



FUTURES BULLETIN

The newsletter of the World Futures Studies Federation

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Editorial

This is the last number of the Futures Bulletin in 2006. Two main features of this issue are the articles by Tom LOMBARDO and JC KAPUR. Tom LOMBARDO, drawing on sections of his recently published book (*The Evolution of Futures Consciousness*) and the series of workshops conducted at Rio Salado College, explores the concept of future consciousness. Through discussion of deep transformational learning and the role of emotions and motivations in that learning, he provides very interesting insights into how human attitudes and behaviours towards future can be developed and enhanced.

JC KAPUR, in his address to the World Public Forum that took place in the late September in Greece, is highly concerned about the current state of humanity characterised by social exploitation, environmental degradation and growth of fundamentalism and readiness for military intervention. He argues for the need to develop pathways, attitudes and behaviours that would lead to a more human-centric future.

Other interesting positions include the report from the Second International Seville Seminar on Future-Oriented Technology Analysis prepared by Olivier DA COSTA, a short introduction of AusForesight2006 event, and Erzsébet NOVÁKY's letter about the 30th Anniversary of the Hungarian Committee on Futures Research.

And finally, as usual, we introduce new members (David PASSIG), provide you with news from the Executive Team camp and present recent publications. Enjoy the read!

John RATCLIFFE & Ela KRAWCZYK

Next issues of the Futures Bulletin:

15 January 15 March 15 May 15 July 15 September 2007

SECTION 1 - COMMUNITY HOUSE

MEMBERS



30th Anniversary of the Hungarian Committee on Futures Research [Erzsébet NOVÁKY]

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I would like to share with you a very happy moment in the life of the Hungarian Futures Community: the Hungarian Committee on Futures Research is going to celebrate its 30th anniversary in October, 2006.

Being a young field of science, the foundation of the Committee within the Hungarian Academy of Sciences represented a milestone in 1976 as it reflected the professional recognition of this discipline as well as of our work. Of course, by that time Futures Studies have been around for almost ten years as the introduction of the first FS course dates back to 1968 when Prof. Géza KOVÁCS launched a research seminar of Futurology for the students of the Karl Marx University of Economic Sciences. Being the pioneer in this field Prof. KOVÁCS became the very first president of the Committee on Futures Research within the Academy.

Many years have passed since then and under the guiding of presidents – Géza KOVÁCS, Erzsébet GIDAI and Lajos BESENYEI – the Committee became the main scientific and professional forum of Hungarian futurists and future-oriented research. The Committee carried out many activities including organizing conferences, meetings and lectures in the field of futures however its aim has always been to develop academic futures research through ongoing discussion between Hungarian futurists and to support and promote future-oriented thinking in the academic field.

We celebrate this anniversary at a Jubilee Conference in Győr this October where all of futurists and to-be-futurists will gather to evaluate the last 30 years and to look ahead. At the conference entitled „Global and national problems from yesterday till tomorrow” we will tackle the challenges that Hungary faces from a futurists' point of view. We also invited young students and scholars to think about how the future will be in 2036 – exactly 30 years from now.

Without a strong international network we could not have been able to come so far as cooperation with international organizations and institutions have been a main source of motivation for our work. Thus on the behalf of the Committee and the whole Hungarian futurists community I would like to thank you for professional and personal support.

Warm Wishes to all of you,

Erzsébet NOVÁKY

President of the Committee on Futures Research, HAS

Welcoming New Members

David PASSIG [David PASSIG]



My name is David Passig from Israel. It is an honour for me to take part in this notable group, and hope to be able to contribute to its members in topics related to futures thinking. I have a Ph.D. in Futures Studies from the U of Minnesota in the US, and since the early 90s I am a faculty member at the Bar Ilan University in Israel. I am heading the Graduate Program in Information and Communication Technology— teaching and studying future technologies, systems thinking and futures methodologies. passig@mail.biu.ac

I have developed a Future's Research methodology named "Imen-Delphi" (ID). This methodology reflects the newer paradigm in Futures' Thinking. The ID aims at structuring a procedure through which a group of experts or stake holders could invent preferable futures, as opposed to the classical "Delphi" forecasting technique with which a group of experts is engaged in figuring out the most probable future. I am conducting various case studies with a variety of entities, ranging from private to governmental institutes, to enhance its reliability and validity in helping various groups shaping their futures. The following papers are samples of the ID methodology in the published literature:

1. Passig, David (1997) Imen Delphi: A Delphi Variant Procedure for Emergence. *Human Organization*. Journal of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Southern Methodist University. Dallas, TX. Spring, 56 (1) pp. 53-63.
2. Passig, David (1998) An applied Social Systems Procedure for Generating Purposive Sound Futures. *Systems Research and Behavioral Science*. The Official Journal of the International Federation for Systems Research. Winter 15 (1) 315-325. Wiley & Sons. England.
3. Passig, David & Sharbat, Aviva (2000) Electronic-Imen-Delphi (EID): An Online Conferencing Procedure. *Education Media International* (EMI). The official Journal of the International Council for Educational Media (ICEM) 37 (1) pp. 58-67. Routledge.

I have also developed a Taxonomy of Future Cognitive and Learning Skills. This Taxonomy attempts to refresh Blooms taxonomy of cognitive skills to reflect future needs. It also suggests a new thinking skill that was not included in Bloom's categories, which I named Melioration. It is assumed that this skill will be much required from the alumni of our educational system in the future. This Taxonomy is being taught worldwide at teachers' colleges and MBA programs. I am developing tools with which one can measure the skill and develop it as well. The following papers are samples of the taxonomy that I have published:

1. Passig, David (2007) Melioration as a Higher Thinking Skill to Enhance Future Intelligence. *Teachers College Record*. Columbia University. Volume 109, Number 1, January 2007, pp. 24-50.
2. Passig, David and Cohen, Lizi (2006) Innovative Combinations' Test: A Tool for Measuring the Melioration Skill. *Teachers College Record*. Accepted August 2006.

I have established the Multimedia and Virtual Reality Laboratories at the School of Ed, and am conducting research on various aspects of the Human

User Learning Interface of Virtual Reality and Multimedia. This Lab is the first Lab in Israel aimed at researching and teaching Virtual Reality in Education. A variety of the Virtual Reality Worlds that have been developed for research can be accessed via my Web Sites at: www.passig.com.

I am studying also the impact of ICT interfaces on a variety of human cognitive and social aspects as well as learning processes. I am suggesting that ICT interfaces are having unexpected impact on the users awareness to a variety of cognitive phenomena. I am also suggesting that VR can enhance some cognitive skills. The following papers represent this ongoing endeavour:

1. Passig, D. and Eden, S. (2006) Three-Dimensionality as an effective mode of Representation for Expressing Sequential Time Perception. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*. Accepted February 2006.
2. Passig, David, Klein, Pnina & Neuman, Talia (2001) Awareness to Toddlers' Initial Cognitive Experiences with Virtual Reality. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*. 17 (4) pp 332-344.
3. Passig, David and Levin, Haya (2000). Gender Preferences for Multimedia Interfaces. *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*. Volume 16 (1) pp. 64-71. Blackwell Science.
4. Passig, David & Eden, Sigal (2000) Enhancing the Induction Skill of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children with Virtual Reality Technology. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*. 5 (3) pp. 277-285. Oxford University Press.
5. Passig, David and Eden, Sigal (2000) Improving the Flexible Thinking in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children with Virtual Reality Technology. *American Annals of the Deaf*. Vol. 145 (3) pp. 286-291.

FEDERATION

IN



The 20th WFSF World Conference in South Africa – an update! [John RATCLIFFE]

The 20th WFSF World Conference is now less than a year away. In the last couple of months further agreements between the conference organisers, The South Africa Node of the Millennium Project and The African Futures Institute, and the Executive Team have been made. The following details have been agreed:

- As we announced in the previous Bulletin the event will take place between **30th October and 3rd November 2007**.
- The working theme is: **"Building futures intelligence capacity"**.
- It is likely that the event will be hosted by the Graduate School of Business (GSB) at Cape Town University, which means that **Cape Town** and **not Johannesburg** will be your destination city. This will be confirmed in coming months.

Currently, together with the organisers, we are working on securing financial support for the event and a more detail thematic structure of the conference. We welcome any suggestions or submissions for specific thematic sessions that could be held during the meeting and also help with getting sponsors on board.

Rowena MORROW – the new WFSF Membership Secretary [Ela KRAWCZYK & John RATCLIFFE]

One of the key aims of the Presidential programme is the improvement of Federation's day-to-day functioning and the encouragement of greater number of members to volunteer their time and energy to help us to achieve that. With a great pleasure, we announce that Rowena MORROW, our Australian member, volunteered to help us with dealing with the membership issues. In October 2006, Rowena became a new member of the Executive Team and performs duties of the WFSF Membership Secretary.

The responsibilities of the Membership Secretary have been clearly defined by the President and the Secretary General. The main role of the Membership Secretary is to promote and instigate the growth in the membership. It also involves dealing with daily membership issues, such as:

- updating the members database;
- processing applications for the membership;
- preparation of the new members directory; and
- dealing with the inquiries related to the membership from existing and prospective members.

The transition of duties will be completed in December 2006. We encourage all members who have questions about their membership or would like to inform us about changes, i.e. in their contact details or similar, to contact Rowena at membership@wfsf.org.

Please be advised that processing of dues payment is still done by the secretariat at The Futures Academy, Dublin, Ireland. Also, any questions or problems related to the distribution of the Futures Bulletin are dealt with by the secretariat.

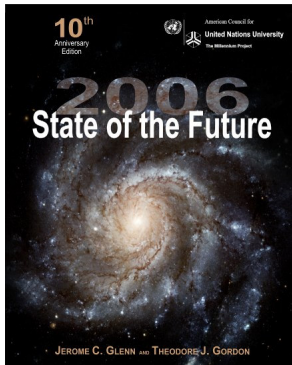
Rowena MORROW – profile



Rowena is currently the convenor of, and lecturer in, the Graduate Certificate of Strategic Foresight at Swinburne University. She is a generalist by training with post-graduate qualifications in Research, Policy and a Masters in Strategic Foresight. Rowena's interest in foresight was first kindled in 1996 through her involvement in an award winning project team within the Australian Public Sector which developed a ten year foresight strategy.

Experienced in project management; policy development and implementation; business analysis; opportunity identification; and change management in both public and private sector organisations, Rowena consults through her company, Prospective Services. Prospective Services utilises a range of foresight methods to foster leadership and organisational culture via the construction of a long term view. Rowena brings passion and energy to foresight capacity building, especially through the creation of preferred and hopeful futures.

NEW RELEASES



By Jerome C. GLENN and Theodore J. GORDON, The Millennium Project

2006 State of the Future [Alessandra DI PIPPO]

2006 State of the Future – the annual report of the Millennium Project – is a unique resource for understanding global change and strategies to improve the human condition. This document presents a clear and logical overview of what must be considered in order to intelligently face the challenges in the global age.

It gathers up the contribution of over 2000 leading scientists, futurists, scholars, and policy advisors who work for governments, corporations, NGOs, universities, and international organizations and offers an informed global view of science and technology management issues, environmental security, and other issues of global significance.

Among its findings:

- The 15 Global challenges identified and updated through an ongoing Delphi process and environmental scanning since 1996.
- The latest State of the Future Index (SOFI) – a statistical combination of key indicators and forecasts depicting whether the future will be better or worse in the next 10 years.
- 2020 four global energy scenarios: “Business as Usual”, “Environmental Backlash”, “High-tech Economy” and “Political Turmoil”.
- Emerging environmental security issues.
- Reflections, as the project achieves its tenth Anniversary.

Also included is a 5,400-pages CD which contains all the research behind the print edition, plus the Millennium Project’s 10 years of cumulative research and methods.

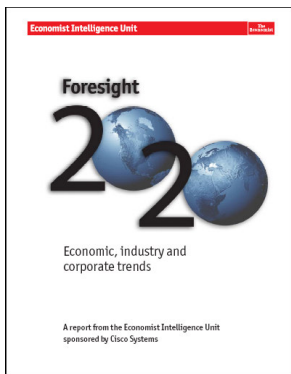


By Ian WILSON and Bill RALSTON

The Scenario Planning Handbook: Developing Strategies in Uncertain Times [Ela KRAWCZYK]

The Scenario Planning Handbook demonstrates the importance of future and long-term thinking and is an excellent tool for policymakers and those interested in global change. At present, scenario planning is one of the key techniques in strategic planning and one of the most popular and widely used futures methods across different sectors. This publication aims to provide decision-makers with the knowledge and means to use this technique in order to change the way they think and act about the future. Strategies based on scenarios both confront and deal with uncertainty, and at the same time are focused but resilient, specific but flexible. The handbook, extremely practical, guides readers step by step through the sequences and intricacies of a scenario method and the subsequent strategic decision-making. It explains what scenarios are and are not, when they are needed, as well as their uses and benefits. It also deals with cultural and organizational changes that an organization must undertake to maximize the benefits of scenario-based planning.

About the authors: Ian WILSON is Principal of Wolf Enterprises in San Rafael, CA, where he consults with senior management teams on projects involving strategic management, strategic vision, and scenario planning. Bill RALSTON has led more than 50 scenario-planning projects for companies around the world. He is a vice president and board member of SRI Consulting Business Intelligence, and president of PGO Consulting.



Foresight 2020: Economic, industry and corporate trends [Ela KRAWCZYK]

The report, prepared by The Economist Intelligence Unit, considers the possible changes to the global economy, to eight major industries and to corporate structures between now and 2020. The document is based on three research initiatives: The Economist Intelligence Unit's proprietary long-term economic forecasts for the world's major economies; a wide ranging survey of over 1600 senior executives from around the world in late 2005; and a series of in-depth interviews with executives, analysts and policymakers around the world.

Free copy of the report can be downloaded from http://graphics.eiu.com/files/ad_pdfs/eiu_Foresight2020_WP.pdf

The document, a valuable resource for decision-makers both in public and private organisations, in the two first chapters portrays the trends that will shape the future of the global economy and eight industries: automotive, consumer goods and retailing, energy, financial services, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, public sector, and telecoms. The last part depicts the trends and factors that will drive the development of individual companies.



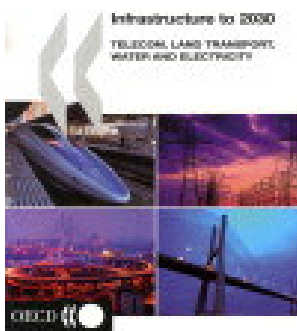
DIALOGIK newsletter [Ela KRAWCZYK]

DIALOGIK is a non-profit research institute for communication and cooperation research. Its common objective is to gain action-relevant knowledge about how specific communication and innovative participation and cooperation methods can improve the governance of our natural, economic and social resources.

[http://www.dialogik-expert.de/en/list/archiv/Issue%2002%20\(October%202006\).pdf](http://www.dialogik-expert.de/en/list/archiv/Issue%2002%20(October%202006).pdf)

The institute focuses on research into new models of governance; forms, instruments and effects of communication and dialogue; novel methods of conflict resolution; methods and processes in risk and environmental communication; social learning in relation to sustainable development; technological and social change in the context of values, attitudes and behaviour; and improved forms of dialogue between science/technology and the general public.

The DIALOGIK newsletter presents various research projects that are being carried out by ZIRN and DIALOGIK, and other research centres in the following fields: energy, communication research, food safety and nutrition, risk analysis and risk governance, sustainable development, technology assessment and sociology, and modernisation and technology attitudes. The publication can be accessed at www.dialogik-expert.de.



Infrastructure to 2030: Telecom, Land Transport, Water and Electricity [Ela KRAWCZYK]

As a result of a widespread international consultation process, the International Futures Programme of OECD has launched a two-year project on "Global Infrastructure Needs: Prospects and Implications for Public and Private Actors". The main aim of the project is to assess the long-term opportunities and challenges facing infrastructure worldwide, and to propose a set of policy recommendations to the OECD governments in order to improve the infrastructural input to the future social and economic development.

This publication is an interim report that presents the work that has been done to date. The book is available from the <http://www.oecdbookshop.org>.

SECTION 2 - FUTURES RIDE (PAPERS)

Developing Constructive and Creative Attitudes and Behaviours about the Future:

Part One – Deep Learning, Emotion, and Motivation

Tom LOMBARDO, Ph.D. (Rio Salado College, Tempe, Arizona)

www.odysseyofthefuture.net

Future consciousness is the total integrative set of psychological abilities, processes, and experiences humans use in understanding and dealing with the future. Future consciousness is part of our general awareness of time, our temporal consciousness of past, present, and future. It includes the normal human capacities to anticipate, predict, and imagine the future, to have hopes and dreams about the future, and to set goals and plans for the future. Future consciousness involves thinking about the future, evaluating different possibilities and choices, and having feelings, motives, and attitudes about the future. It also includes the total set of ideas, visions, theories, and beliefs humans have about the future – the cognitive content of future consciousness.

Future consciousness is absolutely necessary for normal human life, for without the mental abilities of anticipation, hope, goal setting, and planning we would be aimless, lost, mentally deficient, passive, and reactive. But to what degree and in what ways can this capacity be improved? Beginning with this paper and continuing in a series of subsequent articles, I will address these questions. The ideas I will present reflect sections of my recently published book *The Evolution of Future Consciousness* (especially Chapter One), as well as a set of workshops I am providing at Rio Salado College that offer advice and guidelines for the enhancement of future consciousness.

The place I begin in the workshops is by introducing the idea of deep transformational learning. To fundamentally impact the way people think and behave, learning must be deep, penetrating to core beliefs, values, and feelings about who they are and the world around them. Learning cannot simply be at the surface of the mind, as when facts or ideas are just memorized. Deep transformational learning does not merely add new data on top of old, but rearranges the inner layout of the mind, extinguishing and adding elements, and generating a "Gestalt switch." Further, both thinking and emotions are affected. If the learning is deep and pervasive enough, the sense of self is recreated or redefined. In order to realize deep learning, humility and real openness to change are required. Being locked in the present and the past interferes with transformational learning and movement toward the future.

Next, I explain the idea of future consciousness and state that my goal as a teacher is to stimulate deep learning regarding how people think about and approach the future. I provide an ideal to work toward – a definition of heightened future consciousness. I identify the following psychological characteristics: Realistic optimism, an expanded sense of past and future, an expanded and highly informed sense of possibilities for the future, courage and commitment, continual growth and self-actualization, self-efficacy and proactive, goal-directed thinking and behaviour, creativity and flexibility, and enhanced self-awareness and personal honesty.

I also propose that another way to look at heightened future consciousness is to identify it with the virtue of wisdom. Wisdom can be seen as the highest expression of future consciousness and the overriding goal through the workshops is to enhance wisdom. The definition of wisdom I provide is: Wisdom is connected with an expansiveness of consciousness, into the past and the future, and can be described as the ongoing, evolving capacity to grasp the big picture of life, of what is important and meaningful, and guided by ethics and virtue, the ability to apply this understanding to enhance the well being of life, both for oneself and others. Wisdom is a journey – a sense of future consciousness that necessarily involves a feeling of incompleteness and a desire for continued growth.

The enhancement of future consciousness is not just improvement in knowledge or cognitive capacities, but a pervasive transformation in the human psyche, entailing emotional growth and, as

I introduce through the concept of wisdom, a significant development in character virtues. Aside from the over-arching ideal of wisdom, I include at the onset the virtues of honesty, courage, and self-responsibility as critical to the growth of future consciousness. For example, the future opens up with an increase in courage to face risks, and one's sense of power over the future comes about by growth in self-responsibility and self-determination. Future consciousness remains atrophied if one feels and behaves like a victim and trapped by external factors. I believe my emphasis on virtues is a unique dimension to my educational approach to enhancing future consciousness.

The central assignment or activity for workshop participants is the development of a preferable future life narrative. Inspired by Antonio Damasio's theory that individuals conceptualize their self-identity in terms of a life story – a dynamic and growing self-created autobiography – I present the idea to the participants that to transform their anticipated future in a new and more constructive direction they need to develop a different story about themselves in the future. Further, I suggest that the future life narrative should be structured around the development of key virtues, e.g., describe a courageous life in the future, or a life dedicated to the pursuit of wisdom. Virtues provide positive values to move toward in the future and put the responsibility and focus for one's future on the individual; the individual sees his or her future in terms of self-development, rather than changes in external conditions or circumstances. After each workshop, participants are asked to apply the ideas of the workshop to further developing their preferred future life narrative.

After laying this groundwork, I dive into human emotion. Emotion is at the core of human consciousness, and all the plans, strategies, principles, and visioning techniques used to expand future consciousness won't have a true and lasting effect if our basic feelings about the future are left unexamined and unaddressed. The two key human emotions pertaining to the future are hope and fear. Hope generates happiness and enthusiasm about the future; fear and the related emotion of anxiety generate despair, depression, nihilism, and fatalism. Fear and anxiety interfere with the growth of hope. Individuals can have a sense of hopelessness and helplessness toward the future and when this occurs a person feels depression (or despair). Depression, in fact, can be seen as a disorder of future consciousness. Helplessness, as the psychologist Martin Seligman has demonstrated, can be learned, becoming a habitual pattern of thinking and behaviour. Feelings of helplessness also negatively impact the development of hope. Building on the famous theory that the three common reactions to stress and fear are fight, freeze, or flight, I suggest that there is a fourth option – to face – and that fears about reality, one's own abilities, and the future need to be consciously faced, examined, and dealt with. The virtue of courage is critical to this process. Additionally, the virtue of self-honesty is important – becoming aware of one's emotions, positive or negative, provides a realistic foundation to build upon. Finally, various ways are presented for how to cultivate and enhance hope, e.g., by repeatedly envisioning positive dreams about the future, realistically thinking about how to achieve these dreams, and living this positive, hopeful future to whatever degree is possible today.

Although emotion is a core process, it is not totally independent of thinking and imagination. I review three different perspectives on the connection of emotion and thinking and explain some practical implications for each view. The highly popular cognitive theory of emotions states that thought determines emotion. Hence, using hope and fear as examples, if a person imagines or thinks about positive futures, that person begins to emotionally feel good; in converse, if a person thinks negatively about the future, the person will feel down, sad, afraid, anxious, or depressed. One can change one's feelings through thinking differently; it is of course important to understand what one presently thinks and feels – that is, to be honest with oneself as a starting point. The second theory is the emotional theory of cognition. People think more constructively, more creatively, even more intelligently, when they are in positive emotional states. Fearful or depressed emotional states produce relative intellectual paralysis. A depressed person can see no way out of an aversive situation – a fearful person is often frozen in thought. The third view, based on my own thinking, is the reciprocal theory of thinking and emotion. These two basic psychological processes are interdependent; hence, one can come at personal transformation from either or preferably both ends. One can use one's thinking to change one's emotions; one can use emotions to change thinking.

After discussing emotion, I turn to the topics of motivation and goal-directed behaviour. People can have shorter or longer term goals regarding the future and it is an important exercise in the expansion of future consciousness to begin to envision longer time perspectives for one's goals.

Everyone thinks about the future and sets goals, but often people think primarily in terms of the very immediate future and with disconnected short term goals; consequently they fail to provide their lives with any overall direction. Just as importantly, although people will usually say that they hope for success, happiness, and self-fulfilment, I have found as a psychologist that people often fear success (and not just failure) and actually harbour many negative thoughts and anticipations about how their future will go. Fear of success is based upon habitual thoughts of being undeserving or incapable, and hence images of success conflict with a person's negative self-image and negative thoughts about his or her future.

Critical to the realization of long-term goals are the character traits of faith, commitment, and tenacity. In pursuing any long term goal, there is a tendency to waiver and vacillate, and what seems to separate success from failure in reaching goals is having some kind of personal anchor or principle to hold a person on course through tough or turbulent times. Once a goal has been set, it is important to continually nourish the future reality being sought after. What can a person do today that contributes to the actual living of the positive future? Because people waiver and/or fall back into old habits, it is important to keep pushing forward. Live the future one envisions – enrich its reality everyday. The evolution of the future is a result of a dialectic between the stability of the past and what is new. In creating something new, the past will naturally reassert itself (through old thoughts and patterns of behaviour). When the past reasserts itself, it is important to work against this and focus one's attention back on the creation of something novel and different.

I mentioned in the last paragraph the importance of faith. In our rational and secular world, faith is often viewed as something negative. But the future is fundamentally an adventure with risk and uncertainty, and no one can know exactly how life will unfold. Faith in realizing one's goals or dreams is absolutely necessary, since there is no way to know for sure what is going to happen tomorrow. (I do not define faith as belief without evidence or reason; rather faith is belief without complete evidence or reason – which, of course, includes just about everything.)

In fact, a central theme I highlight under motivation and goal setting is that the future should be approached as an adventure. Psychologically, people have the complementary needs for security and stability versus risk and change. Too much of either has aversive psychological effects. But what frequently holds people back from moving into a different way of life, mode of thinking, or pursuit of new goals is an excessive need for security and a fear of change. Future consciousness is expanded through an acceptance, if not an embrace, of risk and uncertainty. Even new goals or directions should not be permanently fixed; goals should evolve as the future unfolds. Participants are asked how they deal with uncertainty or doubts which inevitably arise within any real adventure.

Under the topic of motivation I also discuss being proactive versus reactive in living one's life. Working toward goals, rather than being buffeted about by momentary external circumstances, gives human consciousness an enhanced sense of direction toward the future. Further, human motivation can be oriented toward approach or toward avoidance. Are we moving toward something preferable or are we attempting to avoid something aversive? Approach motivation is connected with hope and a positive emotional state, whereas avoidance is connected with moving away from something fearful and generates a negative emotional state. Ideally, motivational future consciousness should be connected with a positive emotional state.

Some final questions at the end of the workshop I ask participants to ponder include:

- Describe an example of deep transformational learning in your life, highlighting what fundamental changes occurred in you as a result?
- In what ways do you possess a heightened level of future consciousness? In what ways is your level of future consciousness deficient and in need of development?
- What are your greatest fears and greatest hopes?
- How are your fears interfering with the realization of your hopes? What can you do to transcend these fears?
- Describe a hopeful life/professional narrative and describe what thoughts or actions you can begin to engage in now to realize this narrative.

In the next article in this series I will examine the roles of thinking, imagination, insight, and creativity in future consciousness.

PATHWAYS TO A HUMAN-CENTRIC FUTURE, Part 1

Address by J C KAPUR

WORLD PUBLIC FORUM, "Dialogue of Civilizations"

September 27 – October 1, 2006, Rhodes, Greece

The rise and fall of civilisations is not an event but a process related to their harmony with the orderliness of cosmic reality and the central focus of their growth and evolution. The speed of drift away from human-centric development and the growth of violence to sustain oligarchic, theological and other interests; act as self-inflicted wounds of deception, and civilisations perish.

We have brought ourselves to this most violent and insecure state in human history. Faced with the subversive power of suppressed truth, our choice is either to slide into the obvious or visible consequences of such a situation or to strive with all human will and resources towards a compelling irresistible purpose for a new human situation.

We are surrounded by all kinds of forces, socially exploitative, environmentally destructive, with an entire range of weapons of fundamentalism and state terrorism dragging us into a crisis of an inexplicable magnitude. "Even positive energies at the human core are collapsing, creating isolated entities, destroying their own consciousness and negating all possibilities of harmony and integration within the human family. They are destroying all physical, mental, cultural and religious vital centres in all societies and sucking them into their own whirlpool". We are thus unable to create idealistic images of the future.

Therefore, through a full understanding of the happenings around us and by penetrating the barrage of disinformation about relative truths, we should reach out for the truth and increase awareness of the commonness of the core of human civilisation. We have to aim for the most compelling centrality - the essence of human interconnectedness - that is systematically being torn apart by the forces of disintegration. 'Their sole purpose is destruction. They know no other way or end. Globalisation has left no barriers to such devastation'.

To exercise dominance these forces through a process of disintegration are breaking up complex systems, which now cannot be put together in a globalising world. India and Pakistan, Kashmir, the Soviet Union and Central Asia, Yugoslavia, Serbia and Kosovo, the Middle-East, East Timor, and now Iraq and Lebanon. It is important to understand that a new order can only be established through the realisation of harmony and integration. An understanding and acceptance of the truth of the commonness at the human core can be the force, which both harmonises and integrates in a manner that no mental logic and power system can. The outer and the innermost reaches are common to all things.

Make believe, sectoral unity, of economic, political, cultural, religious or any other parameter is unsustainable. Integration demands a unity and harmony of all parts, or the systems we build will breakdown, as is happening through economic globalisation unmindful of the diversity of cultures, needs and human alienation. There has to be a unity as '*Vasudeva Kutumbakam*' that 'the world is a family' and family members may have different ethnicities, faiths, cultures, desires, needs, resources and capabilities. Therefore, levels of harmonisation and integration will begin with small units within a nation state, which can be integrated, while globally they will come together on the core and any of the other potential parameters. The line moves from human beings to the family, to the community to the nation, and from there to the world at large. For the individual and the community there is a converging path and only the role of one or the other changes or prevails from time to time.

While there is an urgent need to harmonise and integrate diverse parameters within the human system, the path of monotheism, mono-powerism and mono-culturalism for world domination, have instead instigated wide ranging processes of aggressive pre-emption, disintegration and the resultant violent confrontations. We have to look to perennial wisdom, which goes beyond science, and materiality, and having survived the ravages of time is still applicable today. All the while we must never lose sight of our ultimate goal, of a human-centric society.

The most visible threats today are that of economic breakdown, social disintegration, physical and environmental annihilation, the breakdown of the ethical and moral order and the sacrifice of transcendence. How can we transit from the present to the future, to save all biological existence on this planet and strive for a sustainable and humane social organisation to realise the highest plane of thinking, feeling and experience that are the attributes of human heritage? This leads to the supreme welfare of humans first and then of society.

SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY

Science is one dimension of this knowledge, verified and verifiable, dealing with one aspect of that experience. Physical sciences study the non-self and the external phenomenon but do not cover the whole world of knowledge. Another dimension is the human self that is revealed by another science, which goes beyond what senses reveal. However, we have chosen to be solely guided by the knowledge, which relates to the senses and in this process have transformed human beings into objects born to consume. And, we continue to raise the need and level of the article of consumption for the appeasement of the rapidly desensitising senses. The concept of the human beings and their mind is unlimited with many higher dimensions of knowledge but we have placed barriers to such realisations. We have thus lost peace and integrity as human beings who have within them the basic structure of the physical universe and life and the unique awakening into consciousness. Both matter and mind exist but not independently of each other.

1.1.1.1. REALISATION OF THE INFINITE

We have given up the path of the highest human evolution, which is to realise the infinite potential of the human mind, as a part and expression of the infinite expanse of the cosmic reality. We are heading towards a catastrophe, unmindful of the potential possibilities, for the destruction of our planet, through environmental problems that have assumed grave proportions. How can we avert this disaster and bring humans into a new mainstream of peace and stability from an unsustainable direction? There is little time to lose.

In space, the universe engulfs us and reduces us to pinpoints searching for eternal universal truths. However, it is only through thought that we understand the universe – the philosophical basis for the development of culture. Truth alone will remain and not our dogmas, theories and beliefs. These will get thrown away in time.

Thus, we cannot alter the perennial and universal truths under any circumstance. These are dominant in some cultures. They are ancient truths - eternally new. Adherence to the perennial, along with flexibility for temporary and regional, makes for a continuous process for an ideal and sustainable human state. The external world within the sensory reaches the internal one beyond the sensory level. Science is knowledge and the combination of the physical sciences and the science of spirituality - is the science of sciences - called *brahmavidya* in India. In the totality of reality exists every aspect of reality and not materiality alone to which we limit ourselves. Our whole search is for the truth and to experience that perennial truth. For this, our minds have to seek the paths that lead us from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge and illumination and for some from death to spiritual immortality. This arrival at the realisation of the infinite is the height of human evolution. In the beginning, the whole universe was undifferentiated - only name and form given during the process of evolution made them different. Time and space came only after creation and the start of evolution. Science is nothing but the fight for the unity of all creation.

1.1.1.2. THE CONFLICT OF SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY

Many theological beliefs today are coming into conflict with the truths that science is discovering. In some cases the rhetoric against science has assumed dangerous proportions. But the mind is greater than science, because even science is a product of the human mind. And to stay ahead of science the mind must be more advanced than it. The highest truth within man himself is to search for the 'one' behind the many through an inward journey and realise the ultimate truth of the supreme state - the infinite. The body-mind complex cannot be used for a better purpose than for seeking that truth.

GDP - THE LOWEST LEVEL OF THE STAGES OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS

The first part of the search is scientific and pertains to the physical sciences while the second is purely spiritual. Science and spirituality are harmonious but science does not accept supernaturalism. The physical universe and intelligence or consciousness together constitutes nature. Inert matter cannot explain all aspect of the universe, nor is materiality on which our planet is based, the end point of our existence or evolution. This is in fact the first of seven levels of consciousness for the human mind to attain. GDP, economic growth and opportunities and markets are at the lowest levels of consciousness. But markets have usurped the path and high-jacked us on the material road, and imprisoned human beings at the consumer level like any other biological species.

The inert universe and intelligence together constitute the body of the infinite, which some call the divine. Human beings also constitute that body. The mind is the intelligence behind the brain. Mind and matter both exist but are not independent of each other. Actions separating them have brought us to the present state of chaos.

THE HIGHEST STATE OF HUMAN ATTAINMENT

Two streams of consciousness flow in the core driven by inputs from the environment and from a higher intelligent dimension of nature or consciousness, which is distinct from physical science. In this cosmic manifestation, we perceive only the diversity and not the unity. Therein lies our search and stability, as we begin to understand the unity and interconnectedness of all phenomenon and existence. Both the external and internal worlds are in search of the truth. The external world through science and the internal world through a disciplined upward attainment of the human mind. One truth does not conflict with the other. In terms of the cosmic reality the only path for a human towards the highest achievable state of evolution is that of the infinite.

We go from lower truths to higher truths, which are clearer and complete. Knowledge both in the cosmic and human context creates fulfilment. That is the goal of evolution, which at the human level is psychosocial. It is no longer physical. The psychosocial evolution ends in the realisation of our true nature as the innermost reality.

The self in the cosmic context is of all human beings. The infinite of the cosmos is also the innermost human reality. The infinite can only be one. When we see within our own self, we are linking ourselves not only with the cosmic reality, but also with what science calls the interconnectedness of all phenomenon - the worldwide human family. The universe is that consciousness and each one of us is a part of it.

SEPARATION FROM THE TRUTH OF ONENESS

When human beings with infinite potential are separated from the infinite cosmic reality, and their own realisation of that potential, the notion of separateness appears in them and they fall prey to fundamentalist forces. They are transformed into consumers, a herd of cattle or a flock of sheep, victims of extreme forces, serving the interests of their feudal masters. They are not allowed to realise the truth of non-differentiation. Extremists stay quiet on the knowledge of separateness as they want humans to remain superstitious or victims of their media messages. The truth of the oneness of the infinite worries them. Humans will have to employ this state as a concentration point to achieve greater consciousness and connect with all humans and liberate themselves from this subservience before the visions of a new order can begin to take shape.

The problems facing humankind, therefore, require new insights into nature and human relationships. The separation of the totality and its fragmentation, the de-linking of societies from the cosmic flows and the irreversibility of nature's processes are leading to a breakdown of the system. The very logic of human existence and the meaning and purpose of life are being subverted. We therefore, need to re-establish harmony between science and spirituality as the focal point around which basic human development can evolve, on the path of its eternal continuity, cosmic orderliness and infinite potential of the human mind. A new vision outside of the present consumerist paradigm of the market place will only emerge if we can engender fundamental changes in the value structures, which aggregate wealth at one end and stark deprivation at the other. The basic human need of all families must be met and to bring this about the very concept of development needs to be re-examined. **[to be continued... in FB, Jan 2007, Vol. 32, No.1]**

SECTION 3 - FUTURES STUDIES IN THE WORLD

Spain

Second International Seville Seminar on Future-Oriented Technology Analysis (FTA)

28th- 29th September 2006 [Olivier DA COSTA]

The second edition of this event took place under the auspices of IPTS (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies <http://www.jrc.es/home/index.htm>) which is part of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. 160 participants from 35 countries on 6 continents gathered under the Andalusian sun to listen to 49 presentations and 18 e-posters.

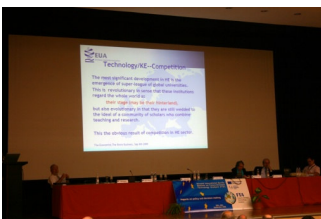


After the welcome by Dr Peter KIND, director of IPTS, and the introduction by Dr Patrice LAGET, Head of the organising unit, the first day continued with keynote speeches by leading scholars in the field: Ted GORDON, founder of 'The Futures Group' and deputy director of the 'AC/UNU Millennium Project'; Pr Dietmar THEIS from Siemens AG; Pr Gülsün SAGLAMER, Member of the European University Association (EUA) board, and Prof. Eleonora Barbieri MASINI, Emeritus of the Gregorian University in Rome.

Thereafter, participants broke up into parallel sessions to address either issues related to the guiding theme of the seminar, the impact of FTA - Foresight- on the policy and decision making: (1) Assumptions, Methods and Approaches, and (2) Evaluation, Impact and Learning, or fields of application: (1) Business, (2) Higher Education, and (3) Developing Countries.

On the second day, working groups were set up to further reflect on issues central to the future of Foresight and to make concrete proposals for actions: (1) Building Capacity, (2) Customer-Client Relations, Quality and Ethical Standards, (3) Evaluation and Monitoring, (4) Global Problems and (5) Building Links across the Community. A global consensus emerged from the group reports into the final plenary to keep fostering the "mutual learning spirit" across the community with FORLEARN (<http://forlearn.jrc.es/index.htm>) playing a major role.

One of the objectives of the seminar was to advance towards the development of FTA -Foresight- as a well-defined, independent discipline and community. As Professor Luke GEORGHIU and Ron JOHNSTON summarised it in their wrap-up talks, various perspectives emerged, whether Foresight is technocratic versus radical, modernist versus post-modernist, and above all whether it is a science, an art or pure wisdom. More than a methodology, Foresight is a 'school of thought', a policy instrument ('informing function') and at the same time an instrument for the social construction of the future knowledge society ('change enabling function'). It is participative and ubiquitous but yet only one of the many knowledge constituencies competing for space and resources. It does combine elements of Technology Assessment, Technology Forecasting and Strategic Policy Intelligence. It can even be embedded into these practices and impossible to separate. It has nevertheless its own personality and needs perhaps "a bit of love" to further develop...



As far as the impact of FTA on policy and decision making is concerned, the overall feeling was that the potential of each specific approach, whether it is Foresight, Forecasting, or Technology Assessment, for

providing strategic intelligence is beyond any doubt. However, it is reckoned that pinpointing, delimitating and evaluating the impact and benefits is challenging when part of the contribution is intangible and takes place at different phases of policy or decision making. Through the presentations, one kept bumping into the fundamental trade-off between on the one hand the pure, independent and helpful "White Knight", and on the other daily involvement into policy or decision making, into the "murky world of the relationship of knowledge to power".



Accordingly, greater efforts have been devoted by professionals to reflect on, understand and adapt to the policy- and decision-making process. A greater emphasis is being put on evaluation. Some generic rules of influence were repeated: paying attention to the language, presentation and clarity of outcomes, being in phase with the policy- and decision-making process, raising issues which are only just ahead of the mainstream, but which, "once revealed, look totally obvious". Further key advances were reported, namely in the variety and sophistication of methods and in their adaptation and fine-tuning in order to fit particular contexts and client requirements ('custom-made' exercises). The issue of the right balance between Foresight's traditional claim of being able to "shape the future" and the most modest stance of acknowledging and adapting to the constraints that cannot be changed ('adaptive' Foresight) in order to act more effectively where there is room for manoeuvre was debated. Similarly, it is worth noting that the traditional divide between normative and exploratory approaches is becoming less explicit.

To conclude, it is essential to become conscious that the whole process of reflecting on the impact of Foresight on policy and decision making is built on the hidden assumption that decisions are logical, maybe not scientifically logical, but logical nevertheless. However, all the construction collapses if, as emphasised by Ted GORDON in his enlightening opening keynote, decisions are mostly illogical and even unconscious. Addressing the fundamental and irreducible complexity of human mind, taking into account psychology, values, prejudices and intuition, is therefore going to be the next frontier of future research...



Last but not least, let us not forget what may have been the most enjoyable part of the seminar: the evening cocktail in the beautiful five-star hotel Alfonso XIII and the optional walk in "Sevilla by night" that followed. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Seville for the next edition in 2008.

Europe



FISTERA and the European Perspectives in the Information Society (EPIS) [Ela KRAWCZYK]

FISTERA (Thematic Network on Foresight on Information Society Technologies in the European Research Area) was funded by the European IST (Information Society Technologies) programme. It commenced in September 2002 and was completed in 2006. Its main aim was to bring together on a systematic and extended basis, actors and insights in national foresight exercises on IST in the enlarged Europe. The core partners included: IPTS (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies); FZK - ITAS (Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse), Germany; TILAB (Telecom Italia Lab - Scenarios of the Future), Italy; ARC/sr (ARC Seibersdorf research GmbH, Division Systems Research Technology-Economy-Environment, Seibersdorf), Austria; PREST (Policy Research in Engineering, Science and

Technology), UK; and GCI (GOPA - Cartermill International), Belgium.

"European Perspectives in the Information Society" (EPIS) is a multi-annual foresight initiative that is being launched by the European Commission as a follow-up of the FISTERA project. EPIS will become operational early next year (2007). In this framework, the FISTERA coordinators foresee the continuation of the cooperation via the **IST Foresighters Forum**. Also, in this framework, a networking session has been proposed in the **IST 2006** conference on "**European Foresight on IST**". The expected outcomes of the Session would include (a) a list of potential areas to launch European foresight processes under FP7 (user needs collection) and (b) a set of demands for capacity building and network development. Details are posted on the conference website at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/istevent/2006/cf/network-detail.cfm?id=738.

More information about FISTERA and its follow-up activities can be found at <http://fistera.jrc.es>.

Australia

AusForesight2006 [Ela KRAWCZYK]

The AusForesight2006 took place in Melbourne on 21st & 22nd October 2006 and for the first time brought the Australian foresight community together. The event acted as a platform for growing awareness and collaboration between Australian futurists. The organizers saw the main aims of AusForesight2006 as:

- bringing together the broader Australian foresight community to encourage networking, education, knowledge, collaboration and fun;
- creating an increased public awareness of foresight activity through publicity linked to the event;
- investigating the opportunity for setting an "association of Australian futurists"; and
- exploring options for evolution and endorsement of foresight activities in Australia and worldwide.

The conference programme included ten sessions, in which the participants had chance to explore and learn about a wide range of issues that included: personal and professional experiences of long-term futurists; futures work practice around the world; links between futures and sustainability; convergence of actions research and futures research; taking the futures concept to the next level; scenario planning methodology; the understanding and creation of social change; the dilemmas of futurists related to implementing their work and influencing the future change in the present; futures techniques and complexity tools; and the assumptions and models underlying future visions.

A number of WFSF members have participated in the event. Among them were: Peter BISHOP, Charles BRASS, Josh FLOYD, Peter HAYWARD, Sohail INAYATULLAH, Dennis LIST, Riel MILLER, Ivana MILOJEVIĆ, Rowena MORROW, Jose RAMOS, Richard SLAUGHTER, Joe VOROS, and others.

More information about the event can be accessed at <http://www.ausforesight.com/>. Regrettably, I couldn't attend AusForesight2006 myself, but I would like to encourage our members who participated in the event to share their experiences with other members, in the next issues of the Futures Bulletin.



SECTION 4 - CALLS FOR PAPERS AND EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Journal of Futures Studies - Special Issue
Invitation to submit articles on foresight, innovation and
entrepreneurship (FI&E)

Globalisation and rapid modernisation is increasingly creating the need for social reflexivity in respect to the production and diffusion of innovations, both social and technical, within a landscape of widening change horizons and ethical concerns. This arises as a consequence of the dramatic effects of innovation on the modern world, its influence on social and ecological systems, and the implication innovations have on our futures. A new intellectual alliance between FI&E is now a matter of human survival. How and what we innovate, the enterprises we choose to create and the influence of infrastructure for generating entrepreneurship will combine to greatly impact human sustainability in the 21st century. This special issue will bring together cross-disciplinary research aimed at finding new synergies between foresight, innovation and entrepreneurship (FI&E).

Articles that are empirically based are preferred however conceptual works well grounded in the literature will be considered. A possible range of topics might address such issues as:

- The link between emerging social innovations and social foresight
- How foresight can inform social, technological and market responsive entrepreneurship
- State based foresight and innovation within geographic and political systems
- Case studies linking foresight, innovation and entrepreneurship
- Consequences (diffusion) research as foresight
- Issues of venture planning and growth arising from foresight practices
- Technology and/or venture impact assessment issues (ecological, social and economic)
- Innovation/entrepreneurship and alternative futures
- Foresight for start-up and growth enterprise
- Global risk and expanding uncertainty horizons
- New innovation frontiers
- Eco innovation & eco entrepreneurship
- Foresight and the influence on opportunity and venture evaluation

The special issue is being prepared in conjunction with submissions to the 2007 AGSE Entrepreneurship Research Exchange. However articles from non-conference participants are also invited for publication in the style and referencing format of the journal. The special issue will consist of up to 10 articles of acceptable publishable length (essays 1500-3000 words and journal articles 5000-7000 words) refereed through double blind review. A panel of four referees will be assembled to review the papers with two from the field of futures studies and two from entrepreneurship.

Schedule of Important Dates

- 900 word abstracts due no later than 1st January 2007
- Acceptance notified by 1st February 2007
- Full papers due 15th April 2007
- Full paper review advised by 15th May 2007
- Final submission with edits 1st August 2007
- Publication in the *Journal of Futures Studies* November 2007.

Journal co-editors will be: Jose Ramos jose@actionforesight.net & Allan O'Connor aconnor@swin.edu.au

We look forward to receiving submissions and drawing together an alliance between these two dynamic and progressive fields of research.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contributions to the Futures Bulletin welcomed!

We are inviting all members to contribute to the content of the Futures Bulletin by sending us your papers, news about changes in your and your community life, info about new books, reports, conferences that you have attended and you will attend and any other things that you would like to share with your fellow futurists.

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Call for Papers and Posters

9th International Conference of Finland Futures Research Centre and Finland Futures Academy in collaboration with Turku 2011 - Finland's nominee for the European Capital of Culture 2011

CULTURE AS INNOVATION: THE SEARCH FOR CREATIVE POWER IN ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES

6-8 June 2007, Turku, Finland

Themes of the conference:

- Innovativeness and creative processes in economies, cultures and societies of the future.
- The future of creative clusters and industries.
- The role of cultural industries in economic development and competitiveness.
- The power of creativity and culture for the sustainable development.
- Case studies of culture, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Futures research methodology in the study of the creative economy.
- Theoretical approaches for the future interaction of culture, society and the economy.

About the conference

Culture is contradictory: It is individual and creative, it is collective and empowering. It is also diverse, conservative and restrictive. If we reflect upon such contradictions and develop that perspective we raise the questions: what is the future of the creative economy, the cultural industry, economic innovation and the interaction of culture and the economy? Furthermore, what consequences and challenges do such questions hold for the development of society? The conference will bring together people from universities, research institutes, companies, regional authorities, municipalities, governmental and nongovernmental organisations. The idea is to meet, share and discuss new ideas concerning culture, the creative economy and innovativeness. The conference committee encourages all those who are interested in these questions and futures studies to participate and/or present a paper or poster at the conference.

The aim is to generate multidisciplinary, lively and productive discussions and promote networking between people from different backgrounds in the arts, business and science.

Abstract submission

The program will consist of keynote lectures, concurrent workshop and poster sessions and panel discussions. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster at the sessions, please submit an abstract (max. 250 words) to the conference coordinator at ffrc2007@tse.fi. Deadline for abstract submission is January 31st. Please place the title, author names, affiliations and contact information at the top of the paper and indicate if you wish to make a spoken paper or a poster presentation. Abstracts should provide sufficient information about the aims, methods, discipline or theory in question and the results of the research. As well as traditional scientific presentations, innovative ways of making presentations are welcome. A selection of presentations will be published afterwards in the conference publication. The conference language is English.

Please, see further information about the conference:
www.tse.fi/tutu/conference2007

