

Date: Wed, 13 Oct 2010 00:32:55 -0400

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy Committee on Improving Intelligence" <baruch@cmu.edu>, "Dr. Richard Atkinson - Chair - NRC/DBASSE" <rcatkinson@ucsd.edu>, "Dr. Kenneth Prewitt" <kp2058@columbia.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

**Subject: 169. Forecasting and Intelligence: An Urgent Case for G-20 (Systemic) Capability?**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

**Getting Better at Abstraction and Foresight: A Global Challenge**

I may be preaching to the choir, but there is another - strategic - reason to use global Internet capacities and build online (i.e., public and global) capabilities for the fast discovery behavioral science forecasting. The Obama Administration's new G-20 Grand Strategy [# 133 and # 135 at [www.policyscience.net](http://www.policyscience.net) at II. D] will work a great deal better - and it is better for the world - if government Ministries and leading university Centers/thinktanks in these G-20 countries also get better at abstraction and foresight.

We might think that the obvious capacities for abstraction, foresight, and leadership of US diplomats are mirrored in the professional diplomats in other countries. But this is true only to a limited extent. And it is a significant part of the explanation for the slow speed of global problem-solving.

It is not enough for the US to get the right answer in our Global 2025 Report and in other (classified) documents. Psychologically, and politically, a wider set of leading global and regional actors need to have resources to be engaged in the data, interpretation, forecasts, and networks of policy discussion. Otherwise, too many government policies may default to simplistic, limited and under-informed ideas about national self-interests - or (perhaps more typical as the international baseline?) default to doing nothing.

**Recommendations for International Social Science? Ideas from the Na-**

## tional Academy of Sciences?

My earlier submissions re DNI planning have emphasized funds for US academics, but there really should be a long-term Grand Strategy/G-20 vision to make public domain/peer reviewed funds and other resources for research on global trends available widely. Even the US government may, in fact, have much to learn - and can learn it more quickly - if there are ways that the National Academy of Sciences can suggest to implement such a Grand Strategy.

- For example, the new GCAS [Global Content Analysis System] capabilities could be available, online, without charge for researchers in all countries. [It already appears, in the biomedical world, that the Obama Administration will make the large N, NIH pre-populated databases available online without charge, and perhaps with free (online) supercomputer time.]

- Also, {# 109 at its section II. C.) the Forward (Regional) Observation Centers with Survey Research and Other Capabilities, based on the early conceptual work for the G-20 framework by Paul Kennedy and others would be a useful, timely, multi-national investment in global research capability.

LE

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Director, Government Learning Project

Policy Sciences Center

URL: [www.policyscience.net](http://www.policyscience.net)

301-365-5241 (v); [lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net](mailto:lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net)

[lloyd.etheredge@aya.yale.edu](mailto:lloyd.etheredge@aya.yale.edu) (email)

[The Policy Sciences Center, Inc. is a public foundation that develops and integrates knowledge and practice to advance human dignity. Its headquarters are 127 Wall St., Room 322 PO Box 208215 in New Haven, CT 06520-8215. It may be contacted at the office of its Chair, Michael Reisman ([michael.reisman@yale.edu](mailto:michael.reisman@yale.edu)), 203-432-1993. Further information about the Policy Sciences Center and its projects, Society, and

journal is available at [www.policysciences.org](http://www.policysciences.org).]