Biography Rüdiger Fox

"By 2030, we want to close the textile loop for functional clothing across the board and produce in a 100% circular fashion. For a clean environment – and for all those who come after us."

Dr. Rüdiger Fox, CEO Sympatex

Background

Dr. Ruediger Fox

- Dr. Ruediger Fox is CEO of Sympatex Technologies, University Lecturer, Author, experienced crisis manager and innovative rethinker.
- As an aerospace engineer and business economist with a doctorate on the topic of "Corporate Happiness", he has spent his life searching for the crucial pieces of the puzzle for a sustainable, humane and successful economy in the 21st century.
- Since over 30 years, he serves as CEO of medium and large corporations in Aerospace, Telecom, Textile and Engineering/Innovation.
- His past successes where he transformed companies in existential crisis into successful market players was rooted in a strong belief in the power of high employee motivation along with a shared corporate soul that recognizes the needs of the larger social and ecological system.
- In 2005, he received the “Spirit at Work” award in New York for his human centered restructuring work. In 2020, he received the prestigious Planetary Consciousness Award by the Club of Budapest.
- His book „The business Case for Corporate Happiness“ was published in 2017 (Springer / eBook).
- In 2019, his ideas became part of a compilation by Springer on the most cutting edge thinkers on Sustainability. Just recently, he published his most recent Book “The 0.1 percent joker - How we reclaim our freedom and save the world along the way” (Murmann) where he argues that play is the essential competence for 21st Century.
- Beside his multiple CEO roles, his various projects ranged from Organizational Development with First Nations in Canada to Right-/Left-Brain Innovation for the NASA, the accompaniment of a 10.000 employees industrial merger in an islamic country and the strategic co-management of a startup for circular land based fish-farming.
- With Sympatex, he currently engages to pioneer the accelerated transformation process of the textile industry towards sustainability and "closing the loop"

Quotes

Dr. Ruediger Fox:

"The textile industry can look forward to an update in design innovation. Until now we created products pretty much by ignoring the impact of upstream and downstream and we understood creativity as being the most crazy combination of whatever. What comes now is actually the eco-design process. The creation process of the product will already need to consider certain constraints which come out of that responsiblity. But the beauty is, that constraints will not limit innovation but it will accelerate innovation. The moment you realize that only certain materials are recycable, people can focus on developing new solutions with those materials. What is fundamental, we need to start now at the design process and educate ourselves in our organisation that creativity actually accelerates when we have clear borderlines of our activites."

"For us, innovation is guided creativity, targeting tailored performance within the boundaries of circularity."

"Completely transforming the industry leaves us with three to four years which is super tight. In 2016 we had decided for ourselves to go circular without leaving traces by 2030. So we were planning for 15 years, there are now five left. From the experience we saw, it takes time. So I think the fundamental issue is now we need to go into our design structures."

"Competition will be limited on a good side but it is still there.
We still can be super creative."