

Future-proofing the school

Jim M Spinks, Director,
'All across the line'

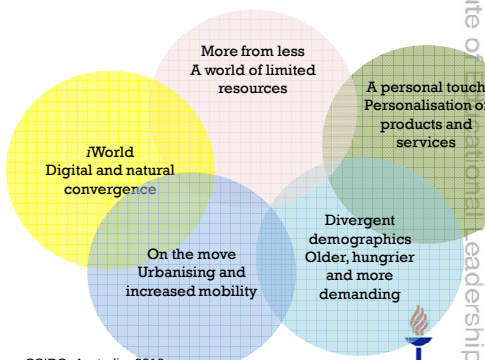


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The Future: Five Megatrends



iWorld
Digital and natural
convergence

More from less
A world of limited
resources

A personal touch
Personalisation of
products and
services

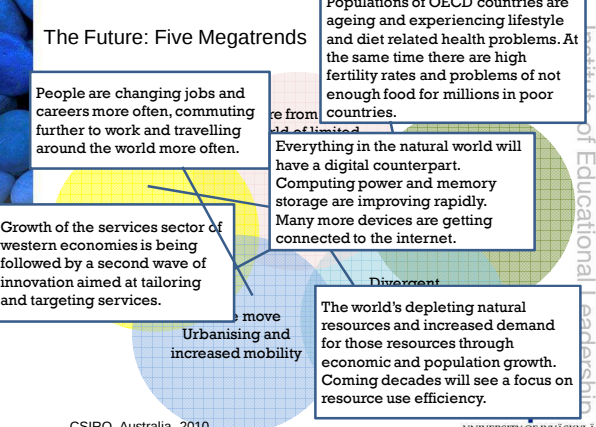
On the move
Urbanising and
increased mobility

Divergent
demographics
Older, hungrier
and more
demanding

CSIRO, Australia, 2010

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The Future: Five Megatrends



People are changing jobs and careers more often, commuting further to work and travelling around the world more often.

Growth of the services sector of western economies is being followed by a second wave of innovation aimed at tailoring and targeting services.

Populations of OECD countries are ageing and experiencing lifestyle and diet related health problems. At the same time there are high fertility rates and problems of not enough food for millions in poor countries.

Everything in the natural world will have a digital counterpart. Computing power and memory storage are improving rapidly. Many more devices are getting connected to the internet.

The world's depleting natural resources and increased demand for those resources through economic and population growth. Coming decades will see a focus on resource use efficiency.

CSIRO, Australia, 2010

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MEGASHOCKS

Economic	Environmental
1. Food price volatility	1. Extreme climate change related to weather
2. Oil and gas price spike	2. Droughts and desertification
3. Major fall in US\$	3. Loss of fresh water
4. Slowing Chinese economy (6%)	4. Cyclone
5. Fiscal crises	5. Earthquake
6. Asset price collapse	6. Inland flooding
7. Retrenchment from globalisation (developed)	7. Coastal flooding
8. Retrenchment from globalisation (emerging)	8. Air pollution
9. Regulation cost	9. Biodiversity loss
10. Underinvestment in infrastructure	10. + Volcanoes (see Iceland)

Geopolitical	Societal
1. International terrorism	1. Pandemic
2. Collapse of the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty	2. Infectious disease
3. US/Iran conflict	3. Chronic disease
4. US/Democratic Republic of Korea conflict	4. Liability regimes
5. Afghanistan instability	5. Migration

Technological
1. Critical information infrastructure breakdown
2. Emergence of nanotechnology risks
3. Data fraud/loss



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Scenarios in Teaching for Uncertain Futures



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Scenario 1: Under the Volcano
....an unhappy, unequal, uncaring society with two classes, rich and poor. As a consequence, society is polarised and divided. The less fortunate are resentful and pessimistic. There is neighbourhood unrest and increased use of security forces. Society is driven by consumerism and free choice. It is all about me, personalised values.

Scenario 2: A Farewell to Arms
....a positive, community-focused scenario. The economy is strong with a focus on green sustainable technology. It describes a more harmonious optimistic society in which the growth of wellbeing and happiness in the community is a political goal. Progress is through cooperation and respect. Society wants fresh thinking and new ideas and its values are 'feminised'.

From Teaching for Uncertain Futures, 2007

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Scenario 3: The Grapes of Wrath
....built around fear. The economic boom has ended, jobs are scarce, the physical environment is harsh and unforgiving, the focus is on survival and pessimism is endemic. Members of society are competitive and intolerant of each other. As a result society is disintegrating, in fact tearing itself apart. Values are survival-focused.

Scenario 4: The Magic Mountain
....the growing corporatisation of society is depicted as the Magic Mountain. In this world, business takes over many of the roles and responsibilities of government and community groups. Because society relies on corporate social responsibility for providing a social safety net, reaching beyond employees, the underclass is marginalised. In this society male-dominated values are to the fore.

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Strategies to future proof the school

- Values and beliefs to balance the past, present and future.
- Capacity and willingness to keep abreast of trends.
- Capacity and willingness to respond to threats and opportunities.
- Processes to enable the school to gather evidence and other intelligence to continually re-set priorities and plan accordingly.
- School leaders ensure that the attention of the school community is focused on matters of strategic importance.

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