



THE WORDS OF THE WISE ELDERS

THE AFTERNOON SESSION ON THE SECOND DAY OF THIS FOURTH IN100Y-SEMINAR WAS A WISDOM COUNCIL FACILITATED BY SASCHA AMARASINHA, EARTH WISDOM GUIDE.

BY GITTE LARSEN, HOUSE OF FUTURES

"The tribe thing was great', 'the old wise people's session made a significant impression on me', 'my high expectations were not disappointed', 'excellent' and 'great to see an ancient tradition working for the future'. These are some of the participants comments to the Wisdom Council ceremony which was the final working session at the fourth 'In100Years'-seminar.

As rituals and spirituality have played a significant role in the 'In100Years' process, we wanted to end the journey with a special ceremony or ritual. I was pretty excited about what would come out of it. We invited Sascha, a good friend of House of Futures, to do the Wisdom Council for the 20 participants, as she has done it successfully before. "Speak, listen, and get wiser. Share your inner knowing and make sustainable decisions. That's what a Wisdom Council is about.", says Sascha Amarasinha, Earth Wisdom Guide, Director Respond, and recently appointed the Director of CSR and Communication in COOP Denmark.

When the group of participants was gathered in the circle of intelligent perspectives after lunch at the 19th January, they were a bit full, not only from the lovely food at Carlsberg Academy, but also from all the experiences and dialogues from the morning sessions and the day before. Sascha asked me if I would explain to the participants why we had chosen to do a Wisdom Council, and I said that she should just go ahead and do it – and so she did. With personal integrity and a deep understanding of the possible impact of a ceremony like this in a modern setting, she guided us all through from the beginning to the end. It became a beautiful session where the wise elders of the council raised the energy in the room and came up with clear and heartfelt recommendations for a sustainable future for people on planet Earth.

After a short introduction to the ancient Indian ceremony based on the wholeness of the medicine wheel, Sascha revealed the question to be looked at from the eight



perspectives of the council: How can we choose a sustainable life? The eight groups then had one hour to discuss and agree on up to four recommendations from their perspective. Even though nobody was instructed to reply "Ho!" (you have been heard, ed.), when a wise elder had spoken to the council, it quickly became the whole group's reply after each group of wise elders had spoken.

"Since Wisdom Council was (re)introduced by the Founders of Ehama Institute, RainbowHawk and Wind-Eagle Kinny-Linton, leaders and boards from companies and organizations all over the world, such as BMW, Mattel and Volkswagen, have taken important issues to a Wisdom Council to ensure a holistic analysis before taking a decision", explains Sascha.

READ MORE ABOUT THE WISDOM COUNCIL IN GENERAL:
In Danish: <http://www.kommunikationsforum.dk/artikler/find-din-indre-indianer>. *In English:* <http://www.fastcompany.com/online/01/rainbow.html>

SEEINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WISE ELDERS ABOUT HOW TO CHOOSE TO LIVE A SUSTAINABLE LIFE



EAST: CREATION INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: Freedom, creativity, imagination, innovation, inspiration, outrageousness, provocative.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the east [...] and our function in this Council is to call forth the spirit of the people to remember their limitless potential, to stimulate innovative and creative ways to approach our issues, and to encourage an atmosphere of free expression. We now introduce the question to be addressed in this Wisdom Council: How do we choose a sustainable life?

We see: We want to create freedom to be able to choose sustainability. Freedom is connected to liberation. Our paradox is that we are not liberated nor free. To create freedom we first seek liberation. To be liberated we access our own deep creativity, and from there we carry the touch of inspiration to transform the system.

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. We must be free to choose a sustainable life, which is a balanced life.
2. To be free is to access your creative force and empowerment, to liberate yourself.
3. Find your own method. Frame a conscious space/ritual (walk, climb, meditate).

We are the wise Elders of the East and we have spoken.



SOUTHEAST: PERCEPTUAL INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: Present condition, appreciation, present moment, awareness, current needs, openness, receptive viewpoint, expanded consciousness.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the Southeast [...] and our function in this Council is to direct awareness to all aspects and subtleties of the present moment, to point out what is missing or needed from that awareness, and to elicit appreciation and value for the present challenges and opportunities. We have heard the words of the Elders who spoke before us, and we will now speak from our perspective.

We see: We can turn poison into the elixir which makes us act now with focus on the long perspective based on the new mindset. We need to change the fundamental story told by society through images, architecture, media etc.

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. To move the focus from a financial bottom line to a holistic value based 5 year prospect.
2. To decide that thought, feeling and will can work fully to build the new paradigm.
3. To change the backbone of society into a new which is focused on the well-being of future generations.

We are the wise Elders of the Southeast and we have spoken.



SOUTH: EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: Power, danger, responsibility, alertness, conflict, readiness, confidence, trust.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the South [...] and our function in this Council is to evoke the full expression of the power to respond, to not overestimate or underestimate the challenges ahead, and to surface and unresolve conflict, emotion or hidden agendas that would weaken our collective ability to respond to the needs we face. We have heard the words of the Elders who spoke before us, and we will now speak from our perspective.

We see: Disasters as poverty, resource scarcity, and climate change. The power is for youth to engage and develop inner empathy and wisdom (the power for youth to be the elders).

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. Remember the power of relationships.
2. Remember the power of consciousness.
3. Beware: Your defence wall will never be high enough!
4. Beware: The limits of certainty!

We are the wise Elders of the South and we have spoken.



SOUTHWEST: PATHFINDING INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: Purpose, direction, learnings from the past, history, identity, intention, clear goals, focus.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the Southwest [...] and our function in this Council is to call attention to our history and its lessons, to clarify our purpose and direction, and to look at whether these actions will keep us on target. We have heard the words of the Elders who spoke before us, and we will now speak from our perspective.

We see: A need for transformation comparable to historical challenges like the Danish de-forestation (18th Century) and cheap grain from new competitors in 19th Century. We can learn from the earlier willingness to transform.

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. Change our brutal view of nature to a caring view by education on many fronts (the Danish folk high school as inspiration).
2. We give one working day a Month to discuss and create the new society - we can afford it, and nature needs it!
- 3- Create new movements inspired by previous social experiments and innovations.

We are the wise Elders of the Southwest and we have spoken.

SEEINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WISE ELDERS ABOUT HOW TO CHOOSE TO LIVE A SUSTAINABLE LIFE



WEST: SUSTAINING INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: Maintenance, balance, Seven Generational Thinking, healing, nurturing, structure, stability, environment.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the South [...] and our function in this Council is to call forth a priority of sustainability, to be watchful that the organism is whole and balanced, and to look at the ability of the organism to maintain and care for all individuals, projects and systems. We have heard the words of the Elders who spoke before us, and we will now speak from our perspective.

We see: We are of one voice and one mind. Certain good things in the present, which we wish to maintain. We wish to know the best to go to the next.

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. We should assess the impacts of proposed actions for 7 generations ahead and not discount either future value or costs.
2. As we become more ecological, we wish to maintain human rights and preserve democracy.
3. To keep a balance between human activity and the biosphere, we wish to grant legal rights to the whole evolutionary planetary inheritance.

We are the wise Elders of the West and we have spoken.



NORTHWEST: PREDICTIVE INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: Interrelatedness, timing, learning, cause, effect, relationship, cycles, future, forecast.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the Northwest [...] and our function in this Council is to call forth learning principles for the future. We have heard the words of the Elders who spoke before us, and we will now speak from our perspective.

We see: A positive learning spiral which is based on reinforcing principles such as meaning and 'charis' (joy, compassion, gentleness).

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. Education should enable to start answering the questions: Who am I? How shall we live?
2. Enable us to pass beyond respect into meeting the self as the other in creative unity.
3. The common good: The balancing point between autonomy and univocality.

We are the wise Elders of the Northwest and we have spoken.



NORTH: DECISIVE INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: Clarity, action, resource, strategy, planning, effectiveness, courage.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the North [...] and our function in this Council is to direct the assembly of the needed resources, to create a strategy for effective action, and to activate the courage in the hearts of the people to mobilize effective implementations. We have heard the words of the Elders who spoke before us, and we will now speak from our perspective.

We see: We are surrounded by fog (confusion from different facts, changing weather and crisis). Knowing your ability is the first step as this gives you clarity, and clarity creates confidence which allows actions.

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. Clarity on the need for action
2. Clarity is knowing you are lost and that you can ask for assistance/guidance, trusting that there is someone there for you.
3. Trying everyday.
4. Celebrating frontrunners.

We are the wise Elders of the North and we have spoken.



NORTHEAST: ENERGIA INTELLIGENCE

Perspective keywords: integrity, vitality, enthusiasm, alignment, continuance of Life, all perspectives, involvement.

Intro: We are the wise elders of the South [...] and our function in this Council is to ensure that all perspectives are heard, to make sure nothing is held back or hidden that could weaken moving forward with integrity, and to arouse the enthusiasm of the people to act. We have heard the words of the Elders who spoke before us, and we will now speak from our perspective.

We see: Scattered knowledge and random inspiration. Many people mind their 'own business' and hold back their knowledge and enthusiasm. We see people share short term experience and instant happiness. This creates a lack of integrity and vitality both for individuals and society.

Therefore we offer the following recommendations:

1. Choose love instead of fear. Expressing our innermost and not what others want to hear. Inclusion to create integrity and expansion.
2. We should start looking both at other people and the world as integral beings instead of being pickish and filtering according to our comfort zones.
3. We need to create a vibe of inclusion. If I'm needed as an integral part, I feel vital and empowered and ready to act towards long term values and a sustainable life.
4. Once we get to this point of inner integrity, we have the responsibility to inspire others, include them and support their vitality and wholeness, which is also about living and learning from the weaknesses and confusion cause these are also values to build on.

We are the wise Elders of the Northeast and we have spoken.