

A Conference with a Difference

The World Future Society Conference is on this weekend in Toronto. Always a must, I come back with my jaw dropping from the developments I have seen, the ideas and potential discussed and the excitement felt by everyone there.

Naturally, conferences like these attract the enthusiasts, the geeks, the optimists. So its important to keep everything in perspective. My usual tactic is to listen carefully to all the lectures on social change, nip in and out of the lectures on technological change, avoid anything on climate change, education and the military because they are usually so US centric and then follow up with the speakers on ideas that need further exploration.

Over the years, I have come back with many foresights that I have shared with my clients:

- the impact of globalisation (Thomas Friedman)
- the collision of nanotechnology, robotics and personalised medicine (Ray Kurzweil)
- the potential of 3D printing from domestic to massive scale, particularly to my manufacturing clients
- brain implants and the ability to enhance humanity

Who knows what I will find this time?