acceptable fact that it would be most facile to effectively combat worldwide desertification, beginning in the young Indian desert of Rajasthan. This great desert 'tongue' between the Indus River and the Aravalli mountain range is in fact an extension of the African Sahara desert, sweeping across Arabia, the Persian Gulf, and the Indus River. If this 'tongue', reaching into the Western parts of the Indo-Himalayan continent could be 'cut' and reclaimed from the desert, this operation would mark the first success in the new age reversal of tendencies with regards to the phenomenon of the global emergency of desert expansion and drought. The 'One-Acre Model farm' is a project meant to contribute to this process, and given the scientific and technological means available for reclaiming of desert land, as developed in Israel and Australia, considerable progress could be made within a short period of time.



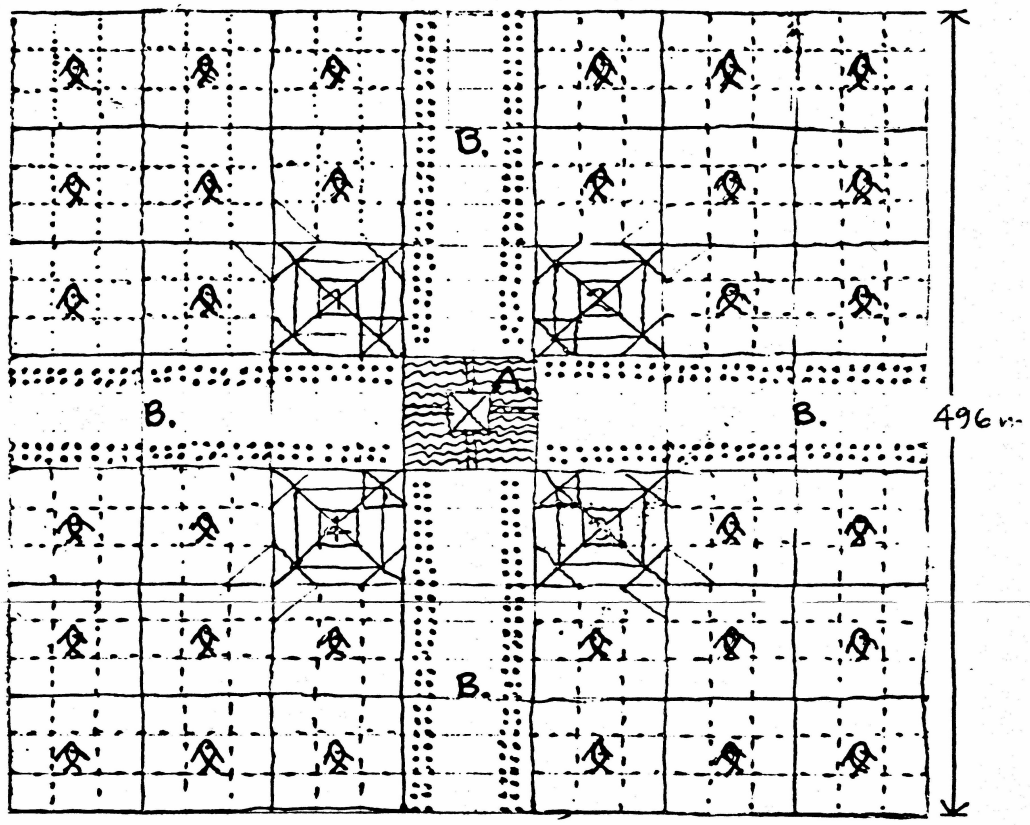
✲ = 52 Coconut Palm (Kokospalmen) ✲ = 128 Date Palm (Dattelpalmen)

There is a fish pond in the middle of the 67x67 meter plot, which is divided into nine squares, with a clockwise) bungalow house, a fruit garden, a vegetable garden, 3/9th for rice and/or wheat, a flower garden with a garden house, and a bamboo grove with a cattle shed and a biogas plant (gobar gas).

APPENDIX III

A 50 ACRE NEW AGE GLOBAL VILLAGE

A decentral agricultural unit, made up of 32 ONE ACRE MODEL FARMS.



The 50 ACRE NEW AGE GLOBAL VILLAGE has a large pond with a 'golden temple' in the middle that can be reached via four little bridges. There are four broad avenues leading to the central pool(pond), flanked by numerous trees, flowers and bushes. There are four great, flat buildings housing the departments of education, technology, production and research. The buildings are envisaged to possess a veranda and a courtyard.

(This of course doesn't have to be square, it could just as well be round or any shape!)

Dr. Klaus Schlichtmann
Nakakyama 452-35
Hidaka city, Saitama-Ken
350-1232 JAPAN
http://www.unfor.net