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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2006 STATE OF THE FUTURE

10th Anniversary Edition

by Jerome C. Glenn & Theodore J. Gordon

Worldwide critics acclaim as an extraordinary document of global prospects

Washington, DC—August 15, 2006 – The Millennium Project—a global participatory think tank— released its 10th annual *State of the Future* report today.

The *2006 State of the Future* reports:

- Organized crime outstrips the total of all military budgets by \$1 trillion
- Terrorism proliferates
- The rich/poor gap widens

BUT

- The world is more peaceful
- The world is more prosperous
- The world is healthier
- The world is better educated

This “Report Card on the Future” distills the collective intelligence of over 2,000 leading scientists, futurists, scholars, and policy advisors who work for governments, corporations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and international organizations. The *2006 State of the Future* comes in two parts: a 125-page print executive summary and a 5,400-page CD. The CD contains all the research behind the print edition, plus the Millennium Project’s 10 years of cumulative research and methods. Some unique features not available in other global assessments:

- 15 Global Challenges—Prospects, Strategies, Insights
- 4 Global Energy Scenarios for 2020
- 650 Annotated Scenario Sets
- State of the Future Index
- Reflections on 10 years of Global Futures Research
- And much more Futures intelligence on technology, environment, governance, the human condition

Global recognition includes:

A must in foresight, an excellent tool for policymakers

Maria João Rodrigues, Special Advisor to the European Commission

Shows us the importance of future thinking

Reyes Tamez, Minister of Education, Mexico

Exceedingly valuable resource for corporate strategic planning

Michael Stoneking, Partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP

“There is so much extraneous information that it is difficult to identify and concentrate on what is truly relevant,” says co-author Jerome C. Glenn, director of the Millennium Project of the American Council for the UN University. “Our report cuts through this clutter by presenting short, clear summaries in print, while giving the full details in the attached CD.” Examples addressed in the ***2006 State of the Future***:

- Just as computer code is written to create many kinds of software, genetic code will be written to create many varieties of life, including those that make hydrogen from plants.
- \$1 trillion was paid in political bribes last year and organized crime’s annual income is over \$2 trillion. By comparison, all military budgets combined worldwide are \$1 trillion.
- The worldwide race to connect everything not yet connected is just beginning.
- Sales of nanotech-related products exceed \$20 billion a year, while the health and environmental impact studies proliferate that may knock out some of the nano-producers.
- Buffett/Gates will have more implementation power in the developing world’s health policies than the United State or the World Health Organization—showing the evolution of power from nations, to corporations, to individuals.
- The Chernobyl plant is still leaking radioactivity 20 years after the accident—Ukraine’s President has asked for \$1 billion for better containment, 27,000 nuclear warheads still exist, smuggling of nuclear waste is up again; hence, we are still out to lunch on nuclear management.
- 25 million are likely to die if avian flu mutates for human-to-human transmission.
- While electoral democracies increase, press freedoms are actually falling worldwide.
- In the best case scenario, China’s water situation does not start to improve for another 10 to 15 years, which could lead to future mass migrations.
- Dramatic increases in collective human-machine intelligence are possible within 25 years. It is also possible that within the same time frame single individuals acting alone might create and use weapons of mass destruction.
- Conducting regional water negotiations in the Middle East may be the best way to build confidence that peace is possible in the region.
- Using a State of the Future Index can improve decision making and setting priorities.

After 10 years of Millennium Project research, it has become increasingly clear that humanity has the resources to address its global challenges; what is less clear is how much wisdom, good will, and intelligence will be focused on these challenges. Millennium Project’s ***2006 State of the Future*** presents a clear and logical roadmap of what must be considered in order to intelligently face challenges that lie ahead.

The authors:

Jerome C. Glenn and Theodore J. Gordon co-founded the Millennium Project of the American Council for the United Nations University (AC/UNU) in 1996. Glenn has been the executive director of the AC/UNU since 1988 as liaison between the U.S. and the UNU, the primary academic research system of the United Nations. He has 35 years experience in futures research for various think tanks and was deputy director for PfP International in micro-enterprise development, where he introduced e-mail to thirty developing countries in the early 1980s. Gordon was a space scientist in the Apollo program, has 45 years experience in futures research, founded The Futures Group, co-founded the Institute for the Future, and was an early pioneer with the RAND Corporation's Delphi studies.

About the Millennium Project:

The Millennium Project is a unique think tank with 26 Nodes—groups of institutions and individuals who connect global and local perspectives—around the world, plus 2,000+ volunteer futurists, scholars, business leaders, scientists, and policymakers from more than 50 countries, acting under the auspices of the American Council for the United Nations University. It is dedicated to exploring global futures by interviewing and surveying individuals at corporations, universities, NGO's, UN organizations, and governments to understand world change and to identify actions to improve humanity's prospects for the future. In addition to its annual *State of the Future* reports, the Millennium Project also produces the *Futures Research Methodology* series, and special studies. Current sponsors of the AC/UNU Millennium Project are Applied Materials, Deloitte & Touche LLP, Ford Motor Company, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and the U.S. Army Environmental Policy Institute, and (in-kind) the Smithsonian Institution, World Future Society, and World Federation of United Nations Associations.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For additional information, visit The Millennium Project's website www.acunu.org and/or download the project's flyer at: <http://www.acunu.org/millennium/mpflyer-2006.html>