Futures Thinking and Scenario Planning

Cheryl Chung
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
What are some of the challenges that Governments face thinking about the future?
Futures Thinking and Scenario Planning

1. Question assumptions about the future
2. Scan the horizon for drivers of change
3. Imagine alternative futures
4. Take present action to be better prepared for the future
Stakeholder Management
Understanding key decision makers and their assumptions about the future

Futures as a Strategic Management Tool
More resilient and robust decision making
Greater adaptability for future challenges

Strategic Intelligence
Understanding key trends and how they might impact the future

- What are the key trends and/or weak signals that you observe?
- What evidence is there to support or dispute the trend?
- What are you certain/uncertain about?

- What is the mental map of your stakeholder?
- What assumptions does he/she have about the future?
- Where do the assumptions converge/diverge amongst your stakeholders?
Question
Assumptions About the Future
Futures Cone - What if we were wrong?
What Are Some of the Assumptions We Hold About Disaster Risk Financing Today?
Scan the Horizon for Drivers of Change
Identifying the driving forces

Indirect Environment
(‘Contextual Environment’)
- Legislation
  (e.g. compliance requirements, data privacy laws)
- Economic development
  (e.g. economic recovery)

Direct Environment
(‘Transactional Environment’)
- Technology
  (e.g. video, serious gaming)
- Demographics
  (e.g. next generation in the workplace)
- Business Leaders
  Employees
  Suppliers
- Actor
  (Learning Organization)

Driving Forces
How Might These Trends Affect Disaster Risk Financing?
Imagine Alternative Futures
SCENARIO PLANNING
Scenario Planning Approaches

FORECAST PLANNING
Extrapolating from the Recent Past

-10%  +10%

Forecast

What we know today

SCENARIO PLANNING
Envisioning Multiple Futures

Scenario 1  Scenario 2  Scenario 3

Uncertainties

What we know today
and people long for the safety of the domed worlds.
How Might Disaster Risk Financing Look in Each Future Scenario?
How might disaster risk financing look in each future scenario?
Take Present Action to Better Prepare for the Future
How Do You Currently Allocate Your Time Between the 4 Quadrants?

How might you reallocate your time?
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