

“Imagine Taiwan in the Year 2500”

A. Discuss

1. Do you worry about global warming? If no, why not? If yes, what kinds of things do you worry about?
2. Would you agree with the statement, “most people...are not interested in thinking about the future impact of climate change on their country”? Give reasons for your answer.
3. What do you think your country will be like 500 years from now?

B. Match the definitions with the highlighted words in the article

(Part 1) far removed from / hammer out / blueprints / doomsday / impact / on the front lines of

.....	plans
.....	directly facing
.....	a long way from something (physically and mentally)
.....	strong effect
.....	end of the world
.....	negotiate something difficult

(Part 2) mitigation / climatologists / confronted head-on / head-in-the-sand / protestations / denialists / tipping point / temperate zones / migrate / shelter

.....	people who study the weather
.....	people who refuse to accept that something is true
.....	travel to another area or country
.....	reducing the bad effects of something
.....	the moment that something starts to happen and cannot be reversed
.....	hiding from the truth
.....	places to live; homes
.....	saying something is true or not when most people believe the opposite
.....	areas of the earth that are not extremely hot or extremely cold
.....	dealt with directly

(Part 3) uninhabited / stragglers / eking out / subsistence / safe harbor / devastating / relocated / Taipei basin / engulfed by / triggered / submerged

.....	managing to live with little money or food
.....	extremely serious; destroying
.....	the area of Taipei that is shaped like a large bowl
.....	made to happen
.....	describes a place where no-one lives
.....	completely covered by water
.....	a secure place to live
.....	totally covered
.....	a small number of people left behind where a lot of people used to be
.....	moved to another place
.....	extremely basic; having just enough

(Part 4) forum / theorized / gobbling up / worst-case scenario / faraway / refugees / a pretty picture / engineer / geo-engineering / trendy

.....	predicted
.....	most bad situation, result or outcome
.....	people who are forced to leave their country because of war or disaster
.....	discussion group
.....	the ability of humans to control the environment
.....	something nice
.....	very distant
.....	fashionable
.....	use skill to make something happen
.....	destroying

(Part 5) eateries / doomed / bleak / the UN / posh / hawk / trendy / gadgets / think outside the box / push the envelope / unspeakably

.....	something very bad is going to happen
.....	a small, useful and cleverly designed machine
.....	sell
.....	restaurants, cafeterias, etc; places to eat
.....	forcing action to the limits of what people can accept
.....	expensive, high-class; for rich people
.....	very, very, very...
.....	look for ideas that are different, unusual and not expected
.....	the United Nations (tries to find peaceful solutions to world problems)
.....	hopeless; bad

(Part 6) will be history / uncharted waters / waters rise / settlements / op-ed / aspiration / obsession / consuming / one / bode well

.....	sea levels go up
.....	an extreme interest in something, often in an unhealthy way
.....	buying; using
.....	a page in a newspaper with articles from people giving their opinions
.....	look good
.....	gone; over; finished
.....	I; a person; people; you
.....	areas where people have moved to live
.....	strong desire to achieve something
.....	new, different and strange situations

C. Comprehension Questions

1. What are experts in Copenhagen trying to do?
2. What do a growing number of climatologists believe?
3. In 500 years, who will be living in Taiwan?
4. According to Wang Chung-ho, what might happen to Taipei in less than 100 years?
5. According to the article, why can't the earth recover from global warming?
6. What will the meetings in Copenhagen and Rio de Janeiro be unable to stop?
7. What are Wang and other scientists not afraid to do?
8. Why does Chen Meei-shia think that most people in Taiwan don't care about global warming?

D. Post-Reading Discussion

What is your opinion of the article? Do you believe that Taiwan "will be history" 500 years from now?

