

Future Trends

A Newsletter by Minnesota Futurists Chapter of the WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY, an Association for the Study of Alternative Futures

RATE OF DEVELOPING FUTURES

By Earl C. Joseph, Futurist

This article will give some ideas about how fast a future can develop. One of the variables that dictates when a future can come into fruition depends upon how many people and whom it takes to make the future develop. Other variables are involved, such as the economic cost (cost versus benefit), the desirability for it by the people who can make it happen, whether or not the science or technology are available to allow it to be possible, the value or worth of it to be viable to make the change, or the politics that need to be mustered.

If a president of a country or a company can muster the resources and is able to convince staff or congress to allocate them, then the future involved can happen rather quickly. Its reality could become the future in less than a month to a year or take nearly a decade depending upon the magnitude involved. If new technology needs to be evolved or developed it may take more than a few years for its future to emerge. If it requires most or many individuals to change their ways, it could take more than a generation.

In any of the above cases, the process could be speeded up through the advocacy of a "champion". Or, if it requires an unsupportable consensus, it could take much longer or never happen. If it requires a new science to make it possible, that would also stretch out the time for its fruition. In all cases a decision must be made followed by some process allocating resources for its development, such as a strategic plan. Futurists can make the forecasts that a particular future is possible, leadership could certify its probability, and the public could give its blessing, but until a decision is made, it will not happen.



We encourage you to send articles, book reviews, and comments, in electronic form, to:

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Future Trends is available in electronic format only Visit our web site,
<http://www.mnfuturists.org>

NOTE: For more information on the Minnesota Futurists, please go to our web page at www.mnfuturists.org

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January, February, March SIG Schedule

- Jan 01, 2005: Happy New Year
"No Meeting"
- Jan 08, 2005: Futures Studies Course 48
"Creating a New Minnesota
Futurists Professional Futures
Group"
- Jan 15, 2005: Economy
"Understanding, facilitating
and managing innovation is an
accelerating trend" Part 2
- Jan 22, 2005: Science/Technology
"A-Life Futures"
- Jan 29, 2005: Mgmt/Ed./Societal/Cultural
"Future Auditing"
- Feb 5, 2005: Futures Studies Course 49
"SEPTS/Strategy/Matrix
Forecasting"
- Feb 12, 2005: Economy
"Identifying market
downtrends and selling rules."
- Feb 19, 2005: Science/Technology
"Energy Source Futures"
- Feb 26 2005: Mgt/Ed/Societal/Cultural
"Framing is more than finding
'better' words."
- Mar 5, 2005: Futures Studies Course 50
"Futures: Audit Learning
Theories"
- Mar 12, 2005: Economy
"TBD-"
- Mar 19, 2005: Science/Technology
"Gaming Futures"
- Mar 26 2005: Mgt/Ed/Societal/Cultural
"Decline of Civilization - Is the
US peaking?"

NOTE: All SIGS meet at:
The Kenwood Meeting Room, 2nd floor
825 Summit Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota
9:30 AM on Saturdays

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