



The newsletter of the  
World Futures Studies  
Federation

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# FUTURES BULLETIN

## Editorial **Change in the continuity**

This issue of the Bulletin is the first issue prepared by the new Executive Team elected during the XIX WFSF Conference in Budapest, August 2005. It must be considered as an experimental issue. Indeed our aim is to continue the good work of the former teams, while introducing some changes that are required to expand the services offered to our members. The two main themes covered by this exceptionally long editorial include the introduction to the programme of the new Executive Team and the presentation on the proposed changes related to the Bulletin and the Website.

Then you will discover the new sections of this dummy, designed to fit the three constraints of an electronic publication (see for example the NZ Futures Trust journal "*Futures Time*"), a service to our members and a 'show-case' for the Federation:

- **SECTION 1** - COMMUNITY HOUSE (ABOUT WFSF MEMBERS)
- **SECTION 2** - FUTURES RIDE (PAPERS)
- **SECTION 3** - FUTURES STUDIES IN THE WORLD
- **SECTION 4** - CALLS FOR PAPERS & EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All these sections are not filled for this 1<sup>st</sup> issue, but we hope that, with everyone's help, we will succeed to do so with the following issues.

Fabienne GOUX BAUDIMENT & John RATCLIFFE

## [Editorial] Change in the continuity

### Changes in the Bulletin and the Website

#### **An e-version of the Bulletin**

Considering the global budget of the Federation and the fact that 46% of that budget is used to publish the Bulletin (US\$2,344.22 for printing and photocopying, US\$2,857.44 for postage, the whole budget for the last financial year being US\$11,250.46), it is clear that this cost has to be reduced if we want to gain room for manoeuvre.

Thus, taking into account the spread of the Internet, the growing use of electronic data and the fact that 90% of our members have Internet access, we intend to publish **only an e-version of the Bulletin**, at least until we get a better balance regarding the cost. We propose that —from the next Bulletin on— all members that require a hard copy of the Bulletin will be asked to contribute to the publication and postage cost (the hard copy will be issued as a standard digital publication). Meanwhile, this current issue has being sent in electronic version to the members who have a valid email address and in hard copy to those who have not (free of charge).

#### **Changes in Bulletin and Website**

Currently, we are in the process of refreshing the structure of the newsletter and the website. Our aim is to provide a strong correlation between them both. We believe that the changes proposed below would help to provide more services to members and create a broader display to non-members. These changes include:

- **shortening of the Bulletin** to 8 pages (two A3 format sheets printed recto-verso);
- establishment of **links between the Bulletin and the website**, for example with the introduction of an article in the Bulletin (abstract) and the publishing of its full version on the web-site, as it is done with the *Futures Time* (the journal of the New Zealand Futures Trust);
- increasing of the number of **Bulletin issues from 4 to 6** per year in order to strengthen the link within the WFSF community;
- **refreshment of the web-site** in line with current webdesign standards in order to increase the impact of the Federation image; change of the website

format (.php or asp) that would allow us to maintain the website and post the information on it in a simpler, faster and more efficient manner;

- establishment of a **virtual secretariat** and a kind of intranet within the website, that would facilitate posting direct contributions from the Executive Officers and EB members.

#### **Need your help!**

**We would like you, the WFSF members, to support us in this effort through:**

- **sending articles and papers for publication in the Bulletin and on the website —before doing so, please ensure that these are free of copy-right**;
- **suggesting new sections, services, needs, and improvements that can be made;**
- **providing the general contents for the newsletter and the website in form of releases, personal and professional information, comments about events, new books, papers, etc.**

#### **Next issues of the Futures Bulletin:**

15 March  
15 May  
15 July  
15 September  
15 November  
2006

#### **Publishing note:**

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## *The new Executive Team's programme*

This programme is both a vision for the Federation and a set of strategic orientations to implement this vision.

I think we are at a turning point in the history of the Federation because the world itself is changing, becoming different from the world the Federation has evolved in during the past three decades. Indeed, we can observe both a change of environment —paradigm shift, cultural / civilisational change, new values— and a change of context —less available resources (funding, volunteers), increasing cost of mobility, increasing stress (time, work, family, etc.). Thus the WFSF needs to change in order to better adapt itself to this new era.

Like in a classic futures study, this vision has been developed from environmental scanning (identification of changes, opportunities and threats) and the identification of the inner strengths and weaknesses of the Federation, through a problem-solving approach aiming to switch from ambition to strategy.

## **Vision: Four goals for the WFSF's next four years**

When a vision is based on an intimate perception, it is sometimes difficult to express it well enough to share it. This is why I would like to thank very sincerely Allen TOUGH, one of our members, for his online book ['A Message From Future Generations'](#) for the reading of his Chapter 4 **The four universal guideposts** gave me the means to synthesise and express my vision and especially these four goals for the WFSF. I hope they will help the Federation to draw the map of its very next future.

The four goals of the WFSF adapted from **"The four universal guideposts"**:

**1. Effective day-to-day functioning.** *How effectively is the Federation managing its day-to-day affairs? Over the very short-term, perhaps just a few days, how well are things going compared to how well they could go if this organisation was achieving its full potential? At the top of the scale are organisations whose short-term day-to-day functioning is **effective, intelligent, cooperative, peaceful, and harmonious**. At the other end of the scale are organisations whose day-to-day functioning is ineffective, dysfunctional, paralyzed, destructive, or violent. Their efforts and resources are squandered on trivial benefits or bitter wrangling, not on the goals shared by most members of the Federation.*

**2. Bright prospects for the long-term future.** *From the long-term perspective, is the Federation evolving in a positive direction, barely holding its own, gradually deteriorating, or heading for a catastrophe? Are the present actions of the Federation moving it **in a direction that is generally positive and appropriate**, or generally harmful and negative? Has it identified and counteracted all future catastrophes that might eliminate its culture or cause it to regress enormously? In short, are its prospects for the long-term future bright or bleak?*

**3. Profound knowledge of the world.** *How accurate, profound, and advanced is the Federation's storehouse of knowledge? **Its storehouse includes its accumulated insight, understanding, and wisdom regarding its own species and culture, its total environment**, cosmic evolution, intelligent life in the universe, and all other aspects of the universe. **A successful storehouse includes profound accurate knowledge about the most fundamental big-picture questions** of all, about any transcendent and spiritual dimensions that actually exist, about any religious and psychic phenomena that actually exist, and about any other genuine sources of awe, reverence, meaning, and purpose. Virtually all effective ways of gaining accurate knowledge and deep wisdom are accepted.*

*How well does the Federation protect its storehouse of knowledge from the worst imaginable catastrophes? Even if that organisation dies out, the remains of its culture and knowledge might eventually be discovered by a few survivors or by some other intelligent species that develops later on that planet. Or it might be discovered by some other civilization through spacecraft or automated probes. **They might then preserve this knowledge in their equivalent of museums and archives**--and add it to the world storehouse of knowledge.*

**4. Mutually beneficial interaction with other organisations in the world.** *How extensive and advanced is the Federation's interaction with other organisations in the world? At one end of the scale would be a Federation that has no interest in other organisation in the world; they perceive themselves as isolated and alone. Somewhere in the middle of the scale would be a society that feels connected to life in the universe, and gains some of their meaning and purpose from this collective self-image and from their vigorous efforts to make contact, even though these efforts have not yet been successful. At the top of the scale would be organisations that have become full-fledged interactive members of the world community, interacting with other organisations in a manner that is peaceful and cooperative, even altruistic, rather than quarrelsome and pugnacious. Interaction could range all the way from simply exchanging information right up to mutual assistance, joint projects.*

## Strategic orientations

Once the vision about a desirable future is clear, then it is possible to develop a detailed comprehensive strategy (main orientations), to draw up an agenda (priorities) and raise resources to implement it. Let's detail this strategy following Allan's guideposts.

**Effective day-to-day functioning.** Volunteer work, pressures of life, lack of means, weak involvement of members, are the constraints the Federation has to face. Rather than waiting for environment to transform itself, we have decided to improve its efficiency though some changes: an **increasing** recourse to **automation** now possible thanks to Internet (payment, information about membership, php website, wiki, etc.) and the **establishment of a virtual secretariat**. Since the topic of a permanent SG is still a pending issue, we are developing a Virtual SG. This means that all the documentation related to the WFSF (original statutes, modifications, former constitutions, etc.), archives and current information, will be located on the website. Thus, this one will include three sections: a public one (already existing), an extranet dedicated to members only (already existing) and a secured intranet dedicated to the officers (Pt, SG, EB) —to undertake— and constituting the virtual SG. It should be ready at the end of 2006. Right now we are looking for a web developer able to rebuild the website on a php base.

**Bright prospects for a long-term future.** This guidepost concerns directly the real influence of the Federation. '**Influence**' here is a very broad word including credibility, efficiency, image and usefulness. This influence must be increased within three directions: inside, outside and both sides of the Federation. **Inside**: through improved and various services to members only (hence the redesign of the Bulletin giving a larger place to the community, the creation of an online centre of resources, regional chapters strengthening the membership at a regional level, etc.). **Outside**: through a better and systematic communication with non-members and other organisations (see the 4<sup>th</sup> guidepost) and an increasing of the membership, especially institutional members. **Both sides** in the same time: through the demonstration of the ability of the Federation to elaborate and implement a major project.

Considering the specific nature of the Federation, **education** appears as its main domain of competence. Considering also the shift the Western world (if not the whole world) is experiencing (whatever called post-taylorism, post-humanism, etc.) the WFSF might accept to take the role of a voluntary intermediary between the old world we are leaving —yet we are still part of— and the new world the next generation is already embedded in. This principle, 'from current to next generations', could be embodied in the '**major project**' detailed as following:

- an online resource centre dedicated to the knowledge transmission from the elders to the novitiate, with the establishment of the main bibliography about the field, a lexicon (already begun by Anita RUBIN), a database of the futures courses in the world (already done by the AFI/Jose RAMOS) and a set of essential articles to download.
- a specific toolbox for teachers (academic and vocational) gathering (directly or through a portal) the pedagogical material provided by members (handbooks, textbooks, games, exercises, etc.) in order to help to teach futures studies.
- the elaboration of a core curriculum in futures studies/research in order to make futures studies easier to enter the academe.

The financial support of UNESCO (and eventually EC) will be sought to achieve this project.



**Profound knowledge of the world.** Three words to design this strategy: **go** into our knowledge **in depth** (as a learned society), **store** effectively and **disseminate** this knowledge. To reach this threefold goal, three main actions can successfully help: the creation of '**professional clubs**' bringing (virtually) members together to advance their knowledge about a specific subject; the development of **archives** both of the Federation and of the futures studies field (articles, photos, etc.); and the organisation of **specialised conferences** generating an intergenerational and high-level futures thinking able to contribute to the decision-making at global or regional level.

Currently, one professional club has been created (**PC Education** coordinated by Peter BISHOP and Peter HAYWARD) and three are under consideration: **PC Sanctuary**, dedicated to the collection and storage of the archives (then of the current documentation); **PC Territorial Foresight**, dedicated to the building of a global corpus in this field; **PC Epistemology** dedicated to the building of the futures studies corpus (bibliography of reference, lexicon, etc.). Volunteers are required to coordinate these clubs.

Some *ad hoc* groups could also be formed to examine specific issues for a given time.

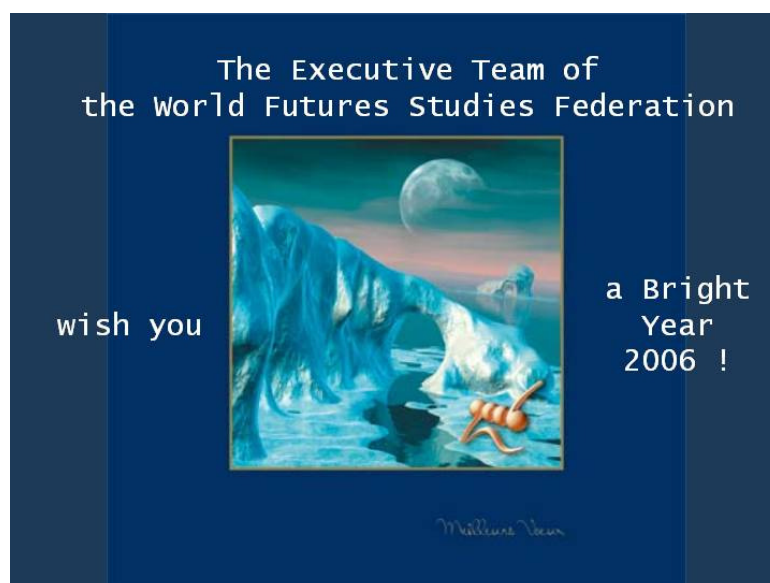
**Mutually beneficial interaction with other organisations in the world.** The WFSF is a Federation. Behind this evidence, there is a mission to bring futures-oriented people and organisations together not in order to become a hegemony but for developing these mutual beneficial interactions. This is the reason why we will strengthen our relations with other futures-oriented organisations such as the WFS, the Millennium Project, the European Futurists, Shaping Tomorrow... We will gain better from **cooperation** than from competition.

However, I would like to extend this guidepost beyond organisations. What could be our mutually beneficial interaction with **students** or **non-futurists**? What could be our policy towards them? I think this is an issue as crucial as the previous one. Currently, the criteria to become a member of the WFSF are highly selective. Is that the right way to promote futures studies today?

So here are the main orientations of our programme for the next four years. The ambition is high and the means poor. However, all together, we are a huge strength that can move mountains. It is just a question of good will.

Fabienne GOUX BAUDIMENT

**More information about the Programme will be available on the next version of the Website. A regular reporting will be posted and updated on the website, in order to inform the community about the evolution of its implementation.**



## SECTION 1 - COMMUNITY HOUSE

### MEMBERS

#### *Erzsebet NOVAKY becoming an Academician!*



Professor **Erzsebet NOVAKY** was elected as the **President of the Committee on Future Research** under the Section of Economics and Law of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences this September (where she has been a Vice-President for 15 years). The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is a scholarly public self-governing body, whose main tasks are the study of science, the promotion of scientific achievements, and support of research, particularly, help of the Hungarian participants in the world of science. The Academy, as a public body, is composed of academicians (corresponding members and full members) and consultant members (representatives of the sciences with academic degree), who work to carry out the tasks of Hungarian science.

Erzsebet has been invited to be a consultant member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Section of Academy for 2005-2009 for the second time this December. She, beyond her main work in the Corvinus University of Budapest (where she is the Head of Futures Studies Department), has been the head of the Complex Futures Research Group supported by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1999. Erzsebet has contributed to the work of the Academy in several Qualification Committees. This year she has been awarded by the Albert Szent-Györgyi Award for founding scientific school, from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Hungary, and by one of the 13 annual Awards of the Academy for outstanding scientific achievements from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

#### *New appointment of Kuo-Hua CHEN*



**Kuo-Hua CHEN** has recently been appointed as dean of **College of Global Research and Development** at **Tamkang University's** new Lanyang campus. The campus adopts Oxbridge model of education, in which holistic orientation and multilateral exchange are the major focuses. English is the main language of instruction and interaction to acquire the practical skills and knowledge needed to play an active role in the international community. All students are required to spend the junior year abroad at a partner university to further foster their international and multicultural experiences. Particularly, College of global research and development are preparing students as candidates for future leadership, which requires multidisciplinary interests; the willingness to adopt different ways of knowing; a global orientation; a tolerance for complexity and ambiguity; a long-term perspective; a view of the future as plural and alternative, rather than as singular and predictive; and the ability to imagine a diversity of alternative futures, in addition to just preferred futures. Currently, the college consists of two departments: Department of Global Politics and Economics and Department of Multicultural and Linguistic Studies. Department of Global Studies on Science, Technology and Foresight will commence in Fall 2007.

#### *WFSF Lifetime Achievement Award for Wendell BELL*



On the occasion of its 19<sup>th</sup> World Conference, the Federation has granted the **Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Wendell BELL**. The award recognises his outstanding achievements and is an acknowledgement of his many contributions to the field of Futures Studies and to the well being of humankind. It was accepted on behalf of Wendell BELL by Chris JONES on 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2005, at Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary.

## FEDERATION

### over 2005 IN

### **WFSF World Conference, Budapest, August 2005** [Erzsebet NOVAKY]



In the beautiful neoclassic building of the Corvinus University of Budapest (CUB) the 19th Conference of WFSF and the Budapest Futures Course 2005 under the title of "*Futures Generation for Future Generations*" were held between 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The Organizing Committee was recruited from the Futures Studies Department of CUB, whose work was supported by the International Scientific Committee and also by UNESCO, WFSF and Hungarian sponsors, who provided financial support for the conference.

This event was a worthy continuation of the Hungarian traditions on FS, namely the 11<sup>th</sup> WFSF World Conference organized by the Futures Research Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences under the title "*Linking Present Decisions to Long-range Visions*", and the Budapest Futures Courses had organized by Budapest University of Economic Sciences (today: CUB) under the title "*Youth for a Less Selfish Future*" in every second years since 1999.



The World Conference gathered futurists working at very different parts of the Globe in order to both work actively in FS and to enjoy common cultural programs. In the "community-building" work younger and older participants, women and men, researchers and teachers took part with great enthusiasm. We were glad to see the "Blue team" of Hungarian university students as they bustled lovingly around providing anything required, so that the participants could give their best at all sessions and forums, and at plenary sessions and panel discussions.

It was a Conference really for forging together the old pioneers of FS and the new learners of it! Thanks all the participants for experience!

### **Budapest Futures Course 2005** [Reka VARNAGY]



This August Budapest hosted the fourth Budapest Futures Course, the summer course of the World Futures Studies Federation aimed at collecting young futurists and to-be-futurists from all around the world. From 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, around 50 participants representing 12 countries gathered together at the Corvinus University of Budapest to attend the BFC2005, which included the attendance at World Conference of the WFSF and the following BFC2005+ events.

During the first few days, these young fellows took the chance to meet up with some of the most respected futurists to learn from them and add some fresh insights. Here, young professionals had a chance to make themselves visible in the international futures community, as the sessions' co-chairs were chosen from the BFC 2005 participants.



Young futurists were also actively involved in the launch of a youth initiative, an international self-organizing group of young futures-thinking professionals. The project was presented at a round-table discussion during the World Conference and was further developed at the BFC2005+, where participants draw up a Youth Initiative Action Plan after consulting Richard SLAUGHTER and Fabienne GOUX-BAUDIMENT on the matter.

Of course BFC2005+ also offered professional development for its participants where futurists like Bruce TONN, Wendy SCHULTZ, Fabienne GOUX-BAUDIMENT, Chris JONES and Peter BISHOP shared their knowledge and experience.

We are very proud to see that these activities had further influence on the futures community: lately, there was a 'raid' organized by Wendy SCHULTZ to add futures content to the famous Wikipedia site; while José RAMOS has set up a listserv for the Youth Initiative and launched a draft charter. In the future we hope to see more related activities - the future is ours to construct.

## **Youth Initiative [Fabienne GOUX-BAUDIMENT]**

The general framework of the discussion can be set up by the following dialogue (artificial dialogue built by extracting quotes from the BFC):

*Tamas:* Youth initiative: what do we want and what we are able to do?

*Fabienne:* ... within the framework of the Federation as far as WFSF is concerned.

*Tamas:* It's a problem of the self-organisation. Self-organisation means - rules forming and respect of these rules.

*Riel:* the answer can be:

- questioning what I'm doing today as a potential for the Federation,
- allowing self-organisation, to be more powerful whatever the results [the process is more important than the content].

## **Workshop about the future of the Federation**

The workshop, which took place at Budapest FuturesCourse, aimed to consider the question of the future of the Federation. Is the WFSF a federation or association or learning organisation? The alternatives were described as the following:

- business as usual: status quo: WFSF=association (of people);
- become action oriented: practical initiatives to be performed à better motivation to members (as a movement and association);
- transform into a kind of "Club of Rome" policy oriented as an awareness raising group;
- become an (unavoidable) institution in the field with regional chapters;
- education focus;
- a forum for newcomers in the field.

This set of alternatives drove the group to the range of questions: What needs do we want to address? What is Federation's place within the cluster of future oriented NGOs? Could the Federation be a place connecting citizen movements, and in the same time a high level academic place?

## **Youth session**

In order to organise the ideas, a 'template for good ideas' was suggested: what, why, when, who, how, futures consequences, how this idea can be an alternative to already existing practice/concept/method.

Demand of clarification about what 'youth' is?: New comers in the field (regardless age), if age: from .. to..?, WFSF members or not?



Ideas that emerged from youth session:

- the 'wikipedia raid' (see above)
- the "why the hell join the Federation?" suggestions:
  - positive discrimination for members: low fee to attend WFSF labelled courses; negotiation with corporation, academia, sponsorship;
  - more explicit definition and role of the Federation: global perspective, better understanding of major and global issues;
  - feed backing on papers or any kind of contribution (today everybody is writing and nobody is reading): with a system like Amazon it is possible to put all the papers online and evaluate them and say what other paper can be related to by the readers;
  - have more 'pop future' in the newspapers and have "press officer" to popularise Futures Studies (radio station and so on);
  - WFSF must help the worker to work easier; mentoring programme: WFSF helps students within the field of Futures Studies.

## Conclusion

*Tamas:* at the end the youth initiative is only a questioning about the membership initiative, how to discuss and exchange within the Federation: to have an open space with the collection of papers for comments, with photos and videos, and in English (Babel fish from google, if needed).

*Fabienne:* If the results of the final workshop could be provided to the SG, it would probably help us to think further about this Youth Initiative.

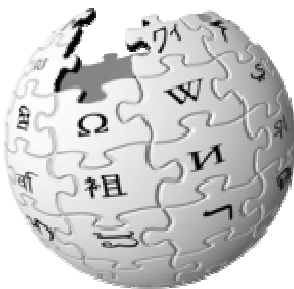
## **The Great WIKI raid 2005 [Wendy SCHULTZ]**

**Futurists from around the world conduct a 24 hour 'knowledge assault' on Wikipedia.org for the purpose of demonstrating how knowledge is created in a digital world.**

(PRWEB) October 30, 2005 -- The Great Wiki Raid of '05 begins at 12:01 A.M. 31 October. For 24 hours futurists from around the world will mount a 'knowledge assault' on Wikipedia.org, the world's largest collaborative online encyclopedia. Their goal is simple: to improve public knowledge about the field of futures studies.

The World Futures Studies Federation is the organizing force behind The Great Wiki Raid. WFSF 'raiders' will endeavour to add as much information as they can, in multiple languages, regarding the topic 'futures studies' over the course of one day. Choosing Wikipedia as their 'target' acknowledges the dramatic way in which digital technology is transforming knowledge creation and distribution.

Wikipedia, "The free Encyclopedia that anyone can edit," has grown in less than five years to include editions in 200 languages. The English language version alone contains over 790,000 articles. Articles from Wikipedia have been quoted by the media, referenced in scholarly journals and books, and even appeared as sources in governmental debates. As its popularity continues to grow collaborative knowledge making will become the norm. In the future, knowledge raids like this one, and even knowledge wars might be frequent occurrences. How these changes might impact the larger issues of culture, academics, and politics are just a few of the topics that futurists are working to better understand.



## over 2005 OUT

### *Futurists and science fiction @CONTACT*

[Ela KRAWCZYK]



The annual CONTACT conference took place in San Fransisco in March 2005. CONTACT is an international, interdisciplinary conference, which brings together some of the world's foremost social and space scientists, science fiction writers and artists to exchange ideas, develop new perspectives and encourage serious, creative speculation about humanity's future, the real ones and the fictional ones. Organised by Reed RINER, one of the CONTACT 2005 sessions, "Writing between Science and Fiction: Scenarios of Alternative Futures", involved futurists members of the World Futures Studies Federation, sharing their experience about scenario-building. Other members attended the conference. More details can be found @ <http://www.contact-conference.com>.

### *EUROPEAN FUTURISTS 1ST CONFERENCE Luzern (Switzerland) July 2005* [Wendy SCHULTZ]



The European Futurists Conference Lucerne (EFCL) was inaugurated with a dynamic slate of speakers addressing an audience combining futures professionals with members of the public and private sectors over three days from 10-12 July 2005. The conference was designed to appeal both to specialists in futures studies and foresight, and to potential clients and customers of foresight output and services. This was achieved by scheduling introductory panels on futures studies prior to the main conference sessions, which focussed on "Business Gains From Future Thinking" in a European context.

From the Sunday afternoon start through Monday morning, futures researchers and practitioners discussed approaches, theory, and methods; this was followed by interactive breakout sessions featuring five applied case studies. The concluding plenary panel focussed on cutting edge methods of foresight researched and taught in futures graduate programs in Europe, with presentations by Profs. Eleonora BARBIERI MASINI, Erzsébet NOVÁKY, and Markku WILENIUS, and Ms. Berine PHARAON, chaired by Dr. Wendy SCHULTZ.

Monday afternoon through Tuesday featured the primary conference activities, including panels on Future Vision – Knowing the Unknowable; on Future Change – The Future Is Not What You Think It Is; on Future Tools – Foresight Forming Better Decisions; and on Future Action – What We Need to Do Today for Tomorrow. [For a complete list of speakers and topics, see <http://www.european-futurists.org/wEnglisch/programm/programme.php?navid=9>]



Federation Fellows and Members contributing to the conference and participating included Peter BISHOP, Fabienne GOUX-BAUDIMENT, Peter METTLER, Pero MICIC, Riel MILLER, John RATCLIFFE, Gergely TYUKODI, Marjolein van ASSELT, Réka VARNAGY, Roberto VITALINI [Mr. TYUKODI and Ms. VARNAGY generously created a more detailed review of the conference for WFSF members, available on the WFSF website.]

The conference was founded by Mr. Georges ROOS (ROOS Office of Cultural Innovation, [www.kultinno.ch](http://www.kultinno.ch)), who is also the managing director. Local supporters of the EFCL include Lucerne Events, the Swiss Society for Futures Studies, the Central Switzerland Chamber of Commerce, and the City Council of Lucerne. The conference is an annual event hosted at the beautiful new Culture and Convention Centre Lucerne.

**under progress** *WFSF World Conference 2007*

A call for bids for hosting and organising the next world conference was sent out in October with the deadline for submission on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Two proposals were submitted: from South Africa and Venezuela. The Executive Board is in the process of reviewing the proposals and its final decision will be announced by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 and communicated on the listserv and in the next bulletin (March 06).

*WFSF Professional Clubs* [F. GOUX BAUDIMENT]

Currently, four Professional Clubs (PC) are being designed to deliver their first outcomes for the WFSF World Conference in 2007. But we still need volunteers to coordinate (lead, run, liven up, drive, or in one word: bring the work to life!) them.

**PC Education.** Aims: to produce a core curriculum in futures studies in order to make a 1<sup>st</sup> step towards, one day perhaps, an international master in futures studies, or an online course; meanwhile, it should help any teacher of futures studies to design his/her course. Coordinators: Peter BISHOP and Peter HAYWARD. A yahoo group has been created to link the participants of this PC.

**PC Sanctuary.** Aims: to develop an in-depth reflection about n°1/ the material the Federation should keep from its own history, n°2/ the material the Federation should collect to 'make' a history of futures studies. Then to build an archive, not only by selecting what must be archived but how (index system, digitalization, etc.). Coordinators: Andrew HINES for the n°2. **A coordinator is needed for the n°1.**

**PC Territorial Foresight.** Aims: to produce a handbook about what is territorial foresight and the common concepts, methods and practices through the world. Coordinators: **A coordinator is needed.**

**PC Epistemology.** Aims: to produce the basics material about futures studies: lexicon, bibliography of reference, who is who, etc. Coordinators: **A coordinator is needed.**

**from the  
secretariat***Changes in the payment system* [Elia KRAWCZYK]

Currently, we are in the process of making modifications to the website and changing the online payment provider. Therefore, the **online payment system on [www.wfsf.org](http://www.wfsf.org) is temporarily unavailable**. Dues payment can be done through posting/faxing or ringing in credit card details to the secretariat, cheques, bank drafts, traveller's cheques and bank transfers. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

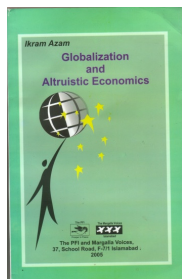
There is also a change in the way of invoices distribution. From now on, invoices will be sent electronically to all those members who have email accounts and by post only to those who have not. The reasons for this change are outlined in the Editorial section.

## NEW RELEASES



### ***Imagineering Ireland - future scenarios for Ireland 2030*** [Ela KRAWCZYK]

In November 2005, The Futures Academy has launched its latest research publication ***Imagineering Ireland: Future Scenarios for 2030*** at the annual Industry Think Tank event organised by the Dublin Institute of Technology and attended by the industry leaders and policy makers. *Imagineering Ireland: Future Scenarios for 2030* presents a strategic analysis of the drivers influencing Ireland's current trajectory and offers three different scenarios for what the country could be like 25 years from now. The exercise was intended to provide agencies and industries in the public and private sectors with a tool to facilitate their own future planning within a changing Ireland. More information of the Futures Academy and the report can be found @ [www.dit.ie/futuresacademy](http://www.dit.ie/futuresacademy).



### ***Globalisation and altruistic economics***

Dr Ikram AZAM has published recently a series of essays in his book entitled ***Globalisation and Altruistic Economics***. Dr AZAM is a co-founder of PFI and a pioneer of Futures Studies in Pakistan. His primary interest lies in International Political Economy, which he explores from inter-, multi- and cross-disciplinary perspectives. He believes in the global human altruism of the ethical economics of the new political economy paradigm. The book was published by PFI and Margalla Voices, Islamabad.

Metafuture.org

### ***Scenarios for the future of Malaysia***

Sohail INAYATULLAH has been working recently on a set of scenarios for the future of Malaysia. The document reporting his work will be published on [www.metafuture.org](http://www.metafuture.org) in coming months.

Futures Generation for Future Generations  
World Futures Studies Federation  
19th World Conference  
&  
Budapest Futures Course 2005



### ***The WFSF XIX World Conference – e-book!!***

Following the WFSF XIX World Conference, the Budapest Team prepared the [e-Book](#) of the event, which contains all the conference and course proceedings, which were received to date, an abundance of other related materials, such as presentations, pictures and videos. Please note, the papers included in the book, and the book itself can be used in your research. The book is an evolving project, so all these participants who would like to send their contributions are very welcome. The book and other information about the conference and Budapest Futures Course can be found @ [www.budapestfutures.org](http://www.budapestfutures.org).

## SECTION 2 - FUTURES RIDE (PAPERS)

Postponed until the next issue.



## SECTION 3 - FUTURES STUDIES IN THE WORLD

FUTURES  
EDUCATION

The WFSF has always emphasised a great importance to Futures Education. As José RAMOS just finished a new update of his International Survey of the University Futures Courses, which will be posted on the WFSF website, we deliver below information about two online courses in futures studies.

## AUSTRALIA

*Online Masters of Strategic Foresight*

**The Masters of Science in Strategic Foresight** programme is offered at the **Swinburne University**. The Swinburne University, located 10km from the urban centre of Melbourne, Victoria, specialises in technological and humanities training. The Master in Strategic Foresight (MSSF) program is offered within the Science discipline in order to provide a broad scope that can encompass business and commercial applications, but also to create space for the consideration of societal and civilisational matters.

In 2006, only the first four subjects of the Masters in Strategic Foresight are offered on-line. These four subjects have the award, Graduate Certificate of Science in Strategic Foresight. However, in 2007, the entire Masters will be thought on-line, and consequently these four subjects can be taken as part of that award too. The curriculum is the same as the classroom course founded by Prof. Richard Slaughter. Students work entirely online, have access to a wealth of resources and have the opportunity to meet with other online students. There is no residential element involved in the online training.

The course is part-time, and load of two subjects per semester is applied - four subjects taken concurrently across the year - commencing in March 2006. Teachers: **Peter HAYWARD**, **Joseph VOROS** and **Jenny GIDLEY**. More information at <http://www.swin.edu.au/agse/courses/foresight/index.htm>.

## USA

*Online Futures Studies Masters Programme*

The **Futures Studies Master's Programme**, established during the 1974-75 academic year within the **University of Houston-Clear Lake** School of Human Sciences and Humanities, is a unique on-campus/online program for those seeking professional foresight skills. By placing the emphases on foresight, creativity, and innovation for the future, the programme attempts to develop students' skills in professional foresight. It emphasizes the practical application of foresight skills in a broad range of settings. Currently, the programme is in the process of getting the faculty's approval to be established at the University of Houston.

The course of study results in a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Futures Studies. The degree requires 36 semester credit hours or 12 courses of three credits each. The program is fully online, so it is not necessary to relocate. It provides a high-tech and high-touch online experience is linked to and blended with physical campus classes. Teachers: **Peter BISHOP** and **Andy HINES**. More information at <http://b3308-adm.cl.uh.edu/FutureWeb/default.htm>.

## SECTION 4 - CALLS FOR PAPERS AND EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### AGENDA

An impressive description of a futurist, his job and his usefulness, see the interview with the futurist **Chris LUEBKEMAN** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1577316,00.html>

An old (1999) but very interesting work from the scenario-building point of view: "Energy scenarios for Colombia: process and content" at <http://www.upme.gov.co/energia/futuros/futuros.htm> (in Spanish).

*International Survey of University Futures Courses 2006, Ver.3*, prepared by **Jose Ramos** for the WFSF will be available on [www.wfsf.org](http://www.wfsf.org) soon. Watch that space!

#### World Futures Studies Federation

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### CALLS FOR PAPERS

#### HUMAN EXTINCTION SCENARIOS

*A Special issue of Futures: The Journal of Policy, Planning and Futures Studies. Editors: Bruce TONN and Don MACGREGOR*

The human species faces numerous cataclysmic events and forces that can impact us on a large scale, definitely causing disruption and perhaps leading to extinction. These include global climate change, collisions with near-earth objects, nuclear war, and pandemics. While these threats are indeed serious, taken separately they fail to describe exactly how humans could become extinct. For example, nuclear war by itself would most likely fail to kill everyone on the planet, as strikes would probably be concentrated in the northern hemisphere and the Middle East, leaving populations in South America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand some hope of survival. It is highly unlikely that any uncontrollable nanotechnology could ever be produced but even if it were, it is likely that humans could develop effective, if costly, countermeasures, such as producing the technologies in space or destroying sites of runaway nanotechnologies with nuclear weapons. Viruses could indeed kill many people but effective quarantine of 'healthy' people could be accomplished to save large numbers of people. Humans appear to be resilient to extinction with respect to single events.

However, human extinction is much more likely in the face of waves of these types of events over time. To truly assess the likelihood of human extinction, combinations of these risks need to be woven together into 'human extinction scenarios.' An extinction scenario needs to posit a time line of events that could lead to human extinction. What makes human extinction scenarios challenging to write is the need for them to encompass human response, adaptation and even foresight. An air tight and internally consistent extinction scenario is one where all human efforts, whether they be earnest, half-hearted or tragically just too late, to stave off extinction fail. While an extinction scenario may be quite unlikely to happen, if everything assumed to happen in the scenario did happen, then the future is known: humans become extinct.

It is important to develop human extinction scenarios for several reasons. They can contribute to global foresight activities. They will highlight key risks and combinations of risks. They can also be considered a first step towards estimating the current probability of human extinction. Estimating this probability is important because policy makers tend to react more forcefully when confronted with quantified risks. It is also important because the process will assuredly spur debate about what might be an acceptable risk of human extinction.

**Paper Guidelines:** Each human extinction scenario must be convincing and internally consistent. Each scenario must incorporate multiple events and human response. No limitations are placed on what risk events can be included in the scenario, except one: no alien attacks are allowed. Scenarios that do not rely solely upon nuclear war or collisions with asteroids or grey goo or cosmic rays or other events of this ilk must be part of the special issue. The scenario time frame can run from the near-term to 10,000 years into the future.

**Due Date:** Draft manuscripts of approximately 6,000 words are due to Bruce TONN ([btonn@utk.edu](mailto:btonn@utk.edu)) on March 15, 2006. Please use MS Word and follow the *Futures* format (see [http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws\\_home/30422/authorinstructions](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/30422/authorinstructions)).

**Bruce TONN**