WAYNE VISSER, PhD

International Speaker and Trainer | Pracademic, Poet, Possibilist

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SPEAKER / TRAINER SUMMARY

Dr Wayne Visser is a globally recognised Cambridge pracademic, poet, and possibilist and has been listed as a global top 10 ESG speaker. He has delivered more than 680 presentations — professional speeches, lectures, workshops and courses — in 60 countries, with his work taking him to over 80 countries. He is author of 46 books, including *Technologies of Hope* (forthcoming 2026) and the international bestseller *Thriving: The Breakthrough Movement to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy*.

He has also been listed as one of the world's top 10 most influential faculty thinkers on issues of responsible business in social media; a top 100 influencer on CSR and sustainable business; a top 100 thought-leader in trustworthy business; and a top 100 sustainability leader. Past clients include IFC/World Bank, KPMG, HSBC, DHL, Dell, Coca-Cola, Mastercard, 3M, Johnson & Johnson, UNEP, Ernst & Young, Salesforce and Shell.

His Top 3 Keynote Topics are:

- **Impact AI:** Putting Artificial Intelligence to Work for Nature, Society and the Economy
- **Technologies of Hope:** 8 Breakthroughs That Could Save the World
- **Thriving:** The Breakthrough Movement to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy

His Top 6 Training Topics are:

- **Rethinking AI:** 15 AI Development Goals to Unpack the ESG Risks and Opportunities
- **Rethinking Change:** 12 Powerful Strategies for Achieving System Transformation
- **Rethinking Value:** 6 Essential Steps for Earning Back Trust
- **Rethinking Innovation:** 10 World-Changing Technologies for Growing Market Opportunities
- **Rethinking Leadership:** 6 Vital Habits for Developing Regenerative Leaders
- **Rethinking Sustainability:** 6 Great Transitions for Creating Thriving Futures

View his 2-minute Speaker's Reel.

AUDIENCE / CLIENT FEEDBACK

- "You delivered exactly what we wanted in terms of getting some thought provoking issues out there for the audience to start contemplating as we started off the day." – *International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group, USA*
- "The client sang your praises and said you were absolutely fantastic. So thank you for being so great!" – *Speakers Corner, UK*
- "Everyone talking about how your session was the best of the week! We want more Wayne (in person)!" – *University of Cambridge, UK*
- "Prof. Visser is a natural presenter with great story-telling skills. He is a very efficient and insightful speaker who definitely had a message to deliver to the sector. His speech was thought-provoking and inspiring for all." – *European Petrochemical Association*
- "Very informative and helpful." – *Korea Institute for Strategic Social Responsibility, South Korea*
- "My favourite [speaker]. He is interactive, uses different mediums, knows subject, is current. I left wanting to go and specialise in sustainability." – *Gordon Institute of Business Science, South Africa*
- "It seems that your presentation has inspired everyone in a special way – there was a sense of urgency and needed action for sustainable projects." – *Randstad, Belgium*
- "Very inspiring and encouraging for the Sri Lankan attendees." – *CSR Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka*
- "Wayne had very exciting stories from his experience on the job with world leaders and managers, which showed the relevance of the topics he explained to us." – *Antwerp Management School, Belgium*
- "Your participation highly contributed to the success of the conference and helped to give key messages and important information to attendees." – *Caspian Event Organisers, Azerbaijan*
- "Everyone was extremely positive about the event afterwards and very impressed by your comprehensive knowledge, your convincing argument and the great clarity and persuasiveness with which you delivered your message." – *University of Winchester, UK*
- "Continue to bring world-class trainers who connect us to what is happening globally." – *Nedbank training participant, South Africa*

- “Thanks for arranging such an insightful event. The training elevated us to the next level of thinking in sustainability.” – *CIEL training participant, Mauritius*
- “I will definitely recommend the course to my network. Thank you for guiding us through and for leading the way to a better, thriving environment not only for us but for the generations to come.” – *House of Investments participant, Thriving training*

TOP 3 KEYNOTE TOPICS

Impact AI: Putting Artificial Intelligence to Work for Nature, Society and the Economy

Alternative title: How AI Is Becoming a Force for Good in the World

Dr Visser shows how artificial intelligence is rapidly moving from a tool of efficiency to a catalyst for transformation. Using inspiring examples, he shares how AI is being deployed to accelerate decarbonisation, restore ecosystems, improve health outcomes and drive inclusive growth — and what leaders need to understand to harness its power responsibly.

Key audience takeaways

- Insights on the six ways AI is creating breakthrough impact across nature, society and the economy
- Inspiration on how to lead the transition from disruptive AI to regenerative AI

Technologies of Hope: 8 Breakthroughs That Could Save the World

Alternative title: How Innovation Is Driving a Much Better Future

Dr Visser shows how the world’s most urgent crises are catalysing the world’s most extraordinary innovations. Using inspiring examples drawn from his forthcoming book *Technologies of Hope*, he shares how eight transformative technologies — spanning energy, food, materials, health and data — are turning breakdown into breakthrough across nature, society and the economy.

Key audience takeaways

- Insights on the eight technologies most likely to reshape civilisation in the next decade
- Inspiration on how business leaders can turn technological disruption into regenerative opportunity

Thriving: The Breakthrough Movement to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy

Alternative title: How We Move from Breakdown to Breakthrough in Business and Society

Dr Visser shows why responsibility and sustainability, though necessary, are no longer sufficient responses to our converging global crises — and what it means to go further, towards genuine thriving. Using inspiring examples drawn from his international bestseller *Thriving*, he shares how individuals, organisations and societies can make the transition from managing decline to catalysing regeneration.

Key audience takeaways

- Insights on the six scientific keys to thriving in complex living systems
- Inspiration on the six great transitions reshaping nature, society and the economy

TOP 6 TRAINING TOPICS

Rethinking AI: 15 AI Development Goals to Unpack the ESG Risks and Opportunities

Alternative title: How to Put AI to Work for Nature, Society and the Economy

Dr Visser shows how artificial intelligence brings both significant environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and powerful opportunities for positive impact. Using inspiring examples, he shares how 15 AI Development Goals, modelled on the Sustainable Development Goals, can help organisations steer AI towards impact, drawing on lessons from the impact investment movement.

Key audience takeaways

- What is Impact AI, and what lessons can be learned from the Impact Investment movement
- How to unpack the environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities associated with AI

Rethinking Change: 12 Powerful Strategies for Achieving System Transformation

Alternative title: How Change Really Works in Society and Organisations

Dr Visser shows how all transformational change is systems change, whether at an organisational or societal level. Using inspiring examples, he shares the underlying science of thriving systems and how different strategies for change work together to shift the dynamics of any system.

Key audience takeaways

- Insights on the six scientific principles of thriving
- Inspiration on the twelve strategies for creating successful change

Rethinking Value: 6 Essential Steps for Earning Back Trust

Alternative title: How Business is Changing its Core Value Proposition

Dr Visser shows how the conception and practice of value creation by business has evolved over time and is now focused on integrated value. Using inspiring examples, he shares how the world's most admired companies are following six steps to integrate sustainability into their strategies and operations.

Key audience takeaways

- Insights on the evolution of value creation by business for society
- Inspiration on the six essential steps of integrated value management

Rethinking Innovation: 10 World-Changing Technologies for Growing Market Opportunities

Alternative title: How Innovation is Driving a Much Better Future

Dr Visser shows how breakdown in nature, society and the economy is catalysing breakthrough innovations and market opportunities. Using inspiring examples, he shares trends for 10 key technologies that are fixing the climate and nature crises, across the energy, mobility, industry, food and data sectors.

Key audience takeaways

- Inspiration on six breakthrough strategies and market opportunities
- Insights into the top 10 technologies that are changing the world

Rethinking Leadership: 6 Vital Habits for Developing Regenerative Leaders

Alternative title: How Leaders Can Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy

Dr Visser shows how our global challenges are shaping a new kind of leader who can regenerate nature, society and the economy. Using inspiring examples, he shares how regenerative leaders embody a combination of certain vital characteristics that enable them to simultaneously create value for all stakeholders.

Key audience takeaways

- Inspiration on the six essential characteristics of regenerative leaders
- Insights on which of the four types of purpose-inspired leader you might be

Rethinking Sustainability: 6 Great Transitions for Creating Thriving Futures

Alternative title: How Thriving Goes Beyond Responsibility and Sustainability

Dr Visser shows how social responsibility and environmental sustainability are no longer adequate responses to our global challenges. Using inspiring examples, he shares how transitions from breakdown to breakthrough in nature, society and the economy provide us with new pathways to thriving.

Key audience takeaways

- Insights on the differences between responsibility, sustainability and thriving
- Inspiration on the six great transitions reshaping nature, society and economy

A SAMPLE OF KEYNOTE SPEECHES, COURSES, WORKSHOPS, LECTURES & CONFERENCE PAPERS

ARGENTINA – *Beyond CSR to CIV: Creating Integrated Value*, AgendaRSE, Buenos Aires, 23 September 2014.

ARMENIA – *CSR, Marketing and Public Relations*, British Council, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, UNDP/Global Compact, Yerevan, 16–17 November 2009.

AUSTRALIA – *Creating Shared Value: Revolution or Clever Con?*, Deakin Business School Alumni Network, Melbourne, 12 May 2014.

AUSTRIA – *Beyond Sustainability to Thriving: Innovation to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy*, Responsible Management Education Research Conference, Innsbruck, 29 September 2022.

AZERBAIJAN – *Sustainable Frontiers: Unlocking Change Through Business, Leadership & Innovation*, 1st Azerbaijan Conference on Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility, Baku, 14 October 2015.

BELGIUM – *Regentech: Emerging Technologies that can Save the Planet*, ING CSO Dinner, Brussels, 21 November 2024.

BRAZIL – *A European Perspective on Regenerative Agriculture*, Roundtable on Responsible Soy, São Paulo, 4 October 2023.

BULGARIA – *Thriving*, ESG&Friends conference, Sofia, 27 February 2024.

CANADA – *Closing the Loop: Sustainability Innovation and Change Management*, Keynote, National Zero Waste Conference 2018, Vancouver, 8 November 2018.

CHINA – *The Future of CSR*, China Europe International Business School, Shanghai, 2 June 2008.

COLOMBIA – *CSR 2.0: Towards the Age of Responsibility*, Fundesmag (EcoPetrol), Barrancabermeja, 30 October 2013.

CROATIA – *Transformational Leadership & Becoming a Future-Fit Organisation*, IDOP, Zagreb, 21 May 2018.

DENMARK – *Thriving: The Breakthrough Movement to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy*, Global DIY Summit, Copenhagen, June 2022.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – *CSR 2.0: The Future of Corporate Social Responsibility*, INTRAS Corporate Social Responsibility 2012 Conference, Santo Domingo, 5 September 2012.

ECUADOR – *Sustainability Leadership and Social Responsibility*, Secretaría de Ambiente del municipio de Quito, Quito, 1 June 2016.

ESTONIA – *Creating Shared Value Through CSR*, MTÜ Vastutustundliku Ettevõtluse Foorum, Tallinn, 3 December 2012.

FINLAND – *Sustainability as a Strategic Choice: Creating Integrated Value through Thriving*, Office of the Prime Minister & Aalto University, Helsinki (virtual), 2 September 2021.

FRANCE – *The Values Dividend: 7 Ways to Create Integrated Value for Business, the Economy and Society*, UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, 11 January 2019.

GEORGIA – *CSR, Marketing and Public Relations*, British Council, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, UNDP/Global Compact, Tbilisi, 19 November 2009.

GERMANY – *Trust, Sustainability and Thriving*, Roundtable on Responsible Soy, Monheim, 22 November 2022.

GHANA – *The Evolution of ESG: Global Trends in Trust, Transparency and Transformation*, 1st Africa Global ESG & Sustainability Reporting Summit, Accra, 1 September 2025.

GUATEMALA – *The A to Z of Corporate Social Responsibility*, Inter-American Development Bank Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, Guatemala City, 10 December 2007.

HUNGARY – *The Future of CSR: What Is The Relationship Between CSR 2.0 and Web 2.0?*, CSR Hungary conference, Budapest, 8 November 2011.

INDIA – *The Future of CSR: From Corporate Social Responsibility to Creating Integrated Value*, International Workshop on 'Governance of State Owned Enterprises', New Delhi, 19 December 2015.

ITALY – *Scanning the Horizon: The current state of play and what's next in the global fight for healthy seas*, Ocean Race Summit, Genoa, 20 September 2019.

JORDAN – *CSR Benchmarking & The Future*, Wazayef Masr Training, Amman, 9 October 2011.

KENYA – *CSR in Developing Countries*, Ufadhili Trust Workshop, Nairobi, 25 January 2010.

KOSOVO – *Systems Thinking & Global Trends*, Sustainability Leadership Kosovo Champions Program, Pristina, 18 September 2019.

LATVIA – *CSR 2.0: The Future of CSR*, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Riga, 6 December 2012.

MALAYSIA – *Pathways to Thriving: The Breakthrough Movement to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy*, Energy Asia Conference: The Future Energy Leaders, Kuala Lumpur, 23 June 2023.

MAURITIUS – *Thriving amidst global pressures*, CIEL Sustainability Forum, Ebene, 19 May 2025.

MEXICO – *Competencies for Our Global Challenges: Leading Change Through Sustainable Innovation*, Monterrey Institute for Technology, Guadalajara, 6 March 2014.

NETHERLANDS – *ESG and the world*, Act to Impact – Leading ESG Business Transformation, Nyenrode Business University, Breukelen, 10 October 2022.

NEW ZEALAND – *Purpose-Inspired Leadership*, Sustainable Business Network, Auckland, 23 June 2010.

NIGERIA – *CSR Challenges in Africa*, International CSR Conference, Lagos Business School, Lagos, 20 February 2012.

NORTH MACEDONIA – *The Age of Alchemy: 10 Technologies. 10 Years. One Planet to Save*, 2026 CATALYST International Conference, Skopje, 23 April 2026.

PHILIPPINES – *Are You Fit for the Future? Global Trends Towards Integrated Value*, Keynote, League of Corporate Foundations CSR Expo, Manila, 19 July 2017.

POLAND – *Creating Integrated Value: Seven Pathways to Sustainable Transformation and Innovation*, UN Global Compact & 3M Poland Sustainability Conference, Wroclaw, 3 October 2019.

PORTUGAL – *Sustainable Design, Innovation and Technology*, Sustain Azores, São Miguel, 7 February 2020.

ROMANIA – *The Time of Possibility: Transitions from Breakdown to Breakthrough*, Keynote, Sustenlandia CEO Forum, Bucharest, 9 October 2024.

RUSSIA – *Creating Integrated Value: Transforming Corporate Sustainability & Responsibility*, DHL 2015 E-Tailing Summit, Moscow, 30 June 2015.

SAUDI ARABIA – *The Economic Case for CSR*, Global CSR Forum, Riyadh, 28 October 2024.

SINGAPORE – *Sustainability: the next Megatrend?*, International CSR Summit, Singapore CSR Compact, Singapore, 5 September 2011.

SLOVENIA – *The Ages and Stages of CSR: Towards CSR 2.0*, Ekvilib Inštitut, Bohinj, 17 May 2012.

SOUTH AFRICA – *The Disruptors: Reinventing Business & Society Through Conscious Capitalism*, Serious Social Investment Conference 2016, Tshikululu Social Investments and Gordon Institute of Business Science, Johannesburg, 12 April 2016.

SOUTH KOREA – *Strategies for Surviving and Thriving in the Future*, Keynote speech, Korea Social Responsibility Institute Conference, Seoul, 22 May 2014.

SPAIN – *Digitalization and Integrated Value*, DELMIA Quintiq World Tour, Barcelona, 6 November 2019.

SRI LANKA – *The Art and Practice of Sustainability Leadership*, Keynote speech, CSR Sri Lanka Conference, Colombo, 3 October 2014.

SWEDEN – *Sustainable Development & CSR*, Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm, 22 November 2016.

SWITZERLAND – *Five Strategies for Future Fitness*, Lorange Institute of Business, Zurich, 16 March 2013.

TANZANIA – *Corporate Social Responsibility in South Africa in the Ten Years Since Democracy*, International Academy for African Business & Development (IAABD) Annual Conference, Dar Es Salaam, 7 April 2004.

THAILAND – *Innovation for Future Fitness*, Sasin School of Management, Bangkok, 28 November 2019.

TURKEY – *Corporate Governance and Competitiveness*, 3rd International Corporate Governance Conference, Istanbul, 13 January 2010.

UAE – *Closing the Loop*, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, 9 December 2018.

UK – *Future Fit Leadership to Create a Thriving World in 2050*, HSBC, London, 7 December 2022.

UKRAINE – *The Future of CSR: Beyond ISO 26000 to CSR 2.0*, IV International Conference on CSR, Expert Ukraine & UN Global Compact, Kyiv, 28 April 2010.

USA – *Creating Impact*, ONE Doctoral Consortium, Academy of Management (AOM), Boston, 9 August 2019.

VIETNAM – *CSR Benchmarking & The Future*, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce, Ho Chi Minh City, 8 September 2011.

ZIMBABWE – *CSR 2.0: Beyond CSV and CSR 1.0*, Regional Centre for Social Responsibility, Harare, 29 May 2014.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Dr Wayne Visser is a globally recognised 'pracademic', having been listed as one of the world's Top 10 ESG speakers, Top 10 most influential faculty thinkers on issues of responsible business in social media, a top 100 influencer on CSR and sustainable business, a top 100 thought-leader in trustworthy business and a top 100 sustainability leader. He is also the recipient of the Global CSR Excellence & Leadership Award, the Emerald Literati Outstanding Author Contribution Award and the Outstanding Teacher Award of the Warwick MBA.

Dr Visser is Head Program Instructor and Lecturer at the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, and the GALP Chair and Professor of Practice in Regenerative Business, Innovation and Technology at Católica Porto School of Business and Economics, where he directs the Católica Centre for Thriving Futures. He is also Director of the think-tank and media company Kaleidoscope Futures, through which he co-produced and presented the award-winning documentary film on the circular economy, *Closing the Loop*. In addition, he is Founder of CSR International, a Board Member of the Innovation for Sustainability and Regeneration (INSURE) Hub and a Visiting Professor at Antwerp Management School.

Dr Visser previously served as Director of Sustainability Services for KPMG and Strategy Analyst for Capgemini in South Africa. His work as a strategy analyst, sustainability advisor, CSR expert, futurist and professional speaker has taken him to over 80 countries in the past 30 years to work with more than 260 organisations. He is the author of 46 books, including *Technologies of Hope* (forthcoming 2026) and the international bestseller *Thriving*. He has also published more than 430 chapters, articles and reports, been a guest columnist for The Huffington Post, The Guardian and the World Economic Forum, and hosts the *Thriving* and *Purpose Inspired* podcasts and co-hosts *Dancing With Systems*.

As a professional speaker and academic lecturer, Dr Visser has delivered more than 680 presentations — keynote speeches, lectures, courses and workshops — in 60 countries. His flagship keynote topics are Impact AI, Technologies of Hope and Thriving, complemented by training courses on Rethinking AI, Rethinking Change, Rethinking Value, Rethinking Innovation, Rethinking Leadership and Rethinking Sustainability. In addition to his roles at the University of Cambridge and Antwerp Management School, Dr Visser has lectured at over 65 educational institutions in more than 25 countries.

CONTACT

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