



Summer retreat in Strategic foresight #SOIF2017

7-11 August 2017, Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire, UK



It's brilliant, to bring together so many nationalities throughout the world, to think through these things in one place. It's ten out of ten.

Executive Director, African Public Policy & Research Institute

The School of International Futures is a treasure that anybody interested in managing for the future should not miss.

Director, Strategic Foresight Initiative, Atlantic Council

Very professional. Well designed and organised. High quality of faculty.

Scenario Planning Team, Shell Global

The School of International Futures flagship event returns for its sixth successive year. The five-day retreat teaches the science and art of Strategic foresight, the skills you need to understand change and disruption and how to create future-ready organisations in an uncertain and increasingly volatile world.

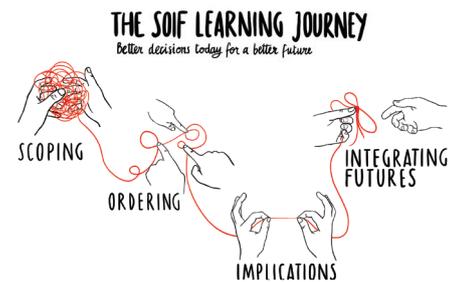
Our retreats provide a unique combination of executive education, insight, and understanding of how to use foresight with impact. By attending you will learn how to take a systematic and imaginative approach to the future; to identify emerging opportunities and threats, build resilience, and critically to connect future insights back to policy and decision-making today.

- **Learn the science of strategic foresight**, tools and methods that can be used to make a real difference in your organisation. SOIF's four stage process for foresight with impact and tools such as horizon scanning, scenario analysis, wind-tunnelling and visioning

- **Appreciate the art of strategic foresight** through panel discussions and debates with expert practitioners and leaders who have successfully used foresight to influence decision-making

- **Gain insight** into the future of education and skills and how to use "Lean Foresight", data and design to build the impact of your foresight work

- **Develop confidence and practical experience** in the craft: by working through a "live" policy challenge set by a real policy client during guided practical sessions



You will leave a confident commissioner and intelligent user of futures techniques, with practical ideas for implementing foresight in your organisation.

Who should attend?

Whether you set the strategic direction for your organisation, lead a strategy or innovation unit, are setting up your own foresight function or are just curious about the future, you will benefit from the new analytical and professional perspectives SOIF2017 provides. Whether you have already taken part in strategic foresight exercises or are new to the field, you will learn the skills and techniques needed to create change in your organisation and to communicate the impact of your foresight work.

Participants work at a senior level in strategy, policy, leadership and analytical roles in governments, NGOs, international organisations and businesses.

Previous participants include representatives from Chevron; Delma Institute, UAE; Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; European External Action Service; Garten Rothkopf; Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology; McKinsey and Company; National Commission of Security, Colombia; Save the Children; Shell Global; The African Public Policy and Research Institute; United Nations; UK Ministry of Defence.



SOIF is international – Our retreats draw attendees from all six continents, and we typically have over 18 nationalities at each retreat.

SOIF builds a community – Whether you are a foresight practitioner, user or commissioner, we help you build connections with people working to solve the same kinds of problems you are facing.

Attendance is limited to 25 participants and discussion is conducted under the Chatham House Rule to provide you with the space to reflect, exchange insights and build lasting relationships.

Themes

Every foresight retreat is unique – providing you with insights into trends in a specific policy area, new methodology, and practical experience working on a "Live challenge", a geographic case-study, brought by a pro-bono "client" – details to be released in 2017. This year our themes are:

The future of education and skills. We will take a holistic look at the global trends that will shape the future out to 2060 (with a focus on 2030, the time horizon for the Sustainable Development Goals). What will life look like in a world that has started to deglobalise – with increasingly local design, production and flows of people and goods? How will artificial intelligence, automation and demographic change impact this future? What skills are needed, what do our educational systems look like and how can countries and organisations take advantage of change?

"Lean foresight" for impact. Our methodology theme explores how demand for foresight in developing countries and new sectors is driving a need for foresight that can deliver more for less (whether resources or time). How do we flex foresight approaches and tools in different cultural contexts? How can new technologies and tools, including big data, crowd sourcing and design thinking, be used to enhance the impact of your futures work. And how do we use conversations about the future to benefit different communities?

Speakers

This year we be joined by over 15 speakers and faculty – expert commissioners, practitioners and users of foresight, as well as private and public sector policy planning/government leads and experts in futures thinking, design and data. Confirmed speakers include:

- **Enrico Giovannini** Full professor of Economic Statistics, University of Rome
- **Jeff Jonas** Founder and Chief Scientist, Senzing and former IBM Fellow and Chief Scientist Context Computing
- **Rosemarie Forsythe** Former Director, International Political Strategy at ExxonMobil
- **Mathew J. Burrows** Director of Strategic Foresight, Atlantic Council, Washington DC

Previous years' speakers include: Jim Dator, pre-eminent futurist and political scientist; President Tarja Halonen, 11th President of Finland; Anne Marie Slaughter, President of New America Foundation; Amy Zalman, former CEO, World Future Society; Jill Wong, Director, Strategic Policy Office, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore; Betty Sue Flowers, poet and author of the "Power of Myth", Martin Rees, British Astronomer Royal, Co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge; and Natalie Bennett, Leader Green Party of England and Wales.

Venue and Registration

This year's event will be held at Hartwell House, near Aylesbury, UK. This historic house provides an intimate setting for debate, 'fireside chats' and creativity in the British countryside. Attendance is limited, so register now while we have places available!

Participant fee (Early bird registration available until 16 Jan 2017):
Corporate £4,255* (Early bird: £3,755*)
NGO, Government, Academia £2,755* (Early bird: £2,255*)

Accommodation fee:** £1,195*

* All prices are quoted exclusive of UK VAT which will be charged at 20 percent. ** Includes use of the facilities at Hartwell House, including four nights' accommodation, spa, meals and airport transfer from/to London Heathrow airport. The accommodation fee will be invoiced by SOIF together with the participant fee.

Enquiries

To find out more visit www.soif.org.uk or get in touch

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Our story

SOIF was founded by Cat Tully and Alun Rhydderch in 2011 to champion the use of strategic foresight in policy and strategy. Alun was part of the team that set up the UK's Horizon Scanning Center, which since 2005 has helped put analysis of future trends and scenario planning at the heart of the strategy process in UK government. Cat, as Strategy Project director in the UK FCO's Strategy Unit and in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, championed the application of these tools to British foreign policy, as well as across domestic and economic priorities.

Together with a wide network of experts, we tailor training and consulting services to our clients: international organisations, universities, government ministries and agencies, not-for-profit and private sector organisations. Our research extends from foresight tools and techniques to setting up a foresight unit, public participation in development, the role of social networks, and anticipatory governance.



The Live challenge combined with faculty sessions and expert panels kept the days lively and allowed for learning, application, and understanding how foresight can fit into the real world

Managing Director at FP Analytics, Foreign Policy

Wonderful opportunity to meet other practitioners and the possibility to learn from non-government teaching.

Office of the Secretary of Defense, United States

