



The Policy Studies Organization

DUPONT SUMMIT 2012

..... Pressing Issues Amid the Political Maelstrom

December 7, 2012 * Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington, DC
Sponsored by the American Public University and the George Mason University

Panel Speakers

William E. Halal, PhD., *George Washington University, Bangkok University, TechCast LLC*

Topic

"Tracking the Technology Revolution: Highlights from the TechCast Project"

Professor William E. Halal will present results of his work on the TechCast Project (www.TechCast.org). TechCast scans for trends and uses "collective intelligence" to pool the knowledge of more than 100 experts online to forecast technology breakthroughs in all fields. The US National Academies cited TechCast as one of the top three systems available, Google searches rank it 2 or 3 out of 50 million hits, and It has been featured in The Washington Post, Newsweek, The Futurist, and other publications.

Halal will also present "macro-forecasts" of the impact on society. A trend analysis will define the Global MegaCrisis caused by climate change, environmental damage, peak oil, financial instability, recession, conflict, and other threats. Preliminary survey data suggest that people think there is a 60% probability the world will suffer the loss of civilization or dramatically lower living standards in major parts of the globe. The aggregated forecasts suggest two scenarios seem likely to resolve the MegaCrisis -- *2015: The World Moves Online* to enter a new period of growth, and *2020: High-Tech Arrives*, in which green technology, mastery of life, infinite computing power and intelligence lead to a major shift in global consciousness beyond knowledge. Audience participation is encouraged throughout the presentation.