

FUTUREtakes

Transcultural Futurist Magazine

ISSN 1554-7744

Vol. 10, no. 2 (Late Spring 2011)

Book Review

State of the Future 2010

Jerome C. Glenn, Theodore J. Gordon, and Elizabeth Florescu

The Millennium Project (July 7, 2010)

88 pages, paperback, with 7,000 pages on accompanying CD

ISBN-10: 0981894135

ISBN-13: 978-0981894133

reviewed by Lois Neuman

The intent of the publication is for people to draw information and ideas to be adapted to their unique needs. It provides a global strategic landscape that public and private policymakers may use to improve their own decision making and global understanding. The report can be useful to business executives in their planning and for academics, futurists, and other consultants to use in teaching and research.

The print section contains the Executive Summary of six sections: Global Challenges; Producing State of the Future Indexes Using the International Futures Model; Building Collective Intelligence Systems; Emerging Environmental Security Issues; Latin American 2030; and Futures Research and Gaps around the World. The CD contains the cumulative work of The Millennium Project since 1996 and details of the studies included in the print section. The Millennium Project interconnects global and local perspectives through its Nodes (groups of individuals and institutions). This fourteenth report provides a context for global thinking and improved understanding of global issues, opportunities, challenges, and strategies.

This year's report includes:

- Global Challenges – Updated 15 global challenges and regional considerations
- State of the Future Index – Enhanced capability of the State of the Future Index (SOFI) by its introduction into the University of Denver's International Futures (IFs) modeling system that allows the calculation and comparison of the SOFI for all nations in the model.
- Collective Intelligence Systems – Two applications of building collective intelligence systems: a Climate Change Situation Room in South Korea, and an Early Warning System with SOFI capability for the Office of the Prime Minister of Kuwait.

- Environmental Security – More than 300 items related to environmental security were identified, assessed, and organized over the past year.
- Future of Latin America by 2030 – Assessment of developments that might impact the future of Latin America by 2030.

The authors identify current trends that could lead to an unstable world with catastrophic results as well as a different set of trends that could lead to a world that works for all. The review of the trends of the 30 variables used in the Millennium Project's global State of the Future Index gives a "report card for humanity." Examples of winning trends are literacy rate, school enrollment, internet users, and life expectancy at birth. Examples of losing trends: voting, corruption, homicides, unemployment, and terrorism.

The final section reveals the results of a survey among the Nodes of the Millennium Project on the agenda of futures research. The commonality was cultural and social issues or shifts in consciousness in humanity. The findings clustered into nine categories: sciences/technology, politics/globalization, environment/resources, foresight methodology, business/economy, transfer/education, sustainable development, society, and regional topics. There are many answers to many problems, but people are flooded with so much extraneous information every day that it is difficult to identify and concentrate on what is truly relevant. The insights from the Millennium Project's work gives relevant information to decision makers and educators to help them improve the prospects for humanity and create and implement strategies of success.