

SKETCHES OF PREFERRED FUTURE SCENARIOS OF SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES 2112

IN THE PROJECT "IN100YEARS" WE FOCUS ON PREFERRED FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES IN THE LONG RUN. INSPIRED BY THE SEMINARS, HOUSE OF FUTURES HAS PUT FORWARD TWO SKETCHES OF SCENARIOS: TWO DIFFERENT PATHS TO THE FUTURE - AND THESE WERE ALSO DISCUSSED AT THE FOURTH SEMINAR IN THE "DELIVERY ROOM". THE KEY TO THEIR DIFFERENCES LIES IN THEIR DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS AND MINDSET. WE PROPOSE THAT THEY ARE BOTH POSSIBLE SCENARIOS, AND BOTH CAN LEAD TO SUSTAINABILITY. YET THEY ARE VERY DIFFERENT. ONE SCENARIO IS CALLED "MAN-MADE WORLD", THE OTHER WE CALL "THE POWER OF NATURE". GET AN IMPRESSION OF THE TWO FUTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES BELOW AND READ THE FULL SCENARIOS IN OUR MAGAZINE ISSUES 2 (TO BE PUBLISHED 17 APRIL).



PREFERRED FUTURE SCENARIO #1:

MAN MADE WORLD

At the beginning of the 21st century scientists named a new geological era – the Anthropocene. It denoted an era where the most important changes of conditions for life on Earth are human-induced.

As the consequences of climate change on the environment, biodiversity and people became increasingly apparent the awareness of our responsibility for the planet got more widespread. We began to realize the need to act rationally, in order to mitigate the change as much as reasonably possible, and in order to adapt to the changes in store. It became common sense.

A new faith in the institutions' ability and capacity to manage the development and to handle the consequences began to spread. People at large took the message of the scientific community to heart and demanded that their leaders act on the insights and knowledge. And the politicians and leaders began to – well, lead.

We started to apply the enormous capacity that was at our disposal: Political capacity and business/corporate capacity, science, technology, knowledge and economic resources.

Politically, we negotiated binding targets, invested in research and development of clean and green technologies and developed the necessary institutions. Economically, we made conscious efforts to transform the way our system of the 20th century worked in order to obtain stability, fairness and sustainability.

Now at the beginning of the 22th century we have realized that when we put our minds to it, we can develop technologies, organizations, political institutions and business models that allow us to prosper in ways that do not jeopardize the planet. Collectively, we are approaching a state of global stewardship in which we manage our planet rationally, like any sensible landowner would his property.





PREFERRED FUTURE SCENARIO #2:

POWER OF NATURE

At the beginning of the 21st century a realization that we depended on each other and on a shared, limited planet started to spread. Increasing globaliza-tion and border-crossing environmental challenges like global climate change were the major drivers behind the insights but also a growing quest for new values, personal fulfilment and the meaning of life.

Many people started to develop a new understanding of the relationship between humans and nature. They opposed the historically understanding of nature as something that existed for the benefit of humans, and started to see nature and humans as equal. A shift from understanding nature as something besides or outside humans, to understanding humans as nature and nature and humans as one.

Looking back on history it may have been the biggest transformation ever - since we left Africa. And the transformation was primarily inside ourselves.

At that time – beginning the 21st century – it still sounded like a kind of new age science fiction to some. But so had other previous historic shifts in mindset and social value systems – like



the occurrence of democracy, human rights and the equality of women as new norms supplanting older, traditional norms and mindsets.

Over time the thoughts started to give rise to a multiplicity of movements, large and small, of people who sought fulfilment in human relations, arts, spirituality, ancient wisdom, nature, family, friendship, community and/or reli-gion, pursuit of knowledge and aesthetics for their own sake. Subcultures, communities, companies and businesses started to develop and pur-suing the new values.

With the new enlightenment came a sense of common dependency and purpose applying science, wisdom and religion leading to new action bottom up. Finally making it obvious at system levels too, that we are one with nature – we are not land-owners, however sensible, but rather humble parts of the greater landscape ourselves.

Concepts like happiness and quality of life became more important, and as a matter of course include consideration for the Earth's resources, eco-systems and biodiversity.

Now at the beginning of the 22nd century humankind has matured and is tending to become an integrated organic part of the world's ecosystem rather than seeking to dominate and exploit it.