

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Our world is a complicated maze of expanding networks. While the risk of getting lost in its complexities is growing, learning to master its paths can lead to exceptional opportunities. Leaders must strengthen connections with partners and colleagues, allowing them to build and lead the organisations of tomorrow. By improving relations and creating new ones, leaders can pave the way to a prosperous future.

However, not only leaders must navigate this maze. As connections outgrow physical distances, we can connect with people across the world at any time at almost no cost. We stay in touch with friends and family, and we seamlessly share our ideas with others. When individuals connect to form organisations, it takes skilful leaders to ensure that they meet the challenges of operating in a global arena. Assembling individuals with diverse skills and forming tightly knit groups will give companies the strength to challenge their limits.

As these limits are pushed further, new competences are needed to take advantage of unexplored potential. Sometimes, such skills can only be found outside a leader's own organisation. Crafting alliances is an invaluable tool that enables businesses to combine their strengths while negating their weaknesses. However, thriving in these partnerships requires strong leadership. Only when managed correctly can an alliance create value beyond the sum of its parts.

Value can be created not only between businesses but in all layers of society. Whether an idea originates with consumers or inside an organisation, visionary leaders can transform and use it to improve on society. It is the task of leaders to build bridges and draw on the combined knowledge and experiences of all stakeholders. In this way, they can ensure that yesterday's solutions are adapted to the challenges of today.

The world that awaits us on the horizon is likely much more complicated than ever before. Therefore, it is crucial for leaders to address the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly interconnected world. Both leaders of today and tomorrow find themselves navigating a maze of endless connections. As their paths cross at Aarhus Symposium 2018, they will unite to discover new ways through this maze and into the future.