

**FUTURE***takes*

Transcultural Futurist Magazine

ISSN 1554-7744

## **Vol. 4, no. 1 (Spring 2005)**

### **The Think Tank**

**Topic: institutional resistance to foresight thinking.** In some parts of the world, two key institutions - government and corporations - cultivate a near-term mindset. In government, this happens when politicians, in efforts to bolster their popularity, make decisions that maximize near-term gain at the expense of long-term gain. In other words, "buy now, pay later." When "pay later" comes, they are out of office (often giving their successors their own chances to "kick the can down the road" again) or are safely re-elected. A similar phenomenon is sometimes observed in those corporations in which the "quarterly earnings statement" mindset reigns supreme.

What countertrend or counter-driver, if any, will mitigate or remove these impediments to planning for the future? Or, is there a more fundamental issue involved, such as the need for instant gratification that is prevalent in at least some cultures? Related question: are some cultures inherently better futurists than others?

*Have your views on this topic, or on previous think tank topics, published and considered by your peers in the US National Capital Region Chapter and in other WFS chapters across the globe. Send them to [forum@futuretakes.org](mailto:forum@futuretakes.org).*