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From the Desk of Tim Mack, President, World Future Society



My Life as a Futurist

My relationship with the World Future Society began at the first WFS General Assembly in 1971, where I assisted Sally Cornish as a volunteer and event photographer. I subsequently volunteered for every conference except Toronto, when I was out of the country. In 1981, I joined the conference planning committee and then became a co-editor of *Futures Research Quarterly* in 1985. Finally, I was approached at the San Francisco conference last year about serving as Conference Chair for 2004 Washington, DC and I said yes – it has proven a very rewarding experience.

In addition to practicing law in New York and the District of Columbia, I served on the Boards of a number of issue-oriented non profits, including the Issue Management Association. My international experience includes a term as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce* and a three-year position as a Senior Instructor at the Institute for Global Chinese Affairs, which continues to be ranked number one worldwide by the Foreign Experts Bureau in Beijing. I also worked as a change consultant to the US Department of Defense, the US General Accounting Office and the US General Services agency and held policy research positions at the National Academy of Sciences and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Following a term on the Board of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Enterprise Forum, I served in marketing and operations capacities with a number of high tech firms in areas such as financial transactions, electric power management and environmental quality. In addition, I served as a regulatory advisor to a wide range of industries and trade associations, ranging from city planning to small business affairs to transportation and continue to speak on new converging technologies including nanotech, biotech and cognitive sciences.

My focus at WFS will be on expanding the Society's reach and relevance within new communities and professional groups and development of projects like the Future Generations Fund for secondary and post-secondary age groups. Another initiative would be continuing education products in the professional foresight field, and we have already begun considering a range of potential partners to work with in building learning tools and curriculum at the post-secondary level. Still another initiative will be the development of targeted trend publications

focusing on specific professions, technologies, cultures, etc., for example, retirees or the Hispanic community or association management. Finally, I will be working to enhance the international presence of the World Future Society, providing support for an increasingly robust WFS local chapter network within the United States and throughout the world. This would include encouraging chapters outside the US to participate in the WFS annual meeting but to hold local events as well (such as Mexico did recently).

I believe that this wide range of experience has prepared me to manage new directions for an organization as broad-based as WFS. I look forward to working with all of you and with new strategic partners to grow the Society and expand its range of offerings to the entire WFS membership.

Timothy Mack, President WFS