From Counselor to Leader: the next step for corporate communicators

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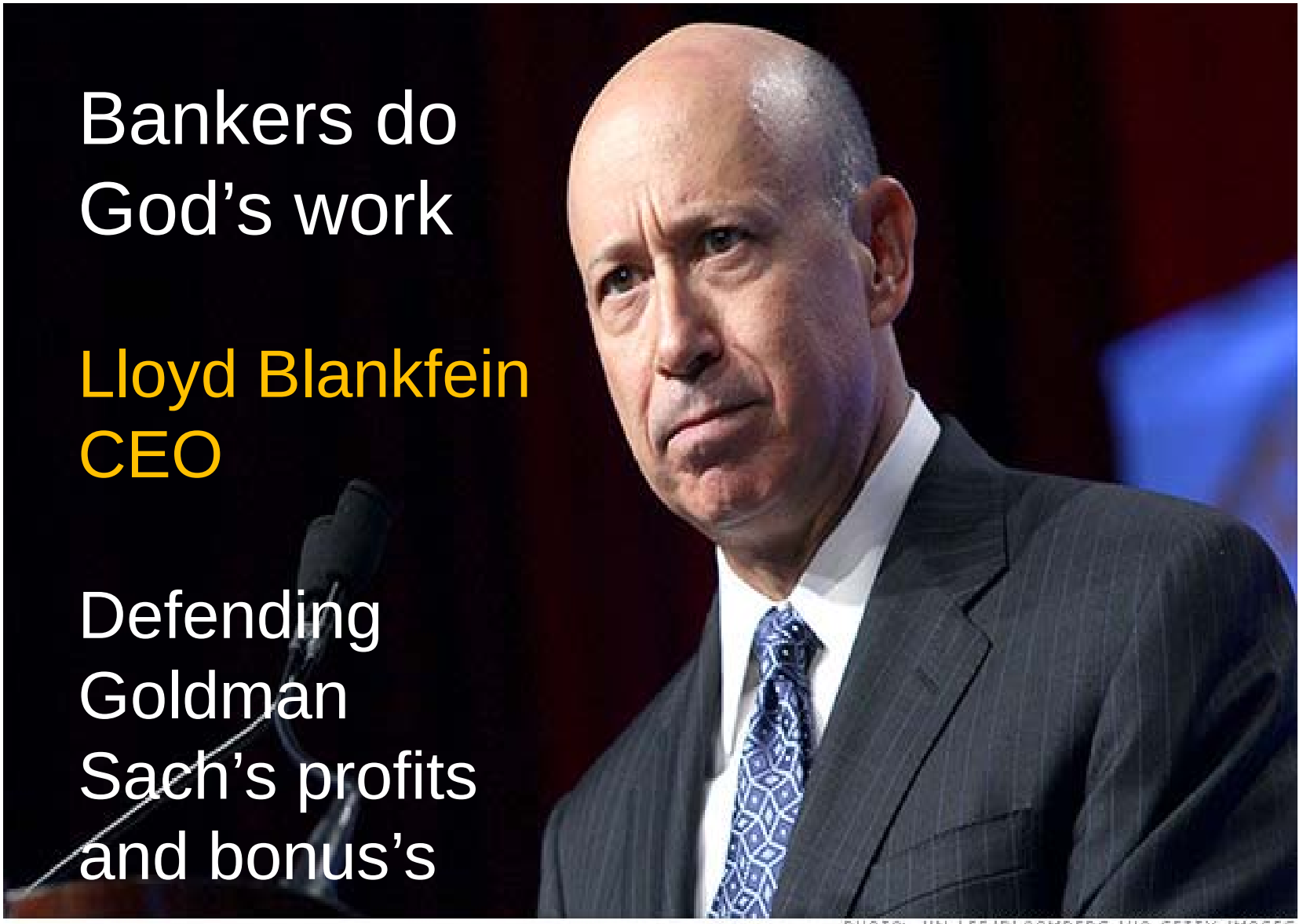
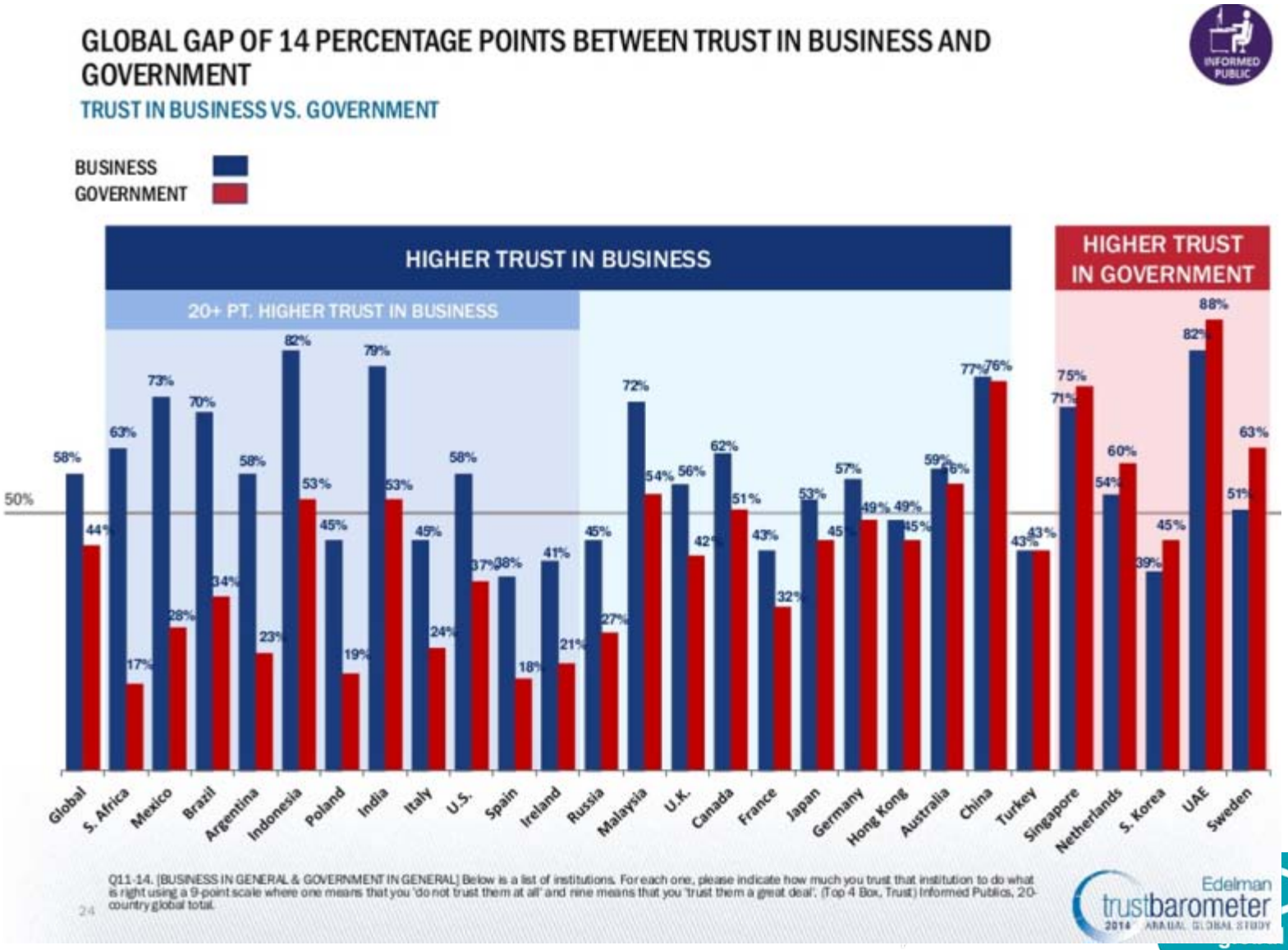
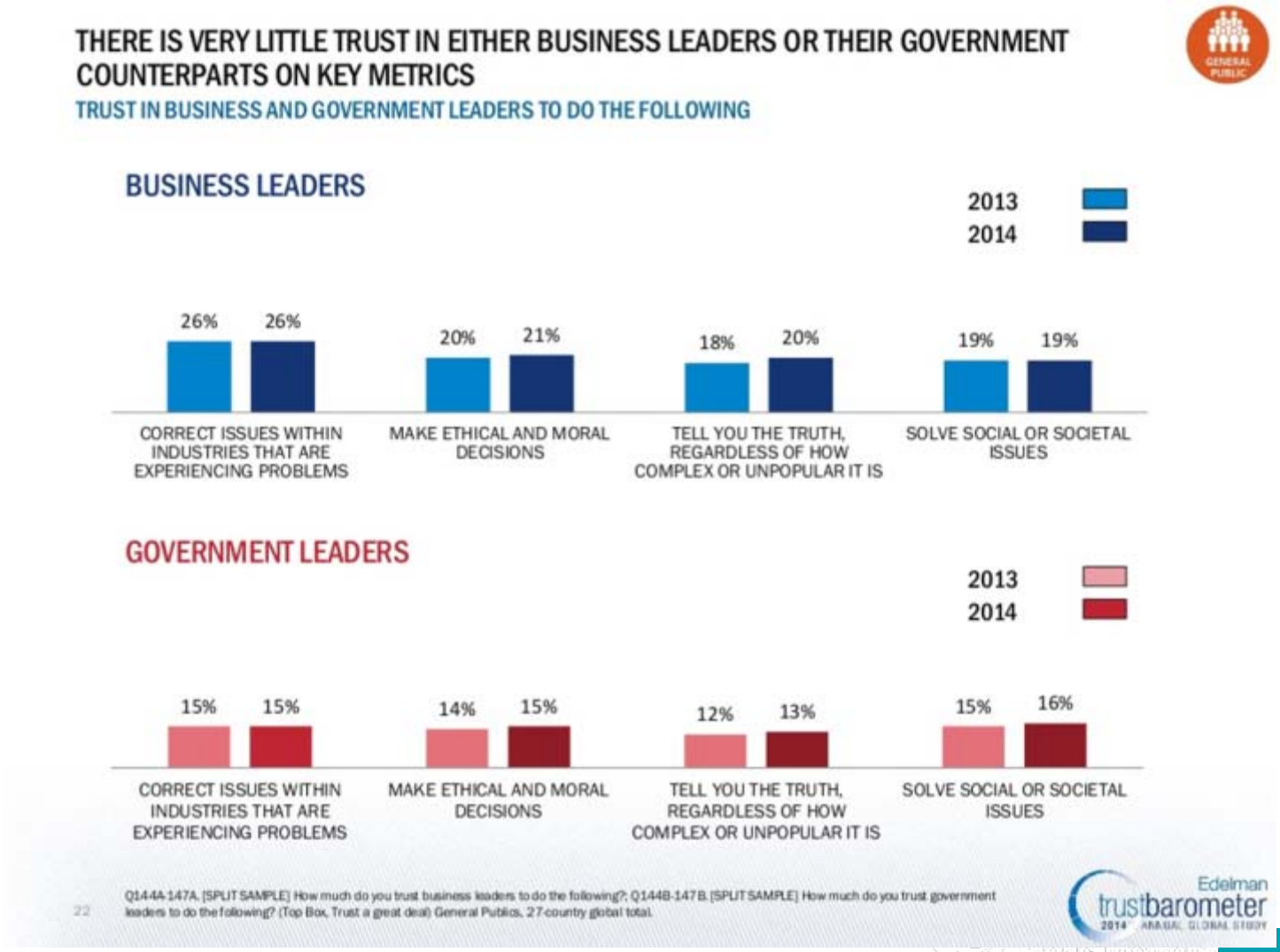

Bankers do God's work
Lloyd Blankfein CEO
Defending Goldman Sach's profits and bonus's
PHOTO: JIN LEE/BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES

TRUST

Issues for our organisations



What's the issue?



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A view from the WEF

Top 10 trends 2014

Top 10 trends of 2014

What are the top trends facing the world in 2014? And what should we do about them?

To follow the latest developments on these issues, take a look at the WEF/GAC blog at http://forumblog.org/communities/global-agenda-councils

Top trends for 2014 by region

1.00 = Not significant at all 3.00 = Not very significant 5.00 = Somewhat significant 4.00 = Very significant 5.00 = Extremely significant

Source: Survey on the Global Agenda 2013

Tensions in the Middle East. Rising living standards. Adaptation to climate change. Paralysed government. Innovative cities.

The world is changing faster than ever. We're connected to each other in ways that would have been thought impossible just a generation ago, enabling enormous potential but also exposing our institutions to great strain. If we are to effectively address the challenges we face as a planet, decision-makers need to keep pace and anticipate what lies ahead.

To foresee the changes awaiting us in 2014, we asked the vast network of Global Agenda Council Members to identify and prioritize the issues that will exert the greatest force on the world in the coming 12 to 18 months. Using a selective survey tool, we determined the top 10 global trends (opposite).

Knowing which trends to watch is the first step. Where do we begin to prepare for their impact? Harnessing the interconnected structure of the Network of Global Agenda Councils, we turned back to the Councils and asked them to tell us what should be done to address the multifaceted impact the trends will have on our world.

This chapter provides an overview of the forces that will shape 2014 and the ideas that can address their impact.

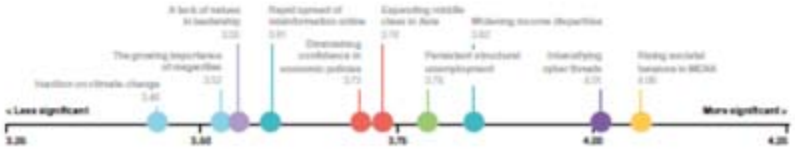
Top trends for 2014, ranked by global significance

1.	Rising societal tensions in the Middle East and North Africa	4.07
2.	Widening income disparities	4.02
3.	Persistent structural unemployment	3.97
4.	Intensifying cyber threats	3.93
5.	Inaction on climate change	3.81
6.	The diminishing confidence in economic policies	3.79
7.	A lack of values in leadership	3.76
8.	The expanding middle class in Asia	3.75
9.	The growing importance of megacities	3.48
10.	The rapid spread of misinformation online	3.35

1.00 = Not significant at all 3.00 = Not very significant 3.00 = Somewhat significant 4.00 = Very significant 5.00 = Extremely significant

Source: Survey on the Global Agenda 2013

How significant will the global trends become in the next 18 months?



1.00 = Much less significant 3.00 = Marginally less significant 3.00 = Remain the same 4.00 = Marginally more significant 5.00 = Much more significant

Source: Survey on the Global Agenda 2013

Communication is at the heart of everything

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The world outside

Driving factors in our world

- Compression
- Complexity
- Connectivity
- Co-dependence
- Context

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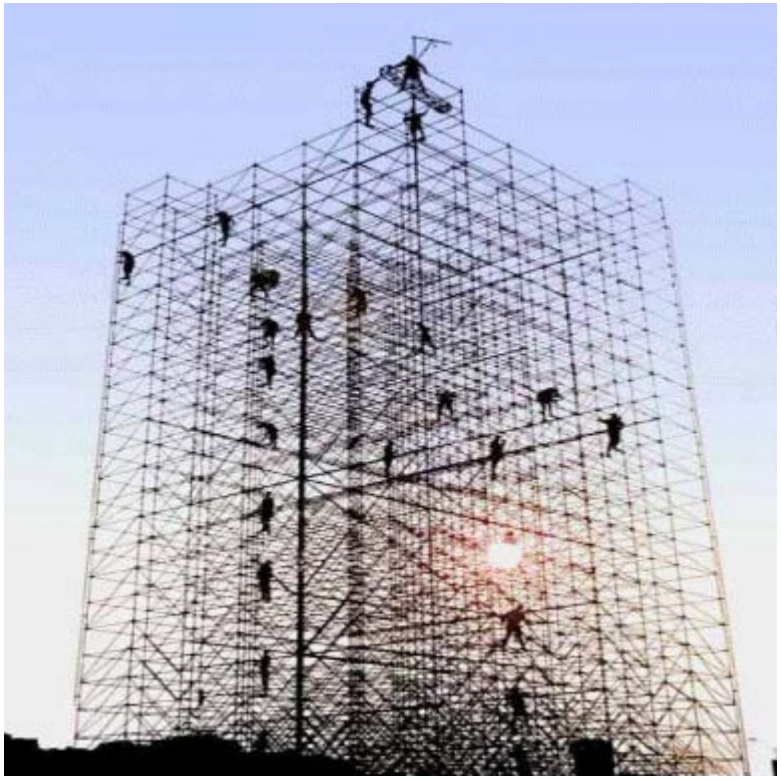
What do we conclude from this?

Organisations are *defined and constituted* by communication not just *enabled* by it...



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Who is round the Board table?

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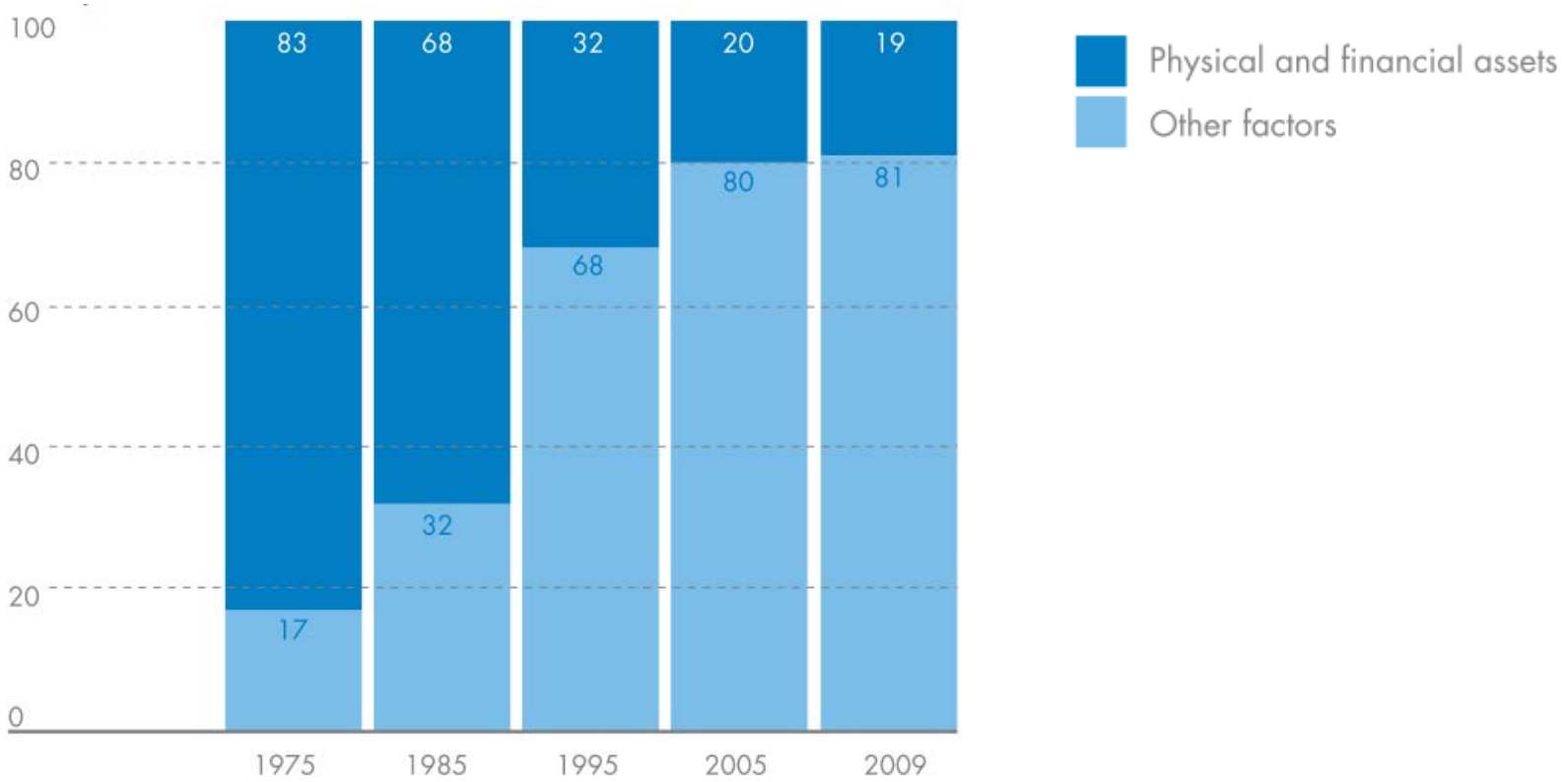
Who is looking after the 80%?



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Grasping the opportunity to lead…

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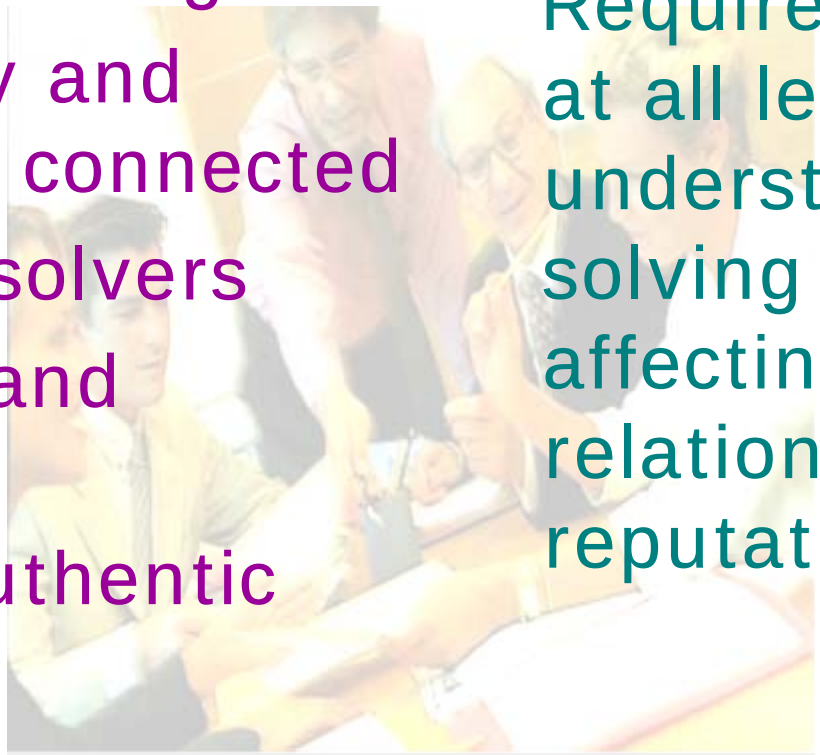
Leadership with communication at its heart - thanks to A.G Lafley

- Defining the meaningful outside
- Deciding how you do business
- Balancing present and future
- Shaping values and standards

What CEOs expect

- Forward intelligence
- Externally and internally connected
- Problem-solvers
- Coaches and advisors
- A new, authentic narrative
- Technical competence



Requires leadership at all levels: understanding and solving problems affecting relationships and reputation

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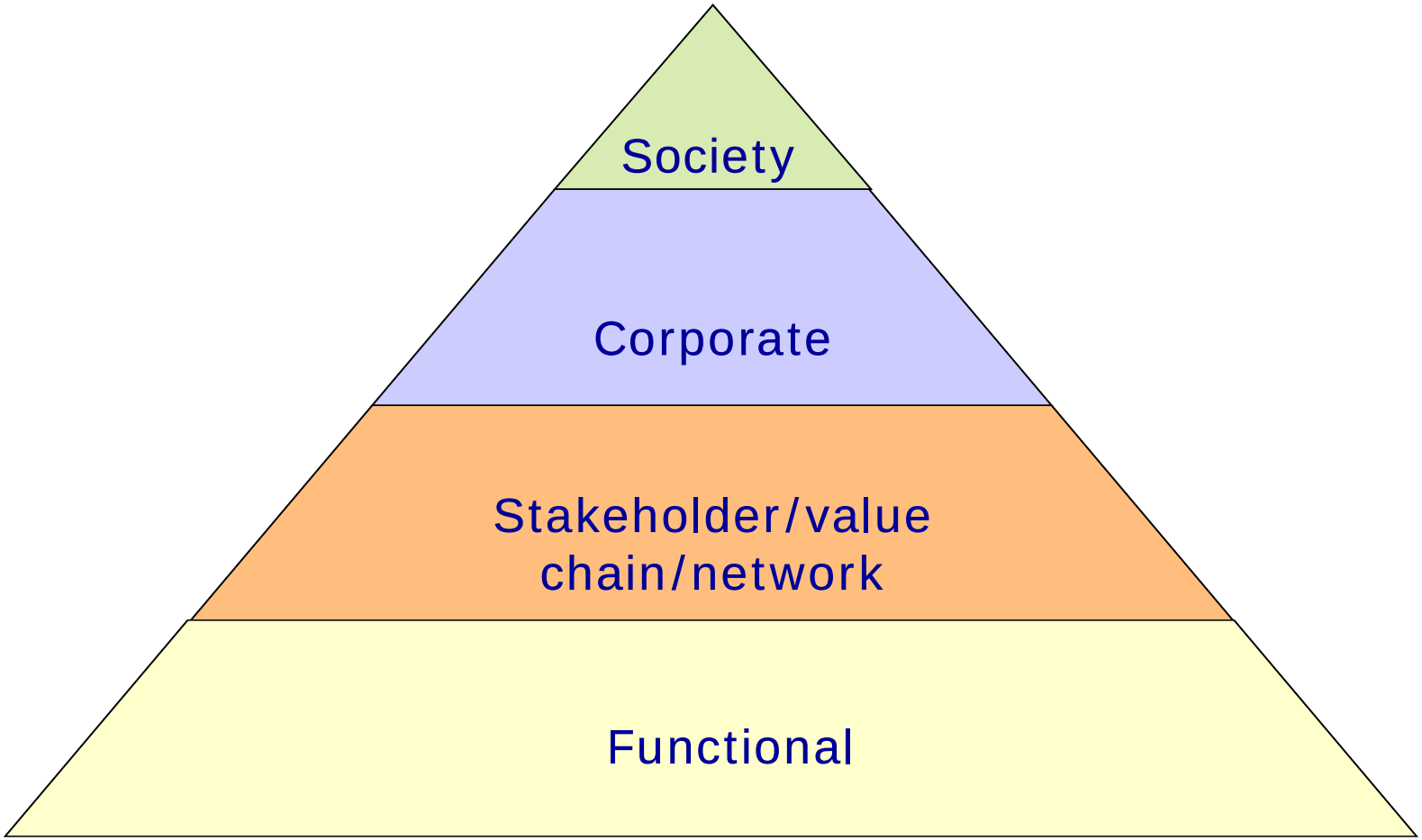
Four levels of contribution



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To society….

Purpose: Social orientation

- what is our role in society?
- what are our obligations?
- what are the implications for our organisation?

Values based: stakeholder oriented

PR contribution

- maintain legitimacy
- assists strategy development
- puts performance into perspective
- builds brand identity
- provide the organisational sense-check

ROI on the 80%

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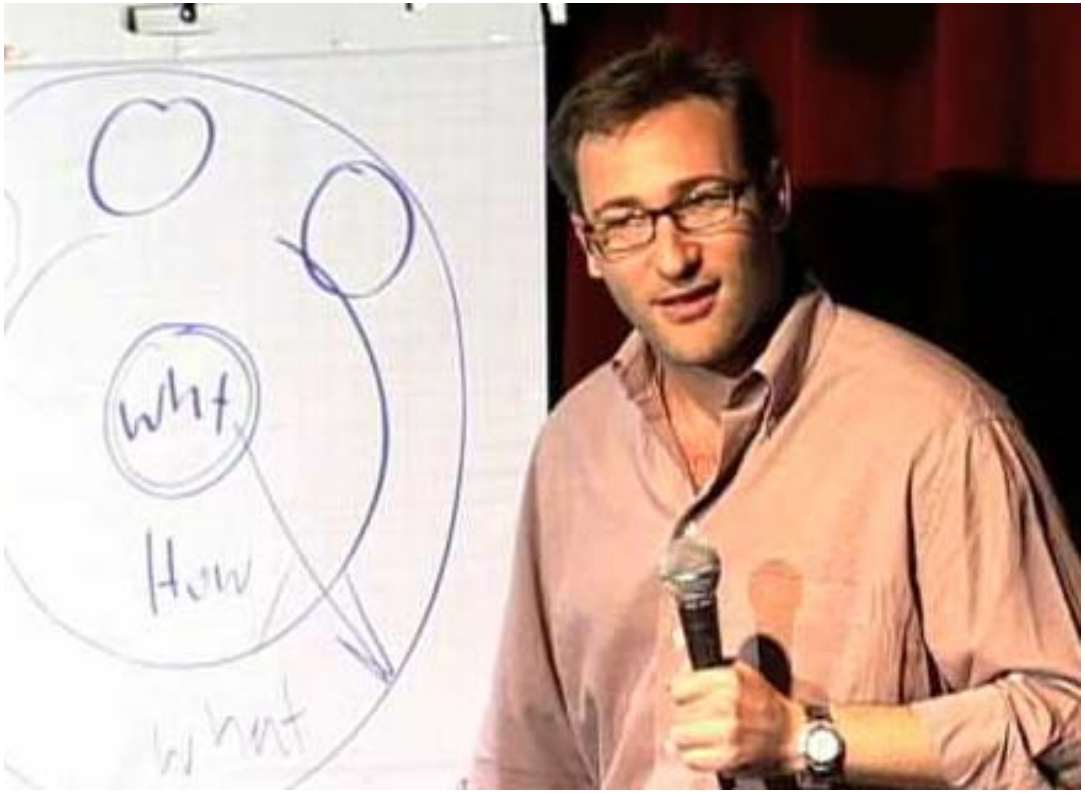
Key issue is purpose…



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At corporate level….

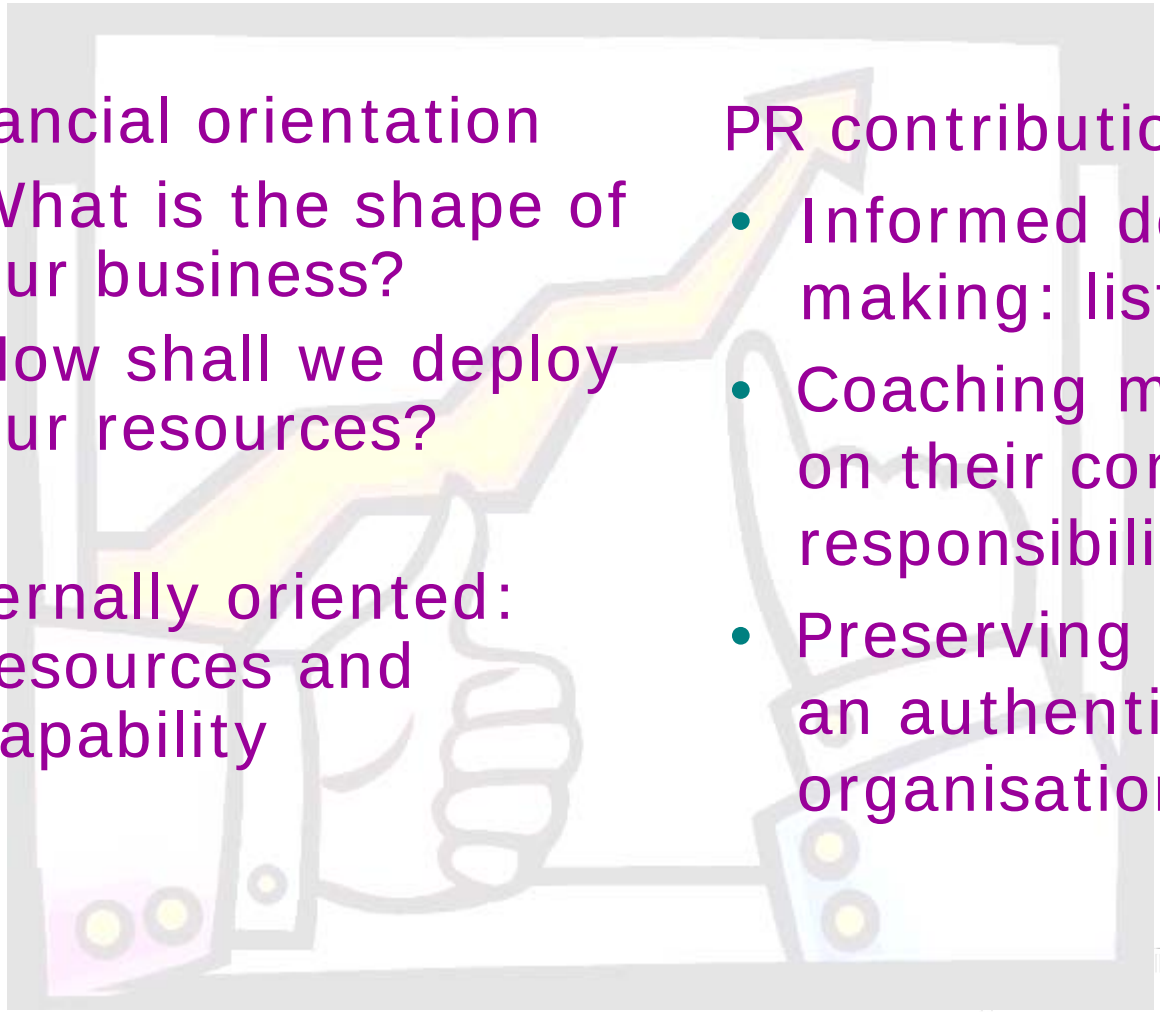
Financial orientation

- What is the shape of our business?
- How shall we deploy our resources?

Internally oriented: resources and capability

PR contribution

- Informed decision-making: listening
- Coaching management on their comms responsibilities
- Preserving and building an authentic organisational character



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At stakeholder / value chain level....

Stakeholder and financial orientation

- Who is or should be part of the closer stakeholder community?
- Who is in our value chain?

Relationship oriented

PR contribution

- Identifying stakeholder needs
- Negotiating collaborations
- Upholding values
- Monitoring performance
- Managing multiple-stakeholders

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At functional level….

Societal, organisational and stakeholder/service user focused

- What are the operational imperatives?
- How do we implement efficient and effective programmes and campaigns?

Operational competence

Comms Contribution

- Strategic programmes
- Reactive, proactive and interactive
- Evaluated

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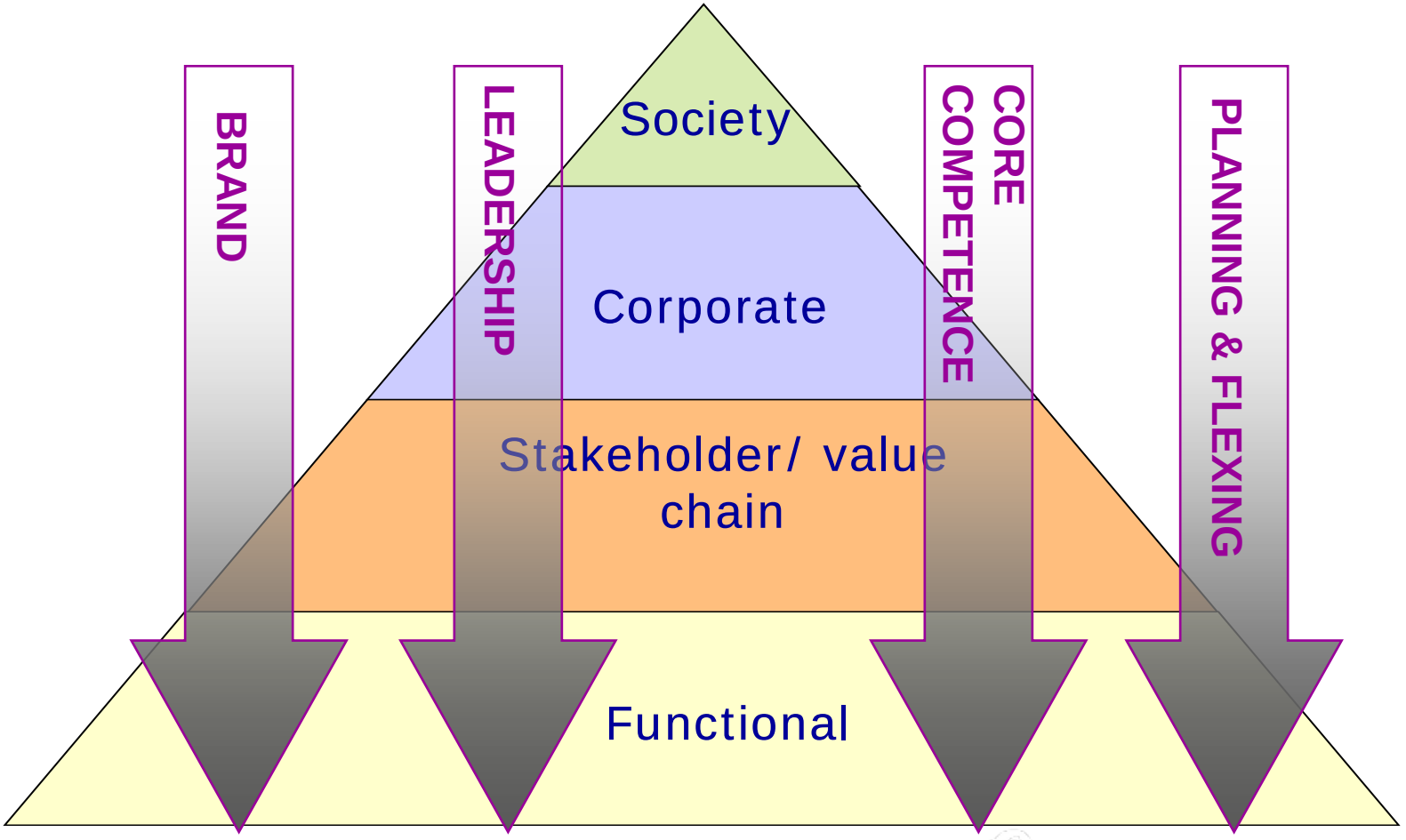
The four DNA strands



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The core role in four parts

ORIENTER

CATALYST

NAVIGATOR

IMPLEMENTER

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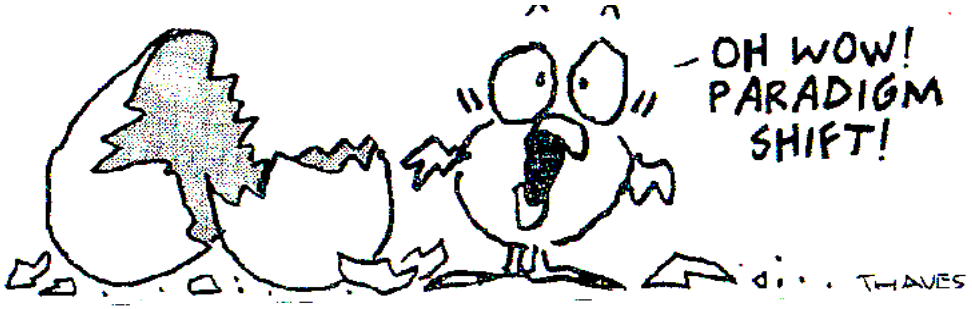
Why?

- a new business paradigm is emerging
- governance is at its core
- covert and overt accountability
- new issues and risks to be managed
- determines your license to operate
- a different world for CEOs and boards



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The 4 P's of communicative leadership

- Purpose
- Principles
- People
- Process

you behave is the key to legitimacy

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“At first, they told us, ‘here’s the message, go deliver it’.

Then it became, ‘what should the message be?’

Now, ‘it’s what should we do?”

Harold Burson

At the end of the day…..

The ultimate core competence which communicative leadership can bring

- legitimacy
- influence
- advocates

The Challenge……

Are we up to the task?

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