

# 17 OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE INNOVATION EXPEDITION & MODERN DAY RENAISSANCE LEADERS

**Core Values:** The Innovation Expedition Team honours diversity as a source of organizational strength and its operations are built around the core values of trust, relevance, learning, integrity, inspiration, high performance, resourcefulness, resilience, collaboration, courage, creativity, passion and fun.



**1. Clarify Intentions & Context**  
Help groups identify their key challenge and set proper context to the challenge in order to elicit commitment.



**2. Utilize Diagnostics**  
Use diagnostic tools to identify priority areas that need attention.



**3. Nurture Collaboration**  
Advocate and become skilled in nurturing collaboration as the critical element for success in the knowledge economy.



**4. Engage in Co-Creation**  
Stress and employ the power of co-creation in developing plans.



**5. Apply a Template**  
A CDS Communications Template can be used many ways to engage teams in action and to develop skills in active listening, strategic thinking, synthesizing, integrating and for strategic communication in reporting on plans.



**6. Apply Criteria**  
Establish criteria for choices before rushing to make them.



**7. Utilize Humour**  
Understand and see the sense in demonstrating a sense of humour to encourage frank dialogue.



**8. Build Trust**  
Recognize the importance of “trust” in supporting collaboration, co-creation & better performance. Model the key elements for building trust including offer a “Gift of Trust”.



**9. Set Expectations**  
Articulate assumptions and expectations prior to any meeting in order to increase clarity and facilitate faster decision making.



**10. Focus on Learning**  
Develop a capacity for accelerated and agile learning and for providing leadership to create productive learning opportunities.



**11. Utilize Technologies**  
Develop a capacity to choose & successfully use appropriate information and communication technologies (ICTs).



**12. Practice Systems Thinking:**  
Understand & practice systems thinking as the language of the knowledge economy.



**13. Draw on Imagination and Out-of-the-box Thinking**  
Stimulate the use of the imagination as a foundation for practicing innovation and strategic foresight.



**14. Access Global Intelligence:**  
Be efficient in tapping into global networks and applying a global perspective to all projects (local, national and international).



**15. Applying Creative Mentoring Processes**  
Achieve results through purposeful facilitation built around all these operating principles and a commitment to the Art of Mentoring.



**16. Understand and Practice Innovation:**  
Learn how to think about and practice innovation in terms of innovation systems, innovation supply chains and the concept of a culture of innovation in which creative experimentation is encouraged and rewarded.



**17. Engage in Dialogue**  
Use the Keys to Successful Dialogue to encourage dialogue rather than debate among team members.

## 8 KEYS TO PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE

- 1. Ongoing Dialogue:**  
Treat dialogue as a journey rather than an event. Draw on ideas in the Guide for Comparing Debate versus Dialogue.
- 2. Collective Commitment to a Clear Challenge:**  
Invest in defining the challenge early, creating & documenting shared understanding of the challenge.
- 3. Collaborate and Co-Create:**  
Develop skills and use tools to help teams collaborate and co-create.

- 4. Action Orientation:**  
Know when to move to action; utilize processes and tools to do this in the Renaissance Knowledge Bank.
- 5. Technology:**  
Choose and use appropriate information and communication technologies as enabling tools.
- 6. Respect and Utilize Diversity:**  
Embrace diverse thinking as a foundation for innovation.

- 7. Measure Success:**  
Measure success in a way that empowers participants and helps ensure actions are linked to vision and strategic intentions.
- 8. Sustain Change:**  
Celebrate success and plan ahead to sustain the achievement.