



CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR FORESIGHT NETWORK

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*Annual Public Sector Foresight Network Meeting at
WorldFuture 2014: What If
Orlando, Florida*

July 11, 2014

Disclaimer:

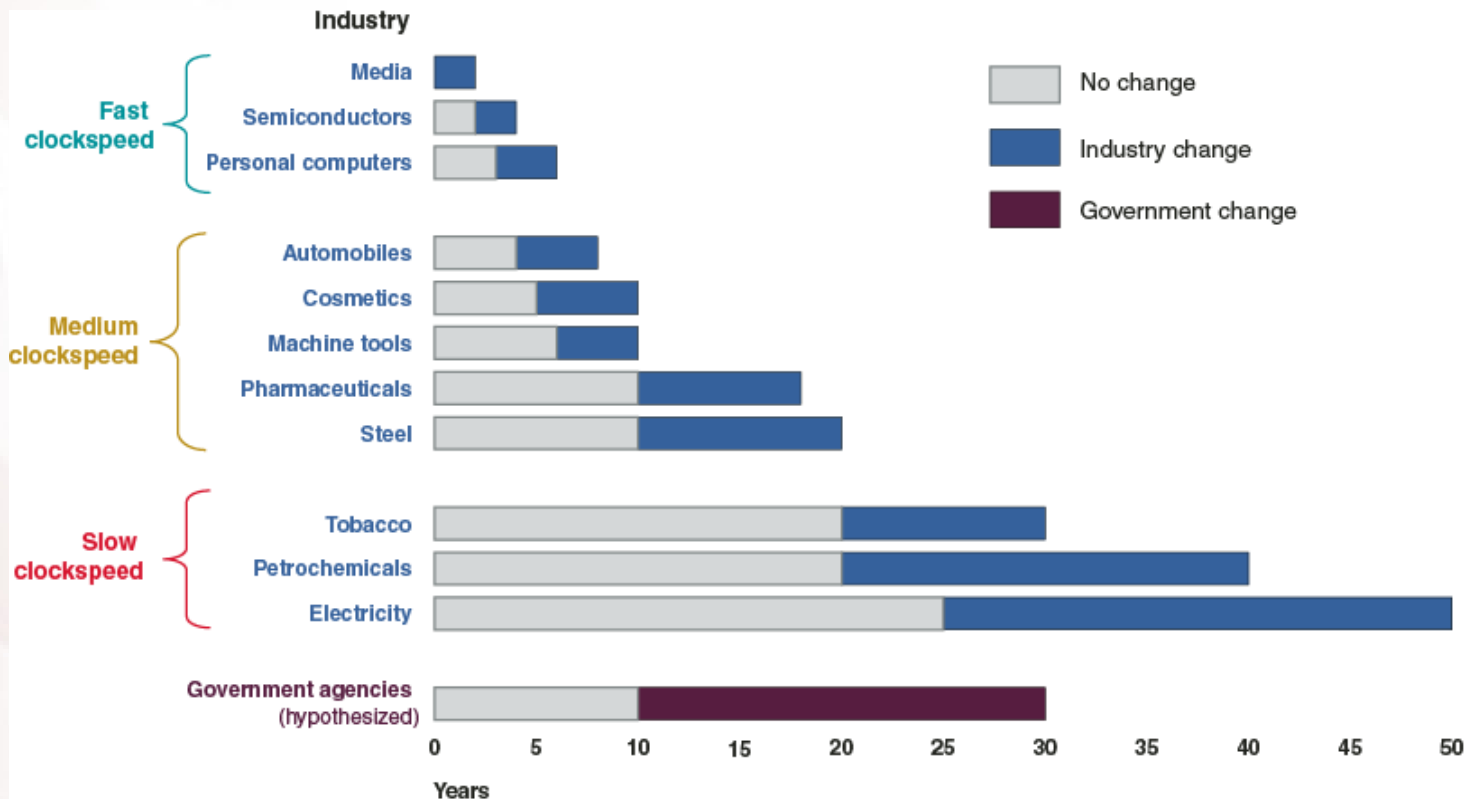
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CONTEXT: Converging Trends

- **Longstanding relationship of foresight with science & technology**
- **Information revolution favors the rise of networks**
- **Recognition of complexity & fast-paced environment; transboundary issues**
- **Rise of networked governance/best practices**
- **Renaissance of interest in foresight by government**
- **Scarcity of resources means networking is critical**

High Clockspeed Trends Challenge Government Agencies

***Organizational Clockspeed (Estimated Ranges)**



*Adapted from D. Rejeski, "S&T Challenges in the 21st Century: Strategy and Tempo," ch. 5 in *AAAS Science and Technology Policy Yearbook*, 2003. The clockspeed concept and assessment of industry clockspeeds shown above are based on C. Fine's *Clockspeed: Winning Temporary Control in the Age of Industry Advantage*, 1998. Clockspeed is defined as the rate at which organizations "change processes and products, reinvent mindsets, and modify organizational structures in response to external threats or opportunities."

STEEP-G (“G” trends focus on networks in governance & foresight, building capability, impact)

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (“networked governance”)

Stephen Goldsmith and Donald Kettl, eds. Unlocking the Power of Networks (Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 2009)

Robert Agranoff, Managing Within Networks (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2007)

FUTURES (“networked foresight”)

Jose Ramos and Tim Mansfield, “Foresight in a Networked Era: Peer-Producing Alternative Futures,” Journal of Futures Studies, September 2012.

Patrick van der Duin, Tobias Heger and Maximilian Dorian Schlesinger, “Towards Networked Foresight? Exploring the Use of Futures Research in Innovation Networks” (October 18, 2012). Futures, Forthcoming. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2253266>

FORESIGHT & GOVERNANCE (building capability)

Leon Fuerth with Evan Faber, “Anticipatory Governance: Practical Upgrades/Equipping the Executive Branch to Cope with Increasing Speed and Complexity of Major Challenges,” The Project on Forward Engagement, October 2012.

Genesis of Public Sector Foresight Network

48-year old World Future Society dedicated to exploring the future

Government officials historically attend to learn about futures methods and apply to strategic planning and other activities

Selected panels well-attended covering examples of public sector foresight, e.g., CDC, General Services Administration, Coast Guard, GAO, international foresight

But still a need to develop a critical mass and exchange information

Public Sector Foresight Around the World



SOURCES: Audience at WFS 2013 presentation on UK Foresight by Dr. Sandy Thomas; Iana Dreyer and Gerard Stang, "Foresight in governments—practices and trends around the world," *EUSS Yearbook of European Security*, (2013)

Country	Foresight is well-resourced and widely used	In-house or arms-length implementation	Central government foresight agency	Foresight in multiple departments	Established regularity of programmes/reports	Predominantly 'vision' planners
Australia		•		•		
Brazil		•				•
Canada	•	•	•	•	•	
China		•			•	•
Finland	•	•	•	•	•	
France	•	•	•	•	•	
Germany	•	•		•	•	
India					•	•
Indonesia						•
Italy				•		
Japan	•	•		•	•	
Mexico						•
Netherlands	•	•	•	•	•	
Norway		•				
Russia						•
Singapore	•	•	•	•	•	
South Africa				•		•
South Korea	•	•			•	
Sweden	•	•	•	•	•	
Switzerland		•			•	
UK	•	•	•	•	•	
US	•	•		•	•	

Creation of PSFN @World Future Society

- 2011:** 90-minute breakfast gathering (Vancouver, B.C.) attended by 35+
- 2012:** At Toronto 1-day meeting (global, national, local format), 50+ attendees agree on need for foresight network
- PSFN co-founded by Dr. Clem Bezold (Institute for Alternative Futures) & Nancy Donovan (GAO/Applied Research & Methods)
- 2013:** At Chicago 1-day meeting, 50+ attendees reflect on methods, creating networks, foresight & policy, training; outcomes include meeting of senior officials from 3 foresight efforts (UK Foresight, US/GAO, Brazil CGEE)
- 2014:** Orlando PSFN meeting agenda features joint meeting with another network (Communities of the Future)
- Identification of best practices in creating and maintaining networks & how WFS can support; scenario and other foresight methods
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2013 PSFN Chicago Meeting: Selected Topics



Future Security and Intelligence Outlook Network (FUSION).

The Benefits of a Cross-Government Foresight Network.

Satyamoorthy Kabilan
Director, National Security and Strategic Foresight
The Conference Board of Canada
July 19, 2013

conferenceboard.ca



Foresight... the right answer depends on the right question and the right tool

Oliver Grant,
Head of Horizon Scanning Centre

David Kaufman

Associate Administrator for Policy, Program Analysis, and International Affairs

The Strategic Foresight Initiative:
Employing Foresight for a Field of Practice



July 19, 2013



TRAINING POLICY ANALYSTS TO USE FORESIGHT

Patricia Sommerville
Department of National Defence
Government of Canada

Public Sector Foresight Network
July 19, 2013

CMAP GO TO 2040

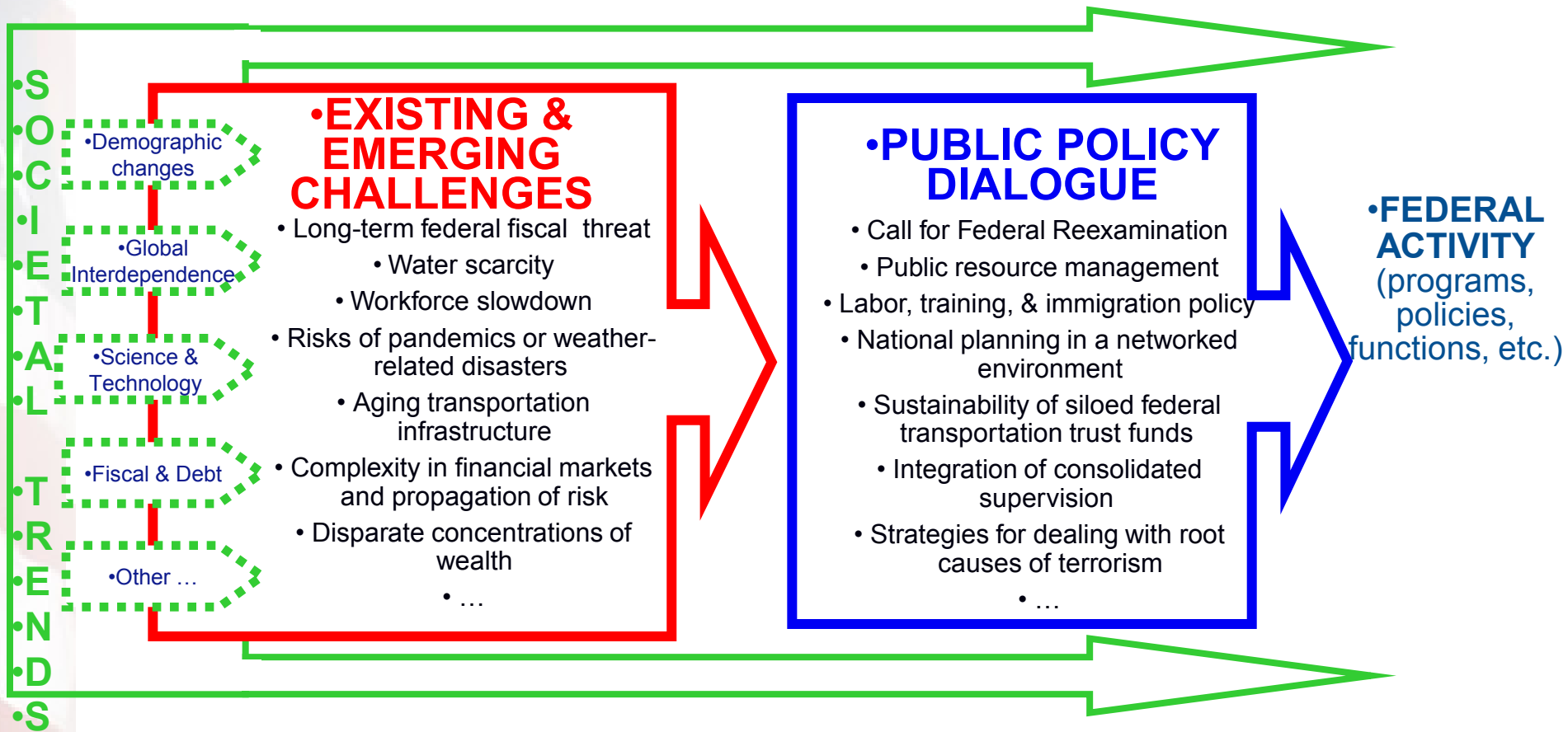
Scenario Planning and Public Engagement
World Future Society Annual Conference
Public Sector Foresight Network
July 19, 2013

EXPERIENCES APPLYING FORESIGHT IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Presented By:
Andrew Velasquez
Regional Administrator
DHS / FEMA Region V



Focus on Relationship of Foresight & Public Policy/Governance As Distinctive Characteristic of PSFN



PSFN: Ongoing Communication

List serv updates 100+ members on studies/country initiatives/available webcasts

GroupSpaces platform developed & maintained by Institute for Alternative Futures

Open to those in government & those who work with government; no marketing allowed

<http://www.groupspaces.com/PublicSectorForesightNetwork/join>

Countries Engaged in PSFN



HOW DOES PSFN RELATE TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS WITH FUTURES FOCUS?

EXAMPLE 1: Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM)

International cooperative organization with mission of promoting technology management for economic development. Membership of Commonwealth governments, the private sector, professionals, labor, media and academia. Focus on international dialogues and public-private partnerships.

Head of CPTM is inaugural PSFN member; CPTM disseminates information provided by PSFN to their network; promotes work by other PSFN members, e.g., GAO technology assessments (webcast, newsletter, linking science minister of Zimbabwe with GAO's Chief Scientist)

EXAMPLE 2: Millennium Project

Global foresight network with mission of improving thinking about the future. Futurists, scholars, business planners, and policy makers from governments, corporations, NGOs, universities. 40 "nodes" around the world select over 2,500 people to canvass on the future. Publications include: annual State of the Future, Futures Research Methodology series

PSFN provides membership with postings from Millennium Project list serv on webcasts, meetings, studies

HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO EVOLVE?

One Model of “Network Topology”

- Stage 1:** An initial scattering of groups and individuals that have sparse network ties (“scattered emergence”)
- Stage 2:** These combine into a “single hub-and-spoke” design where the central hub acts mainly as a clearinghouse and coordinating agency
- Stage 3:** Deeper, more dispersed, specialized “multi-hub small world” design develops
- Stage 4:** Evolution into dense, vast, sprawling “core/periphery” mass of organizational networks

NEXT STEPS: BEGIN DIALOGUE ON PROVIDING ADDED VALUE

What is our distinctive role vis-à-vis other networks (international, national, local)?

Should our group play a role in addressing unmet needs re: best or promising practices in methods, relating foresight to policy, evaluating impact?

How can we better capitalize on technology to enhance communication?

Should the group engage in “collaborative” or “networked” foresight?

IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE?

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