



PRESS RELEASE

THINKERS50 ANNOUNCEMENT

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NEW RANKING OF BUSINESS GURUS ANNOUNCED: HARVARD INNOVATION EXPERT TOPS THINKERS50, FIRST CHINESE GURUS ENTER RANKING & RECORD NUMBER OF FEMALE THINKERS

LONDON - Who is the most influential living management thinker? The Thinkers50 2013 provides the answer. Described as the Oscars of Management Thinking, the global ranking is published every two years and is the essential guide to which thinkers and which ideas matter now – and which have been consigned to business history. Who gets the plaudits in 2013?

No. 1. The Disruptive Thinker: According to the all-new Thinkers50 ranking, the most influential living management thinker in the world is Professor Clayton Christensen of Harvard Business School. Christensen, the originator of the theory of disruptive innovation and author of best-selling books including *The Innovator's Dilemma*, tops the list for the second time running – an achievement matched only by management legends Peter Drucker and CK Prahalad.

Christensen's influence on the business world has been profound. In *The Innovator's Dilemma*, he looked at why companies struggle with radical innovation in their markets. The book introduced the idea of disruptive innovation to a generation of managers and explained why the management practices that have allowed them to become industry leaders also make it hard for companies to develop the disruptive technologies that ultimately steal away their markets.

More recently, Christensen has applied his ideas to healthcare and education to show how enlightened management thinking can tackle the big issues facing society. His latest book *How Will You Measure Your Life* goes one step further to ask how we can create meaning in our personal lives.

No. 2. Blue Ocean Thinkers: The INSEAD professors W. Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne secure the No.2 spot in the 2013 Thinkers50 ranking. Kim and Mauborgne, Korean and American, respectively, are the authors of *Blue Ocean Strategy* and a string of highly influential *HBR* articles. *Blue Ocean Strategy* has already sold over two million copies, and has been embraced by companies, not-for-profits and national governments around the world.

Advocates include the Government of Malaysia, which recently launched the National Blue Ocean Strategy 3 (NBOS3), the third wave of its National Blue Ocean Strategy. A key target is building rural infrastructure – providing housing and water supplies for the rural poor.

No. 3. How Strategy Really Works: At No.3, with his highest appearance in the ranking to date, is the Canadian-born thinker Roger Martin. Martin, the former dean of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, and author (with Procter & Gamble's A.G. Lafley) of *Playing to Win: How Strategy Really Works*, which wins the Thinkers50 Best Book Award.

No. 4. Wiki-thinker: In the top five for the first time, too, is fellow Canadian guru Don Tapscott. Tapscott, who also received the Thinkers50 Award for Global Solutions, is probably best known for his 2006 book *Wikinomics: How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything* co-authored with Anthony Williams. His latest research explores how a new breed of global network enabled by the internet and other technologies, offers an alternative to traditional approaches such as the United Nations or national governments as a way of addressing global problems.

No. 5. Innovation in Reverse: Completing the top five is Indian-born thinker Vijay Govindarajan (known as VG). The Earl C. Daum 1924 professor of international business at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, he is one of the world's leading experts on strategy and innovation and, with co-author Chris Trimble, coined the phrase "Reverse Innovation" to describe products and services designed for emerging markets and then imported into western economies.

What are the other stories to come out of the new ranking?

Rise of the Chinese Thinkers: The big story is the arrival of the first Chinese thinkers in the ranking. At No. 31, the highest ranked Chinese thinker (and the first ever to make the top 50) is Liu Chuanzhi, founder of Chinese computer giant Lenovo. Liu Chuanzhi started the business with a \$24,000 loan from the Chinese government in 1984. Lenovo is now the second-largest computer group in the world.

Also making the list is Wang Shi, founder and chairman of Vanke, the world's largest residential home developer. A keen mountaineer who has climbed Mount Everest, he has also been a visiting scholar at Harvard, led China's first and largest entrepreneur organization, is involved with a variety of philanthropic organizations, and is the author of *Ladder of the Soul* (2011).

"Management thinking is no longer the preserve of the West. The last few rankings have seen an Asian invasion with the arrival of the Indian thinkers. In 2013, we are seeing the first Chinese management thinkers arriving on the world stage," says Thinkers50 co-founder Stuart Crainer.

Women Lean In: In 2013, women thinkers take no fewer than four of the top 10 places – their best ever showing. (This compares with just one in 2011.) At No. 2 in the ranking (with writing partner Chan Kim) INSEAD's Renée Mauborgne is the highest placed woman. Also in the top ten are: Rita McGrath (6); Linda Hill (8); and the Cuban-born thinker Herminia Ibarra (9). Three more women make the top 20: Lynda Gratton of London Business School (14); Sylvia-Ann Hewlett (15); and Harvard's Amy Edmondson (16). Overall, it is the highest ever tally for female thinkers – with 13 places out of the top 50 (up from 11 in 2011 and just five in 2009.)

Among the other women in the Thinkers50 is Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook and author of the 2013 book *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead*; and former Oracle executive Liz Wiseman. And the Ellen MacArthur Foundation picks up the Thinkers50 CK Prahalad Breakthrough Idea Award for its championing of the Circular Economy. The Thinkers50 Future Thinker Award also went to a woman for the second consecutive time, with Nilofer Merchant, author of *11 Rules for Creating Value in the Social Era*.

“Women are still under represented in the Thinkers50,” says Thinkers50 co-creator Des Dearlove, “but they are making impressive progress. We have known for a while that there were a number of women just outside the top 50 because we were picking them up on our radar. What is particularly impressive this time round is that so many have come into the top 20.”

Global Gurus: No fewer than 9 different nationalities feature in the top 50 – including thinkers from the US, Canada, Korea, China, the UK, India and Cuba.

Canada Calling: Americans still feature strongly but the list is increasingly international. Remarkably, the nationality punching well above its demographic weight is Canada, with two thinkers in the top 10. Roger Martin and Don Tapscott, and Syd Finkelstein makes the list for the first time. But fellow Canadian Malcolm Gladwell tumbles out of the top 50.

Changing of the Guru Guard: The new ranking also signals a passing of the baton to a new generation of gurus. There are 14 newcomers to this year’s ranking.

Hall of Fame: 2013 also sees the creation of the Thinkers50 Hall of Fame. Among those given this accolade are Tom Peters, Henry Mintzberg, and the originators of the Balanced Scorecard Robert Kaplan and David Norton.

Lifetime Achievement: The Japanese management thinker Ikujiro Nonaka is honoured with a Thinkers50 Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming only the second person (Charles Handy was the first) to receive the accolade.

Comeback Kids: Thinkers 50 welcomes back Chris Zook from the consulting firm Bain & Co. who featured in the 2007 ranking, but then missed out until this year.

“Interesting times demand interesting ideas,” say Thinkers50 creators Stuart Crainer and Des Dearlove. “There is a real sense that how we view business and how business is practised is changing. The ideas of the people featured in the Thinkers50 make a difference on the factory floor and in the boardrooms of the world. In business, ideas matter because they can be the difference between success and failure.”

THINKERS50 2013

ONE:
CLAY CHRISTENSEN (1)

TWO:
W CHAN KIM AND RENEE MAUBORGNE (2)

THREE:
ROGER MARTIN (6)

FOUR:
DON TAPSCOTT (9)

FIVE:
VIJAY GOVINDARAJAN (3)

SIX:
RITA McGRATH (19)

SEVEN:
MICHAEL PORTER (5)

EIGHT:
LINDA HILL (16)

NINE:
HERMINIA IBARRA (28)

TEN:
MARSHALL GOLDSMITH (7)

ELEVEN:
PANKAJ GHEMAWAT (27)

TWELVE:
JIM COLLINS (4)

THIRTEEN:
DAN PINK (29)

FOURTEEN:
LYNDA GRATTON (12)

FIFTEEN:
AMY EDMONDSON (35)

SIXTEEN:
SYLVIA ANN HEWLETT (11)

SEVENTEEN:
RICHARD D'AVENI (21)

EIGHTEEN:
MARCUS BUCKINGHAM (8)

NINETEEN:
GARY HAMEL (15)

TWENTY:
NIRMALYA KUMAR (26)

TWENTY-ONE:
NITIN NOHRIA (13)

TWENTY-TWO:
TERESA AMABILE (18)

TWENTY-THREE:
RICHARD RUMELT (20)

TWENTY-FOUR:
JEFFREY PFEFFER (22)

TWENTY-FIVE:
RICHARD FLORIDA (-)

TWENTY-SIX:
AG LAFLEY (-)

TWENTY-SEVEN:
STEW FRIEDMAN (45)

TWENTY-EIGHT:
MORTEN HANSEN (-)

TWENTY-NINE:
TAMMY ERICKSON (32)

THIRTY:
DAVE ULRICH (23)

THIRTY-ONE:
LIU CHUANZHI (-)

THIRTY-TWO:
JOHN KOTTER (34)

THIRTY-THREE:
CHIP & DAN HEATH (-)

THIRTY-FOUR:
SHERYL SANDBERG (-)

THIRTY-FIVE:
UMAIR HAQUE (49)

THIRTY-SIX:
DANIEL GOLEMAN (39)

THIRTY-SEVEN:
HENRY CHESBROUGH (38)

THIRTY-EIGHT:
ROSABETH MOSS KANTER (25)

THIRTY-NINE:
JULIAN BIRKINSHAW (-)

FORTY:
SUBIR CHOWDHURY (50)

FORTY-ONE:
FONS TROMPENAARS (42)

FORTY-TWO:
CHRIS ZOOK (-)

FORTY-THREE:
SYD FINKELSTEIN (-)

FORTY-FOUR
ANIL K GUPTA (-)

FORTY-FIVE:
ANDREW KAKABADSE (44)

FORTY-SIX:
RAKESH KHURANA (41)

FORTY-SEVEN:
CELIA DE ANCA (-)

FORTY-EIGHT:
LIZ WISEMAN (-)

FORTY-NINE:
DOUG READY (-)

FIFTY:
WANG SHI (-)

About the Thinkers50

The definitive global ranking of management thinkers is published every two years. The 2011 winner was Clayton Christensen. The previous winners were CK Prahalad (2007 & 2009); Michael Porter (2005); and Peter Drucker (2001 and 2003). The ranking is based on voting at the Thinkers50 website and input from a team of advisers led by Stuart Crainer and Des Dearlove. For the 2013 ranking more than 12,000 votes were cast.

The Thinkers50 2013 advisers drawn from America, Asia, the Middle East and Europe are: Karen Dillon, former editor of the Harvard Business Review; Mohi Ahmed, Corporate Brand Office, Fujitsu; Mary Glenn, Associate Publisher, Business

& Finance, McGraw Hill; Mark Allin, Senior Vice President of Professional and Trade Publishing at John Wiley & Sons Inc; Amit Kapoor, Chairman of the Institute for Competitiveness and Professor of Strategy at India's Management Development Institute; Deepa Prahalad, author, business strategist and consultant; Cosimo Turroturro, Managing Director of Speakers Associates.

Thinkers50 has 10 established criteria by which thinkers are evaluated. 1 - 5 of the criteria are based on how the thinker has performed over the last two years (since the last ranking). 1. Relevance of ideas; 2. Rigour of research; 3. Presentation of ideas; 4. Accessibility/Dissemination of ideas; 5. International outlook. Criteria 6 - 10 are evaluated based on the thinker's performance over the long term (the last 20 years): 6. Originality of ideas; 7. Impact of ideas; 8. Practicality of ideas; 9. Business sense; 10. Power to inspire.

The Thinkers50 concept and ranking is owned by Des Dearlove & Stuart Crainer.

About Stuart Crainer and Des Dearlove

Stuart Crainer and Des Dearlove are the founders of Suntop Media They describe their work as "bringing ideas to life." They are adjunct professors at IE Business School. Stuart is editor of *Business Strategy Review*. Des is an associate fellow of Oxford University's Saïd Business School. Stuart and Des are the authors of more than 15 books available in 20 languages. Former columnists to *The (London) Times*, they are editors of *The Financial Times Handbook of Management*. For more information visit www.craingerdearlove.com.

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