



The Contribution of Academy-based FLAs to the Governance of Grand Challenges

Forward Looking Activities Governing Grand Challenges
Closing Conference European Foresight Network
Vienna, Austria
September 27-28, 2012

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Our Process

- 1. The question to be explored**
- 2. Insights from each panelist**
- 3. Discussion among the panelists**
- 4. Plenary discussion**
- 5. Closing remarks**



Our Situation

What is the situation to which academy-based Forward Looking Activities are responding?

Observation 1

- 1. Present governing systems in all sectors are ill-equipped to handle the complex and swampy issues that now threaten the human future.**

We are Unprepared

The situation of humanity in the face of global transformations can be summarised in two sentences:

Societies are unprepared; Governance is unequipped....

In the main contemporary governance is obsolete and unable to deal fittingly with rapidly mutating problems and opportunities.

Yehezkel Dror
'The Capacity to Govern'

Observation 2

1. Present governing systems in all sectors are ill-equipped to handle the complex and swampy issues that now threaten the human future.
2. We need new patterns of **imagination**, mind and **action** that are the functional equivalent of **courageous wisdom**.

Imagination is the Key

We believe the 9/11 attacks revealed four kinds of failures: in **imagination**, **policy**, **capabilities**, and **management**.

Imagination is not a gift usually associated with bureaucracies. It is therefore crucial to find a way of routinizing, even bureaucratizing, the exercise of imagination.

Ways of doing business rooted in a different era are just not good enough. **Americans should not settle for incremental, ad hoc adjustments to a system designed generations ago for a world that no longer exists.**

9/11 Commission Report

Observation 3

1. Present governing systems in all sectors are ill-equipped to handle the complex and swampy issues that now threaten the human future.
2. We need new patterns of **imagination**, mind and **action** that are the functional equivalent of **courageous wisdom**.
3. Academy-based foresight ought to be able to make a difference.



Our Question

*What significant contributions can/ought academy-based Forward Looking Activities make to our our capacities to **see**, think through and **respond to** the Grand Challenges of the 21st Century?*

Our Panel

- **Peter Bishop**, Director, Futures Program, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, USA.
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- **Juha Kaskinen**, Director, Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku, Turku, Finland.
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- **Angela Wilkinson**, Director, Futures Program, Smith School, Oxford University, Oxford, England.
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Plenary Discussion

A photograph of a stone tower with a conical roof, situated on a rocky, grassy hill. The sky is clear and blue. The tower has several levels and a central opening.

Over to YOU!

Our Future **is** in Your Hands, Minds and Hearts

Thank you

Contact

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