

Journal of Futures Studies

Volume 1 number 1

November 1996

Clement C.P. Chang	Establishing Futures Studies with Global Scholars1
Richard A. Slaughter	Mapping the Future: Creating a Structural Overview of the Next 20 years5
Sohail Inayatullah	The Futures of the UN in Emerging World Orders.....27
John Robinson	Why Futures Research?51
João Caração	Science, Power and the Development of Cul- ture: Great Scientific Advances Transforming Our Future59
Kuo-Hua Chen	An Institutional Approach to World-Systems Analysis67

Establishing Futures Studies With Global Scholars

With the inauguration of its Chueh Sheng Memorial Library in September, 1996, Tamkang University further enhanced the quality of its faculties' teaching and academic research, as well as the quality of its students. The inauguration also signifies Tamkang's Third Wave, which marks another milestone in the history of Tamkang's developments. Moreover, I hope that prior to entering the new millennium our faculty members and students will be united in a symbiotic relationship to welcome the great, ever-changing future with a self-surpassing spirit and with a strong determination to arrive at the summit.

As founder, I take pride in witnessing the growth of Tamkang University, which, from the First Wave to the Third Wave, has fully met my expectations. The period between 1950 and 1980 marked Tamkang's First Wave, during which Tamkang developed from a Junior College of English into a University. In these thirty years of initiation, Tamkang underwent its share of difficulties; yet the Second Wave, which began in 1980, witnessed great progress and many developments at Tamkang: in the sixteen years that followed, Tamkang promoted academic exchanges; actively enhanced its academic status; sponsored various international conferences; improved course curricula and teaching materials; innovated teaching methods, installed new facilities; and built major buildings, such as Ching Sheng Memorial Hall and others.

Tamkang's Third Wave, starting at the present moment, is characterized by the Information Age. In this modern age, time has been changing with an alarming speed, so the acquisition of information is of utmost importance. Once acquired, processed, analyzed and digested, information becomes knowledge, and, after being effectively utilized, information becomes our intelligence and a powerful force. Accordingly, the world of today and tomorrow will be the Age of

the Third Wave—the Age of Information.

Tamkang's Third Wave had its origins on the Tamkang University's campus. The University, therefore, in the course of shouldering its mission of higher education should untiringly devote itself to research and instruction in Futures Studies. In the foreseeable future, Tamkang will carefully appraise whether the existing curricula, as well as the contents and the methods of course instruction can meet the demands of the society of the future. It will also cautiously examine whether the current research can match the society of the Third Wave. Tamkang needs also to foster in its students a three-dimensional perspectives of globalization, information technology, and future-oriented education.

Currently, only a few journals are devoted to discussing academic theories of Futures Studies. In light of this, the purpose of publishing *The Journal of Futures Studies* is not only to match the Third Wave initiated by Tamkang University, but also to further integrate research areas as well as map out the direction of Futures Studies. Moreover, by gathering the intelligence and experience of global scholars and experts in Futures Studies, we can make some contribution to governmental and related academic institutions throughout the world, and to others who are concerned about Futures Studies.

The Journal of Futures Studies is an interdisciplinary oriented periodical with a rigorous screening system. It will focus on integrating sociology, technology, environment, economy, politics and other sciences, as well as on future trends forecasting. After a year's preparation, the first issue of the *Journal* will be published in November, 1996, to coincide with the forty-sixth anniversary of Tamkang University. The editorial board is made up of fifteen scholars: eight are from overseas, and seven from Taiwan. The first issue contains five articles: two from Australia, one from New Zealand, one from Portugal, and one from Taiwan. Thanks to the participation of many global scholars in Futures Studies, the first issue of Tamkang's *Journal of Futures Studies* is now available.

To conclude, I would like to convey my heartiest appreciation to

all concerned and hope that local scholars and experts will join forces with their counterparts all over the world to consummate their mission to establish Futures Studies. Furthermore, I hope that the publication of Tamkang's *Journal of Futures Studies* will lay a cornerstone for them to work together in this challenging project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. P. Chang', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Clement C.P. Chang
November, 1996

