

Bridging the Gap

How can horizon scanning and strategic futures be used to inform policy?

Venue - Defence Academy, Shrivenham SN6 8EU

Date - Tuesday 15 January 2013 (open to all)

Wednesday 16 January 2013 (government only, UK and overseas)

Aim and structure

The Symposium will address the following themes:

- Making horizon scanning count in an era of restricted budgets
- How can futures analysis improve organisational resilience, risk and efficiency?
- Addressing the Blackett Review 'High Impact Low Probability Risks'
- How can cooperation improve cross departmental strategic thinking?
- Tuning horizon scanning products to meet policy/strategy needs.

The aim of the Symposium is to identify ways in which the horizon scanning and strategic futures community can work together better and to identify actions that can be implemented in the following year to ensure that horizon scanning products are tailored to meet the needs of the users. This will be achieved by engaging with people who have been involved in the use of horizon scanning and strategic futures to formulate strategy and policy from both the UK and abroad.

There will be expert speakers from across the UK (government, academia and the commercial sector) and overseas with interests aligned to the Symposium's aims. Additionally there will be workshops linked to the five themes listed above, and discussion fora.

Plenty of time has been allowed for networking during refreshment breaks and for those attending both days an overnight stay on the Defence Academy campus is included. Attendance however is limited in number and if appropriate, will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Who should attend?

Responding to feedback received from delegates at last year's Symposium, the agenda has been split into two days so that the focus can be tailored more specifically to the audience on each day.

On day one we welcome horizon scanning practitioners and users of horizon scanning products from both government and non government organisations and from a broad range of disciplines providing scientific, technical, engineering, political, social, economic, national and international perspectives.

Day two is reserved for UK and overseas government representatives so that issues of particular relevance can be addressed more fully.

This year we are also particularly keen to extend our invitation to people at the start of their careers who may be involved in policy or strategy formulation in the years to come, hence a number of places have been reserved for Civil Service Fast Streamers.

This mix of perspectives gives the Symposium its distinctive multi-disciplinary and multi-agency flavour and maximises the opportunities for establishing new and productive working relationships. Hence, this event is designed for all involved in horizon scanning in the public or private sectors including academia, regardless of discipline or application.

Why should you attend?

The Symposium will provide opportunities to hear from people who have been involved in both preparing and using horizon scanning to inform strategy and policy formulation.

On both days there will be opportunities to help formulate actions which will inform how the horizon scanning and strategic futures community will work together more effectively in the future.

Question time on day one will give the opportunity for anyone to submit questions to be considered by a panel of experts from government and industry. On day two the discussion forum will allow more government specific issues to be addressed with questions from the floor.

Venue and accommodation

The Symposium will be held in the Defence Capability Centre (DCC) on the Shrivenham Campus.

Overnight accommodation is provided in Mountbatten House for those attending both days.

If you are travelling a long distance and require overnight accommodation on Monday 14 January please indicate this on the registration form, although accommodation is limited on this day.

To register

The Symposium, including accommodation, is free to attendees.

To register simply complete the form and return it to eastevens@dstl.gov.uk copied to jcarney@dstl.gov.uk.

More details on travel and logistics will be sent to delegates nearer the Symposium.

Workshops

On day two there will be a choice of workshops, each addressing one of the five themes of the Symposium, listed below.

Delegates are asked to select their first, second and third choices on the registration form and places will be allocated as the registrations are received.

Workshop themes

A	Making horizon scanning count in an era of restricted budgets
B	How can futures analysis improve organisational resilience, risk and efficiency?
C	Addressing the Blackett Review 'High Impact Low Probability Risks'
D	How can cooperation improve cross departmental strategic thinking?
E	Tuning horizon scanning products to meet policy/strategy needs

Day 1 – Tuesday 15 January 2013

Time	Activity	Lead
0900	Registration and Coffee	
1000	Welcome	Prof Bob Madahar, Chief Scientist, Dstl Information Management Department
1015	Key note - Bridging the gap : the empowerment of individuals as a major global trend	Alvaro de Vasconcelos, former Director of the European Union Institute for Security Studies
1100	Coffee	
1130	The NIHR Horizon Scanning Centre – Informing research and health service guidance	Claire Packer, National Institute of Health Research
1155	Anticipating the future-the political economy dilemma	Michael Reilly, Ariel Research Services
1220	Persuading people to take alternative futures seriously – behaviour change or shock treatment?	Alun Rhydderch, Horizon Scanning Limited
1245	Panel session	
1300	Lunch	
1400	Key note - foresight and the future of governance	Peter Ho, Senior Adviser, Centre for Strategic Futures, Singapore
1430	How can futures analysis improve organisational resilience, risk and efficiency	E Anders Eriksson, FOI Sweden
1500	Strategic horizons-the French experience	Marc de Fritsch, <i>sous-directeur politique et prospective de défense</i> , DAS France
1530	Panel session	
1600	Tea	
1630	Question Time	Oliver Grant, GO Science
1715	Wash up	
1930	Dinner	
2130	Adjourn	

Day 2 – Wednesday 16 January 2013

Time	Activity	Lead
0900	Removing the barriers to effective horizon scanning across government	Jon Day, Chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee
1000	Estimating the Probability of Rare Events: Theory, Problems and Practical Tools	Nick Hare, Team Leader of the Futures and Analytical Methods Team within the Defence Intelligence Assessments Staff
1030	Emerging technologies with the potential to impact future safety: Development of an information tool for conveying emerging S&T developments to policymakers	Gill Strong, Dstl Horizon Scanning team
1100	Panel session	
1115	Workshops	
1245	Lunch	
1345	Workshop feedback	
1415	Discussion forum Working together to deliver maximum benefit from Horizon Scanning across government	Round table (panel members to be confirmed, chair Prof Bob Madahar)
1515	Ways forward	Prof Bob Madahar, Chief Scientist, Dstl Information Management Department
1530	Tea and depart	

