

“The role of the Nodes around the world has become more important”

entrevista

El proyecto Millenium surgió en 1996, año en que Theodore Gordon publicó el Memorandum del Proyecto Milenio del Grupo Futuro en Predicción Tecnológica y Cambio Social. El grupo pidió a Jerome Glenn que llevase la idea del Proyecto Milenio a la Universidad de las Naciones Unidas. Glenn cambió el concepto de un estudio global a un sistema global para estudios globales. Recientemente, Glenn visitaba San Sebastián para presentar, de la mano de Prospektiker, el informe 2010 en español. Aprovechamos las ocasión para hablar con él del proyecto.

Which were the aims at the beginning?

The purposes of The Millennium Project are to assist in organizing futures research, improve thinking about the future, and make that thinking available through a variety of media for consideration in policy-making, advanced training, public education, and feedback, ideally in order to accumulate wisdom about potential futures.

Has it changed a lot?

The aims are the same, but it has grown tremendously. It is now internationally recognized as an independent global participatory think tank that is interdisciplinary, transinstitutional, and multicultural. The role of the Nodes around the world has become more important as they now initiate futures research studies such as on the one now in Latin America to create future scenarios for the region.

Nowadays, the Project has several “nodes” or active groups all over the World. How do they work?

A “node” is the intersection of two or more networks. In the Millennium Project, it is a group of individuals and institutions that connect global and local views – the local element of the global system. A Node is a set of self-organized groups of individuals and institutions. Ideally and one or two are from each of the following institutions: government, corporations, NGOs, Universities but not a majority from any one institutional category – making the Node like a “TransInstitution.” Nodes identify leading minds to participate in the Project’s research, adapt research to the cultural setting (group discussions, vs. individual questionnaires, and interviews), initiate research (e.g., Latin America 20-30 listed above), design and conduct workshops, symposiums, advanced Training, and something none of us have thought of before. It is experimental; no one knows the right way to be a Node. Nodes select their chair and sometimes co-chairs, who provide leadership, manage communications, attend MP planning committee meetings once a year. Each Node signs a Memorandum of

Understanding by one or more organizations with the Millennium Project. Can be with existing institution or created as a new Millennium Project NGO.

Financing is also a key issue for this kind of projects. How are used the outputs of your work?

The Millennium Project is sponsored by different Institutions World Wide. Many use the annual state of the Future reports as input to their own strategic planning, consulting, and teaching. Previous sponsors are listed at: <http://www.millennium-project.org/millennium/sponsors.html>

Current sponsors are: Azerbaijan State Economic University (tele-course on futures concepts and methods); City of Gimcheon, Korea (support the collective intelligence system for the Global Climate Change Situation Room); Kuwait Office of the Prime Minister (design and implement a collective intelligence to support their Early Warning System); Rockefeller Foundation (general support for meetings and financial planning); UNESCO (research for the UN World Water Scenarios); and U.S. Army Environmental Policy Institute (monthly environmental security reports).

How did you see the Basque Country in your recent visit to San Sebastian to present the “2010 State of the Future”?

It is wonderful, beautiful, and unique part of Europe. Its architecture, people, and food were wonderful.

Do you know the work of Prospektiker?

Yes, Ibon Zugasti gave me the background and he was highly recommended by other Node Chairs of the Millennium Project in Europe. We are very pleased with the addition of Prospektiker to our network of futures organizations around the world.

You are leading a non profit organization that has wide and strategic information. Which are, in your opinion, the key challenges of the planet right now?

The Challenges are interdependent: an improvement in one makes it easier to



address others; deterioration in one makes it harder to address others. Arguing whether one is more important than another is like arguing that the human nervous system is more important than the respiratory system. These Challenges are transnational in nature and transinstitutional in solution. They cannot be addressed by any government or institution acting alone. They require collaborative action among governments, international organizations, corporations, universities, NGOs, and creative individuals. Although listed in sequence, Challenge 1 on sustainable development and climate change is no more or less important than Challenge 15 on global ethics. There is greater consensus about the global situation as expressed in these Challenges and the actions to address them than is evident in the news media.

- 1 How can sustainable development be achieved for all while addressing global climate change?
- 2 How can everyone have sufficient clean water without conflict?
- 3 How can population growth and resources be brought into balance?
- 4 How can genuine democracy emerge from authoritarian regimes?
- 5 How can policymaking be made more sensitive to global long-term perspectives?
- 6 How can the global convergence of information and communications technologies work for everyone?
- 7 How can ethical market economies be encouraged to help reduce the gap between rich and poor?

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Interview with Jerome C. Glenn, Director Ejecutivo de Millenium



- 8** How can the threat of new and reemerging diseases and immune microorganisms be reduced?
- 9** How can the capacity to decide be improved as the nature of work and institutions change?
- 10** How can shared values and new security strategies reduce ethnic conflicts, terrorism, and the use of weapons of mass destruction?
- 11** How can the changing status of women help improve the human condition?
- 12** How can transnational organized crime networks be stopped from becoming more powerful and sophisticated global enterprises?
- 13** How can growing energy demands be met safely and efficiently?
- 14** How can scientific and technological breakthroughs be accelerated to improve the human condition?
- 15** How can ethical considerations become more routinely incorporated into global decisions?

Presentación del Informe “Estado del Futuro 2010”

Prospektiker presentó a comienzos de este año, en colaboración con LKS, Diputación de Gipuzkoa y MONDRAGON, el Informe “Estado del Futuro 2010” en el Salón del Trono de la citada institución foral. Este documento constituye el informe anual del Proyecto Millennium, del que Prospektiker preside el Nodo español. La presentación se realizó por el estadounidense Jerome C. Glenn, Director Ejecutivo del mencionado proyecto.

Millennium es un nuevo tipo de Think Tank, establecido en 1996 para conducir la investigación de futuros globales en un esquema global, a través de Nodos en todo el mundo. Es una “inteligencia global estratégica” que interconecta perspectivas globales y locales a través de su red de más de 30 Nodos y 3.000 expertos alrededor del mundo. Los participantes trabajan para las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales, corporaciones, gobiernos, ONGs, institutos de investigación y universidades.

Entre las secciones habituales del informe «Estado del futuro» están los análisis actualizados anualmente de los 15 Retos Globales, así como la publicación del Índice Estado del Futuro (SOFI). El índice identifica las áreas en las que se ha producido ya sea una mejora o un deterioro en los últimos 20 años y se desarrollan proyecciones para estos escenarios durante la próxima década. Todos los estudios relevantes y reconocidos de la ONU, el Banco Mundial y otras organizaciones multilaterales se aplican, en parte, en estas proyecciones.

El Nodo dirigido por Prospektiker está trabajando en 3 grandes líneas de actuación:

- Informe Estado del Futuro 2010: se ha coordinado la traducción y edición de la versión en castellano del Informe.
- Plataforma Web del Nodo: se ha puesta en marcha la plataforma Web de comunicación y debate virtual del Nodo: www.proyectomilenio.org
- Seminario Millennium: se ha celebrado en San Sebastián el primer seminario con la presencia de Jerome C. Glenn, Director Ejecutivo del Proyecto Millennium

Para más información sobre las actividades del Nodo Millennium, visite la página Web www.proyectomilenio.org

