



Adaptive and Engaging Leadership With Purpose in a Shifting World

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Abstract

The uncertainty of changing times will lead to new global realities for all communities during the present era and globalization journey that will continue as will the shifting and changing of national leaders, human crises, the ups and downs of commerce and innovation, and community and public desires for solutions and outcomes that are both found and missed as time comes and time moves on forward. In this vein, there is the daily reality of survival in many communities while considering how and why and when to engage the state of what already is and the factors to consider for what is possible to happen locally, regionally and because of the rapid and far reaching influence of world events that will undoubtedly present challenges from which there will also rise opportunity as evidenced by informal and formal gatherings such as the World Economic Forum, United Nations activities, European Union activities and other forums in future years to come. As such, the current time provides context and background for several coexisting trends that are impacting everybody living on the planet directly through the advent of raging human crises, sovereign wealth funds now pouring into the United States to offer financial stability to linked world markets that are being shaken by collateralized debt obligations (CDO's) that are fueling a global credit and financial crisis. At the same time there is the continued rise money remittances, a further expansion of Hip-Hop as culture exchange and business that began in the United States continues to go global into many lands and across many cultures from New York, Atlanta and Los Angeles to Buenos Aires, Mumbai, Shanghai, Moscow and Paris. Moreover, the trend to transportable knowledge and skills continues to heighten as education and knowledge parity between East and West is becoming more common and practical. Still, there are serious conflicts with some conflict situations being cataclysmic in scope in a growing number of places and regions in the world in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and other places as countries, racial, ethnic and cultural groups are engaged in deadly conflict.

Moreover, the interrelated questions of adaptive leadership in finding and pursuing purpose in communities that are newly adapting to arising life circumstances and situations spanning business, economic and social infrastructures and networks to manage into the future given the aforementioned situations and others still to arise. Thus, the expressed voices of Amartya Sen in Rationality and Freedom (2002) Percy Miller also known as Master P in Guaranteed Success, 2007, Alan Greenspan in The Age of Turbulence (2007), Ronald Heifetz & Marty Linsky in Leadership on the Line (2002), Niall Ferguson in The War of the World (Twentieth Century Conflict and the Descent of the West, 2006), Frances Hesselbein & Marshall Goldsmith in The Leader of the Future (Visions, Strategies, and Practices for the New Era, 2006) among others have been brought together as foundation building elements and thought resources for this view that seeks to encourage future thinking and the engaging of multiple options for multi-cultural human groups and societies that can grasp and apply adaptive, cultural and leader and follower ideation for shaping individual and group engagement perspectives toward community level pursuits and future attainment in the years to come.

In doing so this author will further draw on The Hong Kong Declaration, the Yaounde Declaration and the Budapest Declaration from IACD to provide further illumination on the overarching question and utility of identifying, growing and supporting adaptive and engaging leadership with a purpose during shifting times. In brief, the introduction, advancement, and seeing future community through new eyes is to spur leadership involvement and growth in order to collaborate is fundamental to discovering and seeing inventive ways to work with others as the pace of human systems and natural systems adaptation, conflict, and change continues to intensify, is driven by increasing global competitiveness and the complexities of managing the complexities of life by being able to distinguish and meet technical challenges and adaptive challenges.

Secondly, there is the possibility of erecting scaffolding and the building of new frameworks to begin to gauge the impact and potential of extrinsic factors and intrinsic factors when managing change in a shifting natural environment, overcoming being risk adverse, taking active positions on change, understanding the importance of different mindsets, acting on the criticality of awareness of self and environment, and recognizing that learning is an essential tool and technique for developing a personal adaptive leadership strategy and practice through which others can be engaged in renewable strategies, approaches and ways involving family and community as a system, and diverse business and organization environments around the globe.

Again, the challenges and opportunity for promoting new future-oriented adaptive and engagement behaviors as sustainable practice at the community level and extending and connecting to other levels and in the places where community desires, interest and goals overlap and interconnect is arriving constantly in the view of this author through the coming together of voices that choose to share and communicate practical and useful globally adaptive engagement processes and tools as resources for advancing, recognizing, replenishing and sustaining individual and collective future efforts to come.

This leadership and community development researcher and practitioner will discuss first hand ideas, exchange and share approaches, and suggest trends and practices that are emerging in Africa, Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States through the work of the International Association of Community Development (IACD), The World Bank, The United Nations and other groups, associations and bodies doing work and supporting essential

adaptive leadership and transformative work in communities.