

# Megatrends and megashocks: a new view of our future world

April 23 2010

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In our future world, increases in jet travel will be accompanied by a more interlinked world with a flow of people, ideas and cultures between regions and countries. (Dr Stefan Hajkowitz - CSIRO)

(PhysOrg.com) -- A new report from CSIRO identifies five global megatrends and eight megashocks that are changing the world.

“Megatrends are collections of interlinked trends that will change the way people live and the science and technology products that they demand,” report co-author CSIRO’s Dr James Moody says.

“Megashocks are hard-to-predict risks defined by sudden and significant events, like the Asian tsunami and the GFC.

“As well as informing science activities within CSIRO, we hope that this report will help inform Australian industry, government and community decisions.

“Our aim is to take a fresh approach to understanding the future by using new data, methods, technology and ideas.

“We welcome comment and input from experts and stakeholders to this work in progress.”

The megatrends presented in the report are based on analyses of over 100 trends contributed by leading scientists and business development staff across CSIRO.

The report identifies megatrend one as ‘more from less’. In a world of increasing demand for depleting natural resources, from minerals to water to fish, coming decades will see a focus on resource use efficiency and a major global effort on extracting more from less.

The second megatrend is ‘a personal touch’. Growth of the services sector, now representing over 70 per cent of the Australian economy, is being followed by a second wave of innovation aimed at tailoring and targeting services en masse, to individual customers.

The third is ‘divergent demographics’, recognising the growing contrast between ageing OECD populations experiencing lifestyle and diet-related health problems, and high [fertility rates](#) and problems of not enough food for millions in [poor countries](#).

Megatrend four notes that more and more of the world’s people are ‘on the move’, changing jobs, moving house and travelling more often and commuting further to work.

The fifth megatrend is dubbed ‘i World’, predicting that everything in the natural world will have a digital counterpart.

Report co-author Dr Stefan Hajkowitz says that the megashocks of our future world will have profound and far reaching implications for

people's lives.

“Our megashocks are based on 36 global risks identified by the World Economic Forum in 2009, from which we have identified eight risks particularly important from an Australian science and technology perspective.

“These include oil and gas price spikes, pandemic influenza, biodiversity loss and extreme weather events related to climate change.”

The report can be obtained from: [Our Future World: An analysis of global trends, shocks and scenarios](#).

Provided by CSIRO

Citation: Megatrends and megashocks: a new view of our future world (2010, April 23) retrieved 24 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2010-04-megatrends-megashocks-view-future-world.html>

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