

Sample Scenario

The X Islands is an island country in the Pacific Ocean. Home to approximately 40,000 people and spread across nearly 1,200 islands and coral atolls, the territory of the X Islands is almost 98% water—the highest percentage of any nation in the world. No wonder, then, that X Islanders find themselves at the sharp edge of climate change-related disaster. The X Islands are changing dramatically, visibly, and unsustainably.

These effects are tragic on a number of levels, but are also contributing to a worrying erosion of traditional X Islands culture, of what makes the X Islands unique, what makes it home, what it is to be a true X Islander.

Inspired by a pioneering example of an entirely metaverse-based online school in Japan, a group of X Islands entrepreneurs decide to start a school for X Islanders in the metaverse. To enroll, students need only to purchase a VR headset. They can log in from anywhere in the world (assuming sufficient bandwidth), and participate in interactive social but also educational lessons. Students can enroll in the school as an after-school tutorial, or as a full-time education, based on the customary X Islands curriculum but supplemented by cutting edge technologically-facilitated pedagogical tools.

The X Islands government is keen to promote this effort, but unsure how to engage with this new startup. Specifically, they are keen to develop a strategy designed to guarantee that the benefits of this new venture and ensure that the net benefit to X Islands children and communities outweigh the equally real risks of moving into an online environment (as opposed to a 'real' school experience), for example the worry that students will feel alienated from their real world communities, as well as an overload of 'virtual' interactions.

Please draft a well-structured policy approach for the X Islands government on how best it should handle this (and potential other) opportunities to keep X Islands culture and educational traditions alive online, in the metaverse.