

# Kosmos

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## The First Global Transition Synergizer

David Woolfson

The First Global Transition Synergizer was held from September 19 to 23, 2010 at the IONS Earthrise Retreat Center in Petaluma, California. Sixty four people participated, representing organizations and individuals actively engaged in the work of global transition along with a great team of facilitators and many enthusiastic volunteers. This unique gathering was intended to “launch an emergent social process, including convenings held in various parts of the world organized geographically or around critical issues, to facilitate participation of diverse organizations and cultures in accelerating our transition to a world that works for all.”

This first such ‘Synergizer’ was convened by six organizations joining together to form the core of the Organizing Committee: The Pachamama Alliance (Jon Love), Tellus Institute (Paul Raskin), World Transforming Initiatives (Rob Wheeler), Planetize the Movement (Drew Dellinger), Foundation for Conscious Evolution (Claudia Welss), and The Club of Budapest (David Woolfson). The goal attracted numerous other participating organizations including: Four Years. Go. (Bill Twist), Earth Charter International (Mirian Viela), IONS (Marilyn Schlitz), Co-Intelligence Institute (Tom Atlee), Transition US (Jennifer Grey), Humanity’s Team (Steven Farrell), Generation Waking Up (Joshua Gorman), Global Commons Trust (Jay Bender), and Kosmos Journal (Nancy Roof).

It was most extraordinary! It wasn’t a conference, or a meeting, or a forum, or a summit but a groundbreaking gathering. That is why, when inviting a wider circle of like-minded organizations and individuals

to the event, we had to coin a new word—a ‘Synergizer.’ We all understood that the gathering was not an end in itself or simply a forum to exchange information and ideas alone but rather was the beginning of a process to ultimately catalyze and accelerate the growing ‘global transition movement.’ The primary means to achieve this goal from my perspective is to design an evolving process to build a broad ‘collaborative global community’ that would be inclusive of humanity’s diversity; engage organizations and individuals worldwide through on-line networking and collaboration tools; convene similar gatherings on an on-going basis; and share global campaigns and events.

I would say that the shared vision and goal of beginning this process was a major success. A community of all the participants, including the facilitators and volunteers, was carefully built at the gathering. Actually it felt as if we became a true ‘family’ infused with a palpable energy of shared purpose and commitment. This was accomplished by a group process design which invited us to work together in large and small groups focused on both broad vision and specific action. We were at it 12 hours a day for almost four days. It was both intense and joyful in my perspective—a spiritual experience as well as an action-based one! The diversity of opinions and perspectives represented was embraced rather than avoided and we were ever mindful of the many people of the world whose voices were not at the gathering, but who we were also working for in our heart-of-hearts.

The Synergizer’s diversity was unified based upon a common purpose and awareness of

the current world situation and the fact that the global economic, political, environmental and social systems we have created are now all failing on a massive scale. The world we have created is fundamentally unsustainable and rapidly coming apart at the seams. The solution does not lie in reform but in transformation which for many of us must be based upon the collective evolution of our consciousness to a planetary level, broad agreement on universally shared values and ethics and the rapid design and implementation of sustainable technological and societal innovations.

The broadest vision that united us was working towards the co-creation of a peaceful, just, fulfilling and sustainable world and future for all Humanity. At one time such a harmonious world was but a utopian vision. Today it is our only hope! The alternative is both unthinkable and now all too possible. We can address this great challenge and opportunity together by now joining hands, hearts and minds. If we do so we will no doubt succeed!

The work continues and begins anew. If you or your organization would be interested in participating in this process as it unfolds, please email me and your interest will be noted: [dwoolfson@clubofbudapest.ca](mailto:dwoolfson@clubofbudapest.ca)

**David Woolfson** is a global futurist and ‘actionist’ engaged in numerous large-scale ‘better world’ initiatives and campaigns for over 25 years. The goal of these efforts is to help humanity find a collective path to a peaceful and sustainable world and future. David is President of The Club of Budapest Canada, Co-Initiator of Worldshift Movement, Co-Initiator of Worldshift 2012, Coordinator of the Worldshift 20 Council, and Toronto Coordinator of the World Future Society. David is also a lawyer with a community law practice in Toronto, Canada.

