

Hi, Everyone.

I think we are at an important moment in our history and I thought it would be good to talk about how we all work together in it.

As most of you know, there was a recent executive order from President Trump restricting entry into the US for a few countries. I spoke with some of my friends from the Middle East and other regions about this to get their takes and how it affects them. They told me something interesting: This isn't just a US phenomenon. Travel restrictions and hesitation for international travel are growing all over the world.

This could affect how you, my colleagues at PURC, and I work together. As you know, we at PURC serve you by bringing people from all over the world together to examine how to build better futures. Together we create a learning community that helps you succeed in your work.

We at PURC do this because we are passionate about what you do. Some of you ensure that a child in your country has clean water for the first time. That is critical because of the damage caused by poor water and sanitation. Maybe your country already has good water and your work is focused on ensuring that the system is sustainable. Almost every country is facing water shortages sometime in the near future, so your work is critical.

Maybe you ensure that a community gets electricity for the first time or that your country's energy system is efficient and effective. This is so important because no modern economy functions without an effective energy system.

Or maybe you ensure that a school gets broadband so that children see the world for the first time. Or maybe your country has a good ICT infrastructure and your work ensures that it is efficient and dynamic. Regardless of that situation, your work ensures a better future for your children and your children's children.

We at PURC are told by our participants that their learning experiences with us are the best they have experienced. We are happy to make this kind of impact in their lives. But that effectiveness isn't because there is something magical about our faculty. It is because of the learning community we create together with you.

But this takes travel. And you might be finding it difficult in today's environment to be with us. If that is your case, let us know and we will do our best, working together to overcome these obstacles. If it is just impossible for you to be here, then maybe we can find a way to come to you. PURC has provided live courses all over the world. Contact us so we can see what options may be available.

Let me wrap up by reiterating that we at PURC value our relationships with you. It is our commitment and our vision that you be successful making your part of the world a better place. We look forward to working with you in that.

Mark Jamison
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