Three Additional Foresight Methods to Aid Regional Planning

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Futures Research Methodology Version 2.0

Three Foresight Methods
…. to Add to Regional Planning

- *State of the Future Index* (SOFI)
  - Is the future getting better or worse?
  - What interventions are more important for the whole region?
- *Charrettes*
  - build public consensus mixing decision-makers and decision-receivers
- *RT Delphi*
  - Assist in policy decisions

State of the Future Index (SOFI)

- "Whole future" index to show if the region is better or worse in 10 years
- Delphi to collect indicators for the better future.
- Select variables that have a 20 year data and project each 10 years
- Statistically define best and worse case for each variable in 10 years through a Delphi.
- This gives a range from "good to bad." Each variable is projected through that range to get a number between the worse value and best value for the variable in 10 yrs.
- The numbers are added up to get the 10 year aggregate value for the regional SOFI.

Variables for the Global SOFI

- Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
- Food availability Cal/cp Developing Countries
- GNP per capita PPP (constant 1995 $US)
- Percentage of Households w/ Access to Safe Water (15 Most Populated Countries)
- CO_2 atmospheric, ppm
- Annual population additions millions
- Percent unemployed
- Literacy rate, adult total (% of people aged 15 and above)
- Annual AIDS deaths (millions)
- Life Expectancy (World)
- Number of Armed Conflicts (at least 1000 deaths/yr)
- Debt/GNP; Developing Countries (%)
- Forest Lands (Million Hectares)
- Number of People Living on Less than $2 per day
- Terrorist Attacks
- Violent Crime, 17 Countries (per 100,000 population)
- Percent of World Population Living in Countries that are Not Free
- School Enrollment, secondary (% school age)
- Percentage of population w access to local health care (15 most populated countries)

Report Card for the world

Where are we winning?

- GDP per capita grew
- Calories per capita increased
- Life expectancy grew
- Literacy grew
- Infant Mortality dropped
- Access to Fresh Water improved
- Access to Health Care improved
- School Enrollment Improved

Where are we losing?

- Industrial CO_2 emissions grew
- Unemployment moved increased
- Forest Lands dropped
- Rich Poor Gap grew
- AIDs Deaths grew
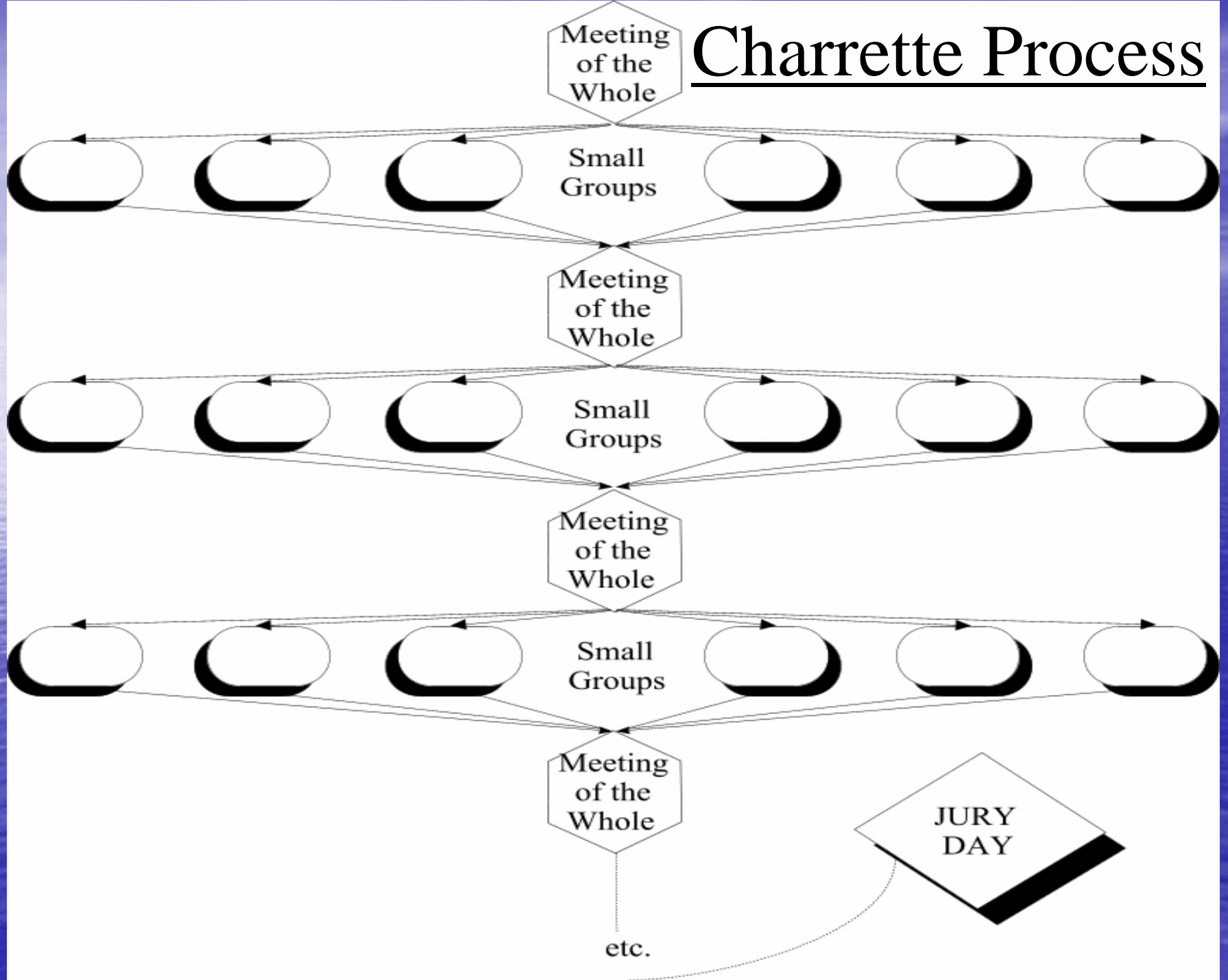- Developing Country Debt increased
- Terrorist Attacks

A Regional SOFI would

- Challenge the region to answer what it means that the region's future is better or worse in ten years – in specific, quantifiable terms.

- Aggregate a number of quantitative variables that when forecasted, "add up" to the future outlook

- Answer the question: does the future seem to be improving or worsening for the region?

- Provide means for determining why improvement or worsening has occurred or is expected.

- Provide a new tool for policy analysis and direction.

- Identify points of leverage for policy, and achieve some balance in answering questions about the future.

Charrettes

- Large-scale public participatory process within a deadline to the press conference
- Can be a one-day to two-week process
- 5-8 or so groups each addressing a different element of the regional issues for planning
- Periodic Group reports to the whole receives feedback for next round of group discussions

Charrette Process

Meeting of the Whole

Small Groups

Meeting of the Whole

Small Groups

Meeting of the Whole

Small Groups

Meeting of the Whole

etc.

JURY DAY

Traditional Delphi

- Forecast by expert judgments
- Multi round questionnaires based on feedback
- Very flexible
- Low cost, per output value
- Respondents are guaranteed anonymity
- Delphi method is a controlled discussion
- Expert panels to reflect specific knowledge – not a general public sociological survey

Real Time Delphi Approach

- It is "round-less" but cumulative and based on feedback
  - *a participant can determine how many rounds or times they revise or add responses*
  - *Every time they come back to the on-line matrix, they can see new comments and ratings entered since they last signed on, and they can see their previous answers in relation to the others. They then have the ability to change their responses*

- Regional Planners can use an RT Delphi to:
  - *Systemically collect, store, feedback, and rate the best thinking from a range of the best minds that are not easily assembled in a meeting*
  - *Define and weight criteria for important & controversial decisions*
  - *Add and rate alternative decision options*
  - *Provide logic and traceability to decision making*

- *RT Delphi makes the approach asynchronous, and efficient*

RT Delphi Matrix

Criteria >>>	Quality	Feasibility	Regulatory	Brand Health
Weights >>>	Avg.: 2 Responses: 25 2 *Rationale*	Avg.: 2 Responses: 23 2 *Rationale*	Avg.: 2 Responses: 24 3 *Rationale*	Avg.: 2 Responses: 25 5 *Rationale*
Proposed Decision 1…N	Avg.: 6 Responses: 25 5 *Rationale*	Avg.: 4 Responses: 25 3 *Rationale*	Avg.:6 Responses:25 7 *Rationale*	Avg.:6 Responses: 25 5 *Rationale*

The Matrix

Criteria >>>	Quality	Feasibility
Weights >>>	Avg.: 2 Responses: 25 **2** *Rationale*	Avg.: 2 Responses: 23 **2** *Rationale*
Proposed Decision *1…N*	Avg.: 6 Responses: 24 **5** *Rationale*	Avg.: 8 Responses: 25 6 *Rationale*

Criteria in this row

Average judgments of the group

Number of responses so far

Drop down menu

Your response;

Red cells mean big difference

Place for you to enter reasons and see others

Alternate solutions all remaining rows

The Score

At the bottom of the matrix:

Scores of proposed decisions so far:

Decision	Group Score	Your Score
Proposed Decision 1	121	113
Proposed Decision 2	115	98
Proposed Decision 3	43	49

For More Information:

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