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The **2022 World Economic Forum** is taking place in Davos this week. Some may criticise the rather odd sight of helicopters and private jets flying people in to talk about climate change, but the fundamental proposition of WEF meetings is sound: to get the people who actually can make global decisions together, to make decisions on subjects affecting the world.

This year, Davos' themes include climate and nature, fairer economics, technology and innovation, jobs and skills, better business, health and healthcare, society and equity, and global cooperation. We feel surprisingly invested in these themes - they mirror many of the projects we have done, and are doing, for our public and private sector clients.

Our "but" for Davos, though, is not about helicopters and private jets. It's about the future focus of the Forum in large. Always, but especially now, it's critically important that Davos' participants engage with the future - not the five-year horizon, but the 25 year.

Our three horizons exercises, which look backwards to see where we have come from to place in context where we can go, give vital richness to that look into the midterm future. As we prepare to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen, we can quote her: *"Winston Churchill, my first Prime Minister, said that the further you look back, the further forward you can see"*.

We hope attendees at Davos start looking back - because they urgently need to look forward.

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. This month's session considered the question of how to embed futures thinking in everyday work – *"Great to hear everyone's suggestions. Lots of food for thought - as ever!"*

We are now making plans for a further cohort beginning in September - further members are welcome. For further information contact Jane.Dowsett@samiconsulting.co.uk.

Talks and blogs

Huw Williams' 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 soon.

Executive Education

Our online course "Understanding the Future" will be run again on July 18th to 22nd. The course fee is £490 + VAT, and discounts may be available for self-funded

<https://www.samiconsulting.co.uk/>

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

Fraunhofer have opened a a five-kilometer test area located on the southern edge of the Bavarian city of Rosenheim, automotive companies now have the opportunity to put 5G functions for [connected driving](#) through their paces in a realistic environment.

The Met Office say that in northwest India and Pakistan they now expect a [heatwave](#) that exceeds the record temperatures seen in 2010 once every three years, when without climate change it would occur only once every 312 years.

An startup is testing a new type of engine it says will eventually be capable of reaching Mach 5 (over 3,000 mph). The engine is designed for a small [hypersonic aircraft](#), carrying only 20 passengers.

An [artificial intelligence](#)-powered digital tool for diagnosing skin cancers has been cleared in the UK as a Class IIA medical device, setting up broader use of the technology in patient assessments.

DeafBlind communities may be creating [a new language of touch](#). Tactile communication. Gestures such as trace, grip-wiggle and slap form words, and there are rules for how these movements can be combined.

IBM's crewless [AI-powered Mayflower ship](#) broke down on its second attempt to cross the Atlantic ocean alone. The problem appears to with the ship's generator, and none of its machine-learning software capabilities have been affected.

Researchers have successfully [powered a computer using algae](#). The algae uses photosynthesis to harness energy from the sun. This provides enough natural energy to power the computer continuously. In fact it harvests enough food from the sunlight during daylight to sustain itself throughout the night. This could be a vital component of IoT systems.

Our Blogs

Our recent blogs have explored aspects of futures work and techniques. Firstly we looked at ways to [engage senior teams in futures thinking](#) and futures work. Then we took a look at the [skills that we might need in the future](#) and what sort of work we might be involved with and, finally, we looked at some [scenario development methods from scenario crosses](#) through scenario spaces and morphological analysis.