Comment Form [Program 3]

February 14, 2019

Title of the Program	Designing Lifeworlds of Sustainability and Wellbeing
Program Director	Saijo Tatsuyoshi
Program comments summaries of the EREC:	

The Future Design (FD) methodology, using imaginary future generations to develop visions, was received with much interest. FD was seen as having the potential to systematically integrate the projects. The Committee noted the innovativeness of contrasting FD with scenario development, but also cautioned against casting FD as opposite to other approaches such as back-casting, which may lead to conceptual confusion. The Program should go one step further and systematically establish the approach's strengths and weaknesses, potential uses and limitations. One way to increase the meaningfulness of FD might be to maximize identification of common ground between present and future generations.

It was noted that the Program is currently exploring FD and lifeworlds at the micro-scale and that it needs to grapple with scaling-up. The FEAST project is a good illustration of this. Institutional inertia and real-world power politics may be obstacles to taking the approach to scale. Options for linking the approach to other major ongoing efforts should be explored to amplify the impact of the Program.

It was also noted that "Future" is not mentioned in the Program title. The Committee flagged the need to define the concrete outcome of the Program in order to evaluate its role.