

Speaker Ideas

Sharing the power of ideas

guest speakers for conferences and events



Fons Trompenaars - Listed regularly since 2001 as one of the world's most influential, living, management thinkers he is recognized the world over for his work as consultant, trainer, motivational speaker and author of various books on all subjects of culture and business.

As founder and director of Trompenaars Hampden-Turner, an intercultural management firm, he has spent over 20 years helping Fortune 500 leaders and professionals manage and solve their business and cultural dilemmas to increase global effectiveness and performance, particularly in the areas of globalization, mergers and acquisition, HR and leadership development.

Fons began his career in the Personnel Division of the Royal Dutch Shell Group in 1981, where he looked at job classification and management development at the Shell Research Laboratories in nine different countries. Here he met his partner, Charles Hampden Turner, with whom he has pioneered the Seven Dimensions of Culture and Dilemma Reconciliation philosophy into a powerful approach for reconciling cultural differences.

With his growing team of consultants he has translated this approach into innovative, practical and profitable results in all areas of international business for such companies as: BP, Philips, IBM, Heineken, Applied Materials, AMD, TRW, Mars, Motorola, General Motors, Dow Chemical, CSM, Telfort, Wolters Kluwer, Gerling NCM, Merrill Lynch, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, ABN AMRO, ING, PepsiCo, and Honeywell.

Fons Trompenaars interest in cultural differences began at home, where he grew up speaking both French and Dutch. He studied Economics at the Free University of Amsterdam and later earned a Ph.D. from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, with a dissertation on differences in conceptions of organizational structure in various cultures. He has been awarded the International Professional Practice Area Research Award by the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD).

Fons Trompenaars is the author/co-author of 10 books, including the best seller *Riding the Waves of Culture, Understanding Cultural Diversity in Business*, published by Nicholas Brealey (1993). This book has been translated into eleven languages (including Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and Russian) and the Dutch translation of this book was awarded "Book of the Year" by the Order of Experts and Consultants on Organization (OOA). Some of his other books include: the *Building Cross-Cultural Competence* (John Wiley, 2000), *21 Leaders for the 21st Century* (John Wiley and McGraw Hill, 2001), *Did the Pedestrian Die* (Capstone/Wiley) and the *Culture for Business* series, which comprises four books. He expects to release his next book *Riding the Whirlwind*, on Innovation, in October 2007.

Topics include:

- 21st Century Leadership
- Riding the whirlwind
- Managing across cultures

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