

WORLD  
FUTURES  
STUDIES  
FEDERATION



# NEWSLETTER

*This issue includes*

- *the Program of the Barcelona World Conference*
- *Topics of the Barcelona Working Groups*
- *Statutes and By Laws of WFSF (for discussion in the General Assembly),*  
*etc*

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The WFSF Newsletter is published four times a year from the WFSF Office of the Secretariat. A yearly subscription to the Newsletter is US\$20.00. Subscriptions are included in the yearly dues for WFSF members. Requests for further information may be addressed to

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## EDITORIAL

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The spring was so full of activities and visits that we had to combine issues two and three of the Newsletter. You can easily learn from the issue that the pace will not be slowing down but accelerate. I hope for ever more members to join us, share their interests and enjoy our co-operation.

A so called *mini-Council meeting* took place in Sofia in June with council members participating in a regional conference of WFSF. Please consult the minutes for the ideas and topics of the meeting and give your comments and opinions about the questions under discussion. Important topics to be decided on in Barcelona are the election procedure for the next officers of WFSF, the nomination of the International Committee for the next World Conference in Finland in 1993, and the coming regional conferences.

WFSF made an agreement with UNESCO to participate in and contribute to UNESCO's clearing house program *FUTURESCO* and we are supplying abstracts of futures studies to the data-base, providing synopses on special issues to a new bulletin, and participating in the work of the editorial board of the bulletin. RICK SLAUGHTER wrote the first synopsis on education in futures studies on behalf of WFSF, and several members from different parts of the world have contributed already by writing abstracts. The first phase of the program was completed successfully by the end of May, and it can be expected that this project, initiated by Pierre Weiss in UNESCO, will be a major benefit to all futures workers. May I express here our appreciation to everybody who has already cooperated. The work will be continuing, and WFSF will be providing more abstracts and another synopsis on the environment by this year. The first bulletin will become available in fall. The more we supply abstracts, the more our work will be known and benefit the work of others. When you feel that you would like to join us and contribute to this project by abstracting futures studies made by yourself or by others, please contact us at the WFSF office.

The regional conference on "Alternative Futures for Eastern Europe" in Sofia in June was a major success. The conference was organized and managed by ALEXANDER TOMOV and his staff and collaborators in the Bulgarian Future Society and Centre for Strategic Business and Political

Studies in an excellent way. Many members contributed and the cooperation with WFSF was also highly appreciated by the host. The opening was attended by Mr Zhelyu Zhelev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria and other top level politicians and decision makers.

The annual *futures studies course* in Dubrovnik in May was a historical event. It was managed and conducted by WENDY SCHULTZ and LEENA-MALJA SALMINEN with the support of Prof MIROSLAV PECUJLIC and UVAIS AHAMED, who was in charge for the first time. What made this course historical was the fact that it took place in a situation of impending civil war in Yugoslavia. Thanks to the brave leaders and participants, the course was run through successfully. WFSF's appreciation goes at the moment to Wendy for conducting and inspiring these courses for many years. She leaves the task now because of other career commitments. As a new member of the course leaders' team we welcome TONY STEVENSON, who has already started to work for the future of the courses. The topic next year will be on *Education* and so far we know that ELEONORA MASINI and ANA-MARIA SANDI will join the resource people for the course. Please make this course known to your students and researchers so that they can apply for and arrange their participation in due time.

Proceedings of the conferences! As some of you have frequently reminded, we have been too slow and ineffective in editing and publishing the proceedings of the conferences held. The Beijing conference serves as a good demonstration. At least we are making some progress. The Beijing proceedings will be available in Barcelona as a UNESCO printing. MIKA MANNERMAA has already edited the Budapest proceedings, the corrected versions have been requested from the authors by August, and ERZSEBET GIDAI will print them in Budapest. And by the end of the year, the proceedings of the Sofia conference will be available from ALEXANDER TOMOV in Bulgaria, which will set a new record. If somebody has good proposals for how to improve our capacity in publishing the proceedings, please let me know. Both financial and more permanent personal resources or cooperation would help.

As you may remember, our South and North Korean colleagues made a proposal to WFSF in Budapest to organize jointly a regional conference on *Asian futures* in Korea. Since then, negotiations have continued, and during my visit to Pyongyang in May, I was able to discuss these options with our North Korean colleagues once more. I was invited to Pyongyang by the Korean Association of Social Scientists (KASS), and I had most interesting discussions with Prof Dr Hwang Jang Yop, Prof Li Ji Su and Prof Kim Myong-U. Prof Dr Hwang, President of the Academy of Social Sciences, was positive to the idea of having the regional conference arranged in Pyongyang in 1992. We hope that these negotiations may be

completed in Barcelona by a joint agreement of the South and North Korean partners. A regional conference in Korea at this time could really demonstrate the value of futures activity. However, several other proposals for regional conferences in Asia have been made and will be discussed in Barcelona.

This spring, I visited a few other places where we have WFSF members. In Beijing, I met with Prof QIN LINZHENG and other futurists of the Chinese Society for Futures Studies at a seminar arranged jointly by the Chinese and Finnish Societies. This was the second time for a joint seminar in Beijing supported by the Chinese Association for International Understanding.

In Prague, I represented WFSF in a seminar organized by a new Czech society of futures activists. Prof PETRASEK is the president of the society. Prof MILOS ZEMAN attended the two-day seminar as did several foreign participants. The seminar discussed the difficult and painful transitions taking place in the Eastern and Central European countries, and it demonstrated the important role of the civil society in giving directions to change.

Before the Sofia conference, I took part in a smaller meeting in Bucharest organized by MIRCEA MALIZA, and in another discussion group with ANA-MARIA SANDI and VIORICA RAMBA-VARGA on the issues of crucial change and its challenges in Romania.

The message that can be heard from the countries I visited is a concerned, serious call for futures oriented cooperation. The same message is heard likewise from the Soviet Union and its republics, from the Asian Pacific countries, from the Islamic world and from Europe. Cooperation for constructive work for the future instead of violence, and the restriction of democracy and human rights would be the only proper answer to this challenge. We are expected and counted upon to take initiatives and contribute to this aim in WFSF, aren't we?

We will have a good chance to respond to these calls together in Barcelona. You will find the latest information on the conference in this issue. The 3rd Announcement will be mailed soon to the participants.

See you there

Pentti Malaska  
Secretary General

**PS** If, however, you cannot attend the Barcelona conference and meetings, please send your proxy for the Assembly meeting to someone who can represent you.

## Contents

Editorial	1
Work in Progress	
Minutes of the WFSF Mini-Council Meeting	5
Inventing Milieux - Cultures of the Future	9
<i>Wendy Schultz</i>	
Culture of the Future - Future of the Cultures	16
<i>Merja Ngem</i>	
Agenda of the Barcelona General Assembly	18
Agendas of the Barcelona Council Meetings	19
Proxy	21
Barcelona - Topics and Program	
Topics	22
Day to Day Program	27
The WFSF Statutes and By-Laws	
A Letter to All Members	31
<i>Jim Dator</i>	
Statutes and By-Laws	32
News and Reflections	
The Alger Manifesto A Response	40
<i>Ziauddin Zardar</i>	
Policy Plan Towards Developing The Human Resource	44
<i>Satish C Seth</i>	
Books and Articles	
Call for Intercultural Dialogue	46
<i>Rolf Homann</i>	
Yields from Conferences and Seminars	
Alternative Futures for Eastern Europe	49
<i>Jim Dator</i>	
Matching Futures A Visit to China	54
<i>Mika Mannerman</i>	
New Trends in Science, Technology, Economy, and Society	54
<i>Linda Groff</i>	
On the Way to Barcelona	
The New World Order - A Call for a Linkage	56
<i>James Wellesley Wesley</i>	
Africa's Challenges for the Future	58
<i>Lamin Sullay</i>	
Zha Rhujiang in Memoriam	61
<i>Linda Groff</i>	
New Members	62

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**WORK IN PROGRESS**


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**MINUTES  
OF WFSF MINI-COUNCIL MEETING**

*(preparatory and consultative to the Council meetings)*

Tuesday, 4 June, 1991  
Sofia, Bulgaria from 6 p m to late  
in the evening

Chair Jim Dator  
Council members present Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, Katrin Gillwald, Maria Koszegi-Kalas, Pentti Malaska, Ana Maria Sandi, Bart van Steenbergen  
WFSF members present Felix Marti, Miquel Marti, Peter Mettler, Dusan Ristic  
Secretary Pentti Malaska

The Agenda was approved with the amendment that items A, G, and C were given first priority due to the limited time schedule

**3§ Next Office of WFSF after 1993**

The letter of ELEONORA MASINI of 27 May was read whereby she announces her wish to resign from the Chair when the new Council will be elected in 1993 All the three main administrative posts will thus become open in 1993

The meeting regarded it necessary to guarantee the adequate continuity of past experience in the administration The meeting advised the President to call up a committee for the searching and nomination of candidates for these posts and for the office of the new Secretariat The election procedure and naming of the available candidates will be an issue of urgency at the Barcelona meeting

**4§ The Dubrovnik Courses**

The 1991 Dubrovnik course took place under conditions of threatening civil war in Yugoslavia and therefore several other IUC

**1§ Opening of the Meeting**  
Jim Dator welcomed the participants reminding that the meeting was called for consulting the President and the Secretary General on the Agenda items, and for preparation of the Council and General Assembly meetings in Barcelona in September

**2§ Approval of the Agenda**  
Invitation to the meeting and the Agenda had been sent to all Council members Other members were informed by the Newsletter

courses were cancelled BART VAN STEENBERGEN informed that there are some uncertainties as to whether the IUC can continue its activities in Dubrovnik as during the previous years. If it can't, WFSF will also have to consider moving the course elsewhere. However, the participants expressed the desire to continue to run the course in Dubrovnik, if possible. Two places in Europe which could be considered as alternatives to Dubrovnik were mentioned, they are Budapest, and Andorra. FELIX MARTI said that in Andorra, local finances would be available to cover the costs. Other places named were Morocco and Sicily.

In her letter, Eleonora Masini's message on the matter was notified.

WENDY SCHULTZ' report on the 1991 course was appreciated and it was decided to publish it in the Newsletter. The course has appointed two new course leaders, UVAIS AHAMED and TONY STEVENSON. The plan for the 1992 course on Education was accepted. Tony Stevenson's message in his letter was received with pleasure.

#### 5 § Cooperation with other Organizations

JIM DATOR explained the statutes and by-laws of WFSF along the French law applied, and his approach to renew them. He had sent a draft of his understanding of the status and history of the Statutes and By-Laws to Eleonora Masini, MAGDA MCHALE, Bart van Steenberg and ALLEN TOUGH for their modifications and suggestions before sending it to other

WFSF members. He expressed his hope that this issue will be discussed in detail in Barcelona at the plenary of "Democracy in WFSF".

#### Policy of Cooperation with Other Organizations

WFSF is a federation of societies and associations and thus it has not aimed at membership of other societies.

As a response to several invitations to join other organizations, it was recommended by the meeting that cooperation with other future-oriented organizations as such was regarded as an essential element of the WFSF activities, but that the WFSF itself should not join other organizations as a member.

#### Institutional members of WFSF

When accepting an other organization as its institutional member, - of which there are 49 at present - WFSF assumes it to have common interests in the field of futures studies and the capacity to produce co-operative and complementary activities. These activities may range from financial support and regular dissemination of information to jointly organized courses, seminars, congresses, and other events and projects or other programs as separately agreed on.

IGOR BESTUZHEV-LADA pointed out a real need not only to cooperate with the existing organizations, but also to advance, encourage, and help to establish new futures oriented organizations especially in the Eastern European countries, the Soviet Union included.

In his E-mail discussion with Jim Dator and Pentti Malaska, DR YAMAGUCHI has also raised a question of establishing a chapter of WFSF in Japan. It was recommended by the meeting that no chapters of WFSF will be adopted. It was not regarded a sound policy to make the WFSF a dispersed organization with many local branches. Instead, WFSF should strengthen its federative functions with the associations joined as independent organizations.

It was recognized that also the role of institutional members in WFSF needs to be clarified. The administrative practice in WFSF has moved towards individual members instead of functioning through institutional representatives.

#### 6 § Cooperation with UNESCO and UN

WFSF has NGO Status B with UNESCO which means that UNESCO and its programs offer an important platform of cooperation to WFSF. UNESCO's support to the Dubrovnik course and world conferences amounted to USD25,000 and WFSF is a co-operative partner with UNESCO's Clearing House program, financed also by UNESCO.

The first Clearing House contribution to the UNESCO FUTURESCO data base was 40 abstracts of futures studies, delivered to Pierre Weiss, UNESCO, Paris. Also delivered was a synopsis on Education of futures studies by RICK SLAUGHTER for the UNESCO Bulletin. MIKA MANNER-MAA and Jim Dator will serve as

WFSF representatives in the editorial board of the Bulletin.

WFSF has nominated Dr ORIO GIARINI (Geneva) and Dr SAUL MENDLOVITZ (New York) to act as the representatives of the Federation to the United Nations.

#### 7 § World Conferences

The latest developments in the Barcelona conference were announced by FELIX and MIGUEL MARTI. The problems of cheaper hotels and more support were solved by the local organizer. About 110 participants have sent their registration along with 70 abstracts, which is still well below the number needed and assumed. As President Havel is not able to attend, it was decided to turn to certain other people of great influence and ask if one of them would be available to attend as a key note speaker. ALVIN TOFFLER has confirmed his participation.

The list of participants needing support was recognized and these people have been informed by the organizer.

Other practical measures were managed in a separate meeting by the members of the international committee of the conference.

The Secretary General informed of the planning of the XIII World Conference in Finland in 1993. The working title of the theme is "Chaos and Coherence in our Uncommon Futures", but it is still subject to changes. The President of Finland, Dr Mauno Koivisto, has accepted patronage of the conference.

The site will be the main building of the Technical University in Espoo near Helsinki, and there is a large variety of hotels of different price level available near by. The chair of the national organizing committee is Academician Pekka Jauho with a few other members of the Finnish Society for Futures Studies accompanying. In Barcelona, the international committee is to be nominated and a draft of the first announcement discussed.

### 8§ Regional Conferences

Bart van Steenberghe reported of no advances so far in materializing the regional conference in Thailand. He suggested that Thailand should be considered as a place for the possible "Pacific Dubrovnik" course.

Pentti Malaska reported on his visit to Pyongyang, North Korea, and on the discussions with Prof HWANG, President of the Academy of Social Sciences, and Prof Li, President of the Academy of Juche Sciences, and Prof Kim Myong-U. The main issue was organizing a regional Asian conference of WFSF jointly with the members of the Federation both in North and South Korea. The proposal was originally made in Budapest in 1990 by the Korean participants, and since then the negotiations have been going on but until now, without any firm decisions. Prof Hwang said that this time the proposal might well become true within a year. The jointly organized regional conference could be held in 1992 in Pyongyang on the site of the Academy of Social Sciences. Prof Hwang also informed that the

Academy is willing to host the "Pacific Dubrovnik" course if Pyongyang were regarded as an appropriate place.

### 9§ European Center

The meeting was informed of ERZSEBET GIDAI's report on the activities and plans for the European Center of WFSF in Budapest. The activities and plans were very much appreciated by the meeting but it was decided that getting the proceedings of the Budapest conference published and delivered was the main task. As to the other plans, it was recommended to postpone them until the statutes and by-laws of WFSF will be discussed and thus the role of the center clarified further.

### 10§ Proceedings

Pierre Weiss has informed the Secretary General that the Beijing proceedings will be ready for delivery in Barcelona. Sofia's proceedings will be ready by the end of the year. As to the Budapest proceedings, Erzsebet Gidai has informed that the European Center is ready to do the printing two or three weeks after receiving the manuscript. The chapters of the manuscript were mailed to the authors for corrections and editing and the text is assumed to be in its final form in September.

### 11§ Closing of the Meeting

The meeting was closed at night ◊

Approved 12 June, 1991

Jim Dator Pentti Malaska  
President Secretary General

## INVENTING MILIEUX - CULTURES OF THE FUTURE

Wendy Schultz

*WFSF 1991 Futures Workshop — Administrative course report, May 1991 (draft version, the final version will be available in Barcelona)*

### Introduction

The next few lines will briefly summarize the activities and topics of discussion, on a day-by-day basis, of the 1991 WFSF Futures Workshop, give an overview of the course organization activities, and finally offer some comments as to possible improvements in future course administration.

### Course activities

#### Monday, May 6

Welcome to the course, introductions all round (performed three times, as participants from two other courses joined us after their courses were cancelled), administrative details. Introduction to the Futures Field key concepts & terms W L SCHULTZ

Lunch

Introduction to cultural anthropology Key concepts & terms R RINER

Group Exercise Define your professional culture using the basic

concepts offered in the preceding presentation, list major challenges facing your professional culture from social and technical change (people got so involved they stayed until 6 PM working on this!)

#### Tuesday, May 7

Group reports from culture definition exercise

Lunch

Debriefing common themes & emerging issues of social change R Riner  
Social change & cultural change  
The long view from prehistory to the next millennium R Riner

#### Wednesday, May 8

Cultures implied by images of preferred futures W L Schultz  
Group exercise Future archaeology  
Editing the material artifacts our culture will leave on the planet (a k a what bad habits would we want to hide from the neighbors)

Lunch

Class excursion to Lokrum Island

**Thursday, May 9**

Cultural diversity and cultural democracy J Serra

Lunch City Tour

Presentation and exercise based on coursebook reading S COLE's *Cultural diversity and sustainable development* reviewed by Castillo and Mendoza  
*Three groups envisioned possible future for Eastern Europe in each of Cole's three future scenarios*

**Friday, May 10**

Week in review Riner and Schultz  
Summary discussion  
Course evaluations

Lunch

Meeting with remaining participants to review schedule for second week

**Monday, May 13**

Welcome to the course, introductions round two, general administration, review of week one

Introduction to Bateson Project  
Designing future human cultures, imagining extraterrestrial cultures, simulating cultural contact group organization R Riner

Lunch

Future of cultures globally A NANDY

**Tuesday, May 14**

Bateson project group work

Lunch

Bateson project group work contact approaching

Course dinner at Rosarj

**Wednesday, May 15**

Bateson project Contact approaching cultural design finalized

Lunch

Bateson project Contact! *Xenanthropologists meet the Skitters of Ophelia*  
Debriefing Uses of Bateson projects & similar exercises in curriculum and in professional activities

**Thursday, May 16**

Panel discussion politics and cultural diversity in Eastern Europe I Ivos, M PECUJLIC, A LJUTIC

Lunch

Emerging culture of the international computer/media nets A Ljutic

Farewell celebration, 9 PM to Midnight (*lacked guitar*)

**Friday, May 17**

Weeks in review Ljutic, Nandy, Riner and Schultz  
Summary discussion  
Course evaluation

**Course preparation and administration**

The Federation chose this year's course topic to coordinate with the work being done by the UNESCO project on the Future of Cultures, which closely involves several Federation members. The title, *"Inventing Milieux Cultures of the Future,"* was meant to suggest not only cultures emerging from technological change, new international professional communities, and other transformative forces, but also the resurgence in the world cultural arena of cultural voices long weakened or suppressed by political or economic forces.

Course preparation was delayed somewhat by a communication failure between the coordinators and the Federation executive officers. Traditionally, each year's course topic and potential resource people are suggested by participants at the end of the previous year's course. However, the 90 Futures Workshop was scheduled late in May, to take advantage both of proximity to the Budapest World Conference and special summer airfares. This meant that the topic and dates of '91 course were submitted to the IUC prior to the '90 course. Participants in the '90 course thus felt very little ownership of the topic, and had few suggestions for prospective resource people. The course coordinators requested the President to elicit suggestions from the Executive Council during various meetings, but the request went astray. Consequently, a list of potential resource people was not compiled until late December 1989.

Invitations went out in mid-January, as did requests for further suggestions for resource people and topics for discussion. Reminder notices were mailed out to all invitees in early March, and by mid-April the course logistics coordinator had confirmed a speaker schedule and was coordinating itineraries and travel support for resource people. This activity was based at the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies and coordinated with the President of the Federation.

In arranging the UNESCO grant in early spring, the Secretariat added to the coordination team a course scientific coordinator, responsible for drafting the final UNESCO course/grant report. As far as allocating the UNESCO grant travel funds, the course scholarship coordinator devised application forms for participants requesting support and review such requests, and also answered all inquiries from prospective course participants. This activity, based at Turku School of Economics, was coordinated with the Federation Secretariat and the Secretary-General and was ongoing from June 1990.

The course coordinators were particularly fortunate in funding this year, as not only did UNESCO raise their allocation to the course from 3,000 to 5,000, but also the very charitable staff at the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies voted to donate 3,030 of their year-end funds to support the participation of resource people. This proved to be a godsend, as in early March the course coordinators were informed that the SOROS

Foundation, long a source of support for participants from Eastern European countries, was no longer willing to fund activities in Yugoslavia due to the political situation. Thus many prospective Eastern European participants were deprived of their single possible source of stipends.

With the political situation in Yugoslavia steadily worsening throughout the spring, another concern was whether the course should be sited elsewhere, postponed, or cancelled outright. In a burst of optimism, faith in our Yugoslavian friends, and blind determination, the course coordinators and executive officers decided to go ahead on schedule. This no doubt caused a decline in enrollment, particularly from North America. Adding general international nervousness over travel to heightened international airfares skewed participation towards over-representation (in the statistical sense) of the Eastern European countries.

Another factor which contributed to course participant structure was the close scheduling of two other futures-related conferences, one prior to the course in Czechoslovakia, and one to be held two weeks afterwards in Bulgaria. In addition, many Federation members were rationing their scarce travel funds for use in attending the Barcelona world conference. Hence the number of positive responses to resource invitations was much lower this year in comparison to last, when many participants simply added the one week in Dubrovnik onto their travel plans for Budapest.

The actual course began with a meeting Sunday night, May 5, of the five people then present (two course coordinators, one resource person, two prospective students), to discuss worst case contingency plans: what to do if everyone else assumed the course was cancelled, or that conditions within Yugoslavia to uncertain to support attendance. Monday morning we were encouraged by the presence of students from Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, and then agreeably surprised when six students from two cancelled courses chose to join our small band. The rest of our participants, course coordinators, and resource people were due to join us in waves, and so we settled down to introducing our new arrivals to general concepts and terms in futures studies and more specifically, in cultural anthropology.

The overall schedule of presentations, exercises, and class activities grew organically out of the discussions and wider events of each day. The coordinators and resource people held informal debriefing sessions every evening to finetune the discussions, presentations, and exercises coming up. Building the course content this way, by constant accretion of feedback, allowed us to adapt very quickly to peoples interests and needs in the finer details, while keeping a firm grip on the course's topical focus. It was exhilarating. The preceding section described the course content.

Administratively, only three snafus occurred. Unfortunately, they were all financial, and relative to personal resources, somewhat large. Fortunately, they were fairly easily

resolvable, and did not put the course over budget. One, per diem arrangements had not been clearly specified between the Secretariat and one course coordinator, who thus faced a hotel bill with no resources, two, the source of funds to pay for the traditional course dinner had not been specified, and three, an extra student from Yugoslavia had been promised a stipend but the scholarship coordinator had not been notified of that fact. The first and third problems were solved in the short-term by abusing the logistical coordinator's credit cards, the second was solved by using scholarship funds remaining because one participant cancelled at the last moment.

#### *Final comments*

Substantively, the course was a rousing success. We not only explored the edges of cultural change and expanded the boundaries of what we all imagined as possible cultures, we engaged in very specific debates concerning nurturing the cultural diversity that exists now, and nurturing as well respect for that diversity. Deliberately keeping the number of formal presentations low freed us to engage in more time-consuming but challenging thought exercises. While risky, course participants as a whole concurred that we all profited from such risk-taking. This consensus is particularly gratifying given that we were educating, in the first week, a half a dozen people who had never even HEARD of futures studies before. Having adopted the orphans of two cancelled courses, we persuaded them as to the usefulness of futures

studies, and fanned their interest in Federation activities.

On the positive side, then, the course managed to successfully integrate the more left-brained, formal approach of set lectures with an equal amount of free-wheeling, right-brained workshop exercises. Once again the coordinators offered participants a coursebook including readings on selected topics suggested by various resource people. Resource people involved proved themselves marvelously adaptive not only to changes required by the addition of unexpected and unprepared participants but also to changes suggested by the political and cultural context of this year's course activities. We added presentations introducing futures studies and cultural anthropology, and we organized an impromptu panel discussion focussed on the inter-relationship between politics and culture in Yugoslavia. Funding supporting the course increased this year, enabling us to subsidize the expenses of a dozen participants. Furthermore, we discovered a source of funding for students from the Ukraine, the Ukrainian-American Renaissance Foundation, with which the Federation should communicate to insure support in future years. Finally, the course coordinators have begun a database of all past course participants, beginning with the lists from '90 and '91, records from previous years have been requested from the IUC.

#### Heightening Federation Interest and Support

In last year's course report, the coordinators noted that it would aid



course planning immeasurably were the coordinators afforded the opportunity to meet at least once every year six months prior to the course - with afforded obviously the operative verb That is request for a very specific form of support from the Federation More generally, the course coordinators could just wish that the Federation as a whole place as much importance on the annual Dubrovnik course as they do on any of the world or regional conferences Course coordinators have not in the past two years at least, been asked to submit direct verbal presentations to either the Council or the General Assembly the Dubrovnik course is not a subject offered very much space on any meeting agenda This could easily be altered The Dubrovnik Futures Workshop is the single activity that the Federation consistently undertakes, every year, in the same place As such, it should be one of the landmark activities of the organization Instead, the course coordinators very much fear that a large percentage of the Federation membership lacks a clear image of what the course involves and what it offers both participants and resource people

In part, this may be laid at the feet of a very inefficient system of transmitting institutional memory To those Federation members who are alumni of the Dubrovnik course, its usefulness, intellectual challenge, and community joys are self-evident, as are the more practical aspects of arranging for participation Unfortunately, those alumni seem to have internalized this body of knowledge, and we need to work out an adequate

means to externalize it A beginning is being made this year, with an attempt to compile a database of all past year's course participants Perhaps some of these people may be encouraged to serve as an international network of course champions

#### Realistic financial support

Although the course coordinators, and the Federation as a whole, have a great cause to be grateful for this year's increased financial support, in the face of escalating travel costs even 8,030 is insufficient to support a truly international course The coordinators had to turn away two resource people and two participants, all from the Pacific, because their travel costs would have beggared the grant for airfare alone, 2,900 from the Cook Islands, 2,200 from Japan, and 2,000 per person for two applicants from the Philippines Insuring adequate international representation would require a travel budget closer to 25,000 Costs in Dubrovnik have escalated as well over the past fifteen years, in fact, a little over five years ago a single room at the Hotel Lero, with half-board, cost USD 14 00/night That same room now cost USD 37 00/night (although about 10 00 of that difference is due to moving the course from mid-March to mid-May) Thus a full two-week stay costs approximately 518, plus other daily expenses such as lunch Given rising costs, it would be well if, in the future, the UNESCO grant included sufficient funds at least to support the travel of ALL the course coordinators Furthermore the funds donated

by the HRCFS derived from an unexpected surplus in their yearly accounts, and will NOT be available in years to come

The other alternative is, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, a truly aggressive support of the annual Dubrovnik course by the entire Federation membership This would include a persistent hunting of funds from diverse sources to support attendance by scholars and students alike In this regard, all the course coordinators would like to vote a special Federation Presidential Medal of Merit, were such a thing to exist, to Prof Maria GUIDO, who with the assistance of a very determined student, Ms Guadalupe Mendoza, assembled close to 3,000 to support two scholarships for students from Texas A & I University (fortunately for the course, Ms Mendoza's subsequent application to the scholarship fund was accepted) This achievement is particularly noteworthy in that the money was raised by soliciting support from local businesspeople in amounts of 50 and 100 In the history of the Dubrovnik Futures Course, such activity by a professor in support of student participation is unprecedented It is ironic to note that Texas A & I cancelled Prof Guido's own funding to attend

#### Streaming Administration

Four course coordinators is too many The course requires a logistics coordinator to control actual administrative functions, such as resource person invitation, answering inquiries from prospective participants, and accepting, re-

viewing and disbursing scholarships These activities should be located in a single office, which also keeps grant records Disbursing responsibilities across half the planet and half a dozen people (coordinators and Federation executive officers) slows down communication when quick decisions are required, and furthermore leaves in question who actually has the final say in making decisions If democracy of input is desired, select a team of four or five course champions every year, chosen because of their special expertise in, and enthusiasm for, that year's topic, and let them help the course logistical coordinator by stirring up interest - and where possible, financial support At the most, only two other coordinators should be involved a Yugoslav scholar to serve as liaison with the IUC and host, and another professional to observe and record course activities and compile a final report, which would consist of the administrative record from the logistical coordinator, and a modest proceedings volume which would include the presentations and summarize the gist of the discussions

#### *Course participant list*

AHAMED, Uvais (Sri Lanka)  
BALLO, A ron (Romania)  
BURA, Cristina (Romania)  
CASTILLO, Sandra (USA)  
DUMITRASCU, Dan (Romania)  
ISOPESCU, Viorica (Romania)  
IVANENKO, Elena (USSR)  
IVANENKO, Vladimir (USSR)  
IVOS, Irma (Yugoslavia)  
JAVORSKY, Petr (Czechoslovakia)  
KEJAK, Michal (Czechoslovakia)  
KUSHEV, Kassimir (Bulgaria)

LJUTIC, Anton (Canada)  
 MENDOZA, Lupita (USA)  
 NANDY, Ashis (India)  
 PECUJLIC, Miroslav (Yugoslavia)  
 RADULESCU, Eleonora (Romania)  
 RAUT, Luminita-Mariana  
 (Romania)  
 RICHTEROVA, Vera  
 (Czechoslovakia)  
 RINER, Reed (USA)

SALMINEN, Leena-Maja (Finland)  
 SCHULTZ Wendy (USA)  
 SERRA, Jordi (Spain)  
 TICUDEAN, Mircea (Romania)  
 ZANEV, Svetoslav (Bulgaria)

For a more detailed workshop report, please contact Wendy Schultz via either the Office of the President, in Honolulu, or the Secretariat in Finland

## CULTURE OF THE FUTURE — FUTURE OF THE CULTURES

Merja Niemi

*The author took part in the Futures Studies 1991 Workshop in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia*

Things have changed dramatically since last May when I took part in a Future Workshop under the title "Cultures of the Future". Unfortunately the political situation was already then very tense and unpredictable, which led to a modest amount of participants. But despite of that it was more than easy to catch the spirit of inspired people eagerly discussing themes like "how to cope with alien cultures" or "what are the prospects for minority cultures".

Among the lecturers the most interesting ideas were presented by researchers JORDI SERRA, ASHIS NANDY and REED RINER. Jordi Serra represented a Catalanian point of view in the discussions of cultures of the future by strongly underlining the meaning and importance of the need to develop a wide cultural democracy. Accord-

16

Cultural sociologist Ashis Nandy from India concentrated on the historical development of the global culture. Culture is usually considered as a specific code or a model of social behavior which is collectively identified by the members of certain groups. Culture provokes the feeling of togetherness and strengthens the willingness to cooperate among the members of society. Nandy's idea for the future of cultures is comparable to a salad where all the foods can be tasted individually and appreciated on that basis or as part of the larger salad where all the foods combine to create a complementary whole.

American anthropologist Reed Riner laid the basis of an interesting workshop, which aimed to study the cultures of the future from a rather nonconventional

point of view. The workshop participants were divided in two groups, namely "the humans" and "the aliens". The humans were to imagine themselves working and living as scientists in a spacecraft. Those scientists were exploring space as an expedition in order to find out the possibility of some sort of lifeform in nearby planets and stars. The aliens were brainstorming to be able to decide what would be the space society most able to survive and be protected from the attacks of different hostile societies.

In all the meeting of culture oriented researchers and students was very unforgettable (so was the hassle with my luggage). It created such an atmosphere and spirit that I look forward to meeting everyone again in Barcelona in September.

### Meetings in Barcelona

16 Sept	FUTURES Editorial Committee meeting
16 Sept	Dubrovnik course course leaders meeting
16 Sept 2 pm	Executive Council preparatory meeting
17 Sept 1 pm - 5 pm	Executive Council meeting
21 Sept 1 pm	Executive Council meeting
18 Sept 9 am	WFSF General Assembly

17

## AGENDA

of the General Assembly of World Futures Studies Federation  
September 18, 1991 at 9 - 11 am.

The General Assembly has been called up in the Second Announcement of the Barcelona Conference which was mailed to the members in May, 1991

**1** Approval of the Agenda and amendments to it, calling the Minutes secretary

**2** Report of the Council by ELEONORA MASINI

**3** Report of the President by JIM DATOR

**4** Report of the Secretary General by PENTTI MALASKA

- Report on activities during 1990-1991
- Financial reports of the Office for 1990 and the first half of 1991
- Auditors report on financial matters and bookkeeping
- Budget for 1992 and prospects for 1993

**5** Report on the 1991 Dubrovnik course

- The 1991 course by WENDY SCHULTZ
- Plans for the 1992 course by LEENA-MAIJA SALMINEN
- The "Pacific Dubrovnik" plans by TONY STEVENSON

**6** Next officers of WFSF after 1992

Report by the Search Committee on candidates for President and Secretary General

**7** The XIII World Conference of WFSF in Finland in 1993

- Report by Auvo Sarmanto, Executive Manager of the National Organizational Committee
- Approval of the topic, site and dates
- Nomination of the International Committee of the conference, MIKA MANNERMAA reporting

**8** Proposals for Asian Regional Conference in 1992  
Pyongyang, Japan, Pakistan, Thailand

**9** The WFSF Statutes and by-laws  
A general discussion on the issue and needs of amendments

**10** Politics of WFSF on co-operation with other organizations

- Membership in other societies, and WFSF's interest in promoting and founding new associations in the field of futures research when requested
- General discussion on the issues

**11** Membership dues for 1992 and 1993

- Individual member's fee
- Institutional member's fee
- Subscription fee for the Newsletter to non-members

**12** Other matters

The members are kindly requested to make their proposals, if possible, well in advance to the Secretary General or to the President

### AGENDAS OF THE WFSF COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Meetings** September 16, at 2 pm, 17, at 1 pm (lunch) and at 5 pm - 7 30 pm,  
September 21 at 1 pm (lunch)

#### Barcelona Conference site

**1** Approval of calling up the Council meeting in due course and approval of the schedule of the meetings

**2** Approval of the Agenda and amendments to it

**3** Reports to the General Assembly by Eleonora Masini, Jim Dator, and Pentti Malaska

**4** Approval of the financial report on 1990-1991, the budget for 1992 and prospects for 1993

**5** Proposal for the Assembly for the the membership dues for 1992-1993

- Individual member's fee According to annual income

category above USD25,000 fee USD100, between USD10,000-25,000, fee USD50, below USD10,000, fee USD30

- Institutional member's fee suggestion USD300
- Subscription fee for the Newsletter to non-members suggestion USD50

**6** Dubrovnik courses

- Report on the 1991 course
- Plans for the 1992 course
- The "Pacific Dubrovnik" plans

**7** Next officers of WFSF after 1992  
Council's proposal to the assembly on measures of searching for and nominating procedures

**8** Conferences ahead

- The XIII World Conference in Finland in 1993, The International Committee
- The Asian regional conference in 1992

**9** Other matters

Some items may be postponed to the meeting in 21 September

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- Portrayal in Rio? Feb-12, 1992  
- European Center

**September 21 at 1 pm**

- 1 Recognizing of items left on the table in the previous meetings
- 2 Measures and items to be met by the Council according to the decisions by the General Assembly
- 3 Approval of the Agenda for this meeting

- 4 Report on the Barcelona conference  
By Felix Marti
- 5 Working on the other items of the Agenda
- 6 Other matters



*"Unesco Future Scan"*

Meeting of the Editorial Committee of Unesco Future Scan (UFS)

Barcelona September 16 1991 (one day)

**Composition of the Editorial Committee**

- Jim Dator (WFSF)
- Robert Jungk (International Futures Library)
- Mika Mannerman (WFSF)
- Michael Marien (World Future Society)
- Pierre Weiss (UNESCO)

Mrs Eleonora Masini (WFSF) will also be invited to participate in this first meeting of the Editorial Committee

**Agenda of the meeting**

- Harmonization of the contributions to FUTURESCO elaborated by the different members of the network
- Elaboration of the final version of the first issue of 'UNESCO Future Scan' (main topic EDUCATION)
- Adoption of the internal rules of the Editorial Committee



*PROXY*

I designate the person named here to be my Proxy during the WFSF General Assembly which will be held in Barcelona Spain on September 18, 1991

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print The Name!)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please also print your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place and Date

Please mail this immediately to the person you name as your Proxy

Note also that no person can hold more than three proxies and members other than the President and Secretary General should be designated

Thank you



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## TOPICS AND PROGRAM

*Chairs of a Plenary and Working Groups of the Barcelona World Conference describe their topics and work*

### Plenary

Plenary sessions have been organized around the themes as indicated in the program

*The Futures of Democracy and Participation in WFSF*

### **Ibrahim Abdel Rahman**

The Plenary Session on Wednesday September 18, 1991 will discuss "The Futures of Democracy and Participation in WFSF". About 10 members will form the panel. In addition, time should be allowed for about 5 contributions from the floor. Since the session will last 90 minutes it is suggested that each speaker will be allowed 5 minutes on average.

I may suggest that panelists may kindly write a short note (about 500 words) summarising their ideas. Such notes will be copied and hopefully made available to the panelists and possibly the audience in the session, or at least they may be summarised verbally by the chair in an introductory statement.

Panelists need not be bound to repeat those texts in their speeches, rather, they may wish to react to

other speeches on the spot. In conjunction with the organisers a volunteer rapporteur will be chosen, to help with preparing a summary of the discussions.

We are asked to look forward and not to dwell too much on the past. I suppose that in NGO's like WFSF, participation will be welcome to all concerned within the prevailing constraints of geographical dispersion and the usually limited financial resources. In all assemblies of WFSF, opportunity would be given for expression of views, criticism and comments. Smaller bodies of the organisation would approve work programmes, however leaving a considerable leeway as regards timing and other details to the executive officers to adjust according to actual circumstances. Information dissemination through letters and reports should help in creating contact and understanding amongst the membership, so as to build a feeling of "belonging and association". Each member, within his immediate reach can act as a center of furthering the message of the organisation, without reducing the responsibility of the elected officers.

Many other NGO's and official bodies cover the field of future studies

in their own right, and they are welcome to do so. However, the personal associations and direct contacts amongst members of WFSF, could help to establish an "esprit de corps" which will enhance the contribution from each one of them.

Democracy, therefore, by necessity will be through representation, and by direct expression and control in assemblies, in which "counter" views should be given all reasonable chances of being heard and discussed. In similar organisations, balloting by correspondence is followed. The difficulty here is that many members are dormant, and hence ballots received will be unduly few in number and rather unrepresentative.

Officers of NGO's are generally volunteers whose efforts, however much criticised, should always be appreciated. The rotation of officers would help to ensure fresh ideas and vigour, especially from youth. Yet some continuity is required, in addition to support and institutional back up, which is much needed.

The two pillars of liberal democracy are participation in decision making, including control on the executive, and personal liberties and freedoms, which respect the identity of the individual. In NGO's, the second pillar is automatically assured by voluntary association. The first however, as noted above, needs to be designed to suit the special nature of such organisations. For example, there will be no need to establish a form of a multiple party system, which

is basic in democratic national systems. Also, legislation would have to be assumed by the General Assembly in the form of establishing policy guide lines, and there will be no need for a separate judicial machinery. Certain traditions become established in time, such as geographical distribution and coverage in the directing bodies. In most cases, such rules need not be rigid, and usually they are never in writing.

In recent years within the WFSF, a number of new organisational features have been introduced in the form of ad-hoc groups - mini-Councils and others.

The panelists may wish to propose other measures. Flexibility in designing such bodies, and in their functioning will be always usefully noted.

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### Working Groups

#### *Governance*

#### **Tatu Vanhanen** (Finland)

The idea of this working group is to discuss the problems and prospects of democracy in different parts of the world focusing on the following questions

- Is the number of democracies increasing in the world, and in which parts of the world?

• What kind of democratic governance is emerging from the struggle for democracy and from crises of democracy?

• What strategies could be used in attempts to improve democracy and participation?

There will be several papers connected with the major themes of this working group, but other aspects of governance can also be discussed from the perspective of advancing democracy and participation. The number of papergivers may be approximately 15, but the themes and titles of all papers are not yet clear.

#### Economy

**Erzsebet Gidal** (Hungary)

Amongst the issues to be discussed by this group are, first of all, the transition to democracy in Eastern Europe, the chances for economic participatory democracy, and monetics as an instrument to improve democratic participation, secondly, country studies, including China's economy in relation to Asia-Pacific in the 1990s and the Estonian way to a market economy, thirdly, the effects of urban policy on the economic geography of large urban areas and the present and future situation in Chinese rural areas, and finally, company studies, including the influence of research, development, investment cost on the growth of specific profit in the chemical industry.

#### Communication

**Magda Cordell McHale** (USA)

For many years, futurists have understood that a major source of social change in the present and over the foreseeable future were new communication and information technologies. In many ways, the "future" described by futurists in the 50s and 60s is already here, at least for some sectors in some parts of the world. Even greater changes are likely as these technologies become more ubiquitous. But it is important now for us to consider the personal, social, and environmental impact of the even newer and emerging communication technologies which are currently under development, or might soon be, especially in terms of ways in which they might be used to change, enhance or restrict opportunities for participation and democracy in decisions of an individual or social concern.

Of course, not all problems of participation and democracy in communication are technologically based. Old inequities, privileges and silences persist and may be growing which seem to have no basis in new communication or information technologies at all. Or do they? These issues too will be considered by our group.

#### Youth

**Jordi Serra** (Catalonia)

Rather than having a formal "working group" structure, this

group is aimed at generating an "assembling-dispersing" dynamics. This will provide participants with a forum in which to discuss their opinions as well as having a general view of the Conference, while at the same time emphasizing a critical approach to the subject of the Conference from a youth point of view. This process could result in some kind of "Youth Parallel Conference".

The Youth Group is for people under 30 and older experts in youth questions.

#### Culture

**Eleonora Masini** (Italy)

On the basis of case studies presented by participants, this group intends to look at the following issues:

1. What place does democracy and participation occupy in different cultures?

2. Does contact with other cultures help or hinder the development of democracy and participation? Which cultures hinder or develop democracy and participation by coming into contact with other cultures?

3. What futures can we foresee for democracy and participation in a multicultural society? What consequences can we foresee from the indications emerging from point 2?

4. What actions could support democracy and participation in the different cultures and multicultures?

#### Environment, Science and Technology

**Margarita de Botero** (Columbia)

**Raimondo Cagliano** (Italy)

This group will organize its sessions around three main points:

1. The confrontation between extreme positions as regards population and health, and the past, present and future of these extremes as a result of past, present, and future decisions.

2. The progression from human survival to quality of life, from the struggle against mortality to the ageing of populations and the search for improved health and a better quality of life, the costs, the consequences of this progression and the implications of decisions in rich countries in respect to poor countries, the long-term implications of current decisions in demography and social order.

3. The role of education, information and modern orientations against the prevailing ideas of stationarity both in population and in social policies, a future-oriented approach against a conservative and stationary approach for a new international social equilibrium.

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The topics listed above should each be dealt with in accordance with the overall theme, *Advancing Democracy and Participation: Challenges for the Future*. Thus, in each instance, questions about the

future of democracy and participation should be foremost in the discussion. Historical and present matters and those not focussing on democracy and participation, should be minimized as much as possible

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*Futures Studies / Futures Research Tracks*

**Rick Slaughter** (Australia)

This group will look at the reasons why we study and/or teach Futures Studies and what it is we study and/or teach giving examples of concepts, methodologies, materials, etc., and then going on to discuss issues concerning the intellectual enterprise of futures studies and its current status. Following this we shall look at case studies from different countries and cultures and outlines of curricula and programmes.

On the last day we shall deal with the presentation of futures concepts and ideas and key constraints and how to tackle them.

- What is the potential of futures studies?

- Why is this potential still so far from being realized?

Review and overview - Summary of key ideas - Actions required

- Where do we go from here?

*Cutting Edge Ideas  
Finding a Path to a Positive Future*

**Allen Tough** (Canada)

A single four hour session on *Cutting Edge Ideas* will be held again this year at the world conference. It will explore a panorama of fresh and profound ideas that may have a significant impact within the field of futures studies and even beyond.

*Finding a Path to a Positive Future*

is the theme of another single session at the Barcelona conference. It is an exploration of the feasible paths, priorities, and agendas that are most likely to lead humanity to a reasonably positive future. ◊



**PROGRAM OF THE BARCELONA WORLD CONFERENCE**

*More detailed information will be available in the 3rd Announcement which will be mailed to the members in a few days*

**Monday, 16 September**

- 14,00h Meeting of the WFSF Executive Council  
Youth Hostel Marti Codolar
- 17,00h Tour of Barcelona
- 19,30h Reception at the Catalan Parliament
- 22,00h Return to hotels (by coach)

**Tuesday, 17**

- 07,30h Breakfast at hotels
- 08,00h Depart hotels for Bellaterra (by coach)
- 09,00h Official inauguration  
Speakers  
Josep M. Valles, rector of the Autonomous University of Barcelona  
Felix Marti, President of the Centre Catala de Prospectiva  
James Dator, President of the WFSF  
Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Director General of UNESCO
- 10,00h Welcoming concert  
Cor de Cambra del Palau de la Musica Catalana  
Director Mtre Jordi Casas
- 11,30h Plenary Session  
THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
Speakers  
Harlan Cleveland, CHAIR (USA)  
Margarita de Botero (Colombia)  
Jorge Alberto Lozoya (Mexico)  
Ashis Nandy (India)
- 13,00h Lunch  
Restaurant of the Faculty of Science

- 13,00h Meeting of the WFSF Executive Council  
 15,00h Working groups  
 17,00h Meeting of the WFSF Executive Council (cont )  
 19,00h Free working groups  
 20,00h Evening meal  
 Restaurant of the Faculty of Science  
 21,30h Catalan folk dances by the group 'Lesbart de Rubí',  
 at the Cerdanyola theatre 'L'Ateneu'  
 23 30h Return to hotels (by coach)

**Wednesday, 18**

- 07,30h Breakfast at hotels  
 08,00h Depart hotels for Bellaterra (by coach)  
 09,00h General Assembly of WFSF  
 09,00h (For non-WFSF-members)  
 Projection of documentaries on Catalan geography, history,  
 art and science  
 11,30h Plenary Session  
 THE FUTURES OF DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION IN THE WFSF  
 Ibrahim Abdel Rahman, CHAIR (Egypt)  
 Igor Bestuzhev-Lada (USSR)  
 Katrin Gillwald (Germany)  
 Rolf Homann (Germany)  
 Tony Judge  
 Robert Jungk (Austria)  
 Mika Mannermaa (Finland)  
 Michael Marien (USA)  
 Peter Mettler (Germany)  
 Wendy Schultz (USA)  
 Kaoru Yamaguchi (Japan)  
 13,00h Lunch  
 Restaurant of the Faculty of Science  
 15,00h Working groups  
 19,00h Free working groups

- 20,00h Coaches leave for the Palau de la Generalitat  
 21,00h Reception at the Palau de la Generalitat  
 23,00h Return to hotels (by coach)

**Thursday, 19**

- 07,30h Breakfast at hotels  
 08 00h Depart hotels for Bellaterra (by coach)  
 09,00h Working groups  
 11,30h Plenary Session  
 THE FUTURES OF DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION IN EVERYDAY  
 LIFE  
 Ana Maria Sandi, CHAIR (Romania)  
 Ricardo Diez Hochleitner (Spain)  
 Mihailo Markovic (Yugoslavia)  
 Eleonora Masini (Italy)  
 Godwin Sogolo (Nigeria)  
 Alvin Toffler (USA)  
 13,00h Lunch  
 Restaurant of the Faculty of Science  
 15,00h Working groups  
 19,00h Free working groups  
 20,00h Coaches depart  
 21,00h Option A  
 Reception at the TV3 television studios (Catalan Television)  
 Option B  
 Reception at the Catalan Institute for Mediterranean Studies  
 Presentation of the book *Catalunya 2010*  
 23,00h Return to hotels (by coach)

**Friday, 20**

- 07,30h Breakfast at hotels  
 08,00h Depart hotels for Bellaterra (by coach)



- 09,00h Leave Bellaterra for different cultural visits  
 Girona-Figueres  
 Montserrat-Sant Sadurn  
 Tarragona-Delte de l'Ebre  
 Sitges  
 Montseny  
 Lunch and evening meal served during outing
- 22 00h Arrival at hotels

**Saturday, 21**

- 07 30h Breakfast at hotels
- 08,00h Depart hotels for Bellaterra (by coach)
- 09,00h Presentation of final reports
- 13,00h Lunch  
 Restaurant of the Faculty of Science
- 13 00h Meeting of the WFSF Executive Council
- 15,00h Olympic tour
- 18,00h Plenary Session at the Llotja de Mar (Pla de Palau, Barcelona)  
 WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE FUTURES OF DEMOCRACY  
 AND PARTICIPATION  
 Speakers  
 Pentti Malaska, CHAIR (Finland)  
 Antonio Alonso (Mexico)  
 Marti Ohvella (Catalonia)  
 Jordi Serra (Catalonia)
- 19 00h Closing Session  
 Auvo Sarmento (Finland)  
 Felix Marti (Catalonia)  
 James Dator (USA)
- 20,00h Reception offered by the City Council
- 22 00h Participation in cultural activities of the Festes de la Merce
- 24,00h Return to hotels (by coach)

**Sunday, 22**

Departure

## — THE WFSF STATUTES AND BY-LAWS —

**A LETTER TO ALL WFSF MEMBERS**

Jim Dator

August 5, 1991

**Re** WFSF Statutes, By-laws, and Amendments

I know that many - perhaps most - members of the WFSF have never seen the Statutes and Bylaws of this organization. And yet the theme of the Barcelona World Conference which will be held only one month from the time I write is on the theme participation and democracy. One of the plenary sessions will be on this topic as it relates to the Federation itself.

Since much of the operation, and mystery, of the Federation is based on the Statutes and By-laws as amended, I have asked that they be sent to all members. I ESPECIALLY HOPE THAT MEMBERS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING BARCELONA WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO READ OVER THEM, AND THIS MEMO, BEFORE THE PLENARY DEVOTED TO THE WFSF IS HELD.

There are many things to be said about the Statutes, By-laws and amendments. Let me highlight a few

**1** They are the basis of everything the President, Secretary General, and Executive Council do. Understanding the Statutes and By-laws will help you understand why we do some of the things we do.

**2** The Statutes, By-laws and amendments are very hard to understand. In some areas they are vague and incomplete. In other areas they are internally contradictory. In both of those areas, the Council and General Assembly has over the years developed a customary way of acting which may not be explicitly stated in the Statutes and By-laws but have become a kind of "common law" for us.

**3** Some things expected by the Founders have changed over time. One of the most important is that the WFSF was set up initially as a loose federation of futures research organizations, with individual membership also permitted. Still, it seems that primacy was given to organizations over individuals. This still holds to some extent today. Many of our new members are organizations, not individuals. However, many other members today probably view the WFSF as something

individuals join This has been a source of some confusion and tension within the Federation

**4** One of the most important features of the WFSF from the beginning is that it is registered as an international organization in accordance with French Law A French National must represent us and file reports on our activities as French Law requires Any amendments to the existing Statutes and Bylaws also must be made and reported accordingly This is a major reason why after 1978 we resorted to "common law" practices rather than formally amending our Statutes and By-laws

**5** It is probably time to reconsider the structure and operation of the WFSF and to bring desired practice and formal statutes into harmony Though that will not be easy given the present Statutes and By-laws, it certainly is not impossible, if our members are able to state clearly both what they prefer and what they are willing actually to facilitate in terms of practice and structure

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#### STATUTES OF WFSF

Final text of the charter as adopted at the conference in Paris, May 26 1973, jointly called by the Continuing Committee World Future Research Conferences and Futuribles Association Internationale

Established in conformity with French legislation loi du 1er juillet 1901 together with decret - loi du

12 avril 1939 concerning "associations dites étrangères"

Published Journal Officiel 25 août 1974, p 8902

#### Preamble

After three World Future Research Conferences in Oslo 1967, Kyoto 1970 and Bucharest 1972 it is felt all over that ideas, hopes, proposals and commitments coming from future studies need a new organizational frame, which shall be named "World Future Studies Federation" (WFSF) As a federation, it is designed to make cooperative participation in future studies addressed to social and human needs possible and mutually fruitful The main objective of future studies is to introduce critical future oriented thinking in all branches of knowledge and action

Studying the future has become a necessity for everyone and is a growing practice in decision-making The conference of this challenge is apparent in the Bucharest Declaration of September 10, 1972 which defines the basic principles of future oriented thinking and its application

#### § 1

**1 1** The adherents of the statutes presented herewith have founded an association in conformity with the French law of 1st of July 1901 with the official name (denomination sociale) *World Futures Studies Federation/Federation Mondiale pour les Etudes sur le Futur* (in short WFSF)

WFSF has been set up for a period of two years beginning with the publication of the present status in the Journal Officiel de la Republique Francaise During this period, the General Assembly of WFSF will proceed with the necessary changes of the aforesaid status with the objective to secure an unlimited duration of WFSF

**1 2** WFSF has its seat in Paris, 7th arrondissement, 52 rue de Varenne

**1 3** The purpose of the Federation is to promote and encourage future studies and to promote innovative interdisciplinary and critical thinking among all peoples

The federation intends to fulfill this purpose by

- serving as a forum for exchange of information and opinions thus stimulating cooperative research activities in all fields of future research
- planning and carrying out regional and international Future Research Conferences
- promoting democratization of future oriented thinking
- stimulating awareness for the urgent need of institutionalized future studies to resolve the future problems of the world
- assisting national and international future research activities

**1 4** The Federation should guarantee a complete liberty in the activities and discussions of its members, among them and with the Federation To further this goal, the Federation will seek close cooperation with educational, scientific, cultural, artistic and other institutions, associations and orga-

nizations in all fields of future studies especially within the United Nations

#### § 2

Means of action of the WFSF will be those which have been laid down in the French law of 1st of July 1901, and especially, without the list being considered as closed such as periodic news bulletins, diverse publications, conferences and seminars expositions fairs, contests, future studies prizes awards etc

#### § 3 - Membership

**3 1** Members of the Federation comprise of

- founder members
- institutions engaged in future studies as associated members after agreement by the bureau and fixing of a yearly membership fee
- qualified individual members with full voting rights according to § 5, 5 3 as active members
- affiliate members with consulting vote according to § 6, 6 7
- honorary members with consulting vote according to § 6 6 7

**3 2** The founder members are the following

- Serge ANTOINE, (Ministere de l'Environnement et de la Nature, Paris)
- Pavel APOSTOL, (Comite National Roumain pour les Etudes du Futur, Bucarest)
- Andre-Clement DECOUFLE (Association Internationale Futuribles, Paris)
- Paul HANNAPPE, (Association Plurilingue de Sciences Regionales de l'Europe du Nord-Ouest)
- Bertrand de JOUVENEL, (As-

sociation Internationale Futuribles, Paris)

- Eleonora MASINI, ( Istituto Ricerche Applicate Documentazione e Studi - IRADES, Roma)

- Peter MENKE-GLUCKERT, (Bundesministerium, Bonn)

- Pierre PIGANIOL, (Association Internationale Futuribles, Paris)

These persons constitute the provisional bureau of WFSF until the meeting of the first General Assembly

**3 3** Prospective members are invited to join the Federation by ending a written application, including credentials and a list of major publications and future research activities, to the Executive Board of the Federation. If a member is rejected he can put his case to the General Assembly. The General Assembly decides finally by a simple majority

**3 4** The Council proposes for decision by the General Assembly the amount of yearly membership fees according to the different categories of members. The Council also decides on admission of affiliated and honorary members who can participate in General Assemblies with consulting vote

#### § 4

**4 1** Membership ends with death (in case of institutional members by dissolution, resignation of membership and expulsion)

**4 2** A member can be expelled by a two-thirds majority of the members meeting. The member concerned must be given an opportunity to explain his case

**4 3** Membership expires with failure to pay membership fees for two subsequent budget terms

**4 4** The interpreting by-laws of the Federation apply accordingly

#### § 5 - Bodies for decision making

Decision making bodies of the Federation are

- General Assembly of all members
- Council
- Executive Board

#### § 6 - General Assembly

**6 1** General Assemblies take place when necessary, but at least once every two years. They have to be convened if requested by the Council. The chairman of the Council invites the general assembly in writing, supplying an agenda within three months advance notice

**6 2** General Assemblies have the power to pass decisions on all Federation matters

**6 3** Tasks of the general assemblies are especially

- a) election of the chairman of the Council
- b) election of the council for a term of 4 years and its dismissal
- c) approval and discussion of reports of the Council
- d) fixing of membership dues
- e) discussion and approval of the two-year-budget of the Federation
- f) election of two auditors to present an Examiner's Report on the financial books

g) amendments and changes of the charter, which require a three quarters majority of all members

h) approval of the by-laws of the Federation

i) expulsion of members according to § 4, 4 2

**6 4** Voting rights will be determined in the by-laws. No decision is valid with all institutional members voting against a motion or abstaining. No more than three votes can be transferred to one member

**6 5** Decisions should strive for unanimity. No decision can be taken without at least a two-thirds majority

**6 6** Proceedings of General Assemblies have to be recorded and must be signed by the chairman of the General Assembly

**6 7** Affiliate and honorary members have consulting votes. They can make proposals with regard to issues for the agenda and persons to be elected

#### § 7 - Council

**7 1** The Council is the main decision making body of the Federation between General Assemblies. § 5 applies accordingly

**7 2** The Council consists of a maximum of 50 persons, comprising an adequate balance between

a) representatives of future research member institutions proposed by the Executive Board and elected by the General Assembly, and

b) individual scholars from all fields of future studies proposed by national and international re-

search associations and elected by the General Assembly

**7 3** The Council has the following tasks

a) to elect the Executive Board among its members and direct its work

b) to promote workshops, regional future research conferences and world future research conferences

c) to provide a forum for discussion on problems of the future

d) to encourage and assist the foundation of future studies centers

e) to prepare the by-laws of the Federation and submit them for approval to the General Assembly

f) all tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly

**7 4** The Chairman of the Council is the President of the Federation. The Council meets according to necessity but at any rate during World Future Research Conferences. The Council must decide in principle at the end of each World Future Research Conference on the date and place of the next World Conference

#### § 8 - Executive Board

**8 1** The Executive Board consists of a maximum of 15 members. Its term of office will be defined in the by-laws. The members serve on an honorary basis

**8 2** The Executive Board is responsible for the entire work of the Federation within the framework set by the General Assembly, the Council and the by-laws. It prepares and carries out the working

programme of the Federation It can be supported in its functions by a secretariat and special committees

**8 3** The Executive Board elects its chairman from among its members and the secretary general from among the members of the Federation by simple majority

**8 4** The executive Board can grant exemptions from payment of membership dues

#### **§ 9 – Secretariat**

The functions and responsibilities of the secretariat mentioned in § 7, 7 2 shall be provisionally defined in the by-laws pending the approval of the definite charter

#### **§ 10**

**10 1** Expenses must be authorized by the President or the two-year-budget of the Federation

**10 2** WFSF will be represented generally and also in all acts of a legal nature by the President or the Secretary General

**10 3** The representative of WFSF must be in possession of his powers according to civil law He must be of French nationality

#### **§ 11**

**11 1** Deliberations of the Council in relation to acquisition, exchange and sale of property necessary to meet the objectives of WFSF, also constituting mortgages exceeding

nine years, alienation of estates belonging to the reserve funds or loans must be submitted to the General Assembly for ratification

**11 2** Deliberations of the General Assembly in relation to alienation of estates will only be effective as far as the administrative authorities concerned have given its approval

#### **§ 12 – Dissolution**

Dissolution of the association needs a three quarters vote of all members In this case the net assets of the Federation must be transferred to a scientific institution in the field of future studies

#### **§ 13**

In conformity with article 22 of the French law of 1st of July 1901, the charter of WFSF is subject to approval of the French Ministry of the Interior

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#### **BY-LAWS OF WORLD FUTURES STUDIES FEDERATION**

#### **§ 1**

The by-laws interpret the statutes for the purpose of facilitating membership participation in activities and formal proceedings of WFSF decision-making bodies

#### **§ 2**

The Credentials Committee reports in writing to General Assemblies regarding membership develop-

ment including candidates for the Scientific Council Prospective members are in principle invited to join the Federation by sending a written application, including credentials and a list of major publications and future research activities Applications have to be sent to the Secretariat of WFSF, which in turn informs the Executive Committee and the Credentials Committee If there is no objection by the Credentials Committee within four weeks the applicant will be considered a full member, and must be informed accordingly by the Secretary General

#### **§ 3**

After having paid membership fees, every members receives a membership card which entitles him to vote in General Assemblies

#### **§ 4**

Every member may give his authority to other members not exceeding three to vote on his behalf in General Assemblies As far as possible voting sheets must be prepared by the Secretary General to enable absent members to participate in decisions of General Assemblies and all decision-making bodies of WFSF Voting sheets, questionnaires and other polling techniques should be used as much as possible to ensure the widest participation of all members in all proceedings and activities of WFSF

#### **§ 5**

Lapsing of membership must be announced in a circular letter to

all members quoting the related provision in the statutes

#### **§ 6**

General Assemblies can elect an Assembly Chairman when appropriate General Assemblies can decide to elect a Secretary General and other members of the Secretariat Votes are cast by secret ballot if not decided otherwise by the General Assembly

o o o

#### **Add § 7**

The term of the Executive Board is for two years Meetings are chaired by the President of WFSF Minutes will be taken by the Secretary General

#### **Add § 8**

The membership of the Scientific Council should include approximately 40 members from institutions and 20 individual members

#### **Add § 9**

Proposals for candidates for the Scientific council must be sent via the Secretary General to the President of WFSF Candidates representing an institution must produce a letter testifying that the candidate represents the institution

o o o

[IN ADDITION, there are the following statements on page 15 of

the minutes of the WFSF General Assembly, September 18, 1978, held in Cairo, Egypt]

[Quote]

The General Assembly agreed to revise the Statute of the Organization and to keep only one institutional organ in addition to the General Assembly and that is the Executive Council. It was decided to transform the Scientific Council into a network of Scientific Advisors to be selected by the Executive Council and which would automatically include the founding members of the WFSF (See report by the Credential Committee)

[End of Quote]

[The report by the Credential Committee is found between pages 7 and 10 of the same minutes. Members of the Committee were S ANTOINE and S GHABBOUR. The portions relevant to the statutes is found on pages 9 and 10. They are quoted in full with possible interpretations of some of the words in brackets.]

[Quote]

'2 About institutions

2.1 The Committee points out that a certain confusion concerning the Scientific Council came out. Actually WFSF constitution is as follows

- A sovereign Assembly
- A Council, composed by less than 50 members, elected by the Assembly (it has at present 22)
- An Executive Committee (less than 15 members)

- 1 President
- Several Vice-Presidents
- The Secretary General
- The Treasurer

• Eventually some other people to be added to these two last

• A secretariat it is the part of Executive Committee which assures permanent tasks under President's authority

It points out that election in Assembly concerns the Council

About this and in order to clarify the situation, it has been proposed that Assembly underlines that it votes for the Council that it does not exist, outside the Council, any other "Scientific Council". The by-laws contains, by mistake, a reference to a "Scientific Council" different from the Council. It has to be rectified. Art 9 read 'the Council' and not "the Scientific Council". Art 2, eliminate the word "scientific" at the second line

The brochure about the Federation should be modified because it mentions 50 names from a scientific Council. It is the first Council elected in Paris 1973 which doesn't exist any longer. These 50 persons can, nevertheless, be considered as scientific advisors.

It has been proposed the creation in the by-laws of a net of scientific advisor. The by-laws will declare 'the Executive Committee will be able to consider individually on [or?] in group, some scientific advisors chosen among a list issued by the Council'

2.2 Waiting for eventual constitutive modifications (but the Committee is aware that institutional modifications must be submitted to practical and orientation modifications and limited to the essential ones). It has been proposed to

retain 5 modifications in the by-laws

1 the possibility, on proposal of Executive Committee, for the President to apply to vote by mail between two Assemblies

2 The modification of Art 6 which is contrary to the spirit of the Statutes, General Assembly should not normally elect the Secretary General who is elected by the Council

3 Second line is to be abolished

4 The 1st and the 3rd sentences of Art 6 remain the same

5 Modification of Art 8. Read "the members of the Council should possibly be 2/3 of the members representing forecasting organizations"

6 Finally a new article should state that "Candidatures to Council can be taken into account only

for those members who have carried out at least one year activity

"Nevertheless the Assembly can exceptionally give the President and Executive Council a commission to keep a candidature between two Assemblies, under reserve of its ratification by next assembly"

At [As?] to application of Status [Statutes], the Credential Committee has no particular remarks. It notes nevertheless the absence of appointment, inside itself, by Executive Board, of treasurer. It would equally recommend to proceed to appointment of joint secretaries General or Treasurers, but maybe distances make this disposition useless.

[End of quotation from Minutes of the WFSF 1978 General Assembly in Cairo Egypt] ◇

### *Call for Co-operation*

Institute of Sociology Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Kiev USSR is looking for contacts and co-operation with all organizations and institutions interested in mutual profitable scientific projects

The main research themes of the Ukrainian institute are

- methodology and methods of the applied sociological research
- sociology of market, economic reforms
- social psychology
- dynamics of social structures social programs of information society
- ethno-sociology, etc

In addition to possible mutual research projects the Institute is interested in information supply and exchange programs and academic training exchange and courses

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## NEWS AND REFLECTIONS

Some members expressed in the previous issue of the Newsletter their deep repugnance against publishing the declaration called *The Alger Manifesto about the Future of Islam*. I feel, however, that this declaration was important enough to have been published earlier this year and to inform all our members of it

I was shocked by it and felt terrified by its aggressiveness and readiness to violence. I also thought that it is of ultimate im-

portance to learn better of the Islamic futures thinking through discussion in the Newsletter. And, furthermore, I was convinced that many other non-Islamic members would share my interest in that

I am most pleased that in this issue this comes true when we have a very wise response to the manifesto by Ziauddin Zardar at our disposal

**Pentti**

### THE ALGER MANIFESTO ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ISLAM A RESPONSE

Ziauddin Sardar

While agreeing with a number of points made in *The Alger Manifesto About the Future of Islam* (Newsletter, January 91, pp 35-37), I cannot help noticing that it betrays four basic characteristics which, regrettably, are common amongst any collection of Muslim intellectuals

The first is shortsightedness which has its origins not in myopia but in a tendency towards arrogance. The Manifesto begins by telling us that the first conference concerning the future of Islam was held in Algiers on 4-7 May 1990. In fact, over the last two decades there have been at least a dozen international conferences on the

future of Islam. For the sake of record, let me mention only three. One of the earliest was *The Muslim World and the Future Economic Order*, organised by the Islamic Council of Europe and held in London during 4-7 July 1977. It played host to almost everyone who was anyone in the Muslim intellectual scene and had some 500 participants. The book based on the conference (with the same title) is regarded as a landmark in the field. There have been a number of international conferences under the general title *Islam in the Future* in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. The first of these *The Kuala Lumpur Conference on the Future of the Ummah* (ummah being the international Muslim community) was held on 19-21 July 1987, the latest is being hosted by the International Islamic University as I write these lines (2-4 May 1991). One of the biggest and most noted futures conferences was held in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, during 11-15 October 1987, under the title *Dawa and Development in the Muslim World The Future Perspective*. Attended by over a thousand participants, and sponsored by the Muslim World League, it produced three highly acclaimed books: *Today's problems, Tomorrow's Solutions The Future Structure of Muslim Societies* edited by Abdullah Omar Naseef (1988), *Beyond Frontiers Islam and Contemporary Needs* edited by Meryll Wyn Davies (1990), and *An Early Crescent The Future of Knowledge and The Environment in Islam* edited by myself (1989) (all three published by Cassell, London).

The second characteristic is a total lack of awareness of what is hap-

pening elsewhere in the Muslim intellectual and academic circles. This is a product of the isolationist enclaves – often with puritan and nationalist underpinnings, a straitjacket which is suffocating Muslim intellectuals everywhere. The Manifesto betrays no knowledge of the fact that a reasonably established field of Islamic future studies already exists. It goes under two rubrics. The first is 'Islamization of Knowledge', a worldwide intellectual and scholarly movement that aims to cast Islamic disciplines into futuristic moulds. Initiated by the Washington-based International Institute of Islamic Thought, the *Islamization of knowledge* -project has produced a vast body of literature. Much of this literature focuses on intellectual and physical reforms necessary in the Muslim world for its future survival. The second is 'Islamic futures' and is based on my two books, *The future of Muslim Civilization* (1979, 1987) and *Islamic Futures The Shape of Ideas to Come* (1985) (both published by Mansell, London).

These two characteristics betrayed by the 'Alger Manifesto' are of minor importance. The remaining two, however, can have serious consequences on the future of the Muslim people.

There is the joint tendency, on the one hand, to see conspiracies everywhere, and on the other, to blow problems out of all proportions. Neither Zionism nor the treatment of Muslims in the West are 'conspiracies', and Zionism does not threaten the existence of Arab-Islam totally, let alone 'the whole of mankind'. And what is

happening in South Sudan is by no means a threat to the existence of Arab Islam in Africa' Quite apart from unsavoury nationalism of such sentiments (expressed by equating Islam with Arabism), they betray a paranoia that stems from a serious lack of confidence in one's cultural identity and political and intellectual abilities Zionism presents a political challenge to Muslims - a challenge that can be met with equal political acumen from the Muslim side Similarly, the problems in the Sudan are quite amenable to political solution, the civil war is a result of political inaptitude and administrative mismanagement

Then there is the business of pieties, the 'Manifesto' is saturated with pious sentiments it asks Muslims to unite, to preserve the 'purity' of Arabic language, to revive Islamic values, et cetera We have been hearing such sentiments for the last two hundred years But no one has bothered to tell us how are we to implement these sentiments How are Muslims going to unite? They have clearly failed to unite on the basis of (Arab) nationalism even on the basis of religion So what form is the unity of Muslims to take? What needs to be done to revive human values in Muslim societies?

The banality of such pious statements is demonstrated by point 6 of the 'Manifesto' Underdevelopment in many areas of life and thinking', its states with a sense of real discovery, 'retards the rise of Muslim community and prevents its path towards the future So that the future shall be better, the community must get rid of political, economical, industrial scientific, technological, social, and cultural underdevelopment' Great idea! So how are we to do *exactly that*? Simply stating pieties, without thought to pragmatic policies, has a cleansing psychological effect, but it has a devastating impact on the future it confuses expression of pious sentiments with real effort and practical action and thus leaves the future unchanged

Futuristic thought and action is not an easy task It requires serious intellectual and physical effort Judging from the amount of thought and pragmatism one can detect in the 'Manifesto', I am forced to conclude that a group of Arab Muslim friends and acquaintances (with nationalistic and puritan tendencies) got together one week-end decided to label themselves *The First Conference on Islamic Futurology*, and published an uncooked Manifesto'

Who could take such a Manifesto' seriously? ◇

*Construction Beyond 2000*  
— *Future of Construction* —  
*Construction of the Future*

June 15-18, 1992  
Espoo, Finland

#### Themes

- 1 General Global and Local Megatrends
- 2 Development of Construction Resources
- 3 Cities and Other Constructed Areas of the Future
- 4 Buildings of the Future
- 5 The Construction Process in the Future
- 6 Session of Euroconstruct Short-Term Forecasts of Construction

#### Aim

At present there are fundamental on-going developmental processes both on the regional and on the global level These are for instance the transition from industrial to information society the increasing complexity of global systems accelerating technological progress decreasing population in developed countries strong population growth and urbanization in developing countries increasing environmental problems demands for sustainable development regional integration and internationalization All these phenomena create enormous challenges and opportunities for housing building and planning To be capable of making the right long-term choices, the construction field needs qualified future-oriented studies and thinking In its first international symposium CIM W82 will gather leading experts from all over the world for discussion on the long-term development of construction

The symposium is intended both for the construction field (e.g. managers of the construction industry authorities planners) and the scientific world (e.g. researchers, scientists teachers) as well as for policy makers (e.g. housing and construction ministers) who are dealing with long-term strategic decisions and plans in the field of construction housing building and planning

#### Organizer

International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation (CIB)  
Commission CIB W82 Futures Studies in Construction

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## WFSF POLICY PLAN TOWARDS DEVELOPING THE HUMAN RESOURCE

Satish C Seth

From the current issue of the Newsletter I have noted that the WFSF's relations with UNESCO are moving beyond the customary practice of receiving Grants in Aid for our Bi-annual meets. Here, I feel, that we need seriously reflect on, whether we should devote our energies in merely adding to the Data-Base and embellishing the Bibliography, something which is already being done by others, including the UNESCO, or should we use the UNESCO's auspices to put in our extra energy, in different countries to undertake the Human Resource Development (HRD) activity in the field of Futures Studies.

I will readily concede the fact that it is not an either or, issue or question, nevertheless, I will be candid in saying that somehow WFSF's meetings are being more disproportionately concentrated towards discussing issues for which several 'Foras' exist, besides the unduly honoured status, being accorded to people who have contributed precious little on the grass-root level in different countries.

In my view, the key task that WFSF should concentrate more upon, amongst other things, is taking such steps which may

inspire and motivate human thought. Perhaps, the starting point for this is a well planned entry into the education system of every country, in order to receive the due National and International recognition to make Futures Studies integral and acceptable to every country. In my view, therefore, the WFSF has the twin purpose of generating empirical research and thought on the one hand and on the other hand of developing the Human Resource, towards analytical and Long Range viewing of social, economic, technological and political perspectives of local, national and global change.

As JIM DATOR himself wrote some-time back, the task of Futures Studies lies in understanding and furthering 'images of yesterday' vis-a-vis the 'images of tomorrow' for a larger social change.

In concrete terms, I suggest that UNESCO auspices be used more towards futurising school and college education. We could therein entrust to the leading Futurists within the WFSF fold or to outsiders a task to develop meaningful documentation, which can be sold through UNESCO on subsidised rates, or, by the WFSF directly, if UNESCO so deems it fit.

° ° °

You will be happy to know that having spent two decades in making legitimate and duly recognised inroads into the Indian Educational system at the University and the College levels, from this year the ICMF through its 'Centre for Innovation and Social Change' have now launched a project, '*Futurising School Education*'. Herein we are working at two levels.

I) To seek a new School Educational Policy whereby Future oriented learning Modules could be added to the Current Formal School Education. In fact, here, for this Indian experiment, we would like to draw benefit from the advise and educational material, if any, from members of the WFSF FAMILY or from UNESCO.

As you are aware yourself of the various structured bureaucracies

it is not so easy to sell any new ideas to educational bureaucracy, in any country, including Europe and the USA.

II) The second step we have taken is to develop 21st Century Camps of 3 or 5 days duration. In a way, these camps would try to do, at the field level, what the PREP 21 network is trying to achieve globally, or what 'cutting edge ideas' discussions are perhaps doing at the 'elitist intellectual level' (hopefully).

You will be further glad to know that we are also busy setting up in Futures Studies a 'Correspondance course for teachers and long range planners'. I suggest that WFSF should seriously think of supporting more DUBROVNIKS. A very large world still lives beyond Europe and North America. ◇

ICMF's  
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announces

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#### Further information

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## BOOKS AND ARTICLES

### CALL FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Rolf Homann

#### *Cross Cultural Dialogue*

*World Futures The Journal of General Evolution* Vol 28 Numbers 1-4 Gordon and Breach Science Publishers 1990

How many times have we repeated ourselves – we live in a world of great changes, but we fail to see very clearly the direction these changes are taking, and we are unable to classify their manner. It could have something to do with the fact that we are so disoriented in the environment in which we live that we do not recognize exactly which point we are at. Are we really situated in an industrial society, are we on the point of leaving it, or are we already in a new era, of whose rules and speech we have but an inkling, in which our attempts at clarification falter, in which our speech and knowledge are still bound by previous modes of perception?

We must certainly make a decision, depending upon which culture, in which political and economic situation we find ourselves. There are states and societies today which stand on the threshold of industrialization, again there are others which are in the middle of such a process and – there we

are exactly at the initial observation, exactly at this point we cannot judge where we stand

When we establish that this enormous culture production and the still more enormous culture consumption are taking place, we should ask ourselves where lies the spiritual framework which allows us to orientate ourselves in this "new" world, maybe once again to reintroduce a meaning to it all

As the last two centuries were characterized by a balance of interests between capital and social movements, some would even say socialism, so is this conquest of conflict also at an end. Those values invested in social movement mostly found their origins in work. Moreover, this did not commence in the era of industrialization. Hamurabi and the Bible tell us in different words that only he who works shall eat. The related unending sadness of the bent and demoralized workers and farmers promises to end, as the drudgery of production does not end but seems to promise to become more moderate. More and more power is released, applied to cultural production in its broadest

sense, or is debased to a pure consumer of culture. We cannot stay silent. The other new Utopia, of simple vision, must now be developed, so that a conflict can be established, between capital and the majority of the population, which promises to cause fruition, which leaves us with hope, hope for the survival of both. The cultural emancipation of the classical worker, who is already beginning to lose his classical worker role, who is becoming multifunctional, who is at the same time producer, wine-grower, independent and employee, who will develop this vision of cultural emancipation – if only in the interests of his own survival

Intercultural dialogue is one of the instruments of cultural emancipation, how many types of communication can be employed here as an instrument, for good as well as bad ends. In our world, in which – from time to time and with relative lateness – even politicians and top managers have learned that means of force, of physical or of psychic category, do not offer any adequate solutions for the future, we cannot avoid searching for new methods for solving conflicts (let us hope that the tragic differences between Iran and Iraq are the last, the very last relics). These solutions must promise at the same time to recognize and solve conflicts, to create new ones, without one of the other being injured in their postulated invulnerability. We think that the search for dialogue forms is a way which promises not only to help the present. Here there are elements at hand which promises not only to help the present. Here there are elements at hand which

anticipate the future form of coexistence and production

These collected contributions of the book are no final truths, they are nothing more than initial ideas, half-baked attempts to approach dialogue behavioral forms. They are the result of a three day seminar at the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute in 1985, which was organized together with the World Future Studies Federation. The contributions were partially revised several times but naturally there will be further revision. We are publishing these papers because we wish to advance with the dialogue for its own sake, as we believe that only the consequent further pursuit of intercultural dialogue gives us the chance of human survival.

An article by the unforgettable Romesh Thapar is being published at the same time, so that we may say a last farewell to him, who remains in the memories of all friends, both in the World Future Studies Federation and elsewhere

o o o

Recent papers written by LINDA GROFF are available

*The Information revolution. Global restructuring Trends* WFSF Conference Budapest Hungary May 1990

*Global Unity and Diversity. Creating Tolerance for Cultural, Religious and National Diversity in an Interdependent World* Third International Conference on "Building Understanding and Respect Between People of Diverse Religions or Beliefs" New Delhi India January 1991

*Intercultural Communication. An Aid for Increased Understanding and Communication in an Interdependent World* Second Global Conference on Science technology

Economy and Society Shanghai China  
April 1991

NOTE The first three articles  
above should all be published as  
conference proceedings

*Intercultural Communication and Con-  
sciousness Reflections on the theme of  
Global Unity and Diversity* for the  
SIETAR-Japan Newsletter Spring 1991

(SIETAR = Society for International Edu-  
cation Training and Research - a profes-  
sional organization committed to the  
study of intercultural communication )

*The Post Cold War Era Towards a New  
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process)

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ISBN 0-8191-8275-3

## - YIELDS FROM CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS -

### ALTERNATIVE FUTURES FOR EASTERN EUROPE

#### A REPORT BY

Jim Dator

In many ways, the WFSF Regional  
Conference, held in Sofia,  
Bulgaria, June 3-6, 1991, was the  
most successful conference the  
WFSF has ever held. And we have  
had some excellent ones, as well  
as some less successful, over the  
past two decades.

The theme of the Conference was  
*"Alternative Futures For Eastern  
Europe"*. The title on the cover of  
the printed program said, *"Eastern  
Europe's Building Bridges for a  
Common Future"*. And ALEXANDER  
TOMOV, the main organizer of the  
Conference, wrote an introduction  
to the Conference in the program  
titled, *"Between Budapest and  
Barcelona Heading Towards a  
New World"*. Here is what Tomov  
wrote:

"Almost a year ago in Budapest we  
decided to organize a regional  
conference in Sofia just between  
the two consecutive world  
conferences.

"Between Budapest and Barcelona,  
the futurists will meet to face the  
problems of the most dynamic part  
of the modern world - the  
countries from Eastern Europe.

"This fact is really remarkable!

Firstly, because we turn towards  
the trends and problems, the  
successes and the worries, of more  
than 300 million people, and  
secondly, because we begin to  
understand better the global re-  
structuring of the world map.

"For us, the futurists in Bulgaria,  
the conference is of particular im-  
portance. The fact that it is being  
held in Sofia speaks for the confi-  
dence in our future science, the  
world-wide recognition of  
Bulgaria's belonging to a demo-  
cratic and civilized world."

"Let our meeting become a new  
bridge across all people and  
countries - for a democratic,  
multicultural, polycentric and  
pluralistic world!"

Such was the challenge and the  
hope placed on the Conference by  
Alexander Tomov, the person  
primarily responsible for  
organizing it. So, by what criteria  
do I judge it to have been success-  
ful?

By three organization and  
administration (both before and  
during the Conference), focus on  
the future rather than the present  
or the past (by the organizers, but

especially by the participants), and probable positive impact (on the lives of everyone directly involved in the Conference, but especially on the community - local and regional - which was both the host and object of the meeting)

### 1 Organization

One of the main activities of the WFSF is organizing and conducting local, regional, and world conferences. Such conferences and the global futures clearing-house function which is best represented by the WFSF Newsletter written and published by the Secretariat, consume most of our time and attention. We (or, more properly speaking for myself, I) feel good when a conference in which we have invested a great deal of thought and effort goes well. And I feel quite despondent when it does not. I am especially happy when the local organizers of a conference are able to arrange and carry out a successful meeting with only minimal guidance - or interference - from the WFSF international organizing committee.

This was certainly the case in Sofia! While I (and I assume the rest of the International Committee) was kept fully informed of developments, and participated in most major decisions, Alexander Tomov and his colleagues arranged everything in accordance with our wishes with only the minimum of external direction.

But I did not find that surprising in the least. That is exactly what I expected. Some of you may

recollect that I visited Bulgaria, at the invitation of Dr Tomov, in May 1989 - before the Fall of the Wall, if you will. In the WFSF Newsletter of July 1989 I wrote that "I spent twenty hours, over several days, with members of an extraordinary research group which Dr Tomov has assembled to develop a computer-based model for studying the future political and economic development of Bulgaria." "It is impossible for me to overemphasize the openness, intensity, and intelligence of all of these meetings." I listed the names of the fifteen members of Tomov's research group, and of five other persons with whom I had held lengthy discussions. (By the way, it was gratifying to see so many of these same people actively participating in our Regional Conference in 1991. I believe it demonstrates that I was correct in my judgement about their "openness, intensity, and intelligence.")

The meetings were held in the huge (and I mean H U G E) National Palace of Culture in the heart of Sofia. Every detail of organization was taken care of from overhead projectors to coffee. Esthetically, the interior of the building was striking also, especially (I would say) the mural in the plenary meeting room. Many participants also were amazed at the style and content of a video especially prepared for the Conference titled, "*The Waves of Change*". Among other things, it featured extensive excerpts from CNN coverage of recent events in Eastern Europe with startling effect.

The informal aspects of the Conference - often the most - were also handled effortlessly (or so it seemed to the visitors). Especially memorable was the "enjoyable evening in a folkstyle restaurant with national dishes and pagan folk dances," as the program put it. What made it unusually memorable was that much of Sofia experienced a power-outage that evening (caused by an impressive thunder and lightning storm), so that the evening was spent in the restaurant in soft candlelight with unamplified music.

The hotel accommodations were excellent. The modestly-priced one I was staying in even had a large swimming pool, which delighted Mack, who, with Rosemary, was also able to come to Bulgaria, and who needed to swim a few laps in its refreshing waters after a boring day at the Conference, or an exciting day exploring the city.

Our WFSF Regional meetings are intended to be smaller than our World Conferences. They also are expected to cater primarily to people in (and the concerns of) the region. But we also insist that there must be some participation from WFSF members outside of the region as well. By these criteria, also, the meeting was a success.

According to my records, the following WFSF members participated (I apologize if I omitted someone. Please inform Pentti so your name can be added to the next Newsletter).

IKRAM AZAM, IGOR BESTUZHEV-LADA, MOHAMMAD SALEM FAYYAD,

KATRIN GILLWALD, MANFRED HENNINGSEN, MARIA KALAS KOSZEGI, TONY KEULEMANS, PENTTI MALASKA, FELIX MARTI, MIGUEL MARTI, PETER METTLER, FUMIO NAKAJIMA, MARC NERFIN, VADIM NIKOLAJEW, IONITZA OLTEANU, VIORICA RAMBA-VARGA, DUSAN RISTIC, ANA MARIA SANDI, TOMITA TERUSHI, BART VAN STEENBERGEN, MILOS ZEMAN, and myself.

There also were about the same number of persons who are not members of the WFSF, from elsewhere in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. And the number of participants from Bulgaria roughly equaled the total number of outsiders, I believe. Thus, I would judge that there were from 80-100 of us participating. A good number adequately spread around the globe.

From time to time members have suggested that the Federation should offer prizes in recognition of exceptional futures work. In Sofia, this finally happened, not only because someone recommended it, but also because someone was able to mobilize the human resources needed actually to carry out such a project. That "someone" was in this instance once again Alexander Tomov.

At the suggestion of Dr Tomov, the Centre for Strategic Business and Political Studies (the organization which Tomov heads which was the formal and official local organizer of the Conference) and the WFSF sponsored a contest for 'the most original scenario for the future of Eastern Europe, or an East European Country.'

People were invited to submit a five page scenario which would be judged on the basis of originality, feasibility, logic, and consistency by a jury chaired by Ana Maria Sandu Pentti Malaska and Rumen Dobrinsky were the other members of the jury

People were informed about the contest via the WFSF Newsletter and the various announcements of the Conference sent out by the Centre Eight people submitted scenarios

Winners were announced at the farewell party held on June 5. There was a tie between Bart van Steenbergen (The Netherlands) and Ivan Gabriell (Romania) for the first prize. Seppo Remes (Finland) won the second prize. If the scenarios will be published, I am sure all members will want to read them.

I hope that the success of this (as far as I can recollect) first effort at conducting a contest and offering prizes for outstanding futures research in cooperation with the WFSF will encourage other members who believe this is a good idea to sponsor and conduct similar contests. My personal thanks to Tomov, the jury, and all the persons who submitted scenarios. This is an excellent example of the self-reliance and self-management which I believe should mark all WFSF activities. Well done!

## 2 Future-oriented

When all is said and done, I was generally more impressed by the future-orientation of the papers

presented at the Conference than I often am. Without intending to slight any persons I don't single out, I was especially impressed by the alternative scenarios for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union presented by Seppo Remes of Finland. They were futures work of the highest quality. And I think I can say that impartially in spite of the fact that Mack adopted Seppo as his preferred father-figure for the duration of the Conference.

Bart van Steenbergen's opening address also dazzled us all with the depth of its scholarship and the brilliance of its vision. Laszlo Andor, an impressive young futurist from Hungary, painted a very vivid picture of the New Right and its alternatives in Eastern Europe. Ikram Azam's paper on what the developing nations and Eastern Europe can learn from each other was truly masterful. And Pentti Malaska's address at the closing put just the right blend of urgency and hope not only on the entire Conference but also on the continuing work of the Federation.

I know there were many more (I am highlighting only a few of the few I heard presented). I received equal rave reviews from persons who attended the other small group sessions which I could not. You should avail yourself of the Proceedings when they are published - which will be fairly soon, we were assured. On the basis of the excellent management of the Conference, I am confident the Proceedings will in fact be available soon, and I look forward to reading all the papers in them.

## 3 Impact

When I visited Sofia in May 1989, Alexander Tomov was, among other things, an advisor to the President of Bulgaria. Tomov is now (among other things) Deputy-Prime Minister of the country. The Conference was honored also to have speak to us during the sessions the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Zhelyu Zhelev, the Prime Minister, Dimitar Popov, the Chairman of the Parliament, Nikolai Todorov, the Minister of Education, Matei Mateev, the Minister of Culture, Dimo Dimov, and other local officials and academicians.

Pentti Malaska and myself accompanied Dr Tomov for a visit with the President, and spoke with Pres Zhelev for over an hour about the future of the nation and the region. We two, and Milos Zeman (who of course is a member of the government of Czechoslovakia) participated in a press conference at the end of the week that was almost three hours long, and heavily attended by representatives of the local press and other media. Like much of Eastern Europe now, the free press flourishes with relish, and the questions were probing, direct, and exciting (I hope the answers were too).

Some of the Conference was televised live, and much of it was reported daily on television, and in the newspapers. I know that in my case some comments in my opening remarks apparently piqued some peoples' interests, because they literally came in off the streets and out of their work

places to talk with me about what I said.

Thus I am hopeful that the alternative visions of the future offered at the Conference were such that officials and ordinary people alike were challenged to pause for at least a moment and think about the future as an arena of open possibility instead of dreaded (or glorious) necessity.

Certainly the challenges before Eastern Europe, and Bulgaria specifically, are gigantic. The outside economic and political forces stalking the streets and surrounding the region are as pernicious as they are powerful. It is, I suppose, foolish for me to hope, much less believe, that the WFSF made a positive difference in Bulgaria's future in the short time we were there, with our own inadequate visions and limited abilities to articulate them.

But we had a chance we have seldom had before. And if we failed, it is not because we did not try to do our best to "let our meeting become a new bridge across all people and countries - for a democratic, multicultural, polycentric, and pluralistic world."

My thanks to Alexander Tomov and his colleagues (especially, if I may, to RADOSTINA TRIFFONOVA, Valentin Kiev, and DIMITER YALNAZOV) for giving us that chance. While the course of participation and leadership in democratic governance is, and should be, tough and bumpy with defeats often outnumbering victories, may your dreams come true. ◇

## MATCHING FUTURES

## A VISIT TO CHINA

Mika Mannermaa

A delegation consisting of eight representatives of the Finnish Society for Futures Studies (FSFS) visited China in May. Members of the delegation included WFSF's Secretary general PENTTI MALASKA and the chairman of FSFS Torsti Kivisto and also a member of WFSF MIKA MANNERMAA. The host of the visit was Chinese Association for International Understanding

The two week trip was an impressive experience of old Chinese culture as well as today's attempts to build up a modern society. The Finnish and the Chinese futures researchers held a

common seminar titled "Matching Futures". Among the Chinese researchers there were our good friend QIN LINZHENG

The following topics were covered in the seminar: An evolutionary paradigm for futures research, Scenarios of the future of The Soviet Union, Urban planning, Joint ventures, Leadership and management, and Nature-oriented technology. The proceedings of the seminar will be published in the near future. In 1993, when WFSF is having its XIII conference on futures studies in Finland, the Chinese researchers will pay a return visit to Finland. ♦

## SHANGHAI, CHINA

## NEW TRENDS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, AND SOCIETY

Linda Groff

The Second Global Conference on *New Trends in Science, Technology, Economy, and Society* was held in Shanghai, China, April 9-12, 1991. It was hosted by the Science and

Technology Academy of Shanghai and sponsored by the Shanghai Institute for Science of Sciences and co-sponsored by a number of other Shanghai Institutes, along with the

Center for Urban Community Development, University of Wisconsin, and Pacifica Foundation, Antioch University of Seattle in the United States

Sections of the conference dealt with the Pudong Development Project (being developed East of Shanghai) - including a conference visit to the site, High Technology, Technology and Economy, Environment and Sustainable Development, along with special lectures and demonstrations on traditional Chinese medicine. Among the participants who attended the conference were HAZEL HENDERSON, Belden Paulson, and ANN HAGERTY

from the U.S., QIN LIN-ZHENG from Beijing - as well as a representative from the Chinese Society for Future Studies from Shanghai, and KAORU YAMAGUCHI, Hiroyuki Niwa, and KAZUO MIZUTA YOSHIDA from Japan

A Third Global Conference is being tentatively planned for next year in China. People interested in attending should contact Hazel Henderson, Belden Paulson, or Linda Groff. After the conference, Linda Groff and Ann Hagerty and a small group went on to Beijing, where Linda Groff also saw Wu Xing and Wang Huijiong and other members of the Chinese Society of Futures Studies. ♦

*Intercultural Alternative*

We announced in our previous issue that Centre d'Estudis Joan Bardina in Catalonia has published the results of a survey made among organizations all over the world specialized in alternative futures.

The objective of the survey is to give a global intercultural vision of the possibilities around the planet for solving the serious problems that threaten us, and foretaking advantage of the great opportunities that are open to us.

The address in the announcement however was wrong. Anyone interested in ordering the survey should contact

Marti Olivella  
EcoConcern - Intercultural Alternative  
Can Riú  
08540 Centelles  
(Barcelona) Catalunya  
Spain  
fax (34-3)881 1321

## ON THE WAY TO BARCELONA

### THE NEW WORLD ORDER – A CALL FOR A LINKAGE BETWEEN POWERS-THAT-BE AND PEOPLE-THAT-BE

James Wellesley-Wesley

*This article was first published in a local newspaper in Tryon, North Carolina*

In the aftermath of the recent outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East there is a sporadic talk from 'on high' of a new world order. But how can there be any new order on a global scale (except that imposed from above) in the absence of radical self-reflection, giving rise to a new sense of individual and collective identity, a re-examination of basic values and loyalties, a questioning of traditional assumptions and expectations, and, in these days in particular, a change of heart? A mere shuffling of the cards at the international political level will only lead to continuation of the old world disorder – which is no longer tolerable, as witness the massive societal upheavals in progress in every continent of the world today. So what can be done to initiate and encourage viable global change within the course of the next generation?

As I see it, the most important linkage to be established is that between the powers-that-be and the people-that-be. This connection is either totally lacking or, at

best, tenuous in most of the world today – even in those countries that profess to be democracies and go through the process of periodic, supposedly democratic, elections. In the absence of this vital societal inter-relationship and exchange the powers-that-be, whether political, military or industrial (usually some combination of these three) readily become a law unto themselves while, as originally observed in the constitution of UNESCO, any world order "based exclusively on political and economic arrangements of governments alone cannot secure the lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world".

I suggest that this issue of a new world order should become a continuing debate/dialogue within and between communities around the world – the issue being that of the ever-potential further development of human cooperation, on a global scale, toward the goal of a more viable, inclusive and integrated community of life for all in this world to come. For this to be

realistic and become effective, attention should be directed toward the processes of human development over time, both individual and collective. For, as Vaclav Havel said in addressing the joint session of the U S legislature last year, 'without a global revolution in the sphere of human consciousness nothing will change for the better in the sphere of our being as humans and the catastrophe toward which the world is headed

Many other visionaries in recent times have expressed the same warning, but we continue in our old ways, regardless, as if compulsively addicted

If there is to be a resumption of the evolutionary process of integration toward a viable world community it will have to become founded upon moral and compassionate personal responsibility for the well-being of this world and its co-inhabitants. The so-prevalent assertion that individual action can make no difference on a world scale is one of the basic unquestioned assumptions of these times and is the diametric opposite of the truth – that only individual action, collectively, can do so, albeit whatever is done individually will always seem inadequate to each person (witness the breakdown of the 'wall' which divided us until recently, while the same truth can bridge the 'gulf' that has opened up between us since then!) Conversely, it is precisely the failure of individuals to express themselves consistently, in time, that enables the coming into being of dictatorships

So, the need as I see it is to identify where are the blockages that now frustrate this developmental process, individually and societally and even, perhaps, which is the most blocked age collectively that is responsible for the present systemic breakdown in human society. I suggest that it is not the fault of youth, as such, but rather a general failure of youths to continue to develop as human beings throughout an increasingly long life-span – which indicates that it is education for the second half of life that is the missing factor

There is also a growing recognition that as recent events in the Middle East served to illustrate yet again, the absence of women (personifying the feminine element in our human composition) in the fabric of our global society is responsible in part for the dominance of the male exploitative 'fix-it' response to the problems that beset us today – and, indeed, for it being a predominantly man-made and operated world. The time is overdue for a resurgence of feminine value priorities and caring and sharing capacities, to counterbalance these male tendencies on a world scale – which should be seen as more than the sum of localised efforts

Finally, the manipulation of the U N Organization, either by ignoring it entirely or by hi-jacking it and using it as cover for the extension of super-power partisan policy, must be superseded by a truly trans-national organization dedicated, beyond its many relief/aid programs, to "combining peace-

making and peace-keeping in a more reliable system of international peace and security and to the major issues of global interdependence" (Urquhart & Childers, 1990)

To this end, the Secretary-General should become the world's leading mediator in disputes between governments, should be able to call upon personnel trained in the exercise of policing operations (restraint and containment, as distinct from the assault and incarceration of military operations), should have the world-wide support, regardless of national affiliation, of all those people who recog-

early years of independence are allowed to shrink and fade away

What is suggested here above are just a few indications of feasible measures to help us come to terms with the mutual problem we all face of learning to live together in our one global home. It will require insight, courage and faith to change our habitual ways - which are now so clearly failing us in this mission. I hope this letter will serve to stimulate an exchange of views

Tryon N C USA  
June 1991

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## AFRICA'S CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

Lammin Sulay

nise the central role of mediation in all conflict situations

Probably no sector of our universe has been faced with as much concern over the challenges of the future than Africa. Without doubt, the social, economic and political pressures confronting this continent have in many ways contributed to retard prospects for development. Its people faced with situations of stark abandonment, they are forced to live in enclosures wherein the hopes and expectations once nurtured during the

Besides, it is a great concern that following a period of almost thirty years since independence, Africans are still struggling to manipulate the realities, languages and bottle necks bequeathed from the yokes of colonialism

Until recently, this continent had increasingly suffered the plight of being manipulated by the world powers like a football, confused and tossed here and there as each party tried to hold a portion of it under their sleeves. The reality of this view, is to a great extent re-

flected by PENTI MALASKA, in the report to the Club of Rome, "*Africa Beyond Famne*," co-edited by Malaska and Akilu Lemma, (Tycooly Publishing London 1989) in which he pointed out, "African countries operate at a distinct disadvantage in a world economic system which is dominated by powerful multinational trading companies and distorted by the protectionist policies of industrialized countries." Because of this, he continues, the trade between Africa and the developed world results in situations in which, "it tends to benefit the rich countries far more than their so called trade 'partners'." Whilst considering the above it is also sad that the political lines through which the path to full recovery could have made possible are fraught with civil strife perpetuated from both within and outside its doors

Secondly, a process of adhering to the challenges of the future should also reflect on gradual achievements. But with the current wave of civil wars, famine and a host of other disasters, across the African continent, achievements which could have been counted upon since independence are trapped in situations difficult if not impossible to assess. Besides, it is disheartening to the average, reasonable African, that at a time when the countries of Asia and South America are fast pacing after the first world nations, this continent finds herself completely retarded. Its children faced with the constraints of famine and warfare, grow up in environments wherein the future tends to be only but a pipe dream

This is no doubt crucial particularly when the advanced nations are now hastening to converge into a universal economic block, Africa even with the availability of natural resources and know-how is stashed away and almost on the verge of being written off the world economic map. The impact of these forces have without doubt etched considerably into the mental, social and cultural fabric of its people

By the time one reads through this, somewhere in Africa, a guerilla has knocked dead yet another victim in some senseless bush war, thousands if not millions of weak, lean peasants are being buried from the wrath of famine, babies are falling victims to epidemics of measles malnutrition and other illnesses, whilst millions still neither read nor write. Their plight covers almost if not all the pitfalls of a broken society, indeed a society starving and sprawling in disarray. And where the search for life's basic necessities becomes ever stronger for food, for medical help. Where women and children are yet held to ransom by the whims and dictates of centuries old traditions

The scores of political and social upheavals emerging every day from this continent have made it virtually impossible for the convergence of well thought out, programs that could serve as evidence of development. It is probably against this background that Malaska sighted the examples of the so-called Neoclassical 'Orthodox' development approaches and others like the Lagos plan

of Action, both of which were more or less imposed upon African nations like a straight jacket whilst failing to recognise the indogenous African situation

Thus, instead of developing, "Africa was consigned to an increasingly marginal position in global society, and the majority of Africans relegated to marginal positions within their own societies". The ensuing implications of this has been a downward trend with standards of living shrinking, whilst authorities keep digging holes to cover holes. And still, this is happening at the very close of the twentieth century, when other societies are busy perusing what the future holds after the astonishments of the computer age

But if looked at critically, the main concept surrounding *Africa Beyond Famure* points out that in spite of all the economic problems and other disasters confronting the continent, Africa cannot be viewed as a 'hopeless case', after all. The ideas expressed in this book have gone on to propose certain Models and strategies which could serve not only as authentic

blue prints, but also give a different perspective in African development. And given that the indogenous factor is taken into consideration, there is virtually no conclusive reason why Africa shouldn't succeed. After all haven't the breed of so called Newly industrialized countries of Asia gone through these very hallmarks of destitution and poverty now confronting Africa?

It is also great to note that, such a view no doubt purports to underscore the great confidence and trust which other segments of the world maintain on an eventual progressive Africa. Indeed, an Africa that would not only strive to dance to the pace of both the industrial and information age, but one that could provide the necessary education, expertise, constructive political doctrines and, the economic and social will to cater for both the requirements of this age and that of the future. ♦

(The author is a student from Sierra Leone currently reading for Masters degree in Economics at the University of Turku Finland)



## ZHA RHUJIANG IN MEMORIAM

Linda Groff

Zha Rhujiang, WFSF member from China died last October 1990

When I was recently in China - in April 1991 for the Second Global Conference on *Science, Technology, Economics and Society* in Shanghai - I learned from QIN LIN ZHENG that Zha Rhujiang, a Vice-President of the Chinese Society for Future Studies and a WFSF member, had died unexpectedly last October 1990 of a heart attack. I would personally like to say how very sorry I was to hear this. I first met Zha at the WFSF Conference in Costa Rica in 1984, and spent time talking with him at almost every WFSF conference since then.

These conversations included a trip to Pearl Harbor with him and

following our Hungary WFSF conference last May to Salzburg, Austria for the World Future Society's Professional Members' Forum with PETER METTLER and IGOR USHKALOV right after that. We four particularly had a good laugh together when we crossed the border from Hungary to Austria and took a group of pictures at the border holding up our four different national passports - from the USSR, USA, China (PRC) and Germany. Zha was working on a collected works of Chinese philosophy at this time. He also shared an interest in the information revolution.

I will surely miss him at future WFSF meetings and in future trips to China. ♦





## NEW MEMBERS

**SAMIR MOHAMED AMIN SEoud** is an Egyptian who has Ph D's in Accountancy and Economics and a M A in Business Administration. Dr Amin Seoud writes that he is specialized in the oil economy of the Gulf Area and that he has conducted several studies on the subject. Especially interested in future development for the area, he has published some books dealing with Gulf problems.

**VERA RICHTEROVA** is an Engineer in Chemistry from the Prague Technical University and Candidate of Science from the same university. She is presently working as a researcher with the Research Institute for Scientific Technical Development in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Ms Richterova has experience in researching structural changes in the chemical industry and forecasting its development as well as studying new chemical technologies for energy saving. She is planning research projects on the influence of research and investment on the growth of profit in chemical industry with emphasis on new agricultural technologies. She is interested in environmental problems and energy saving in the chemical industry.

**SAVAS ROBOLIS** is a Associate Professor in Social Economy and Policy at University of Aegean, Chios, Greece. He has a Ph D from the University of Paris. Professor Robolis has taken part in various projects, for instance on searching labour conditions for the future, and demographical deficits and their consequences on social security. He is planning projects focusing on hospital finances and on financing social security systems in the 1990s. His other fields of interest include the effects of the EEC on the Aegean region.

**PEDRO ARTURO ROJAS ARENAS** is Sociologist from Bucaramanga, Columbia, working as a researcher and research coordinator with Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia.

**MEREDITH WOOLDRIDGE THRING** has a D Sc and F Eng. Now retired, he was formerly Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Queen Mary's College, London University. Professor Thring has published several books and articles on human relations to technology and machines as well as ethical questions in technology. Professor Thring has also started a project to

sponsor 5-year pilot plant studies on renewable energy in rural Africa and is presently writing a book on Equilibrium Engineering, in which he searches for ways for humanity to live in permanent stable equilibrium with the Earth.

Terushi Tomita has also researched regional and urban development as well as ecological issues and problems. Presently he is planning a research project on social development in the Indo-China region, Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

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**TERUSHI TOMITA** Director of Institute of Social Sciences at Nihon Fukushu University, Mihama Chita, Japan. His field of studies is community development and he is experienced in micro level social development in the Pacific, Asia and Africa.

### Missing Members

Thomas Bernold, Switzerland  
Trevor Hancock, Canada  
Hakari Tempolin, Japan  
Barbara Marx Hubbard, USA  
Sohail Mahmood, USA

### *E-mail Network*

In our previous issue Dr YRJÖ SEPPALA from Helsinki, Finland expressed his interest in forming an international Electric Mail network for future researchers.

Since his E-mail addresses have changed, Dr Seppala asked us to publish his new E-mail address in this issue. So all those interested in contacting him and discussing on this suggestion please try this address:



SEPPALA\_YRJO\_SKEN@SMAIL.RELAY.NOKIA.FI

*Meetings in Barcelona*

- 16 Sept FUTURESCO  
Editorial Committee meeting
- 16 Sept Dubrovnik course  
course leaders' meeting
- 16 Sept Executive Council  
2 pm preparatory meeting
- 17 Sept Executive Council  
1 pm, 5 pm meeting II
- 21 Sept Executive Council  
1 pm meeting III
- 18 Sept WFSF General Assembly  
9 am



*Welcome to Barcelona!*



**WORLD FUTURES STUDIES FEDERATION**

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