

“The future ain't what it used to be.”
— Yogi Berra



On the Cover

The responsibility for ensuring a successful future for the world weighs heavily on the shoulders of its leaders. They must address the challenge of making decisions that foster long-term benefits even if it may mean postponing immediate results. We spoke with many leaders this quarter who believe the priority should be to shape the future for many generations to come. They have provided numerous examples, both personally and professionally, of what this effort truly entails.

The future of health care remains somewhat uncertain but, according to Chairman and CEO William Weldon, the forward-thinking focus for Johnson & Johnson has been derived from the company's impressive past. Having been “part of people's lives for 126 years,” Weldon notes, “...we have turned the corner on a difficult period for our company and are excited to be developing state-of-the-art quality management systems and great products that deliver value and address significant unmet health care needs”.

Another company with an exceptional track record is DuPont, which has long been bringing world-class science and engineering to the global marketplace. Chair of the Board and CEO Ellen Kullman notes that the key to a bright future is encouraging innovation: “Even though that innovation is part of our DNA, you have to foster it and make sure that everyone knows how important it is to our future.”

No stranger to doing what's right, Ajay Banga of MasterCard addresses the major emphasis the company has placed on financial inclusion in terms of moving in a positive direction. The President and CEO says, “By focusing our philanthropic efforts on entrepreneurship, we aim to fuel innovation, employment, and economic growth to help people build a stronger future for themselves, their families, and their communities.”

Shaping the future of a city is no easy task, but The Honorable Cory Booker, Mayor of Newark, makes the job look easy. Having taken on immense challenges, he has garnered considerable praise for his tremendous efforts and results. He points out the importance of “creating a bold vision” and how even though Newark has been “dampened by low expectations,” he'd rather, “reach for the brass ring and lose than not stretch at all”.

Another distinguished leader who has taken on a series of worldwide initiatives is The Honorable Tony Blair. From the problems of the Middle East and Africa to the risks of climate change, while acknowledging that he cannot single-handedly change things, Blair notes, “what I can do is demonstrate, through my philanthropic work, a new idea or different way of doing something”.

In exclusive interviews that follow, Blair (page 12), McDonald (page 16), Kullman (page 19), Dauman (page 22), Weldon (page 24), Powell (page 28), Booker (page 104), Al-Nasser (page 35), Lazarus (page 33), Banga (page 32), Benioff (page 30), and Carlson Nelson (page 26) clockwise from top left, define their roles in shaping a brighter future. ●

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