

"Corporate reporting is not what it used to be"

Speech by Professor Mervyn King

Chairman – Global Advisory Board– International Institute of Governance & Sustainability, The Netherlands
at Asia Business Responsibility Summit,
organised by Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability at
Bombay Stock Exchange auditorium, on January 8, 2014, Mumbai, India

The chairman of The IIRC, UK and a former Judge of the Supreme Court of South Africa, Prof King, as he is popularly known, has a many accolades, which includes among others, Professor Extraordinaire at the University of South Africa on Corporate Citizenship, Honorary Professor at the University of Pretoria and Visiting Professor at Rhodes University. His well-articulated presentation highlighted the contrasts of 20th and 19th century business to 21st century business.

Business in the 20th and 19th century were run by wealthy families with a single focus and bottom line financial reporting, rear view mirror, with a wrong notion that planet earth had an infinite capacity to absorb waste. To the contrary, business leaders of the modern world need to take note that it is increasingly the interaction among people, technology, capital, and networks that drives value creation.

He highlighted the reality of modern day challenges for businesses, such as the global financial crises, climate change crisis and ecological overshoot, radical transparency, greater expectations from stakeholders and population growth.

These critical factors mean that today's business leaders cannot carry on business as usual and thus they have to learn to make more with less while ensuring greater stakeholder involvement.

Drivers for change were identified as the Technological Revolution, the Net Generation, the Economic Revolution and the Social Revolution.

Prof. Mervyn King is Chairman The IIRC, UK and also Chairman of Global Advisory Board, Asian Centre For Corporate Governance & Sustainability