

**Comments on Ongoing STRATEGIC Projects**  
**except for those subject to Final Evaluation**

Project Year	FR1	
Project Title	Development and Pluralistic Coexistence of Sustainability Visions Through Future Design	
Abbreviated Title	Future Design	
Project Leader	NAKAGAWA Yoshinori	
Project Period	3 years Full Research	

**General advice and comments of the EREC**

The project focuses on the participatory process branded as “Future Design”, which is a particular form of the widely practiced methods of future visioning, scenario development, and backcasting. The approach extends previous work on future imaginaries by structuring it as a role-playing exercise among players imagining living in the future. As such it is widely applicable to many types of sustainability challenges. It would be valuable to have information on the outcomes of Future Design events and a perspective on how the output is different and more effective in some regards from those achieved with other future-oriented participatory approaches.

One objective that is highly commendable is the intention to use the process to promote shared motivational visions. Also notable is the coordination with the Sustai-N-able project which examines the potential for nitrogen use in more sustainable ways in future society. This fits well with the intentions of Nakagawa’s project.

A crucial question remained about how this kind of future design can lead to the stated aim of societal change. This would need to be articulated and developed from the current state of the project to reach toward the aim. Related to this question is the choice of stakeholders engaged in the Future Design process and how the participant selection may influence the societal possibilities envisioned and conclusions drawn from the process.