summary

The Future is Arriving Faster Than We Thought

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The speaker emphasizes that the future is not about prediction but about preparation, and that the future is arriving exponentially faster than anticipated, with many advancements already present. By 2050, we can expect a carbon-neutral economy of mobility with electric and self-driving cars, a new economy of food and agriculture including cultured meat and vertical farming, and solutions to climate change through solar and next-generation nuclear energy. Virtual environments, the metaverse, augmented reality, and holograms will become commonplace, similar to mobile phone calls today, with every surface potentially becoming a computer. Water access is highlighted as crucial for GDP, and the concept of “impossible” is fading, with the potential for a sustainable, connected, and happy planet. The speaker advocates for changing the narrative from dystopian to optimistic, emphasizing that the future can be great if we make the right decisions, policies, and collaborations.

The Good Future: A Possible Objective

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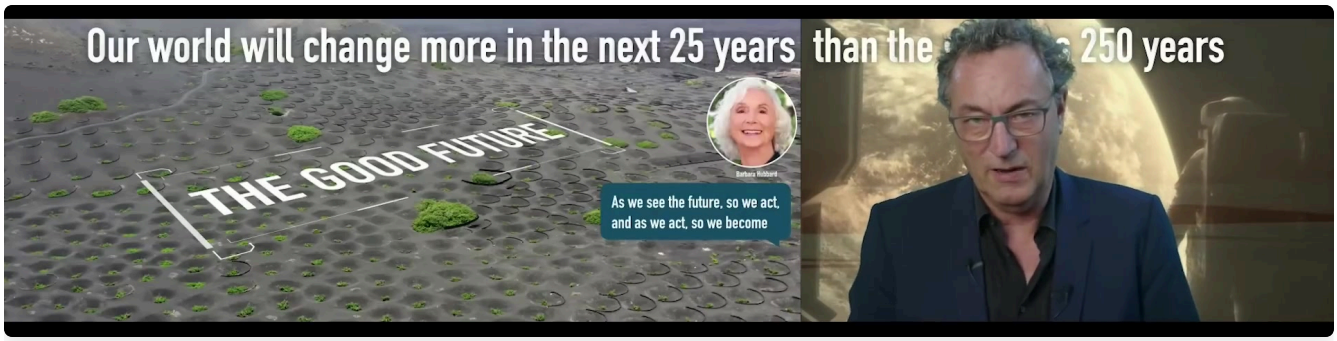
The world is expected to change more in the next 25 years than in the previous 250 due to technological progress and the need for collaboration. The speaker defines a “good future” as one where individuals can connect, be happy, have the right to work, self-realize, and make choices. This good future is entirely possible if the right decisions are made today. The speaker references Barbara Hubbard’s idea that how we see the future influences our actions and thus our becoming, stressing the importance of a positive view, citing space exploration as an example of something previously considered impossible that is now happening.

The Convergence of Revolutions: Digital, Sustainable, and Human



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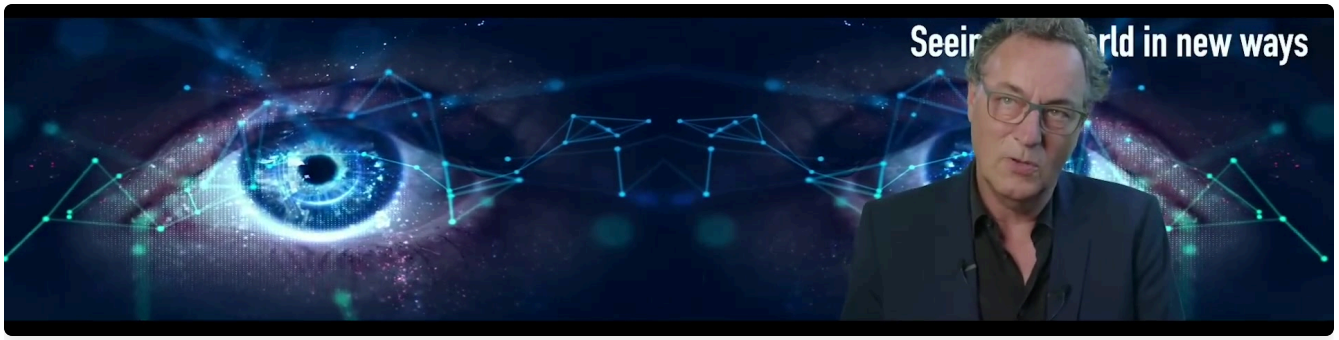
The current era is characterized by three simultaneous revolutions: the digital revolution, the sustainability revolution (focused on being green and carbon-neutral), and the human revolution, which allows for changes in our genome and adaptation to different climates. By 2050, the average lifespan is projected to be 100 years or more, driven by advancements in technology and biology, particularly the convergence of medical, biological, life science, and healthcare industries. The medical and digital

online healthcare industries are expected to explode in market size. Technology will enable us to see the world in new ways, with surfaces becoming computers and virtual, augmented, and mixed reality becoming the new normal.

The Blurring of Virtual and Real Worlds and the Rise of Decentralization



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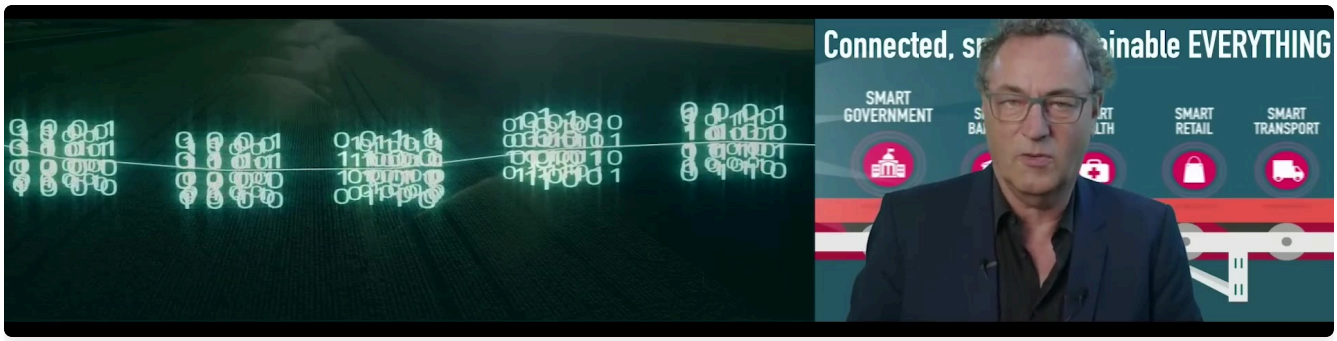
The lines between virtual and real worlds are blurring, leading to increased use of digital twins for remote collaboration and cost savings, as exemplified by a water plant using this concept. This trend will revolutionize global collaboration, though it also presents security challenges. The speaker identifies the “digital transformer” as a symbol of industries and societal sectors moving into a transformation phase, including smart energy, smart farming, and smart cities, representing a significant value shift. Decentralization is a key aspect of this transformation, leading to decentralized water and energy systems. Blockchain and AI are identified as major drivers of these shifts, offering opportunities for profitability and energy savings. The new normal is described as connected, smart, distributed, sustainable, and circular.

Imagination as the New Resource and the “Good Future” Film



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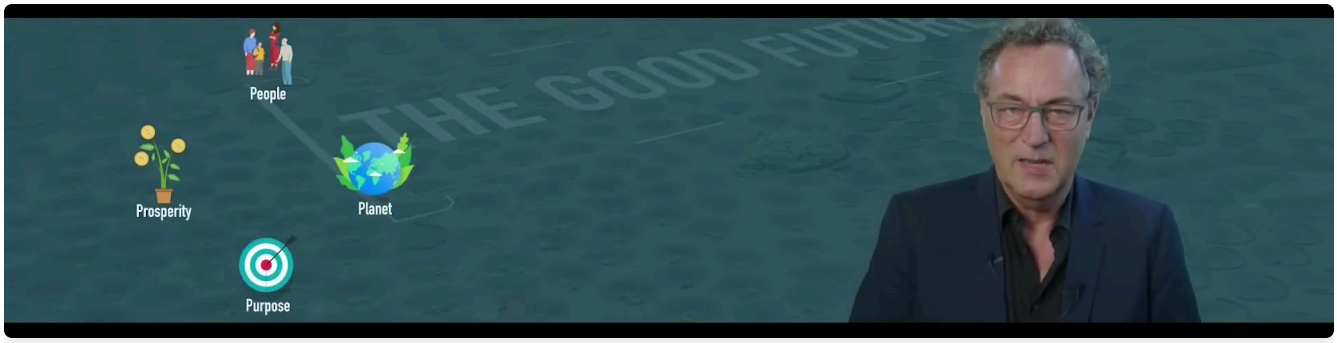
The future is shifting from being resource-bound to imagination-bound, as articulated by CK Prahalad. Imagination is considered more important than knowledge, as stated by Einstein. The speaker mentions a film titled “The Good Future,” made to demonstrate the possibility of a positive future and to explore what constitutes “good” in terms of work, freedom, and family. The film highlights a fundamental shift in purpose, moving from a simple “people, planned profit” idea to a broader concept of purpose and prosperity.

The Decline of Natural Capital and the Need for a New Narrative



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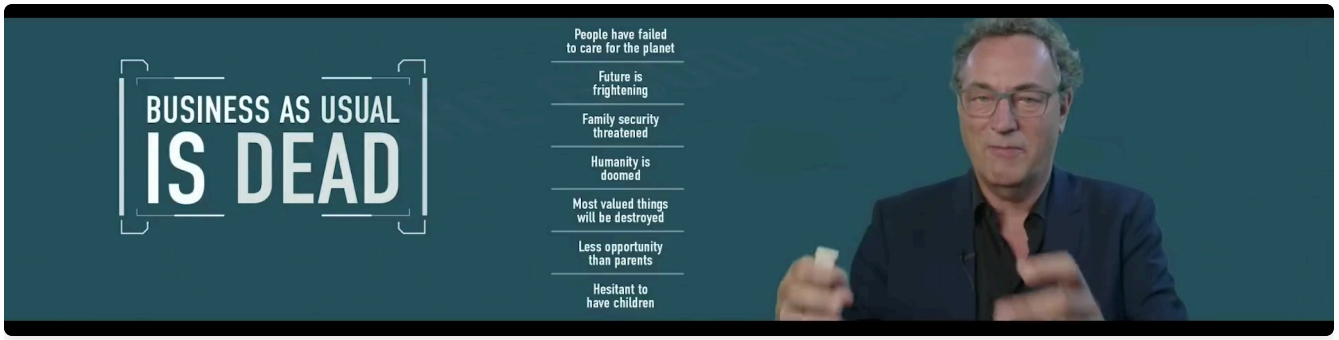
While capital and financial capital have grown, natural capital is in decline, leading to a potential dystopian scenario of increased wealth alongside a collapsing planetary system. Young people (16-25) are particularly worried about the future, with a significant majority (73% according to Pew) holding a negative view. The speaker asserts that “business as usual” is dead across various sectors like stock

markets, energy, food, and water, necessitating a reinvention of how things are done. The COVID-19 crisis, inflation, and the war in Ukraine have further underscored the need for change and collaboration.

The Urgency of Decarbonization and the Choice for a Livable Planet



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The current global situation demands a fundamental reinvention of practices in banking, energy, water, and food. Statistics show that livestock and food contribute significantly to global CO2 emissions, which have increased by 50% in the last 25 years, heading towards an unsustainable scenario. The energy sector remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels (74%), though the shift to renewable and circular energy sources presents a huge opportunity. Humanity faces a choice between a “hot planet” and a “red planet” versus a “blue planet” that can flourish. Kevin Kelly’s observation that our capacity to solve problems is increasing, rather than the problems themselves decreasing, is highlighted. The primary missing element is collaboration and the wisdom to implement solutions.

Technological Advancements and the Need for Human Sustainability

704

Technological advancements are leading to exponential cost reductions in various sectors, including LEDs, energy, and storage. Nuclear fusion is expected to become viable within the next 10-15 years. Trillion-dollar innovation platforms are emerging in areas like blockchain, energy storage, robotics, and genome sequencing, promising new jobs and progress. However, the speaker stresses the need for wisdom to ensure human sustainability, equitable distribution of benefits (unlike the current social media model), and a broader perspective on how these advancements will unfold.

The Recipe for the Future: Digitization, Decarbonization, and Reformation

764

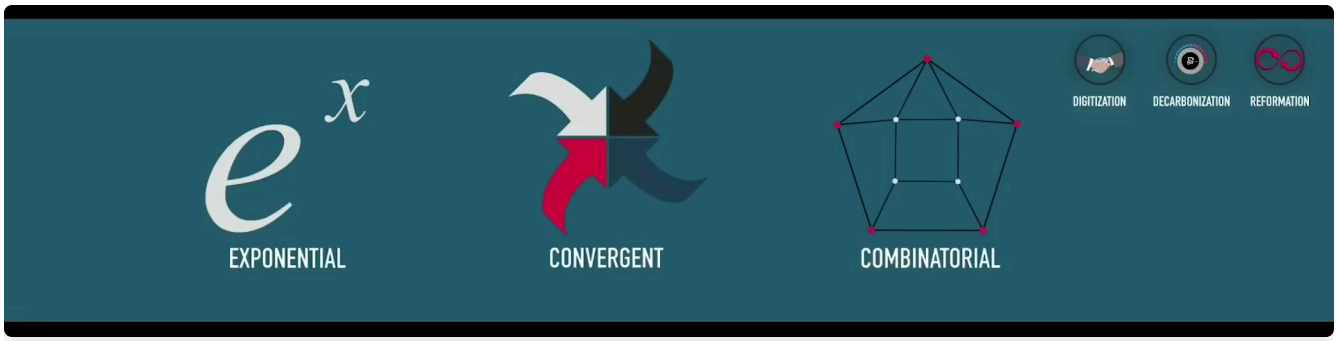
The core recipe for the future is identified as digitization, decarbonization, and reformation. Digitization involves the digital transformation of everything. Decarbonization is a massive shift happening now, likely the biggest in the next 50 years. Reformation means changing how we think about the world, our desires, and our financial logic. A holistic view is essential, recognizing that industries like water are interconnected with agriculture, food, energy, and the environment.

Key Game Changers in Digitization and the Importance of Human Protection

823

Ten game-changing aspects of digitization are highlighted, with a focus on seven relevant to the audience's turf. "Data is the new oil," surpassing the oil industry in power. The cloud and the Internet of Things are becoming the new factory, workspace, and living room. Artificial intelligence is the "new electricity," powering everything. Blockchain offers a new way to transact, reducing costs and increasing speed. 3D printing is the new manufacturing method, enabling on-demand production. Virtual reality is the new way of looking at things. Crucially, amidst these technological advancements, there's a need to protect what makes us human, including data, privacy, the right to mystery, and the right to be forgotten, ensuring we remain human and maintain our independence and sovereignty.

Exponential Change, Converging Industries, and Sustainable Everything



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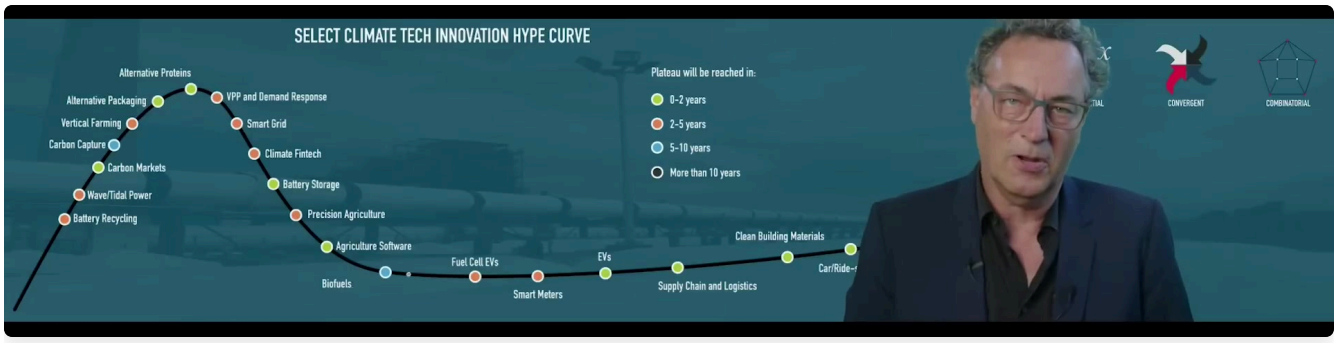
Three simultaneous trends are shaping the future: exponential change (leaping 4, 8, 16, 32), converging industries (e.g., energy with data and computing), and combinatorial products (new products arising from the combination of existing technologies, like cloud computing and e-commerce). This leads to a commercial explosion driven by exponential change in data, networks, cloud, and smart technologies, ultimately aiming for “sustainable everything” by around 2040. Carbon sequestration will also become a significant business opportunity.

Climate Tech Innovation and the Demise of “Impossible”



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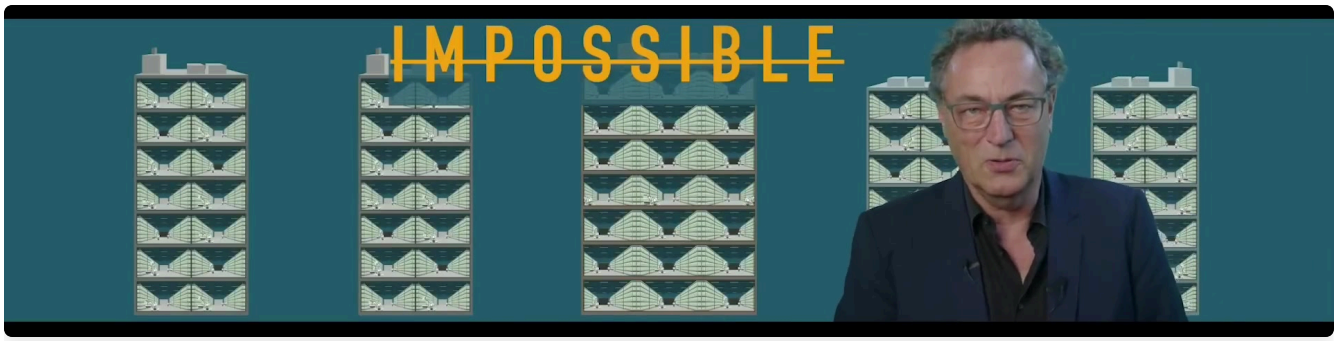
Climate technology innovation is identified as the domain of the next 100 unicorns, encompassing areas like battery storage, recycling, precision agriculture, new food production methods, desalination, hydrogen, and waste components. Vertical farming is expected to become widespread, with robots performing organic farming in high-rise structures in major cities by 2050. The concept of “impossible” should be removed from our vocabulary, replaced by questions of desirability, control, and fairness.

Wisdom, Collaboration, and a New Paradigm for Humanity



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Buckminster Fuller’s observation that humanity has acquired the right technology but for the wrong reasons is echoed, with the addition of using it for the wrong reasons. Science and technology alone won’t save us; they need to be combined with wisdom. The world is undergoing a significant reset due to COVID-19, the war, and the climate emergency, leading to a new global geopolitics and a move towards sustainability. This new paradigm shifts the focus from traditional GDP, profit, and growth to a broader agenda of “people, planet, purpose, and prosperity.” This is becoming a tangible reality, with potential for new stock markets and companies that prioritize these four pillars.

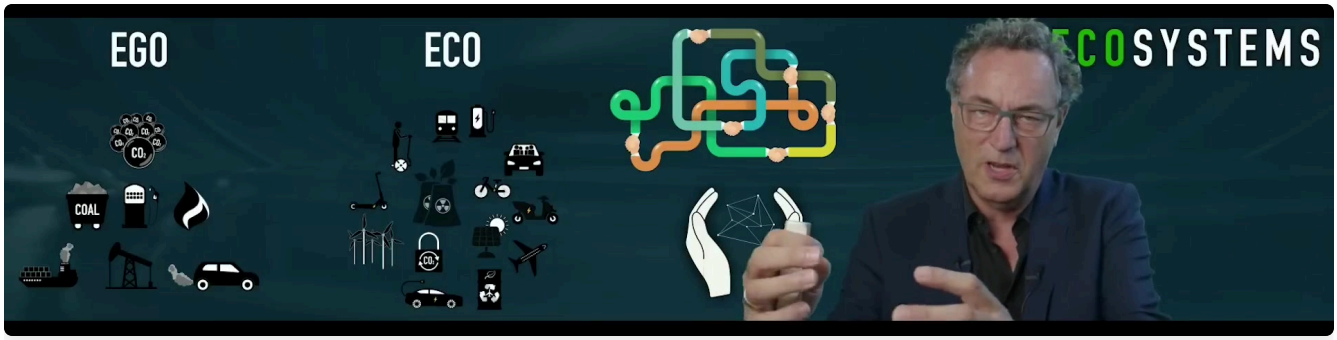
Human Sustainability and the Shift from Ego to Eco

1129

Human sustainability is crucial; as we become more connected, we must protect our humanity. Technology and humanity need to “shake hands” with defined limitations to preserve our human essence. The shift is from individualistic “ego” solutions to collaborative “eco” solutions, creating an economy that works together, hypes, and collaborates. This is evident in industries like transportation and energy, moving away from the gasoline economy towards collaborative systems. This

collaborative approach, multilateralism, and global consciousness are essential for humanity's progress. A holistic view, considering interconnected sectors like energy, agriculture, and environment, is more successful than a limited one.

The Future Mindset and the Power of Understanding



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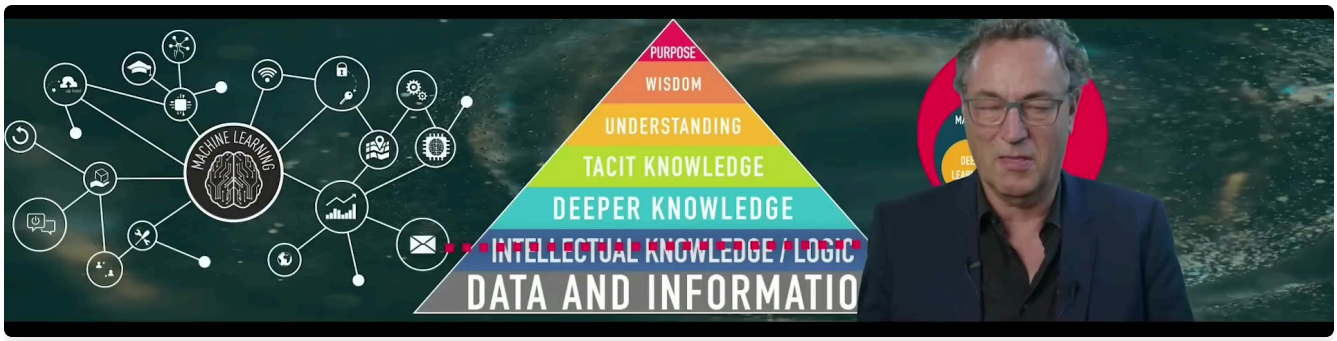
The speed of change is mind-boggling, requiring the development of a "future mindset." This mindset is not just a skill but a personality trait characterized by openness to discussion, questioning assumptions, curiosity, proactivity, and caution. It involves dedicating time daily to engaging with the future through reading and discussion. Countries and governments with a future mindset are likely to lead globally. Machine intelligence (machine learning, deep learning, AI) is powerful but binary, focusing on competence rather than consciousness. Humans must move up the pyramid of knowledge towards deeper understanding, wisdom, purpose, and human agency, as knowledge without wisdom is useless. Imagination is identified as a crucial tool for solving complex problems.

Ethical Considerations, Nature Connection, and the Six Future Principles



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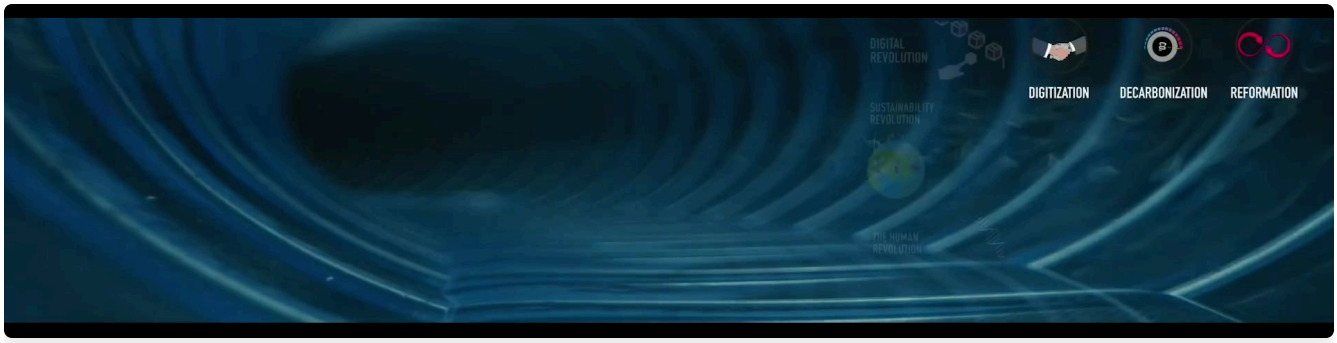
An ethical component is vital as we move into a connected future, focusing on how to stay human and connected, acknowledging the human need for in-person connection. The problem of “nature deficit disorder” arises from constant engagement with screens and virtuality, highlighting the importance of reconnecting with nature and investing in nature-positive initiatives. The six future principles are: holistic, circular economy, and human flourishing. These principles are essential for success and create vast benefits for everyone in the system.

Summary of Key Themes and the Importance of Attitude



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The future is shaped by optimists, and a positive, forward-looking attitude is crucial. Pessimism of the intellect combined with optimism of the heart is recommended. While problems are not decreasing, our capacity to solve them is increasing, presenting a tremendous opportunity. A holistic view of interconnected sectors like water, agriculture, and food, coupled with hyper-collaboration, is key to solving pressing issues. “Business as usual” is dying, and we must become architects of the future, not victims. Technology should augment humans, not replace them, requiring a balance of STEM and

HEKI (Humanity, Ethics, Creativity, Imagination). Ultimately, our attitude contains our future; a positive, problem-solving attitude that questions assumptions and believes in a better future will lead to success. The speaker concludes by wishing everyone the best and expressing hope for future connections.