



Servant-Leadership: higher educational needs and challenges in a global perspective



At its simplest, servant-leadership is driven by the motivation of enabling others to work more effectively and be successful. Servant-leadership thus means leading a group or organisation in the service of people, be they clients, customers, employees, partners, colleagues and/or members of your network. Integrating both head and heart, servant-leadership does not stop there. It expands as a principle to serve the community and act a steward of the environment and all that inhabit it. Culturally speaking there are different ways of realizing this aspiration. What role/responsibility do/can traditional higher learning institutions play in researching, promoting or teaching this leadership principle? What have we learned so far in conducting research on this subject? How can higher learning institutions meet the learning needs of future generations in developing servant-leaders for the corporate (non-corporate) world?

The symposium Servant-Leadership: higher educational needs and challenges in a global perspective aims to explore some of these questions, comparing cases of servant-leadership learning practices at home and worldwide. In line with her institutional mission and vision, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is pleased to take the lead in organizing this symposium, which is part of a large scale series of symposia being held during November 2010 ('oogstmaand') on the theme of servant-leadership. Additional symposia organised through the Greenleaf Center for Servant-Leadership Europe Foundation will focus on servant-leadership in such areas as health care, secretary services, higher professional education, finance, alumni Greenleaf Academy, HRM, business, and military services. See www.greenleafservantleadership.eu agenda.

For the symposium at the VU on November 22, we are delighted that we have found international experts from different generations willing to present their insights about meeting the higher education needs and challenges of servant-leadership in an international perspective. With the official launching of the Servant-Leadership Centre for Research and Education (SLCRE) this event is a milestone in the ongoing development of servant-leadership activities.

On behalf of the organizing team,

Prof. dr Fons Trompenaars & dr Sylvia van de Bunt-Kokhuis
Chairpersons of symposium and SLCRE directors

Program: 22 November 2010

- 9.00 *Welcome* by chairpersons.
- 9.10 *Opening* by **Prof. dr Fons Trompenaars** co-director SLCRE.
- 9.30 *Official opening of the Servant-Leadership Centre for Research and Education (SLCRE)* by **René Smit** chair Executive Board VU.
- 9.40 *Ethics and integrity of governance*, by **Prof. Leo Huberts**, professor in Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, VU.
- 10.00 Transfer to workshop rooms.
- 10.10 Servant-leadership related higher educational needs and challenges will be highlighted from different global perspectives by the following dedicated workshop leaders:
- WORKSHOP 1 (Room 05A11): *Good educational practice case: Servant Leadership Academy* - **Claudia Geene**, Director Servant Leadership Academy (presentation in Dutch).
- WORKSHOP II (Room 10A10): *Multidimensional Measure of Servant- Leadership in academic research* - **dr Inge Nuijten**, Assistant Professor in Organizational Psychology Rijksuniversiteit Groningen or **dr Dirk van Dierendonck**, Associate Professor of Organization, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- WORKSHOP III (Room Aurora): *Servant-leadership and Administrative Justice in a Multicultural Society* - **Prof. dr David Weir**, professor of Intercultural Management, Head of Business School, Liverpool Hope University and best paper Award winner 2010 Academy of Management jointly with Mzamo and Zengie Mangaliso.
- WORKSHOP IV (Room 15A02): *Servant-leadership in the medical world* FEWEB Master students - **Nelleke ten Hove** and **Mirna Sivo**, Master research project at the VU Medical Centre (VUmc).
- WORKSHOP V (Room 01H50 Bellevue): *Servant-leadership: an Afrocentric principle?* - **dr Henk van den Heuvel**, Senior Advisor Management and Organisation, Centre for International Cooperation, VU.
- WORKSHOP VI (Room Stoa): *Good practice case: Voerman International* - **Ed Voerman**, former director of Voerman International, and member of the Board of Trustees of Greenleaf Foundation www.greenleaf.org.
- 11.10 COFFEE & TEA BREAK
- 11.30 *Meeting of minds and generations: how to educate the servant-leaders of tomorrow?* Panel discussion with a kick-off by **Sabirul Islam** ('The World at Your Feet', young Mosaic Entrepreneur 2008, JCI Award 2010) and an elevator pitch introduction of each of the panel members **Elmer Mulder** (chairman Board VU Medical Centre), **Ed Voerman** (chairman Greenleaf Center for Servant-Leadership Europe), **Mirjam Roelink & Femke Polderman** (FEWEB Master students) and **Prof. dr David Weir** (Liverpool Hope University).
- 12.50 Closure.