



23 December 2004

Dear Nettel Colleagues and Friends,

As bridge builders for all kinds of divides – digital, social and economic our shared passion is, as reflected in Tusu’s email signature to “*be the change we want to see in the world*” (Mahatma Gandhi). As we step back to reflect on whether, as Hashim says, “*it can be done*” and where we want to be not just with NetTel but also with other causes that stir our passions let me share with you some of my favorite verses about bridges:



*Faith -- is the Pierless Bridge  
Supporting what We see  
Unto the Scene that We do not --  
Emily Dickinson*

*A new word runs between: whispering, 'let us be one!'*  
Rudyard Kipling



*Bridges in the mind  
Joy in the heart  
Words that encourage  
-achievement  
starts.  
J.K Phillips*

*And you, O my Soul, where you stand,  
Surrounded, surrounded, in measureless oceans of space,  
Ceaselessly musing, venturing, throwing,—seeking the spheres, to connect them;  
Till the bridge you will need, be form’d—till the ductile anchor hold;  
Till the gossamer thread you fling, catch somewhere, O my Soul.  
Walt Whitman*

*As once the winged energy of delight  
carried you over childhood's dark abysses,  
now beyond your own life build the great  
arch of unimagined bridges.*

*Wonders happen if we can succeed  
in passing through the harshest danger;  
but only in a bright and purely granted  
achievement can we realize the wonder.*

*To work with Things in the indescribable  
relationship is not too hard for us;  
the pattern grows more intricate and subtle,  
and being swept along is not enough.*

*Take your practiced powers and stretch them out  
until they span the chasm between two  
contradictions...For the god  
wants to know himself in you.*

Rainer Maria Rilke



...

*The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fears for him,  
But he turned, when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building  
here,  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way,  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"*

*The builder lifted his old gray head,  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today,  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
The chasm that was as naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be,  
He, too, must cross in twilight dim,  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."*  
Will Allen Dromgoole

Happy holidays,  
Maria A. Beebe