



Dr. Dorothea Ernst (previously Seebode)

Profile

Dorothea is an independent Sustainable Innovation Expert since end 2012. Her special interest lies in strengthening the social side of sustainability and bridging individual and collective action while initiating and implementing sustainable innovation.

From April 2006 to July 2011, she pioneered Sustainable Innovation for Philips globally, building the bridge between the Corporate Sustainability Office and Philips Research. In this context she advised several Master students on sustainable innovation topics in cooperation with the Tias Nimbas Business in Tilburg, The Netherlands; the Biomimicry Guild in Montana, USA and the University of Southern Denmark in Sonderborg, Denmark.

She represented Philips in the Vision 2050 project of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), where she led the work-stream on *human well-being*.

Before taking the role of Sustainability Director at Philips Research, she worked for 10 years at Philips Lighting. There spending her first 6 years in traditional innovation roles such as project management in R&D, internal consulting and technology management at the CTO office. Later she facilitated the shaping of a new vision for Philips Lighting and pioneered innovative ways of working in new business creation and strategic marketing. In this function, she developed a strong and practical expertise in radical innovation and related cultural transformation in multi-national corporations.

Qualification

- Diplom Physikerin (comparable to MSc in Physics); RWTH¹ Aachen
- Dr.rer.nat. → PhD; RWTH Aachen
- Lead fellow, cohort 12, 2007

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Research

Research interests

- Leadership for sustainable innovation; co-creation; social innovation
- Practices of sustainability-driven innovation: products/services, processes, metric
- Context relevant decision making

¹ RWTH → Rheinisch Westfälische Technische Hochschule is the technical university at Aachen, Germany

- The role of art as social memory and change facilitator
- Social sustainability especially related metric and boundary conditions

Dorothea's desire to stimulate and incubate meaningful innovation drives her to develop a deep understanding about effective levers of social change and sustainability oriented innovation. Her primarily qualitative research focuses on the understanding of conditions in which sustainability oriented and social innovation thrives in the widest sense, with an increasing focus on the role of leadership, facilitation of collaboration and decision-making between multiple stakeholders and both individual and collective creativity leading to multi-dimensional value creation. She focuses on relevance and applicability of complex innovation challenges.

Other engagements

- Steering Committee Member of Green Economy Coalition
<http://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/>
- She is cooperating with the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven on Social Innovation.
- Visiting professor for Sustainable Innovation at the RWTH Aachen

Some recent publications

- *Managing Innovation for Sustainability*; R&D Management, 2012
- Translating Vision2050 into concrete action, in her 2011 published paper on *Sustainable Innovation* she introduces four sustainable innovation strategies enabling companies to direct their innovation activities towards sustainable development.
http://www.philips.com/shared/assets/global/sustainability/downloads/sustainable_innovation_paper.pdf
- Her experiences on facilitating disruptive innovation have been published as a case study for *Managing Innovation* by J. Tidd and J. Bessant. [http://www.managing-innovation.com/case_studies/Radical Innovation at Philips Lighting 1 June 2009.pdf](http://www.managing-innovation.com/case_studies/Radical_Innovation_at_Philips_Lighting_1_June_2009.pdf)