



Latin America 2030 Scenarios Presented on January 26th: Global Futurists and Scholars Discuss the 2011 State of the Future in Valencia, Venezuela

The Latin America 2030 Scenarios and the 2011 State of the Future will be presented on January 26th at the University José Antonio Páez in Valencia, Venezuela. This important event will be inaugurated by the university chancellor, Inés González de Salama, with comments by professor Gladys Armas de Gilli, and the closing by the National Director of Extension of this University, Julián Gutiérrez. The keynote presentation will be by José Luis Cordeiro, Director of the Venezuela Node of the Millennium Project, who will present the Latin America 2030 Scenarios.

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The University José Antonio Páez (UJAP: <http://www.ujap.edu.ve>) is one of the major academic institutions with over 13,000 students distributed in Valencia and other centers across Venezuela. UJAP will host the next presentation of the Latin America 2030 Scenarios and the 2011 State of the Future.

The Millennium Project (<http://www.millennium-project.org>) was created in 1996 as the first global think tank, conducting independent futures research through its 40 nodes around the world, connecting local and global perspectives. The nodes are groups of people and institutions that bring together the brains of the region and the feedback from the overall results. It has the support of United Nations organizations, multinational corporations, universities, foundations and governments of many countries like Azerbaijan, Kuwait, South Korea and the USA.

The Millennium Project is a global think tank that conducts futures research, consisting of more than three thousand scientists, intellectuals, artists, entrepreneurs, academics, politicians, and journalists. They are dedicated to the study of the future and generating ideas for improving the human condition gathered in forty nodes located on every



continent.

The 2011 State of the Future finds the world is getting richer, healthier, better educated, living longer, and is more peaceful and better connected; yet half the world is potentially unstable. The food prices are rising, water tables are falling, corruption and organized crime is increasing, environmental viability to sustain life is declining, debt and growing economic insecurity is rising, climate change continues, and the gap between the rich and poor is widening dangerously.

According to Jose Cordeiro, Venezuelan director of the Millennium Project and coordinator of the Latin America 2030 Scenarios, the region has to move forward and look to the future now that is celebrating the bicentennial of its independence. Latin America is currently at a crossroad and a vision of the future is fundamental to improve the living conditions of the expected 700 million Latin Americans alive by 2030. Thus, the Millennium Project devised four possible scenarios to the year 2030 based on the input of over 500 futurists from 60 countries in all continents. Cordeiro said that, "If Latin America changes its vision of the future, it has the opportunity to join the rank of developed countries by 2030."



The world is in a race between implementing ever-increasing ways to improve the human condition and the seemingly ever-increasing complexity and scale of global problems. The global future can become far more unstable and dangerous if we do not take urgent measures to fight global organized crime, corruption and climate change.

It states that significant improvements are being made in reducing poverty, extending longevity, and limiting conflict. However, the battle against the growth of carbon emissions, rising temperatures, unemployment, corruption and terrorism are being lost. In 2010, 90 percent of global natural disasters, which killed 295,000 people at an approximate cost of 130 billion dollars, were related to climate and climate exchange rates.

The number of unstable states grew from 28 to 37 between 2006 and 2011, even though there are fewer wars, which fell to 10 from 14 the previous year. Half of the world remains vulnerable to social instability and violence. The inequalities are compounded by the rising costs of food, water and energy, which could result in 400 million migrants in 2050. The report also contains a State of the Future Index, based on analysis and evaluation of 700 experts from around the world based on 28 factors, including education, health, wealth, conflict, freedom and the environment. The Index shows a period of 10 years of improvement, but warns that "there is no guarantee of a bright future."

The 2011 State of the Future is a summary of our overall situations, problems, solutions and prospects for the future, from the 15 Global Challenges. These include energy, food, science and technology, ethics, development, water, organized crime, health, decision making, gender relations, demography, war and peace, and others. The recommendations are specifically targeted to senior executives, thought leaders, strategic planners, public policy experts, political advisors, non-profit organizations, teachers / professors and anyone interested in an overview of our prospects for the future. This report analyzes a wide range of policy initiatives geared toward the future, such as: potable water, seawater-based agriculture, environmental safety in the central United States and China, strategic trust, a comprehensive strategy to combat organized crime and collective intelligence.

According to Jerome Glenn, executive director of the Millennium Project and one of the authors of the report, there is room for optimism: "If we can improve our decision making as individuals, groups, nations, and institutions the world will be better than it is today."

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