

HUMANITY 3000

N E W S

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Humanity 3000 Organizing Committee Meets to Test Seminar Design



Walter Kistler, Bob Citron, Allen Tough, Sohail Inayatullah, Graham Molitor, Siro Polo Padolecchia, Barbara Marx Hubbard and Sesh Velamoor at H3000 Organizing Committee meeting.

Planning for Humanity 3000 has progressed on schedule. On September 9–11, 1998, the Organizing Committee met with Foundation staff regarding overall planning and implementation for the Seminars in 1999 and the Symposium in 2000. Key tasks for the meeting were to evaluate and test the Seminar design, and to be updated on H3000 activities including participant selection, sites selected for the Seminars and Symposium, and invited background papers.

H3000 Program Design

The H3000 program design calls for two Humanity 3000 Seminars in 1999, the first in April and the second in September. The third event is an international Symposium in August, 2000. The two Seminars will be conducted at retreat settings in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. The Symposium will be held at Bell Harbor Conference Center on the waterfront in

Seattle, Washington. Bell Harbor, modeled after the United Nations Building, is the most technologically advanced conference center on the West Coast of the U.S.

Humanity 3000 Seminars in 1999

The Seminars will include thirty participants and will focus on key factors that may affect the future of humanity in the next 1000 years. A different set of participants will be invited to each Seminar. Each Seminar will have representation by approximately twelve scientists, three futurists, three historians, three artists, three theologians/philosophers, three visionary generalists, and three synthesizers.

Seminar 1 will explore and identify key factors for the long-term survival of humanity, with an emphasis on mapping the past and present trajectories of these factors and outlining these trajectories, with a preview of long-term problems and opportunities. Seminar 2 will further explore the

key factors, reviewing the map and trajectory, with an emphasis on outlining the problems and opportunities for the long-term future related to the factors. These discussions will result in a draft declaration that will be presented at the H3000 Symposium in 2000.

Common design features include beginning on Sunday afternoon and concluding on Wednesday at noon, with a reception at Foundation For the Future headquarters on Saturday evening prior to each Seminar. Both Seminars will utilize computer-based interactivity for participants and observers, along with flow-chart record keeping or wall mapping. The participants will work together as a whole group, in small groups of ten working separately, and in small groups of ten where one group discusses while the other two groups observe.

Humanity 3000 Symposium in 2000

The international Symposium in 2000 will be attended by the 1999 Seminar participants, along with forty additional invitees from around the world. This event is designed to be the Foundation's global forum for discussion of the key factors identified during the Seminars, and for review, revision, and adoption of the draft declaration on the key factors prepared at the Seminars. The Humanity 3000 Declaration will be issued at the end of the Symposium.

Think Tank Process Design Test

Testing and evaluation of the Seminar process design was the major activity of the September Organizing Committee meeting. Sesh Velamoor, Deputy Director for Programs, provided an overview of the design. The process design test was a simulation of the Seminars using the design

Continued on other side.



Roundtable discussion with Clement Bezold, Allen Tough, Glen Hiemstra, Joseph Coates and Sohail Inayatullah.

Organizing Committee, continued from other side.

to discuss the proposition, "Humanity's survival depends on the death of individualism and the birth of evolutionary humanism."

Organizing Committee members were divided into two working groups, representing separate affinity groups. One group discussed the proposition while the second group observed. The roles were reversed when group two discussed and group one observed. At the end of the session, both groups reported on their findings. In the second session, the groups were restructured, mixing the former groups into two new composites. Each group discussed the topic while the other group observed. At the end of session two, the groups reported



Siro Polo Padolecchia making a point.

their findings. General conversation followed on the process design capacity to engage each participant, explore the topic in an "affinity" group setting, and then expanded the discussions in groups with individuals of diverse perspectives. It was agreed that the process design does work; it provided the requisite framework and process for the conversations to take place.

Organizing Committee Recommendations

The Organizing Committee devoted considerable time to the challenges inherent in assigning participants to affinity groups. It was decided that the participants will be required to provide in advance a two page statement of their own view of the long-term future of humanity. This brief document, including narrative on the highest potential that the author envisions for the future in his/her professional field, will be the basis upon which each participant is assigned to an affinity group. The brief paper will serve additional purposes, including challenging the writer to think through and articulate a long term vision. The statements will be provided in advance to the participants, and will be the basis for each person's self introduction to the group as a whole.

Next Steps: OC Task Groups

Four task groups were created at the September meeting. The tasks include final work on the think tank process design and the role of the OC members at the Seminars and Symposium, creation of H3000 timelines, review of the background papers, and on-line interactivity for the Seminars and Symposium. Activity on these tasks will take place over the next few months. ■

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WHAT IS

The Humanity 3000 program is designed to bring together some of the world's most prominent thinkers to assess the current state of humanity, to identify the most significant factors that may affect the quality of life of the future people of the Earth, and to hold a series of workshops that will suggest research to be undertaken on the factors that will most affect the future of humanity during coming millennia.

Humanity 3000 initially consists of two Seminars to be held in 1999 and a major international Symposium to be held in August, 2000. It will include background papers, round-table discussions, and a global outreach program utilizing cyberspace and real-time satellite feeds of the meetings.

The Foundation plans to organize and host subsequent Humanity 3000 Seminars each year and an international Symposium every five years.