

WELCHE ZUKUNFT?! (Which Future?!)

by Andres Veiel and Jutta Doberstein



Laboratory - 16 September 2017 (10 a.m. - 8 p.m)
at Deutsches Theater Berlin
(Registration to participate at welchezukunft.org)

Workshop

Energy Transitions

After Oil - but not in the dark ages.

(this workshop will be conducted in english)

Experts: Dr. Cho-Oon Khong & Geraldine Wessing (Royal Dutch Shell)

Transnational corporations have to consider the future - objectively, analytically. Conflicts and turbulence could happen, but where and when will they do so? The future is uncertain, but one thing is clear: We face a critical energy transition that will fundamentally reshape the types of energy we use; and how we use energy, both global and local, will have profound implications for climate change.

We are at a crossroads, undergoing other critical transitions in the global economy, in geopolitics and in governance. Dr. Cho Khong and Geraldine Wessing are members of Royal Dutch Shell's scenarios team. From London they create focused and global scenarios for the radical changes their corporation - and therefore all of us - are facing.

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We do not know what will happen in the year 2030, but here are 10 x Hypothetical Futures:

Difficulties with the storage used lithium batteries

Denmark is the first OECD country to declare Net Zero Emissions status; Germany

is second. Shortly after, both countries run into serious difficulties with the storage used lithium batteries, installed in households and cars.

India replaces China

India becomes solar global manufacturing hub, replacing China which is de-industrialising and going through critical social and economic change.

New climate accord signed in Mumbai

Millennials revolt against the older generation – new climate accord signed in Mumbai replaces the Paris agreement, setting new mandatory target of no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial norm, backed by threat of trade sanctions for non-compliance.

Punitive tariffs slow down global trade

Global carbon price of \$80 per tonne, but not all countries enforce the regulations. Punitive tariffs are introduced and slow down global trade.

Germany and Austria restart their coal power stations

Europe and China move to dramatic electrification of their economies, based on renewables, hydro and nuclear. However, when a continuing drought in Switzerland leaves the reservoirs empty and the nuclear power plants in Belgium and France are closed due to stricter EU regulations, the European power grid collapses. Germany and Austria restart their coal power stations.

Manufacturing boom in Middle East

Middle East sheikh-up – ultra low cost solar electricity drives manufacturing boom in Middle East, bringing radical social change

100 million climate refugees globally

Important national players backtrack on Paris. Meanwhile, around 100 million climate refugees globally, primarily from Asia and the Middle East are on the move, trying to escape extreme droughts and flooding.

Electric vehicle sales surpass internal combustion engine vehicles globally

Electric vehicle sales surpass internal combustion engine vehicles globally. In Europe, the German auto industry takes the lead.

slow the introduction of electric vehicles

Or - Super-efficient internal combustion engines slow the introduction of electric vehicles.

Time for new traffic rules

Indiscriminate use of autonomous vehicles causing urban chaos – time for new traffic rules, but implementation does not progress as planned - some problems are harder to solve than the industry expected. Eventually, insurance costs force self-drive cars off the road, the entire debate on artificial intelligence is reignited and the technology suffers a severe backlash. Society is divided: those for and those against AI. Social unrest ensues.

people are increasingly immobile

Serious health crisis in developed countries as people are increasingly immobile – they walk less. The public health insurance industry collapses in most countries, only privately insured individuals have appropriate access to health care.

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Experts:

Dr. Cho-Oon Khong is Chief Political Analyst in the Global Business Environment team, Shell International, based in London, with over 20 years' experience leading and advising on country scenario projects. Cho advises on political trends and political risk for the Shell Group, and leads the external environment assessments for Shell's country reviews. Cho is an active scenarios practitioner, using scenarios in futures thinking. He has worked on a range of scenario projects with international organisations, governments, universities, research institutes and business companies around the world. He is an Associate Fellow of the Said Business School, University of Oxford, where he teaches as a core faculty member on the Oxford Scenarios Programme; a member of the Brains Trust of the Evian Group, IMD, Lausanne; and an Academy Adjunct Faculty member, Chatham House.

Geraldine Wessing joined the Scenarios team in 2013, after having worked in Shell since 2005 in various function including the company's UK Government Relations and Corporate Security departments. Within the Scenarios team, Geraldine is one of two political analysts providing support to country, regional and senior executives in their strategic and portfolio decision making by way of providing (geo-)political analyses and producing country and/or thematic scenarios. Geraldine is also the team's in-house scenarios trainer providing introductory as well as immersive scenarios experiences to colleagues new to the Scenarios team and Strategy function more broadly. She studied Business Economics and History at the University of Leiden and did her Masters on International Relations at King's College London.

Workshop facilitator:

Christiane Grefe studied Journalism and Politics in Munich. She worked as a freelance journalist for Nature, Geo, and for the Magazin of the broadsheet Süddeutsche Zeitung. Until 1999, she was a staff writer for the broadsheet Die ZEIT. She is the author of a number of books - most recently: „Global Gardening - bio economy. The new robber economy or the economical system of the future?“. She also co-authored: „What's next - democracy does not go without saying“.
(both published at Antje Kunstmann publishers).

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