

Flavors of Practice: Developing the Asia Pacific Futures Network

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Introduction

How can Futures studies in Asia be different from Western offerings? How can it be localized in native languages, ways of knowing, and experiences? Can Asian futures, if such a thing exists, address emerging challenges, raise new questions, and disrupt systems of knowledge and power as they currently exist? What capacities exist to create and enhance futures thinking? How can Asian philosophies, cultures, and experiences shape alternative flavors of Futures Studies and practices? What ought to be the thrusts of an Asia Pacific Futures Network (hereafter APFN)? What types of educational models and researches should it pursue? How can the APFN make itself relevant to an emerging field and respond to an increasing demand of futures and foresight in Asia and the world? What changes within the field and practice of futures and foresight can occur and might ensue by creating the APFN? What ought to be APFN's priorities, goals and measures of success? How can Asia innovate and take the lead in Futures Studies?

The above queries guided and emerged from the first gathering of the APFN. As one might expect, many insights were generated. Guests and participants from futures-focused institutions from the Asia-Pacific region explored, debated, and discussed the history and future(s) of Futures Studies and foresight practices within and from Asian perspective. Representatives from Iran, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and the U.S. met from March 19-20th, 2015 at Tamkang University to co-create the APFN. Many of the participants included futurists working in their respective government while others serves as academicians working at universities with active consulting practices.

The first APFN conference aimed to: 1) explore how Asian perspectives and traditions, critically understood, inform Futures Studies; 2) spread foresight from government focus to civil society, small businesses, and corporate sectors; 3) strengthen existing informal networks; 4) build a stronger link with other future-focused networks and international organizations around the world; and 5) explore emerging issues that might likely challenge current trajectories of the Asia-Pacific region.

Prof. Kuo Hua Chen, Director of the Graduate Institute of Futures Studies (hereafter GIFS) of Tamkang University (hereafter TKU), delivered the welcome message and discussed the context and offered some strategic views that this year's conference must explore. In his welcome message, Chen emphasized the fact that Futures Studies and strategic foresight is a rapidly growing field in the Asia-Pacific region. GIFS has witnessed an explosion of interest in futures thinking in Asia. From Tamkang University's foresight program and the emergence of various presidential foresight initiatives; the spread of foresight in government ministries; foresight-driven government projects in Singapore, Malaysia, and Taiwan; the increasing number of international organizations, corporations and financial institutions supporting foresight courses in Pakistan, Philippines, Bangladesh, and Iran; plus an emerging interest of many leading universities in Asia, it seems apparent that Futures Studies and foresight have arrived in many parts of the Asia-Pacific region. According to Chen, the meeting was designed to provide a space for futurists to analyze, synthesize, and reflect on emerging issues and trends, create new knowledge and experiences for anticipatory action learning education and research, and strengthen the link between futures theory and practice in Asia.

In her welcome message, Dr. Flora Chang, President of Tamkang University, noted the unprecedented rise in wealth and the emergence of a new middle class in Asia. According to Chang, the dramatic shift of wealth generation from West to Asia is sparking change in diverse and different ways. Asia's sudden growth could create possibilities for massive cultural and social transformation. These changes and impacts could mean qualitative shifts on how Asia perceives itself or on how Asians perceived themselves in local and global contexts.

Futures Studies with Asian Flavor

How are Asian-based Futures Studies different from Western offerings? Why is it that Futures Studies have grown so much in government sectors but less so in the corporate sphere in the Asia-Pacific region? What drives or what factors might influence the next phase of Asian futures? What indigenous Asian concepts and philosophies are essential to Futures Studies? Do current futures theories, methods, and practices reflect specific problems, fears, and hopes? If not, how can they contribute in resolving regional and local issues and concerns? What are our aesthetic preferences? How do Asians perceive the present and the future? Why the need for an Asian futures? These questions were the focus of presentations by both Prof. Sohail Inayatullah and Dr. Seongwon Park. Both futurists posed a wide array of narratives, alternative imaginings, and possibilities for the futures of Futures Studies in Asia. Inayatullah confronted the above questions from a causal, social, strategic, and critical perspective while Park approached them from an aesthetic, cultural, and interpretive standpoint.

For Inayatullah, while Futures Studies might transform into many things, future generations, the family, the diversity of Asian traditions and languages, nature, the spiritual and the collective, enhancing wisdom, civilizations, balance and sustainability, creativity, and social innovation will remain essential and will continue to drive Asian futures. These connote clear value propositions and could bring in many and new core perspectives to futures thinking, according to Inayatullah. He noted that Asian futures is epistemologically rich and ontologically deep like its Western counterpart; its focus on time, challenging dominant industrial and materialistic paradigms and creating alternative futures to recover the self and to transform the social, the technological, economic, political and environmental are the purposes among others of the Asian futures enterprise. Inayatullah argued that a new fusion, while Asia is unsurprisingly diverse, is possible. Also, Inayatullah perceives an "Asia that innovates, that doesn't merely copy, its way forward." The next phase of Asian futures is likely to be multi-stakeholder-linking experts with social movements with citizens with governments and the corporate sector.

For Park, there is a need to tailor Futures Studies to the Asia-Pacific region. In doing this, we could make futures useful, meaningful, and relevant to Asians and Asia, argued Park. For East Asia, aesthetic preferences are crucial and perceived differently as compared to more Western outlooks. For Park, Asian futures must embrace the idea that the truth is indeterminate, processual, contextual and relations-centered. With this in mind, the practitioner's tasks, according to Park, include contextualizing Futures Studies and research and making sense of existing Asian philosophies and socio-cultural traditions. Park used a local metaphor to capture this point: "A tangerine turns into a hard one when it crosses the water. When a tangerine tree from the South is planted in the North, it produces different fruit." The same, Park noted, must be true of Asian futures.

Practice of Futures Studies and Foresight in the Asia-Pacific Region

In the afternoon, panels of participants presented case studies on applied futures in the Asia-Pacific Region. Chor Pharn Lee, Ministry of Trade and Industry Prime Minister's Office Singapore; Rushdi Abdul Rahim, Malaysia Foresight Institute, Prime Minister's Department Malaysia; John A. Sweeney, Hawaii Research Institute of Futures Studies (HRCFS), University of Hawaii, and the Centre for Postnormal Policy and Futures Studies (CPPFS), East-West University; Shermon Cruz, Philippine Center for Foresight Education and Innovation Research, Northwestern University, Philippines and the Center for Engaged Foresight; Kuo Hua Chen, Graduate Institute of Futures Studies (GIFS), Tamkang University, Taiwan; and Mohammadali Baradaran, Faculty of management and new Sciences and Technologies, University of Tehran, Iran explored the conceptual links between Futures Studies and foresight and shared their experiences and insights, from personal, social and institutional perspectives on how prospecting tools and methods could be applied to education, technology, strategy, research, city futures, and resilience at the national and local government levels.

The need to increase futures awareness and promote capacity development for policy and decision makers to explore alternatives and create preferred futures remains the primary reason to mainstream foresight into national and local government policy, planning and decision-making processes. Participants shared insights on how efforts by their respective agencies led to a number of national industry development and strategic priority blueprints and action plans, including foresight initiatives in public service and youth sectors. Participants emphasized the methodologies used and outcomes.

Foresight and Policy in Singapore

According to Lee, Singapore's experience with foresight began in the 1980s when the Ministry of Defense incorporated scenario planning into its strategic toolbox. The application of futures thinking expanded when the Prime Minister's Office established the Scenario Planning Office in 1995. Charged with developing a range of futures literacies and methods to increase the foresight capability and impact of foresight in government, particularly its public service division, the Scenario Planning Office would be renamed in 2003 as the Strategic Policy Office (SPO). The SPO would monitor relevant emerging crosscutting issues. In less than fifteen years, the Center for Strategic Futures (CSF) emerged and new futures units were established to further enhance Singapore's foresight capability. At present, many, if not most, government ministries have their own foresight unit.

For the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), futures thinking, tools, and methods are utilized to scan for emerging issues impacting global value chains as well as to scan for emerging social and economic opportunities. For Lee, foresight allows public servants to systematically and logically intuit the unknown unknowns and shape progress in a rapidly evolving environment. Lee notes four

emerging strategic issues that might impact the future of trade and industry, public service and ways of life and living in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region: 1) the automation of knowledge work (where machine learning is less regulated, disruption is more pronounced); 2) the emerging drone economy (land, air and sea autonomous vehicles (AV) are moving firmly from their military roots to enter commercial use); and 3) digital conglomerates (with increasing pervasiveness of digital technology, data will become a crucial factor of production) (Future Tense, 2014). Singapore aims to become a hub for the provision of data analytics tools and services and the usage of data analytics to drive industry innovation and productivity.

According to Lee, foresight in Singapore has two key objectives: 1) empower the government to deal effectively with outliers or weak signals and detect indicators of exogenous shocks such as blind spots and game changers; and 2) to incite inter-agency collaboration and foster informed analysis. Foresight in the Singapore government has three broad tracks and purposes: 1) a government-wide information network; 2) a technology-oriented research and development competence center; and 3) a public outreach program (Habegger, 2010). The last three decades have seen the Singapore government's strategic foresight enterprise shift from the area of defense and security to the socio-aspirational space (Kuah, 2012).

Applied Futures in Malaysia

Foresight has been practiced in Malaysia since the 1980s when Dr. Mahathir Mohammad set up the Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT). MIGHT was created to spearhead the push for high technology development and to pursue a systematic and logical exploration of emerging technologies to participate and achieve Malaysia's Vision 2020. It capitalized on a number of approaches and held a nationwide stakeholders consultation to chart the country's national development agenda. Malaysia's futures thinking approach has evolved since then and gave birth to the Malaysian Foresight Institute (myForesight) in 2012. MyForesight today has become a reference center for foresight related activities in Malaysia by focusing on 1) the exploration of future possibilities for better decision-making and 2) building national capacity in foresight and futures.

"MIGHT has expanded its scope and now includes social foresight related activities covering public service and the Malaysian youth," Rushdi noted. "The outcomes of foresight can be channeled effectively to decision makers if pursued with a right partner and engaging all many key stakeholders as possible and presented at the highest platforms. And more importantly, foresight initiatives must be aligned and support ongoing national development agenda," he added.

Foresight with International Organizations: The UNDP and UNESCO Experience

John A. Sweeney of HRCFS and CPPFS and Shermon Cruz of the Philippine Center for Foresight Education and Innovation, Northwestern University, Laoag City, Philippines (PhilForesight) and Center for Engaged Foresight, shared their insights and experiences on applied futures with international organizations, particularly UNDP's Global Center for Public Service Excellence and UNESCO's Knowledge Lab foresight projects. Sweeney talked about his role as Lead Facilitator on the Tonga *foresightXchange*, which was a joint venture between UNDP and the Government of Tonga. Cruz's KnowLab was organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Headquarters Social and Human Sciences Sector, the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, the City Government of Laoag, Northwestern University, the Center for Engaged Foresight, Tamkang University and SMART Communications Philippines. The Laoag Forum-

Workshop is part of a broader global foresight project launched by UNESCO and the Rockefeller Foundation on futures literacy.

The 2014 Tonga *foresightXchange* consisted of three events: 1) a public futures envisioning workshop held on August 19, 2014; 2) a private foresight retreat for the Government of Tonga held on August 22, 2014; and 3) a side event at the Third United Nations Small Island Developing States conference on September 1, 2014. The Resilient Cities, Brighter Futures project was an action learning workshop designed to offer participants a learning-by-doing experience in using the future differently to make Philippine cities more resilient to the many and various impacts of climate change. The KnowLab Laoag initiative was created to facilitate multiple platforms for city actors to generate new questions and to explore alternatives as well as to imagine transformative futures. HRCFS and CCPFS designed the 2014 Tonga *foresightXchange* while UNESCO's Foresight Section, Metafutures.org, and the Center for Engaged Foresight developed UNESCO Laoag FL Knowlab. Both projects geared toward public participation and each had audiences of over 100 people.

These public events utilized a range of foresight methods (such as the *foresight eXplorer* for envisioning Tonga's Big Ocean Prosperity Future and the Six Pillars for Transforming Philippine cities) to deconstruct the present and imagine preferred values, behaviors and structures. Both foresight workshops employed foresight gaming systems to navigate uncertainty and to ponder possible and plausible futures (i.e. the *foresight eXplorer*, the Sarkar game, the CLA game, etc.) The ultimate aim of both workshops was to inform decision-making by exploring emerging issues and imagining preferred futures. Local artists, who created pieces based on what they heard from participants throughout the day, also attended the Tonga *foresightXchange*. Below is a summary of the results and insights from both events.

Table 1. Sources: 2014 UNDP Tonga ForesightXchange Report and UNESCO Resilient Cities, Brighter case study report.

Preferred Future and Core Metaphor	UNDP Tonga Foresight Exchange	UNESCO KnowLab Laoag: Resilient Cities, Brighter Futures
Preferred Future	Big Ocean Prosperity Future - Prosperity means more than financial wealth, family, health and happiness.	The Healthy Interactive Living City – the city is an extension of life and nature.
Worldviews and Systems	Focused on the values of democracy, health, tradition, integrity, prosperity, family, religion and decolonization and place them around the following structures: education, healthcare, parliament, military, government ministry, internet and communications	Personalized and make our public service systems and cities family, health, learning, organic and future generations driven Introduce heal being technologies, systems and industries Strong civil society participation and partnership with government, private and communities
Challenges	Sea-level rise, inequality extreme weather, aging infrastructure, corruption, resource scarcity, brain drain, migration	Living beyond sustainable levels, car-driven, corrupt system (political and corporate), cities are designed for and by political and business elites, high vulnerability to climate change impacts, population growth, consumer driven, political dynasties, too much democracy
Wildcards	Civil war, epidemic, strike, tsunami	City in ruins and the sick city (forgotten and abandoned cities)
Core Myth/Metaphor	Sailing on the Ocean of Prosperity	Garden of Trees and River of Life

Futures Studies and Foresight in Higher Education: From Tamsui to Tehran

Professors Kuo Hua Chen and Mohammadali Baradaran Ghahfarokhi gave a comprehensive presentation on the development of Futures Studies and emerging foresight projects at Tamkang University and the University of Tehran. According to Chen, Director of GIFS at TKU, Taiwan is entering a critical stage of generating future alternatives, and the University of Tamkang is at the forefront of offering and facilitating Futures Studies, courses, and workshops in Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region. For Chen, TKU is the only university in the world that envisions “to futurize” itself, and, as a top ranked private university in Taiwan, a future-oriented education is one of the university’s major objectives. TKU founder and futurist, Dr. Clement P. Chang, wanted the university to participate in the creation of alternative and preferred futures at the local, national, regional, and global scales. Futures Studies at TKU has been a general education requirement since 1995, and this creates a multi-door learning environment to respond to changing stakeholder needs by incorporating and enhancing virtual education, international exchange and exposure at TKU. The Futures Studies MA Program is distinctive in the sense that the entire pedagogical approach focuses on transformation and the future, globalization, and information-oriented education.

The impact of the program, its networks and linkages have grown considerably in the last five years—touching China, HongKong, Malaysia, Hawaii, Singapore, Philippines and Iran to name a few—and GIFS is expected to create new stories and impacts in the years to come

According to Chen “due to great efforts in developing Futures thinking and Futures movements over the past three decades, Taiwan and its people have begun to benefit from exploring alternative possibilities, particularly the students of Futures classes” (Chen, 2011, 2015). Also, Chen noted that it is essential to go deep into the inner, cultural and spiritual dimensions as well. He explained:

The core of cultivating foresight is a voyage along two complementary pathways. While the journey outwards leads us to discover the world in which we live, the journey inwards heightens our understanding of ourselves and our potential. Both journeys constitute a necessary preparation for personal fulfillment and social responsibility in an interdependent and rapidly changing world. In due course, students of futures can be expected as having qualities of a long-term perspective and creation of alternative futures. This great outcome originates from interactive futures teaching and learning and is due mostly and deeply to many devoted futurists (Chen, 2011, 2015).

Diffusion of Foresight activities and futures studies in Iran

Following Chen, Mohammadali Baradaran Ghahfarokhi, a PhD student of foresight and lecturer at University of Tehran, Iran, presented an overview of Futures Studies in Iran, particularly in the areas of science and technology.

Baradaran Ghahfarokhi noted that there is a growing interest in Futures Studies, especially on the integration of foresight in governing bodies, universities, and private research centers. Futures Studies, Baradaran Ghahfarokhi observed, is a recognized field of study and doctoral students are nurtured to strengthen the national government foresight capacity in STEEP areas.

The great enthusiasm of government and ministry of science, research and technology for developing an indigenous version of this mixture of technology and science led to create PhD Programs in this field since 2008.

According to Baradaran Ghahfarokhi, Futures Studies goes back a few decades in Iran, but it has only been in recent years that the discipline has gained momentum. It is strong in terms of technology but has only just begun exploring other areas, such as alternative futures and social foresight for the environment, citizen visioning, corporate strategy, culture, philosophy, ethics, communications, and media.

Some Iranian scholars, policymakers, developers, and scientists have attempted developing indigenous versions of technological and theoretical aspects of Futures Studies using the approach of “trial and error,” and, so far, some have succeeded (Paya, 2010; Baradaran, 2015).

Iran continues to explore other aspects of Futures Studies and implement comprehensive foresight projects. Long-term planning and forecasting have a long history in Iran and many initiatives, programs, and collaboration agreements. Last March, the new government issued and notified an act creating Iran’s “National foresight program” to conduct and supervise Iran’s science and technology foresight agenda. This enactment mandates all ministries and organizations to process and implement the national foresight program in accordance with national objectives, problems and priorities.

I Game Therefore I Am

An evening stroll through almost any major city in Asia often ends, or begins, with a stop at a hawker centre or food court offering a range of culinary treats. These gathering spaces can provide a solitary, quick meal or a place for prolonged enjoyment among friends. When thinking about futures methods in the Asia-Pacific region, the food court is an apt metaphor. Some methods are widespread across the region, such as Causal Layered Analysis, while others—including qualitative, quantitative, and normative approaches—are implemented more by specific actors, primarily government agencies, for particular projects. Forecasting, especially technological developments, continues to be a predominant activity, and the usage of methods such as Delphi, which has been a staple in Japan since the 1970's, remains popular.

While many national foresight projects undertaken in the region focus on expert opinions on the opportunities and challenges to come, there is also a clear shift to utilize more participatory methods. Indeed, if there is one thing that unites the region, broadly speaking, it is an emphasis on stakeholder engagement and citizen insight. Projects such as *Our Singapore Conversation* and the *Myanmar Futures Exchange* highlight this trend.

As noted by the European Commission in a global analysis of foresight methods, “Asia has the largest proportion of exercises with more than 500 participants” (European Commission, 2009, 13). Both regional—province and city scale—as well as national-level foresight projects, have become the norm, and these events utilize a range of qualitative and exploratory methods, such as simulations and gaming.

The methods food court sessions featured and facilitated a couple of foresight game techniques. Ivana Milojevic, a futurist and a visiting professor at the University Novi Sad Serbia and the University Sunshine Coast, Australia, and John A. Sweeney, HRCFS and CPPFS, ran an action-learning workshop to introduce the futures triangle, scenarios, and the Thing from the Future game to harness the graduate students participants’ creativity in forecasting the future of futures studies in the Asia-Pacific region and to explore some alternative futures scenarios for APFN.

After these workshops, some questions emerged which network members may explore. How can we localize and contextualize futures studies games and methodologies? Can we invent methods and tools that are sensitive or responsive to Asian contexts, worldviews, and culture? How can we make foresight games more contextually and locally relevant?

The array of methods used in Asia-Pacific contexts points toward a robust, yet still developing, space for futures and foresight research and practice, and given the range of diverse people and cultures constituting the region, further innovation can be expected. There is only one rule to follow when eating at a hawker centre/food court: sharing gets you more. We believe the same applies to futures and foresight methods, and our aim is to develop a methods food court to serve this purpose.

Conversations around the Asia Pacific Network and Next Steps

On the second day, participants gathered for a moderated discussion to tackle the next steps and survey APFN’s immediate future. The discussion used and combined the futures triangle, emerging issues, back casting and visioning analysis to explore the weights, pushes and pulls of the network as well as its emerging opportunities. Below are some of the insights, questions, feedbacks and suggestions from participants:

- Find out new questions and why? What is the vision? What are our core values? What is the core metaphor? What is the future of Futures studies in the Asia Pacific? Can the APFN narrative be therapeutic or authentic in a way that it addresses also the Asian futurists inner stories?
- What are our academic and industry agenda?

- Who could be interested in the APFN?
- Organize futures courses using multiple spaces, platforms and workshops for younger people by holding a summer international futures camp.
- Employ social media tools like Facebook, Twitter and others to spread the word. Creating different spaces of engagement – web series, virtual courses, high tech.
- There are only few people who know about this field.
- Set up a memorandum of understanding or agreement for those who need it.
- How do you localize the methods?
- What about indigenous research and learning methodologies? Can we make sense of this to develop futures games and methods?
- On the issue of supply and demand, who is interested in Asia Pacific futures and why? Who is demanding or what is demanding this specific future? What are their problems? What's in the pipeline for future employment?
- What and who can co-sponsor future APFN conventions and conferences in the future?
- Who would fund a network?
- What is the APFN brand? If we wrongly brand ourselves we will never get it right.
- Set up a virtual gathering event at least once or twice a year.
- Make the pitch. What is our value proposition to them?
- The weirdness factors will differentiate us. We are weird, but we are okay. Don't become like...
- Virtual course Asia Pacific Course - bring in corporate and academics
- Branding
- Envision – each of us can host this.
- Focus of next year's course: 2016 Gaming the Future November 2016.
- Publish and create knowledge products of Asian futures studies and foresight.
- We are not going to do this the old way. We are okay with anxiety, that's the therapy.
- We have a competitive edge. Please make sure that we are relevant to the demand!
- What is our measure of success?

Updates and Making Space for Deeper Collaboration

Roughly a week after the conference, Kuo Hua Chen, Shunjie-jie and Seongwon Park met in Seoul, South Korea. They met to refine among others, on the sidelines, the immersion and the faculty and student research exchange agenda of the APFN like organizing an international student summer camp. TKU and South Korea plan to collaborate in the immediate future on a variety of futures seminars and conferences. Shermom Cruz and Meimei Song co-facilitated the World Futures Studies Federation Learning Laboratory in the Philippines on woman city futures course in Vigan City. The UNESCO Participation Programme, Northwestern University and the University of Northern Philippines and Center for Engaged Foresight sponsored and funded this project.

Sponsored by Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Rushdi Abdul Rahim arranged a three day course run by Ivana Milojevic and Sohail Inayatullah with the Malaysian National Academy of Sciences. Also, via Tamkang University and Think City, a city futures course was held last June in Kuala Lumpur. Inayatullah, this September, will facilitate a three day futures thinking course with Change Initiative Bangkok. Mohammadali Baradaran Ghahfarokhi was recently appointed as a member of Iran's national foresight programme. Tamkang University, as secretariat and APFN's sponsor, has pledged to fund and organize the 2016 Asia Pacific Futures Network International Conference.

Also, a memorandum of understanding was circulated for the comment and review of APFN member networks. The MOU aims to solidify collaborations and partnerships between and among members to sustain commitment to the APFN.

These synergistic hands on activities and generative dialogues could reframe how Asia sees the relevance of futures thinking to governance, public policy and more. New foresight narratives and agendas regarding identity, migration, well-being, and wealth, and others may emerge from this. A synthesize and harmonize futures studies and foresight agenda are also possible.

Conclusion

This gathering critically and imaginatively discussed a few future plausibility and possibilities for the Asia Pacific Futures Network. The conference somewhat sculptured what must and can be done in the short term and in the long run. The conference this year featured the personal journey of the Asian futurist, their inner stories, needs and success factors, the gaps and the impacts of future-focused and local-based foresight institutions and organizations in the Asia Pacific on regional and global science and technology, city planning, national regeneration and productivity, resilience and climate change, the present and future of learning, indigenous peoples and communities and issues, Asian philosophy and management, social innovation, civil society and social movements. Of the many visions and emerging opportunities discussed at the conference, eight drivers may impact the future of the APFN: the passion and commitment of its network members, creativity and innovation skills, action learning and games informed futures related techniques and tools, Asian worldviews and philosophy, funding, APFN branding and the supply and demand factors for Asian futures studies and foresight.

So what is the future of Asian futures? Futures could transform, as this APFN research report notes, into many different and well, of course, weird things. As it innovates, it may likely disrupt and violate current systems, versions, archetypes, and worldviews of futures and foresight. Asian futures may likely violate everything, we mean everything, especially those things that we ought to know or know to be valid and true. Keeping the weirdness and strangeness factor will make Asian futures diverse and different from others.

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