11ᵀᴴ HWA CHONG ASIA PACIFIC YOUNG LEADERS SUMMIT

STUDENT DIALOGUE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

Table of Contents

Session 1

Man and Technology

Cyber Security: Hacktivism's New Game
South Korea

With the rapid development of technology, there has been an increase in the weaknesses of cyber security systems, putting citizens in a more vulnerable position to attacks than ever. Some examples of current cyber security threats include malware, phishing, SQL injection attacks, as well as DoS (Denial of Service).[1] A security hacker is defined as someone who exploits weaknesses in an electronic device for a certain purpose.[2] This includes black hat hackers, hacktivists, and white hat hackers. Although they have a commonality in that they all use their advanced knowledge in technology to suit their needs, their purposes are fairly different. To start with, the black hat hacker refers to an individual who uses his skill as a hacker for malicious purposes and usually for personal gain.[3] These include anything from stealing bank accounts and money to stealing crucial software and information. On the other hand, hacktivists use their skills for social and political purposes, in an attempt to spread certain messages or to protest against the government.[4]

White hat hackers refer to computer security specialists who break into protected systems and networks to improve upon potential security vulnerabilities.[5] Going against the malicious black hackers, the white hat hackers protect valuable personal and corporate information.[6] Due to their use of knowledge for good purposes, there are also many white hackers who become

---

[1] "The Most Common Types of Cyber Security Attacks." Rapid7. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://www.rapid7.com/fundamentals/types-of-attacks/.

[2] "Security Hacker." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 02 July 2017. Web. 02 July 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_hacker.

[3] Ibid.

[4] "What is hacktivism? - Definition from WhatIs.com." SearchSecurity. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/hacktivism.

[5] Krehel and Darin Andersen of Cyberunited Lifars, Ondrej. "At what point do white hat hackers cross the ethical line?" Network World. August 14, 2015. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://www.networkworld.com/article/2971524/cloud-security/at-what-point-do-white-hat-hackers-cross-the-ethical-line.html.

[6] Ibid.

famous IT CEOs such as Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg.[7] However, not all white hat hackers work for entirely good purposes; sometimes they change their minds and cross the ethical line. One white hat hacker from South Korea has reported that the choice of selling the security vulnerability information to the dark web usually is more appealing to the white hackers than to report it to the government since they can earn 20 times more profit by choosing the former.[8] Since white hat hackers can easily cause unintentional harm to their clients, the danger of white hat hackers turning into black hat hackers has become as a serious social issue.

Apart from employing white hat hackers, governments should provide a better incentive to attract more detectors. The "Bug Bounty" program awards anyone who reports holes in a company's cyber security.[9] It widens the pool of testing and decreases the chance of white hackers abusing their skills within the institution. Personal cybersecurity measures should also be encouraged. The United States, Europe and Norway have designated a "National Cyber Security Awareness Month"[10] to promotes this practice. Promoting antivirus programs, installing up-to-date software, applying firewalls, and alerting others of the problem can guard against the most basic and prevalent cyber threats. Governments should encrypt sensitive data, devote more funds for network protective services and constantly update their cybersecurity measures.[11] Sharing worldwide information of hacktivist attacks helps prevent the spread of such attacks to national governments that have yet to be hit by the same problem.[12] The development of anti-hacking policies using AI (artificial intelligence) would greatly accelerate if there was an

---

[7] Morgan, Steve. "Ex-Hackers On List Of Billionaires." Forbes. March 07, 2016. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevemorgan/2016/03/01/ex-hackers-turned-billionaires/#65faee8225ac.
[8] 황, 정환. "화이트 해커 홀대하는 한국...디지털 암시장 부추겨." Hankyung.com. April 21, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://news.hankyung.com/article/2017042185281.

[9] Queenie Wong. "Facebook's bug bounty program awarded $1.3M in 2014." Times Standard Business. February 25, 2015. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://www.times-standard.com/article/zz/20150225/NEWS/150228262.

[10] "National Cyber Security Awareness Month." Homeland Security. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month.

[11] Bergal, Jenni. "'Hacktivists' Increasingly Target Local and State Government Computers." The Pew Charitable Trusts. January 10, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2017/01/10/hacktivists-increasingly-target-local-and-state-government-computers.

[12] Eggers, William D. "Government's cyber challenge: Protecting sensitive data for the public good." DU Press. July 25, 2016. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://dupress.deloitte.com/dup-us-en/deloitte-review/issue-19/protecting-sensitive-data-government-cybersecurity.html.

international exchange of AI technology. The currently advancing SAIs (Super Artificial Intelligences)[13] as well as deep neural networks are crucial in the detection and the response process.[14]

Bibliography

Bergal, Jenni. "'Hacktivists' Increasingly Target Local and State Government Computers." The Pew Charitable Trusts. January 10, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017.http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2017/01/10/hacktivists-increasingly-target-local-and-state-government-computers.

David, Eli. "How an artificial brain could help us outsmart hackers." World Economic Forum. June 14, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/how-deep-learning-is-helping-in-the-battle-against-malware.

Eggers, William D. "Government's cyber challenge: Protecting sensitive data for the public good." DU Press. July 25, 2016. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://dupress.deloitte.com/dup-us-en/deloitte-review/issue-19/protecting-sensitive-data-government-cybersecurity.html.

Queenie Wong. "Facebook's bug bounty program awarded $1.3M in 2014." Times Standard Business. February 25, 2015. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://www.times-standard.com/article/zz/20150225/NEWS/150228262.

Morgan, Steve. "Ex-Hackers On List Of Billionaires." Forbes. March 07, 2016. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://www.forbes.com/sites/stevemorgan/2016/03/01/ex-hackers-turned-billionaires/#65faee8225ac.

"National Cyber Security Awareness Month." Homeland Security. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month.

---

[13] Yampolskiy, Roman V. "AI Is the Future of Cybersecurity, for Better and for Worse." Harvard Business Review. May 10, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017.
https://hbr.org/2017/05/ai-is-the-future-of-cybersecurity-for-better-and-for-worse.

[14] David, Eli. "How an artificial brain could help us outsmart hackers." World Economic Forum. June 14, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017.
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/how-deep-learning-is-helping-in-the-battle-against-malware.

Ondrej Krehel and Darin Andersen of Cyberunited Lifars. "At what point do white hat hackers cross the ethical line?" Network World. August 14, 2015. Accessed July 02, 2017.http://www.networkworld.com/article/2971524/cloud-security/at-what-point-do-white-hat -hackers-cross-the-ethical-line.html.

"Security hacker." Wikipedia. July 02, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_hacker.

"The Most Common Types of Cyber Security Attacks." Rapid7. Accessed July 02, 2017.https://www.rapid7.com/fundamentals/types-of-attacks/.

"What is hacktivism? - Definition from WhatIs.com." SearchSecurity. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/hacktivism.

Yampolskiy, Roman V. "AI Is the Future of Cybersecurity, for Better and for Worse." Harvard Business Review. May 10, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017. https://hbr.org/2017/05/ai-is-the-future-of-cybersecurity-for-better-and-for-worse.

황, 정환. "화이트 해커 홀대하는 한국...디지털 암시장 부추겨." Hankyung.com.
 April 21, 2017. Accessed July 02, 2017. http://news.hankyung.com/article/2017042185281.

Artificial Intelligence: Decoding the Black Box
Australia

AI – an intelligent approach?

In popular culture, artificial intelligence (AI) is depicted as a possible existential threat to humanity, and it casts an Orwellian mien on the future. Nevertheless, AI is very much a part of our present reality and its societal implications must be urgently addressed. AI is generally defined as 'intelligence' exhibited by machines; this intelligence comprises perceptions of the environment through traditional human senses to maximise chances of learning and success.[15] The prevalence of AI has recently increased – the result of improved algorithms and accelerations in deep learning – such that its existence in society is now commonplace.

In Australia, AI poses a substantial threat to employment and societal welfare. By 2025, automated machines, a significant proportion of which depends on AI, are predicted to replace 40% of jobs Australia-wide, and 60% of jobs within the agricultural sector.[16] Though productivity and efficiency will be rapidly augmented, the increase in unemployment will likely diminish the quality of life and collective well-being of the Australian people. The integration of AI into daily life may also yield detrimental implications, overhauling previous notions in law, safety, ethics, accountability and concepts of responsibility. Moreover, as AI become increasingly capable, the threat of exploitation, misalignment of goals, or the employment of destructive methods becomes exponentially more probable.[17]

Doubtless, the benefits of AI cannot be overlooked; indeed, by 2025 AI will account for USD$37 billion in income worldwide.[18] Therefore, it is imperative that the weaknesses of AI are resolved, so that the future prosperity of humanity is ensured.

---

[15]Margaret Rouse, "AI (Artificial Intelligence)," Tech Target, February 25, 2010, http://searchcio.techtarget.com/definition/AI (accessed June 12, 2017).

[16] Loretta Florence and Lily Partland, "Almost 40% Percent of Australian Jobs could be Replaced by 2025, Report Finds," ABC News, June 16, 2015, http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-16/technology-could-make-almost-40pc-of-jobs-redundant-report/6 548560 (accessed June 15, 2017).

[17] Max Tegmark, "Benefits and Risks of Artificial Intelligence," Future of Life, June 1, 2016, https://futureoflife.org/background/benefits-risks-of-artificial-intelligence/ (accessed June 15, 2017).

[18] Florence and Partland, "Australian Jobs could be Replaced".

AI in Australia

Currently, Australia has adopted numerous policies designed to mitigate the potential threats of AI. These policies consist both enacted legislature, and government and privately funded initiatives. The Australian Government is a fervent proponent of the utilisation of AI. Nonetheless, it too recognises the potential ramifications on Australian society and the economy. Thus, in 1988, the contemporaneous Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, established the Australian Artificial Intelligence Institute (AAII).[19] One of the primary aims of the organisation was to facilitate the seamless integration of AI into ordinary life. Throughout its existence, it provided comprehensive guidelines as to how AI should be employed in the workforce, and what actions could be taken to alleviate its threat to Australian society.[20] Later, AAII was acquired by the commercial Agentis International; it exists today as a corporation advising on AI and associated matters, along with a range of other organisations – both private and public.

Addressing the Black Box

Though no one solution exists to overcome such a multifaceted problem, a combination of strategies may ameliorate AI's potential negative implications. These strategies vary in complexity and magnitude, and include: the creation and expansion of new, manual industries, and the transferal of redundant workers to these industries; comprehensive legislature that provides clear guidelines on AI accountability and responsibility; thorough risk assessments that ensure safety and the healthy growth and proliferation of AI; the establishment of anti-exploitation measures; and the creation of 'safety-switches' that can be activated in an emergency. Though not exhaustive, these measures, if properly implemented, would indubitably lessen the possible threats that AI may pose.

---

[19] Michael Peter Georgeff, Anand Rao, "A Profile of the Australian Institute of Artificial Intelligence," *Intelligent Systems*, Dec. 1996, 89-92.

[20] Ibid.

Biotechnology: Overcoming Limits
Singapore

Introduction

In the region, Singapore is a country with growing capabilities for the development of new medical advances and drugs for the 21st-century, poised to take a leading role in the advent of new biotechnological developments. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), a think-tank, ranks countries in its Global Innovation Policy Index, and considers the Republic to be the only Asian country in the top tier across all seven domains of evaluation.[21]

As a leader in this field, Singapore also has a responsibility to ensure and implement ethical standards and regulations.

National Approach

The Singapore government strongly encourages the growth of the research and development industry, as it regards it as a pillar of its economy. To this end, the Singapore government has addressed the lack of aid for local and international research companies by providing both facilities and institutions to cultivate a research culture in Singapore that encourages and supports both local and international companies to conduct cutting edge research and development in Singapore.

Singapore also believes that building a strong, collaborative network worldwide will ensure that issues are tackled collaboratively.

Possible Solutions

To address the ethical, legal and social issues arising from human biomedical research and biotechnological developments, Singapore established The Bioethics Advisory Committee in December 2002.[22] It develops and recommends policies to the Government on these issues,

---

[21] Garner, James. "S'pore has major role in advancing medical research." The Straits Times. August 28, 2015. Accessed June 25, 2017. http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/spore-has-major-role-in-advancing-medical-research.

[22] Bioethics Advisory Committee. "Who We Are." Bioethics Advisory Committee. May 02, 2013. Accessed June 25, 2017. http://www.bioethics-singapore.org/index/about-us/who-we-are.html.

with the aim of protecting the rights and welfare of the public - especially research participants - while allowing biomedical science research to continue developing. This is essentially a balancing act that underscores the national agenda of making Singapore a hive for research on the life sciences.

On top of regulatory bodies, more specific policies protecting the rights of participants of biotechnological research have also been implemented. Among other things, those who volunteer for trials will be assured of compensation if anything goes wrong, and if a minor under the age of 21 refuses to take part in research, his wishes must also be respected, even with consent from a parent or guardian.

This way, research and development in the biotechnology field will be carried out with checks and balances, ensuring ethical considerations are met whilst maximizing the full potential of the research.

Bibliography

Rigaud, Nicolas. "Biotechnology: Ethical and social debates." OCED International Futures Project on "The Bioeconomy on 2030: Designing a Policy Agenda", February 2008. Accessed June 25, 2017. https://www.oecd.org/futures/long-termtechnologicalsocietalchallenges/40926844.pdf.

Bendall, Becky. "10 Everyday uses of Biotechnology." CPI. December 20 2015. Accessed June 25, 2017. https://www.uk-cpi.com/blog/10-everyday-uses-of-biotechnology.

"Industries - Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology." Singapore Economic Development Board - Investing Business in Singapore. Accessed June 25, 2017. https://www.edb.gov.sg/content/edb/en/industries/industries/pharma-biotech.html.

Session 2

A New Epoch in Politics

Populist Extremism: A Resurgence
France

Introduction

In the past decades, there has been a resurgence of populist politicians and political parties that support each other around the world. Those political parties have similarities, such as the defense of sovereignty against the effects of globalization, the defense of the uncorrupted people against the dominant elite, and the rejection of multiculturalism and universalism.

Why are populists on the rise?

People have lost confidence in mainstream political parties. There has been a growing feeling of frustration amongst the middle and lower social classes. A climate of envy and pessimism has been developing because of increasing disparity between the classes in society. Populist leaders often capitalise on this feeling of resentment and use it to their advantage. They claim that society is unfair and that only they have the will to change the situation. Also, fear of different cultures is rising, especially in Europe because of the refugee crisis and frequent acts of terrorism. Newcomers are scapegoated by populists, portrayed as threats and blamed for the people's problems (such as unemployment, failing economy, and crime).

Is there any good that comes out of populist politics?

The rise of populism is a dangerous threat to human rights. Some populists have succeeded in coming to power, like US President Donald Trump and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, and call for hatred, xenophobia, racism, nativism and misogyny. They claim to speak for the majority, for the "common people", who approve the violation of rights if they are guaranteed jobs, promised that cultural changes will be avoided, and given the assurance that terrorism will be eradicated. Populist leaders are increasingly resorting to the suppression or distortion of news to conceal the fact that their own economies are slowing down or contracting, as their campaign promises fail to materialise. Due to populist leaders' access to power, people in need like refugees in Europe or socio-economically disadvantaged individuals in the United States (with the repeal of the Affordable Care Act for example) have been neglected.

On the other hand, even if the way problems have been dealt with is far from ideal, it is important to acknowledge that populist leaders raise the right problems. Most of the issues that populists bring up do have to be solved.

Is the trend likely to last?

There are many countries where populist parties have a significant influence in their government. This is true in Europe (France, England, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, Poland), but also in Russia, in Turkey, in the United States, in South America, and in some Asian countries (like India and the Philippines). No one can be certain of what populist parties and politicians will become and how they will change in the future. However, just like people have turned away from mainstream political parties, if populism does not bring positive outcomes in the near future, it is possible that the supporters of populist parties will turn their backs on populist parties as well.

Bibliography

Goodwin Matthew, "New Report: The Rise of Populist Extremism in Europe", ChathamHouse. 2017. Accessed June 10, 2017. https://www.chathamhouse.org/media/news/view/178303

"La montée des populismes : coïncidence ou phénomène mondial ?" La Documentation Française. April 25, 2017. Accessed June 10, 2017. http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/dossiers/d000565-le-populisme-dans-le-monde/la-mont ee-des-populismes-coincidence-ou-phenomene-mondial.

Dr Nilsson-Wright John , "Populism Comes to South Korea", Chatham House. December 20, 2016. Accessed June 10, 2017. https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/populism-comes-south-korea

Pienaar Hans, "How Trump came to power in the world's first international election", Business Live. December 2016. Accessed June 14, 2017, https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-12-23-how-trump-came-to-power-in-the-worlds -first-international-election/

Shuster Simon, "The Populists", Time. 2017. Accessed June 11, 2017. http://time.com/time-person-of-the-year-populism/

Post-Truth Era: Facts or Alternative Facts
United States of America

Introduction

"Fake news" can be defined as articles or public announcements that present verifiably false information as true. Fake news easily misleads its readers as it is proliferated in order to either generate revenue from their clicks or change their ideologies or opinions. The latter motive is particularly dangerous, as fake news exacerbates the longstanding problem of those with political power failing to tell the truth to their constituents. 64 percent of American adults reported that made-up news stories confused them about the basic facts of current events and issues[23]. Social media sites are leading contributors to the dissemination of fake news, with 62 percent of American adults reading and sharing news from these platforms.[24]

The Effects of Fake News

During the 2016 American Presidential Election, there were many fake news articles about the candidates, misinforming the public and ultimately influencing the election. One such story claimed that there were incriminating remarks made by Hillary Clinton about the Benghazi scandal in the Podesta Email Dump. This was repeated by Trump, but later proven to be false.[25]

Healthcare is also affected by fake news. The anxiety associated with a supposed link between vaccines and autism has been perpetuated by social media. On March 28, 2014, Trump took to Twitter with, "Healthy young child goes to doctor, gets pumped with a massive shot of many

---

[23] Gray, Richard. "Future - Lies, propaganda and fake news: A challenge for our age." BBC. March 01, 2017. Accessed June 23, 2017.
http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170301-lies-propaganda-and-fake-news-a-grand-challenge-of-our-age.
2 Allcott, Hunt, and Matthew Gentzkow.

[24] "Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election." Journal of Economic Perspectives 31 (Spring 2017): 211-36. Spring 2017. Accessed June 23, 2017.
https://web.stanford.edu/~gentzkow/research/fakenews.pdf.

[25] Carroll, Lauren. "Did Russia pick the president?" PolitiFact. December 1, 2016. Accessed June 23, 2017.
http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/dec/01/russia-and-its-influence-presidential-election/.

vaccines, doesn't feel good and changes - AUTISM. Many such cases!"[26] Despite its inaccuracies being confirmed by numerous studies, the "anti-vax" movement persists[27], leading parents to not vaccinate their children, thus leaving them susceptible to contracting preventable diseases.

Fake news has also caused individuals to be harassed. Linda Sarsour, an American Muslim and an organizer of the Women's March, was targeted by fake news articles that claimed her family had ties to terrorists and that she had sent a signal to ISIS. Threats and harassment on Twitter ensued, despite her harassers' claims being obviously false[28].

Combating Fake News

Government intervention can be somewhat contentious, because many countries (like the United States) have free speech laws. Removing articles would be akin to censorship and could allow a party to suppress opposing views.[29] We believe that the best course of action for a government is to encourage honest reporting and fact-checking, without direct involvement.

As social media websites are largely responsible for the wide-scale proliferation of fake news, much of the responsibility to maintain truthful reporting falls on these networks. Facebook is expanding security measures by educating users on how to identify fake news[30], alerting users to disputed articles and teaming up with independent fact-checking organizations to remove

---

[26] Lewis, Elizabeth. "The Anti-Vaccine Movement, Bad Science, and the Rise of Fake News." Nursing Clio. March 16, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017.
http://nursingclio.org/2017/03/16/the-anti-vaccine-movement-bad-science-and-the-rise-of-fake-news/.

[27] "Is There a Connection Between Vaccines and Autism?" KidsHealth. July 2016. Accessed June 24, 2017. http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/autism-studies.html.

[28] Kaplan, Alex. "It's Fake News, But Its Impact On People Has Been Real." Media Matters for America. March 15, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017.
https://www.mediamatters.org/research/2017/03/16/it-s-fake-news-its-impact-people-has-been-real/215698#Linda%20Sarsour.

[29] Mozur, Paul, and Mark Scott. "Fake News in U.S. Election? Elsewhere, That's Nothing New". The New York Times. November 17, 2017. Accessed June 23, 2017.
https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/18/technology/fake-news-on-facebook-in-foreign-elections-thats-not-new.html

[30] Guynn, Jessica. "Facebook unveils first serious effort to wipe out fake news." USA Today. December 15, 2016. Accessed June 24, 2017.
https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2016/12/15/facebook-taking-on-fake-news/95444334/.

fake news[31]. This has helped Facebook close 30,000 fake news accounts before the French Election[32], and if Twitter and other outlets could imitate this, the spread of fake news would decrease.

Individuals can also combat fake news, primarily by recognizing fictitious articles and cross-referencing the information with a credible source. Additionally, users should only subscribe to news sources that are consistently reliable, flag inaccurate sources, and remain aware of implicit and explicit biases present in all sources.

Bibliography

Allcott, Hunt, and Matthew Gentzkow. "Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election." Journal of Economic Perspectives 31 (Spring 2017): 211-36. Spring 2017. Accessed June 23, 2017. https://web.stanford.edu/~gentzkow/research/fakenews.pdf.

"BBC/Reuters/Media Center Poll: Trust in the Media." BBC. Accessed June 23, 2017. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/02_05_06mediatrust.pdf

Carroll, Lauren. "Did Russia pick the president?" PolitiFact.December 1, 2016. Accessed June 23, 2017. http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/dec/01/russia-and-its-influence-presidential -election/.

Gray, Richard. "Future - Lies, propaganda and fake news: A challenge for our age." BBC. March 01, 2017. Accessed June 23, 2017. http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20170301-lies-propaganda-and-fake-news-a-grand-challenge- of-our-age.

"Is There a Connection Between Vaccines and Autism?" KidsHealth. July 2016. Accessed June 24, 2017. http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/autism-studies.html.

Guynn, Jessica. "Facebook unveils first serious effort to wipe out fake news." USA Today.

---

[31] Hunt, Elle. "'Disputed by multiple fact-checkers': Facebook rolls out new alert to combat fake news." The Guardian. March 21, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017. https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/mar/22/facebook-fact-checking-tool-fake-news.

[32] Kottasová, Ivana. "Facebook targets 30,000 accounts in crackdown on fake news in France." CNNMoney. April 21, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017. http://money.cnn.com/2017/04/14/media/facebook-fake-news-france-election/index.html.

December 15, 2016. Accessed June 24, 2017. https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/news/2016/12/15/facebook-taking-on-fake-news/9544433 4/.

Hunt, Elle. "'Disputed by multiple fact-checkers': Facebook rolls out new alert to combat fake news." The Guardian. March 21, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017. https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/mar/22/facebook-fact-checking-tool-fake-news.

Kaplan, Alex. "It's Fake News, But Its Impact On People Has Been Real." Media Matters for America. March 15, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017. https://www.mediamatters.org/research/2017/03/16/it-s-fake-news-its-impact-people-has-been-re al/215698#Linda%20Sarsour.

Kottasová, Ivana. "Facebook targets 30,000 accounts in crackdown on fake news in France." CNNMoney. April 21, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017. http://money.cnn.com/2017/04/14/media/facebook-fake-news-france-election/index.html.

Lewis, Elizabeth. "The Anti-Vaccine Movement, Bad Science, and the Rise of Fake News." Nursing Clio. March 16, 2017. Accessed June 24, 2017. http://nursingclio.org/2017/03/16/the-anti-vaccine-movement-bad-science-and-the-rise-of-fake-n ews/.

Mozur, Paul, and Mark Scott. "Fake News in U.S. Election? Elsewhere, That's Nothing New". The New York Times.November 17, 2017. Accessed June 23, 2017. https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/18/technology/fake-news-on-facebook-in-foreign-elections-th ats-not-new.html

Siddiqui, Faiz, and Susan Svrluga. "N.C. man told police he went to D.C. pizzeria with gun to investigate conspiracy theory." The Washington Post. December 05, 2016. Accessed June 23, 2017.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2016/12/04/d-c-police-respond-to-report-of-a-man-with-a-gun-at-comet-ping-pong-restaurant/?utm_term=.02b8bf28ea3a.

New World Order: Power Shifts in the 21st Century
China

Since World War II, the world has been in constant pursuit of peace and development. Many people have benefited from economic globalization and their living standards have greatly improved. Just as a man grows taller and needs new clothes, the distribution of political power moves to one of a multipolar nature, and the order of law has changed accordingly. In such a period of uncertainty, resulting from uneven economic development between regions, the gap between the rich and the poor of the country is widening, while internal and external conflicts have intensified.

As a permanent member of the United Nations, China is one of the largest and fastest developing countries in recent decades. China is constantly changing its domestic and foreign policies to adapt to the fast changing world, while maintaining world peace, and contributing to greater domestic economic strength.

Teamwork is paramount to business success. With economic globalization, countries are increasingly closer, so countries with their own interests at heart will no doubt run into some level of conflict in social interaction. Equality, mutual benefit and the win-win principle should be the foundation of any inter-country negotiations.

Chinese people have long been in harmony, practiced non-interference and non-aggression in foreign affairs, and have not engaged in unilateral expansion. On May 18, 2017, China and ASEAN reached an agreement in considering and adopting the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

The imbalance in the distribution of power in the world should be solved by promoting greater economic cooperation. On March 28, 2015, China issued "Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road". "B&R" serves the deep interests of the international community, highlights the balance between ideal society and global governance in the new mode of active exploration, and will contribute to peace and developmental goals.

Building roads and strengthening public infrastructure is an important priority for all countries, as it lowers the probabilities of economic crises and narrows the gap between the rich and the poor.

Due to limited funds, railways, highways, bridges, ports, airports and communications infrastructure have become seriously inadequate in some countries, which to some extent limits the economic development of the region.

On December 25, 2015, the Chinese initiative of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was founded, promoting the construction of Asian regional interoperability and paving the way for economic integration, strengthening China and other Asian countries; as of June 17, 2017, AIIB had 80 official members.

Political stability is the prerequisite of economic development, thus governments should also be committed to take effective measures to combat corruption, reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, promote fairness in education and avoid populism which along with aggressive government policies, have led to the country and the world becoming more turbulent.

Bibliography

Henry A .Kissinger, "World Order", China CITIC Press ,2015

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order", Xinhua Publishing House, 2010 Joseph S. Nye, Jr. ,"The Future of Power", China CITIC Press, 2012

"Philippines welcomes the adoption of the framework for the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea" , Xinhua News Agency, Accessed June 18, 2017. http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2017/0519/c1002-29288030.html

"'The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation' successfully achieved the desired objectives", Xinhua News Agency, Accessed June 18, 2017. https://www.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/xwzx/xgcdt/13923.htm

"AIIB expands its 'circle of friends', and official members reach 80, welcoming Argentina and other 3 countries ", Belt and Road Portal, Accessed June 18, 2017. https://www.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/xwzx/gnxw/16416.htm

Accountability: Selfless Service or Self Service
Indonesia

Introduction

Not only does Indonesia, rank as the 90th most corrupt country in the world out of a list of 176 countries, it also has a special place in the Guinness World Records; for the worst kleptocrat of modern times - earned by Indonesia's second president, Soeharto. A kleptocrat (a person who thieves from his government), Soeharto managed to steal US$15-35 billion in the year 1998 (according to Transparency International's 2004 report). However, despite all these facts, Soeharto was able to hold his place in the office for over 30 years.

This warrants the question — why do corrupt leaders like Soeharto continue to remain in office?

"Money makes the world go round"

Money is one of the primary incentives for humanity's progress. Inadvertently, it also drives people to act with greed and inhumane motives. When one is placed in high positions of authority, there is a high chance that they can be consumed by the power they are given and become tempted to exploit it. With such power this exploitation may easily be carried out in secrecy as witnesses can often be bribed or blackmailed.

Soeharto (Suharto), Indonesia's second president, managed to stay in power through a system that his political opponents termed KKN, the Indonesian acronym for 'corruption, collusion, nepotism.' Soeharto's family, including in-laws and "cronies", got an easier and faster way to enrich themselves with the president's help. Soeharto was known to designate monopolistic control of state-run services to mostly his family and friends, who would in return, give part of their earnings back to him. And just like that, only one powerful, money-grubbing family ran the whole country.

Possible Solutions

International intervention and national incentive.

In the implementation, firstly the international court such as UN or ICC cannot intervene in a nation because of sovereignty. However, governments still have obligation to account to their

people. Secondly, there is the national incentive. In the education sector it seems like character building is implemented already but in fact there still exists a large number of students who still cheat and that is akin to self-service. In the economic sector it seems like everything is stable but in fact, many are getting paid less than the minimal wage. Therefore enhancing a revolution and paradigm shift in thinking is important. In the long term where generations need to be educated, the most effective way is through socialization and education (curriculum). However, corruption is a significant problem not only because corrupt leaders are taking the nation's money for their own interests, which also signals the abuse of power linked with favouritism, cronyism, and nepotism. We should strengthen the KPK's work, giving corrupt officials strict punishments or sanctions, and improve technology to enhance the transparency of systems and networks.

The tolerance of the people to corrupt practices comes from their misconception of corruption. They all need to know that corruption is a bad practice and brings disadvantages to both their country and themselves.

A transparent government should be established to provide accurate and definitive information for all government processes. Transparency helps everyone, including law enforcement agencies in uncovering cases of corruption using official records of the government. It also increases the chances of detection of corrupt practices.

The government must also make a specific goal to improve the salary system for the whole country and in specific regions, improve the recruitment system and career prospects of employees. Both private and government employees that work in Indonesia must receive a decent salary, not just enough to pay for their daily living but also sufficient to finance their education and healthcare with room for adequate savings.

Session 3

The New Economic Frontier

Isolationism and Protectionism: Against the Tide
United Kingdom

On Thursday 23rd June last year, the British people made a decision with far reaching consequences; they voted by a very slim majority to exit the European Union. 51.9% voted yes to 'Brexit' and 48.1% said no. The implications of this would be far reaching and the political agenda and media have become filled with exit talk, negotiation strategies and fierce disagreement over visions of the future.

The UK presentation will focus on the root causes for adopting more protectionist economic policies, how and why British people are disenfranchised by the global economy and what can be done to combat this, and what there is to lose/gain from turning inwards. We will look at Brexit and what a future without the EU could look like.

Understanding Protectionism & Isolationism

For the purpose of this presentation, we understand Isolationism as referring to the trend of avoiding international agreements in regards to trade and alliances, leading to a concentrated effort to promote one's own country whilst avoiding embroilment in the affairs of other countries. Protectionism will be seen as an economic strategy which seeks to foster domestic industries thereby reducing reliance on foreign competitors by making importations less profitable. This is done through quotas, duties and introducing taxation on imports.

Brexit

By leaving the European Union the UK has many decisions to make, ranging from immigration, the economy to agriculture. What is important is that the UK continues to look outwards and adopt a positive, global approach to trade. Turning inwards risks lapsing into a 1930s type trade war; one piece of legislation (the Tariff Act of 1930 passed in the US) led to a domino effect of other countries adopting protectionist type legislation concerning trade. This caused one Wall Street Banker to remark that this Act "intensified nationalism all over the world."

The UK will have to navigate complex trade deals dependent on whether or not the UK remains in the Single Market, manages to negotiate a deal with the EU or ends up with no deal at the end of the exit period.

Slowing Economic Growth: Charting the Next Step
Japan

Introduction

The post-war Japanese economy grew rapidly during the 1950s through the 1970s and enjoyed sustained growth up until the early 1990s. Japan was hailed as a new economic giant, and its growth was revered as the Japanese Economic Miracle. This is epitomized by a 1979 book "Japan as Number One: Lessons for America". As the title of this book suggests, the entire world considered Japan's success as something to learn from.

Yet today, Japan has reached a new stage as a developed nation. As the economy grew, Japan came to be plagued by structural problems of the society/economy. One set of problems is the aging of the population and the decreasing birth rate. In 2015, 26.7% (roughly one in four) of the population was over 65 years old. At the same time, the total fertility rate (the average number of babies a woman has) also dropped to 1.44 in 2016, far below 2, the minimum required to sustain the population. Another set of problems is overurbanization and the subsequent depopulation in provincial areas. These phenomena, combined with the aging population, have accelerated the loss of local communities in rural areas.

A New Way of Thinking

In today's world, economic growth is measured primarily by GDP.

Although GDP itself is a useful indicator that measures the total value of every product and service that was created in a country, many problems arise when it is considered as the sole measurement for evaluating economic growth.

This is especially true in Japan, where the imminent population decline will lead to a decrease in GDP, even if productivity level remained the same.

This is why we would like to introduce a new concept: "difference in value". One example of such "differences" is the driving force of globalization. Globalization occurs because the world is big: in other words, the concept of globalization is the process of getting new things from countries far away that were previously unavailable in one's place of origin. But globalization will inevitably come to an end because by enjoying these differences, people are also filling in the differences. Not only do new products lose its newness as it spreads, the development of

communications and transportation technologies have also removed ~~the~~ geographic differences.

The Japanese Solution

As a nation on the brink of losing its population, we should move our focus from GDP-based growth to achieving "the greatest happiness of the greatest number". In recent years, happiness has attracted attention from around the globe as a new measurement of economic prosperity. This is where "difference in value" comes to work. People from different social structures (e.g. senior vs youth, urban vs rural) have different needs and talents. We should use these "differences in social structures" to maximize everyone's needs, thus happiness.

This is a future model of economic prosperity for post-developed countries that have reached a dead end in GDP growth.

Bibliography

Graaf, John De, and David K. Batker. What's the economy for, anyway?: why its time to stop chasing growth and start pursuing happiness. New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2013.

Sutter, Andrew J. Keizai Seicho Shinwa No Owari. Translated by Yuikiko Nakamura. Tokyo, Japan: Kodansha, 2012.

Iwai, Katsuhito. Benisu No Shonin No Shihonron . Tokyo, Japan: Chikuma Shobo, 1985.

Matsutani, Akihito. Jinko Gensho Keizai No Atarashi Koshiki. Tokyo, Japan: Nihon Keizai Shinbunsha, 2004.

Matsuda, Hisakazu. Generationomics - Ready for 2030. Tokyo, Japan: Toyo Keizai, 2013.

Matsuda, Shigeki. Shoshikaron. Tokyo, Japan: Keiso Shobo, 2013.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. Freefall: America, free markets, and the sinking of the world economy. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2010.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. The price of inequality:. New York: Norton & Company, 2013.

Technological Change: Redefining Boundaries
India

Introduction

Over the last 30 years, technology has grown to have an impact that none of us could have imagined, in every area of our life. From toddlers listening to nursery rhymes on an app to an older individual using a mechanical wheelchair – each and every member of society uses technology and technological advancements in numerous ways. Technology has shown positive advancement in all sectors, including business, communications and relationships, purchasing, banking etc. to name a few. 1.3 billion people[33], 450 million Internet users[34],1.1 billion mobile phone users[35]; numbers that appear to signify a rise that one can only imagine. Technology today, needless to say, is redefining boundaries, from social, economic, political, to cultural and moral spheres, in a revolutionary manner.

Status Quo

On the 8th of November 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the demonetization of 86% of India's bank note currency[36] in an attempt to eradicate black money and more importantly encourage a cashless economy. This move helped stimulate a greater use of technology in the Indian Economy encouraging people to use services such as online banking and E-wallets. On the flip side, technology does have its drawbacks and can often be a safety hazard as was seen in the recent Ransomware attacks and other breaches of privacy and safety. Technology has become a catalyst for the spread of news, information and increased awareness through the mediums of social media, the internet, radio services and televisions. Government initiated schemes such as Digital India, UDAAN, e-Nam and the Aadhar and Jan Dhan Yojna[37] have further contributed to the build-up of the technological revolution. Tech

---

[33] http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/india-population/

[34]

http://www.livemint.com/Industry/QWzIOYEsfQJknXhC3HiuVI/Number-of-Internet-users-in-India-could-cross-450-million-by.html

[35] http://trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/quarterly_press_release_Eng_07042017.pdf

[36] http://www.forbesindia.com/blog/economy-policy/demonetisation-the-long-and-short-of-it/

[37] http://www.digitalindia.gov.in/

companies and startups such as, Infosys, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services and-more recently-Flipkart, PayTM and OLA, have been emerging in large numbers for many years. This represents a robust economic sector.

Future Prospects

The future of technology in the rapidly modernizing India looks bright and highly positive, however it is imperative to establish that there are ways in which the existing use of technology can be bettered in order for optimum utilization of the same. Peer to peer review can be called the backbone of such progress in the market. Another prospect for the future is automated technology, which not only makes the use of technology more advanced, but also helps increase the efficiency of domains in which such technology is applied. With this increased efficiency comes a hurdle that the government must pay close attention to; the loss of jobs and employment due to technological overtake of such skills. The advent of various employment generation schemes that affect domains in which automated technology would not be as viable as human participation is essential. This would provide a twofold benefit, that of increasing efficiency as well as securing the livelihoods of employees.

Today and for time to come, India maintains hope and is determined to facilitate the change and take these technological revolutions in its stride.

Session 4

Civilisation's Path to Unity

Imagined Communities: National Identity's Place in a Globalised World
Malaysia

National identity is the sense of a nation as a cohesive whole. Malaysia's national identity is represented by its unique and distinct culture. We have material culture and nonmaterial culture in Malaysia. Material culture can be expressed physically, a culture that you can feel with your bare hands. Some examples include the Malayan Tiger, the durian and the Hibiscus, Malaysia's national flower. As for non-material culture, it consists ideas and beliefs that shape Malaysian society. It is intangible and does not have a physical body. Examples of non-material culture are language, ethnic groups, festivals and many more.

A global nation has the ability to maintain its national identity through political reform. The independence of Malaya is a move in the direction of globalisation. Malaya then was an absolute monarchy, where the ruler had supreme authority and was not restricted by any legislations, laws or customs. Malaysia now is a constitutional monarchy, and has democratic governments which act within the confines of the constitution. Malaysia also maintains its national identity by retaining cultural interests. She acknowledges and celebrates special festivals such as but not limited to Deepavali, Hari Raya and Chinese New Year. Programmes like 1Malaysia are held to remind the nation to uphold the unity.

The national identity of a Malaysian is not antithetical to a global identity because there is a strong bond that already is encased within our souls. The different races in Malaysia celebrate different festivals together, sharing their culture which lets them understand one another and form a bond that holds the various races together, unconsciously creating a sense of unity.

But will national identity become an outdated concept in our near future? Yes, it will. Owing to increased immigration and globalisation, nations will increasingly see more diversity. Will this cause the countries that we presently consider as "diverse" to lose its unique value? Besides, globalisation is a process that will result in the world becoming interconnected, opening the possibility of a globe operating as 'one nation' in the future. The world then will only be run by a single government. If we were to be a single nation, would we have to worry about the concept of national identity anymore?

Bibliography

http://www.commisceo-global.com/country-guides/malaysia-guide
http://www.officeholidays.com/countries/malaysia/index.php

<div style="background-color:#4472C4; color:white; text-align:center; padding:20px;">

Trust in Civil Institutions: What Binds the Fabric of Society

Philippines

</div>

Introduction

It is evident that globally, there is a decline in the trust people place in civil institutions.

Trust is central to a functioning society and is vital to the success of a state. Socio-political trust is the citizen's support of civil institutions in the face of uncertainty, and thus serves as an evaluation of society and the political world[38].

Global Trends

Around the globe, a decline in trust can be observed in civil institutions such as the government, media, NGOs, and businesses. It is worth noting that 75% of 28 surveyed countries do not trust their government; with its global trust rating averaging at 41%[39]. Moreover, 53% of people desire to change the unjust system, since they lack hope and confidence in it. They believe that the system has failed them.

Trust of the Filipino People

The Philippines does not deviate from this global trend. In 2001, 49% percent of people said they trusted the Philippine government[40]. In a study published in 2015, however, the Philippine Trust Index for the government was as low as 12%[41], meaning, on average, the respondents rated their trust in the government 12 out of a hundred. One significant factor in the trust ratings of the system is the public's view on the personality leading the nation. Today,

---

[38] Newton, Kenneth. "Social and Political Trust." Accessed June 19, 2017.
http://essedunet.nsd.uib.no/cms/topics/2/.

[39] Edelman. "2017 Edelman Trust Barometer." Accessed June 19, 2017.
http://www.edelman.com/trust2017/.

[40] Center for East Asia Democratic Studies. "Key Findings." Accessed June 19, 2017.
http://www.asianbarometer.org/survey/key-findings.

[41] EON. "2015 PTI Executive Summary." Accessed June 19, 2017.
http://www.eon.com.ph/report2015/2015%20PTI%20Executive%20Summary.pdf.

President Rodrigo Duterte appears to be a controversial figure to many. In fact, his trust ratings have dropped from 83% in December 2016[42] to 78% in March 2017[43].

Factors Affecting Trust

Scholars attempt to explain these trends and enumerate major factors by tracing where political trust has its roots. These sources of trust include: 1) absence of corruption, 2) procedural fairness, 3) economic performance, 4) inclusive institutions, and 5) socialization[44].

Most of the public criticism against, or even for, President Duterte concerns three of these factors and for certain major reasons. First is procedural fairness because of the extrajudicial killings that come alongside his war on drugs[45]. Next, economic performance has been criticized and compared to previous administrations[46], specifically President Benigno Aquino's. Lastly, socialization is an issue for many who find his political approaches unorthodox.

Possible Solutions

The key to building, restoring, and improving trust is by exhibiting competence and imbuing certain universally beneficial values[47] such as transparency within civil institutions. This is true for the Philippines and other nations in similar predicaments.

---

[42] Pulse Asia Research Inc. "December 2016 Nationwide Survey on the Performance and Trust ratings of the Top National Government Officials and Key Government Institutions." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.pulseasia.ph/december-2016-nationwide-survey-on-the-performance-and-trust-ratings-of-the-top-national-government-officials-and-key-government-institutions/.

[43] Pulse Asia Research Inc. "March 2017 Nationwide Survey on the Performance and Trust Ratings of the Top Five Philippine Government Officials." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.pulseasia.ph/march-2017-nationwide-survey-on-the-performance-and-trust-ratings-of-the-top-five-philippine-government-officials/.

[44] van der Meer, Tom W. G. "Political Trust and the 'Crisis of Democracy'." Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics (2017). Accessed June 19, 2017. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.77.

[45] Human Rights Watch. "World Report 2017: Philippines." Accessed June 19, 2017. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/philippines.

[46] BusinessMirror. "Assessing the new administration's first six months." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/assessing-the-new-administrations-first-six-months/.

[47] OECD. "Trust in Government." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.oecd.org/gov/trust-in-government.htm.

To mitigate the distrust and address the issue at hand, countries should: (1) apply administrative reforms which aim to eliminate sources of distrust while making public service more transparent and accountable; (2) improve ethical and moral standards in work culture in order to change the behaviour and mindsets of the people regarding fairness; (3) choose leaders who will ensure that institutions operate at maximum effectiveness while maintaining integrity and confidence; and (4) increase the engagement and participation of citizens by supplying the people with a voice and a medium for communication with civil institutions.[48]

The road to a better future for the Philippines is not easy. But the country is certainly progressing towards addressing the current issues through the Freedom of Information executive order that promotes transparency[49], and anti-corruption initiatives[50].

As President Duterte once said, "We cannot move forward if we allow the past to pull us back.[51]" The Philippines' shaky history with trust will not hinder it from progressing. The solutions of the government are being ~~put~~ brought to life and now, time is needed to put plans into actions.

Bibliography

Brillantes, Alex B. Jr., and Fernandez, Maricel T. "RESTORING TRUST AND BUILDING INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT: ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND AREAS FOR REFORM." International Public Management Review12:2 (2011), 55-80. Accessed June 19, 2017.

BusinessMirror. "Assessing the new administration's first six months." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/assessing-the-new-administrations-first-six-months/.

Center for East Asia Democratic Studies. "Key Findings." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.asianbarometer.org/survey/key-findings.

---

[48] Brillantes, Alex B. Jr., and Fernandez, Maricel T. "RESTORING TRUST AND BUILDING INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT: ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND AREAS FOR REFORM." International Public Management Review12:2 (2011), 55-80. Accessed June 19, 2017.

[49] Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. "Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/07/23/executive-order-no-02-s-2016/.

[50] Rappler. "TIMELINE: anti-corruption initiatives in the Philippines." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/budget-watch/139745-anti-corruption-initiative-philippines.

[51] INQUIRER.net. "FULL TEXT: President Duterte's first State of the Nation Address." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/799060/full-text-president-rodrigo-duterte-first-sona-state-nation-address-2016.

Edelman. "2017 Edelman Trust Barometer." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.edelman.com/trust2017/.

EON. "2015 PTI Executive Summary." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.eon.com.ph/report2015/2015%20PTI%20Executive%20Summary.pdf.

Human Rights Watch. "World Report 2017: Philippines." Accessed June 19, 2017. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/philippines.

INQUIRER.net. "FULL TEXT: President Duterte's first State of the Nation Address." Accessed June 25, 2017. http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/799060/full-text-president-rodrigo-duterte-first-sona-state-nation-address-2016.

Newton, Kenneth. "Social and Political Trust." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://essedunet.nsd.uib.no/cms/topics/2/.

OECD. "Trust in Government." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.oecd.org/gov/trust-in-government.htm.

Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. "Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016." Accessed June 19, 2017. http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/07/23/executive-order-no-02-s-2016/.

Cultural Values: Bridging the Old and New
South Africa

Introduction

South Africa prides itself on being known as the "Rainbow Nation" – an allusion to the multiplicity of cultures which exist side by side in this land. The huge diversity in cultural practices and values makes South Africa a fascinating yet enormously complex society. Finding a balance, not only between the cultures themselves, but also between the old and new traditions and values of these cultures is a constant challenge.

The Impact of Globalisation

Despite the huge digital divide which exists in South Africa, the significant advancement in communication technology over recent years and the greater exposure to Western values and practices through the internet and other forms of media has led to the questioning of the value of cultural traditions. This in turn has caused great social tension within communities particularly between the young and the old, each of which tends to be in favour of the traditions and beliefs of the time into which they were born. Urbanisation, and with it more exposure to globalisation and Western ideology, has played a significant role in the divide between people who support traditional cultural practices and those who support more modern interpretations.

There are numerous ways in which globalisation has changed local structures and values. Two examples include:

- Gender roles, which form a rigid and respected structure in many South African communities. The rise and spread of feminism around the world has seen people challenging typical perceptions and expectations of men and women, as well as ideas about their place and value in society.

- Religious and spiritual beliefs: Traditional healers have historically played a significant role in African culture, being involved not only in physical and spiritual healing, but also in divination (through the ancestors), the overseeing of birth and death rituals and counteracting witchcraft. With the increase in exposure to modern medicine and science, many African people have started turning to Western doctors, rather than making use of traditional healers.

The Future of Culture

As the world becomes ever more connected, the future promises global unity in almost every aspect, including culture. Within South Africa, those who abide by traditional local values have frequently found themselves on the fringes of society, and are often labelled as "old-fashioned" or "backwards" by those who have adapted to Western ways of living.

While it is important for local communities to be open and receptive to cultural values which contradict their own, and to be prepared to allow their norms and beliefs to evolve, culture is what makes a people unique and holds them together. The loss of cultural traditions and values can result in people losing their sense of identity and no longer feeling part of any cultural group. The wonderful diversity of cultures and traditions in South Africa is what makes it such a unique society. The blending of this richness of cultures into one overarching global cultural value system would be a great loss to South Africa.