

Could an Aqua-Net Bring Water to the Desert?

July 29 2010, by Miranda Marquit

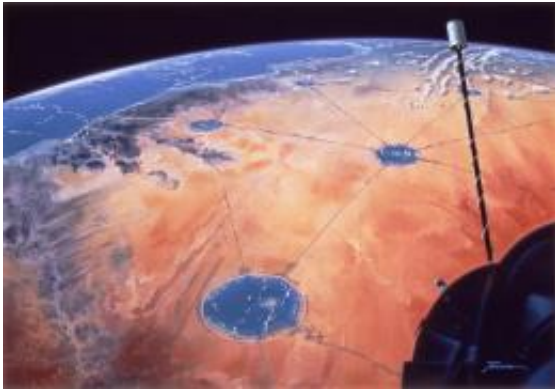


Image source: Shimizu Corporation

(PhysOrg.com) -- Challenges of the future include energy use and continued population growth. And, while there are millions of square miles of land available in the world, not all of it is considered fit for human habitation. Shimizu Corporation, the company contemplating the [Luna Ring](#), has another interesting project in the "just coming up with an idea" stage: The Desert Aqua-Net.

The [Desert](#) Aqua-Net is an idea that involves the building of interconnected lakes in the desert. These 18-mile-diameter lakes would be connected by canals fed from the ocean. The lakes would include built islands that could serve as homes for cities teeming with people. Supposedly, this would work because water from the lake would cool the

cities, making them livable. There would also be arable land, theoretically, after this cooling above the desert lake islands. The cities would be powered by satellite power stations, and by the sun.

One of the biggest draw backs is that the lakes would be filled with [seawater](#). While the [salt water](#) would provide the opportunities for water-based wildlife, and even for biomass development, it doesn't provide much opportunity for drinking. However, Shimizu plans that the some of the [water](#) would be desalinated, and thus made fit for human consumption and for irrigation of crops.

Of course, cost is a huge barrier to a project like the Aqua-Net. It would be extremely expensive, not to mention use vast resources, to build this Desert Aqua-Net. Other problems could easily arise, related to impacts on oceans and rivers. And, of course, predicting weather patterns, and changes to the climate, could present problems, since these cities could be impacted quite a bit. Finally, and not least, issues of sovereignty would likely arise -- especially since the Desert Aqua-Net would require a great deal of cooperation between countries.

More information: "Desert Aqua-Net Plan," Shimizu Corporation. Available online: www.shimz.co.jp/english/theme/dream/desert.html.

© 2010 PhysOrg.com

Citation: Could an Aqua-Net Bring Water to the Desert? (2010, July 29) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-07-aqua-net.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.