

F&S April 2022

Carbon emissions must peak in 2025, the [IPCC](#) said at the start of this month. That is an ambitious target - and it must be achieved to keep to 1.5 degrees warming. The policies announced so far, even if fully enacted, will lead to a [rise of 3.2 degrees](#). So more needs to be done, and fast.

Meanwhile, the effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine continue: in food security, in geopolitics and in energy. Albeit accidentally, Russia's war is accelerating the energy transition in Europe, as countries scramble to gain some energy independence from Russian exports. But that independence may well mean coal, or sourcing liquified natural gas from elsewhere, or slowing down climate policies. Force majeure wins out over a problem five years away.

Futurists are used to this. We know that the current problem gets more attention than future ones. We also know that exactly that attitude leads to constant, high-stress, fire-fighting, rather than a planned and thoughtful process of continual development. Not only is fire-fighting more stressful, it is also (as the IPCC points out) considerably more expensive. The investment required in climate mitigation is affordable now, if done as Secretary-General Gutteres says, in a "viable and financially sound manner".

What is true of climate change and the world is true of organisations, large and small. If you're constantly fighting fires (and don't want to any more) then you need to think about the future as well. Foresight builds robustness and resilience, allows for investment rather than cost, and – perhaps most importantly, allows an organisation to anticipate and cope with the future. Even considering something as vast as climate change, or as devastating as a war.

SAMI Cohort

The Cohort is a small group of professionals working with foresight and

scenario planning, who gather every couple of months to learn from each other and SAMI staffers in a mutually supportive online environment. Further members are welcome. For further information contact Jane.Dowsett@samiconsulting.co.uk.

Talks and blogs

Huw Williams's article on the Future of Paper Industries for an anniversary edition of the journal of the Confederation of Paper Industries is due to be published next month.

[In a recent blog](#), Patricia Lustig and Gill Ringland explored three effects that are less discussed – about science, the emergence of 'Covid rage', and organisations growing and evolving through enforced virtual interactions.

Executive Education

Our online course "Understanding the Future" will be run again on May 16th to 20th. The course fee is £490 + VAT, and discounts may be available for self-funded individuals. For more information, please email us at training@samiconsulting.co.uk. We also organise bespoke courses to suit specific clients' needs.

A range of information on various [futures techniques](#) – the basis of the GOS Futures Toolkit - is available on our website.

Futures Issues

A US company developing [cell-cultivated salmon](#) is scaling up from "proof of concept" to full-scale operation.

A [V-shaped plane](#) that, instead of having wings that stick out from the centre of a tube-shaped fuselage, has two fuselages connected at an angle reduces fuel needs by up to 20%. It has less drag and less weight.

Advances in a [thermophotovoltaic \(TPV\) semiconductors](#) gives a major boost to efforts to roll out thermal batteries on a large scale, as cheap backup for solar and wind power systems.

A project to produce [green hydrogen](#) using wind power is planned in the mid-east of Sweden, using an electrolysis method to split water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Advances in [brain-reading devices](#) enable users to control a robotic arm, use Photoshop software, play 'shoot-'em-up' video games, and now to drive a simulated car through a virtual environment, changing speed, steering and reacting to hazards. First steps to "telepathy"?

Our Blogs

Our recent blogs have covered a variety of subjects. Firstly we looked at a [fireside chat between Maros Sefcovic, Vice-President of the European Commission for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight and Julia Friedlander of the Atlantic Council GeoEconomics Center](#), in which they discussed prospects for a new international foresight network between the USA and the EU.

We then covered a presentation given by [Jonathan Blanchard Smith on AI and its future at APEC's recent "Industry 4.0: Enabling Technologies and Inclusive Digitization for Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery in APEC Value Chains"](#) online conference. And latterly we looked a online workshop hosted by [Innovate UK KTN, Innovate UK and BRE to discuss future materials](#)

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[requirement in the context of Net Zero](#) in the construction sector in the context of Net Zero.

If you'd like to receive reminders when our blogs are published, then [check the link on our website](#) or if you would like to write a blog for us, then please [contact us here](#).