



# Summer retreat in Strategic foresight #SOIF2018

6-10 August 2018, Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire, UK

The School of International Futures flagship event returns for its seventh 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 role of foresight, personal and organisational transformation as we explore the links between Foresight and Theory U.
- **Develop confidence and practical experience** in the craft: by working through a "live" policy challenge 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.



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

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.

## 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.

- **Roger Dennis** Foresight and Strategy Consultant and Former co-lead, Shell Technology Futures Programme joins the SOIF Team as our guest faculty for 2018

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Rebeca Grynspan** Secretary-General Ibero-American; Vice-President of Costa Rica (1994-98); Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Program
- **Joseph Jaworksi** Chairman of Generon International, former Shell head of scenario planning and author of the critically acclaimed international best-seller, Synchronicity: The Inner Path of Leadership and co-author of Presence: Exploring Profound Change in People, Organizations and Society.
- **David Rejeski** Director, Technology, Innovation and the Environment Project, Environmental Law Institute, Washington DC; Global Fellow Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- **Susan Taylor** Co-founder and Managing Director, Generon International
- **Nicholas Colloff** Director Argidius Foundation and former Director of Innovation, Oxfam GB
- **Rosemarie Forsythe** Former Director, International Political Strategy at ExxonMobil
- **Mathew J. Burrows** Director of Strategic Foresight, Atlantic Council, Washington D.C.

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

Scenario Planning Team, Shell Global

To find out more visit [www.soif.org.uk](http://www.soif.org.uk) or get in touch:

School of International Futures, 49 Brick Lane, London, E1 6PU | T: +44 (0) 300 302 0486 | [www.soif.org.uk](http://www.soif.org.uk) | [#SOIF2018](https://twitter.com/SOIFutures)

## Themes

Every foresight retreat is unique – in addition to our focus on strategic foresight we provide you with insights into trends in a specific policy area, new methodology, and practical experience working on a "Live challenge", a case study set by a real client that will give you insights and real experience into how to use foresight with impact.

Our policy focus and Live Challenge will be announced in the next few months. Our methodology theme this year focuses on the role of foresight in driving personal and organisational transformation. Supported by Joseph Jaworski and Susan Taylor from Generon International, we will explore the links between Foresight and Theory U.

## 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 SOIF2018 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 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.

## Accreditation to the Strategic Foresight Programme

School of International Futures (SOIF) is pleased to offer attendees at our SOIF2018 Summer Retreat in Strategic Foresight the option to apply to take part in the Strategic Foresight Programme, endorsed by ILM, the UK's most renowned professional body for management and leadership programmes.

The programme recognises your continued development as a Strategic Foresight Practitioner, and is awarded based on the successful completion of a three- to six-month project to apply your retreat learning and the foresight approach to a project in your organisation, or with a client.

This is a great opportunity to focus and follow through on your post-Retreat actions and commitments, as well as to demonstrate your capability and commitment to Strategic foresight.

## 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.

Discussion is conducted under the Chatham House Rule to provide you with the space to reflect, exchange insights and build lasting relationships.

**Participant fee:** Corporate £4,900\* NGO, Government, Academia: £3,250\*

**Accommodation fee\*\*:** £1,300\*

**Save £500 on the participant fee when you register by 31 January 2018 with our early bird.**

\* 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.

### Our story

SOIF was founded to help you and your organisation navigate uncertainty and make resilient and better decision in an increasingly uncertain and complex world. Our vision is that individuals in organisations and communities across the world use strategic foresight to improve their lives professionally and personally.

SOIF founders have experience working with senior government officials and Ministers from their time working inside the UK Government at the Foresight and Horizon Scanning Centre, Foreign Ministry and PM's Strategy Unit. Other SOIF staff have also worked in government roles.

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.

I really appreciated the hands-on experience: learning, applying, seeing the outcome at the end of the week, networking and realising you are not alone.

U.S. Government Accountability Office

Fantastic mix between inputs and practical application. Outstanding exchange with high level people who are intensively working and using foresight to create change. Most inspiring

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



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