



Stanford eCorner

Opportunity in Population Growth

Tom Siebel, *First Virtual Group*

February 11, 2009

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/2180/Opportunity-in-Population-Growth>

The globe's human population is currently around six-and-a-half billion, and it is slated to reach nine billion people in the next twenty years. Tom Siebel, Chairman of First Virtual Group, points out that this sharp increase will propel a worldwide demand for food, water, energy, and healthcare. And, he adds, the business opportunities in providing these essentials are unparalleled.



Transcript

Second dynamic in the next 20 years, almost unbelievable population growth, I'm going to talk about that. That population is aging. So what's going on there? You have the healthcare implications of that, the food implications of that, the water implications of that. And then some pretty significant energy implications. So let's look at, remember that curve that we had with the transistor showing Moore's law. And I think that's what really drove opportunity in the last two decades? I think this is the curve that drives opportunity in the next two decades. This is the fundamental thing that is going to make stuff happen. Now, if we look at the growth in human population say in the first 100,000 years of Homo sapiens on the planet. It took to 1750 to get to a billion. Today we have 6.5 billion.

It's going to 9 billion. This is not something that we can fix with population control. This is absolutely a done deal. This is absent global pandemic, nuclear holocaust. You can pretty much take this to the bank. And it kind of presents some interesting problems and it's going to present some pretty interesting opportunities. And I would suggest to you that the opportunities that face us going forward are going to be related to this fact. And so I think the market opportunities that are going to give you the opportunity because I'm too old for this, to change the world. Like some people had the opportunity to change the world last time, are going to be really related. It's going to be very fundamental.

It's not about plastics. Do you remember *The Graduate*? It's not about information technology. It's not going to be about computers. It's more fundamental than that. It's going to be about food. It's going to be about water. It's going to be about healthcare. And it's going to be about energy.