



SA Node of the Millennium Project
P.O. Box 127
Auckland Park
2006
SOUTH AFRICA

23rd July, 2006

The Planning Committee
AC/UNU Millennium Project
TORONTO

Dear Members of the Planning Committee,

Brief Report to July Planning Committee Meeting in Toronto on the South Africa Node of the Millennium Project

It is now two years since the SA Node was formed. The first meeting was held in June 2004 and the Memorandum of Understanding with the AC/UNU Millennium Project was signed in September 2004.

The Finnish Embassy in SA made a contribution of R50 000 (about \$8 000) towards the establishment of the Node. We wish to acknowledge this generous sponsorship and the contribution it made to get us up and running.

A website was established and an email database of "members" or persons interested in futures issues developed. The website features a constant feed of reports of science and technology issues as they pertain to the developing world. In addition, news from the SA Node as well as the Millennium Project is featured e.g. the AC/UNU reports on Emerging Environmental Security issues.

Contacts were established as a Node with SA government representatives; and relations built with the SA Chapter of the World Future Society. Relations were also established with the Finland Futures Research Centre, in the person of Mr. Olli Hietanen.

Supporting AC/UNU Millennium Project Activities

- The Node facilitated involvement by South Africans in the MP's Survey of Future Ethical Issues (2004/5) as well as the Global Energy Delphi (2005/6).
- The 2005 State of the Future report was launched and distributed in SA; as was the MP's Futures Methodology CD. This was done in conjunction with the SA Chapter of the World Future Society.
- The Node organized for Mr. Jerome Glenn to appear on the business TV channel in SA to publicize the work done by the Millennium Project and particularly the State of the Future report.
- The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) uses the 15 Global Challenges in their Public Management and Development Programme and the Node sponsors a prize of for the best papers written in this module.

Research Project on Public Scenarios

The SA Node obtained a sponsorship of about \$50 000 from the Anglo American Corporation to conduct research into the various scenarios used in SA since the 1980s to help the country make its political transition from apartheid to democracy. SA is one of the few countries in the world with actual practical experience of using public scenarios to achieve dramatic public policy outcomes. Documenting these scenarios and analyzing the different methodologies and results achieved used could benefit futures work here and elsewhere. The report should be available towards the middle of next 2007.

Any Node or affiliated organization that would like to make inputs to this project are welcome to contact the SA Node.

International Conference of the WFSF

The WFSF allocated to the SA Node the privilege to organize and host its 20th International Conference in 2007 in SA. We are humbled by this honour and will carry the flag for the AC/UNU Millennium Project and our fellow Nodes. The conference will take place towards the end of October or the beginning of November and the final dates will soon be announced by the WFSF. Pse make provision in your planning for 2007 to attend this event. Perhaps the Planning Committee can consider having one of its meetings for the year in SA to coincide with the WFSF Conference?

We welcome any suggestions or inputs from other Nodes and the Millennium Project family.

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