Brief Overview & Status Report

Presentation by South Africa Node
MP-PC Meeting, July 2008
SA Node Directors
Expanded leadership team:

- **Makhosini Mashele**, Department of Science & Technology
- **Alioune Sall**, African Futures Institute
- **Bongani Memela**, Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
- **Andre Roux**, University of Stellenbosch Institute for Futures Research
- **Koffi Kouakou**, University of Witwatersrand Public & Development Management School
Mission

- Spread the culture of futures thinking in the region
- Deepen the futures expertise of institutions and individuals
- Galvanise and mobilize African experts and networks to participate in the activities of the Millennium Project
2007-8

National
- Scenario Learning Project
- SA-SOFI
- Universities programme (curriculum + prize)
- Administrative arrangements

Regional
- Futures Conference 2007
- Scenario Practitioners Review (Oxford & WEF)

International
- Delphi studies
- State of the Future reports
- Support Global Challenges initiative
The story of South Africa’s transition in 1994 to a non-racial democracy has been told many times, principally from the perspective of the political forces for change. But many other factors were at work, over many years, which influenced not only the political outcome but also the economic philosophy of the new ANC government.

This pioneering study explores one such set of factors, viz the ideas generated by three quite different privately initiated but publicly disseminated scenario exercises undertaken in the period 1985-1992. In doing so, and in locating the scenarios within the turbulent context of the times, it offers fresh and compelling insights into the transition as well as into the fierce contestation over political and economic ideas, which continues to the present day.
The lecture will provide an overview of *Futures Research and the State of the Future*. We frequently hear about "Scenarios" "Foresight" "Roadmapping" "Futures research", but what do they mean, what methods are they employed, what results are produced, and are these results credible and useful, and what are the implications for social and policy research? This seminar will take advantage of the first International Futures Conference in South Africa (www.sampnode.co.za) to begin discussing these questions with a panel of practitioners and researchers in the field.
## What’s next: 2008-9

### National
- SA-SOFI *continue & expand*
- Scenario Learning Project *Part 2*
- Universities Masters’ programme *structure*

### Regional
- SnA-SOFI
- Africa outreach

### International
- Delphi studies: *> efficiency & participation*
- State of the Future reports *> input*
- Global Challenges *participate*
- SOFI future dev

### Challenges:
- Grow implementation capacity (members, network, partners)
- Funding support (projects, activities, operational costs, MP-PC)
SA Node Activities 2007-8

- **June 2008**: On behalf of the HSRC and the Millennium Project, we have the honour of inviting you to participate in a real-time Delphi study to choose variables that should compose a first South Africa State of the Future Index (SA-SOFI). An invitation and details are attached here. You will be going to www.realtimedelphi.org to complete the online questionnaire. The final submission deadline has been extended to 06 June 2008!

- **May 2008**: The SA Node AGM was held as planned on 12 May 2003. Thanks to all who were able to attend, as well as those who tendered apologies. Click here for the minutes of the AGM.

- **April 2008**: The SA Node was formally registered as a not-for-profit organisation in 2007. In April 2008, the first SA Node Annual General Meeting (AGM) was convened at 14h30 on 12 May 2008 at the Institute for Economic Research Innovation (IERI) boardroom in Pretoria. All interested