

Welcome to the First Thursday Group

Organised by Pamela McLean. I'll be here on Thursday March 6th for an hour,

Start time 14.00 GMT. 15.00 Nigerian time. For your local time see The World Clock \u2013 2013 Time Zone Converter <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html> or World Time Buddy <http://www.worldtimebuddy.com/>

Even if you can't be here when I am you can still contribute to the chat. (I'll come back to read what has been written now and again during the month.)

Please note - This chat archive is available publicly - please **do not share private details**

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**Introductions** - Please introduce yourself by the bullet points below - then type in the chat box (This part of the screen works like a wordprocessor, just put your cursor in the right place and then type your name, country, something about your interests and how you connect with me or the First Thursday Group. If you also say how you are managing to join the group - cyber cafe, laptop, tablet, phone/handset - then we can all understand if people have large or small displays to look at etc.)

\*Pamela McLean, UK, organiser of the group, I work with John Dada under the name of Dadamac, and also recently set up the GlobalNet21 and Africa Changemakers Group in London. I'm interested in things to do with "21st century lifestyles, learning and livelihoods". I love the way the Internet helps us to rub minds, learn from each other, and collaborate. Using a laptop.

\*(This intro written by Pamela) Gerry Gleeson - Chicago USA - where he hosts the First Thursday Group on his server - Gerry came here when we were exploring the software update for First Thursdays. We originally connected through a climate change group Coalition of the Willing

\*(This intro written by Pamela) John Iruaga - Nigeria - We connect because he used to work with John Dada at Fantsuam Foundation

\*(This intro written by Pamela) Lord Ashtar Sheran-Avatara - new visitor to the First Thursday Group, here through a connection with Andrius Kulikauskas - I have known Andrius for many years. Amongst other things he helped me to launch First Thursdays and hosted it in his chatroom until around 2010.

Guy Cowley - second time here on First Thursday. Sometime volunteer in East Africa but now UK based.

\*Mark Roest, met Pamela through Commonwealth Of Learning (do I remember correctly) when I was active with oneVillage Foundation.

\*(This intro written by Pamela) Ken Owino

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Links - if you share useful links during the chat please copy them here as well for easy

reference (with a brief explanation)

*Guy was a speaker at this event which I organised.

<http://www.meetup.com/GlobalNet21/events/154746912/>

*Mark mentioned aspects of development including sanitation - also of interest to Fantsuam

Foundation - Fantsuam takes on the water and sanitation challenge with her host community -

<http://dadamac.net/blog/20140219/fantsuam-takes-water-and-sanitation-challenge-her-host-community>

Here are my notes from the November First thursday, on the same topic:

6:54 Steve Bosserman: I'm betting on localization as the strategy to move them forward in ways that take advantage of their indigenous culture and the West.

6:54 Guy: For example - gas is expensive to export. Used at source to generate electricity provides a locally valuable product.

6:55 Guy: Define localisation as you mean it?

6:56 Steve Bosserman: Self-sustainable communities that form interdependent networks capable of moving surpluses to their peripheries on the way to the global market

6:56 Steve Bosserman: But it starts with each community being self-sufficient

6:57 Steve Bosserman: and networked

Steve Bosserman: In many ways Nyerere was ahead of his time

6:59 Guy: Conceptually yes, but practically?

6:59 Pamela: ref - I'm betting on localization as the strategy - that interests me very much.

6:59 Steve Bosserman: If he had access to ICT available today when he started in the 1960s, the results would have been much different

7:00 Guy: I'm not sure where the added value of the networked communities comes from. They all tend to be long on maize and short on most other things.

7:00 Steve Bosserman: Technology today enables the materials, machinery, and know-how to be distributed anywhere at anytime. That's revolutionary

Mark: It's only part of the revolution. We also need the knowledge and management systems capacity to enable everyone in a community to see where they stand

(surpluses and shortfalls), how a sustainable economy would function as a whole system and subsystems, and what their local trade opportunities would be in a

sustainable economy (with the Maker movement grafted on, and full knowledge of

Permaculture, BioIntensive Gardening at Manor House in Western Kenya, the Soil

Food Web, and the plants with superpowers that Ben de Vries studied for 20 years), and

to coordinate planning and implementation at the level of the empowered corporation,

by astute use of the same categories of software tools.

The knowledge and management systems need to be integrated into a Geographic

Information System with digital earth imaging which affords the people on the ground the

ability to enter what is happening where they are, and, in community, to work

with the communities of science based on shared interest in problems of their

ecosystem and eco-region, and respect for their culture, to solve seemingly intractable problems.

With this kind of whole systems, comprehensive design science approach, a la

Schumacher, Ian McHarg (Design With Nature) and Bucky Fuller, we no longer have to take the approach of:

6:56 Steve Bosserman: Self-sustainable communities that form interdependent networks capable of moving surpluses to their peripheries on the way to the global market

Mark: The global market becomes secondary instead of primary in this approach. The society systematically starts creating sustainable replacements for the imported goods, engaging in a paradigm shift, a la chaos theory.

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Mark Roest:07:17 Bucky said that a super-tanker is so big that hydraulic systems are unable to turn a rudder large enough to turn the ship.

Mark Roest:07:18 so they put another rudder on the outside edge of the main rudder.

Mark Roest:07:18 They turn it in the opposite direction, and it drags the main rudder where it needs to go, through better leverage.

Mark Roest:07:19 His point is that we work on things that are effective leverage for larger situations.

Mark Roest:07:19 Very precisely, if possib

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