



### A man with a vision

Professor Herman Singh is the CEO of Future Advisory, an international firm specialising in digital transformation projects in corporates, and startup acceleration. He graduated from Wits at the age of 19 with a four-year Engineering degree. He obtained two postgrad qualifications in the next few years and ascended to a managing director role at a Barlows factory at 28.

### Biography of Hemmanth (Herman) Singh

Herman is based in Johannesburg South Africa although he travels very often and operates in many countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.



### Personal Attributes

Herman is an innovative business thinker and a high impact player with an unusual mix of Business, Technology, Leadership and Creative skills that positions him uniquely for roles to lead the march to the new Digital Economy. A naturally innovative thinker he has led and guided many disruptive businesses in the ongoing convergence of Technology and Business for over 20 years. As a great and motivational public speaker, Herman is in high demand for conferences and often acts as a keynote speaker for internal company strategy events.



### Academic Background

Herman graduated with Wits University with a Degree in Engineering, a Post Graduate qualification in Industrial Engineering and a MBA. He has co-authored a text booked) that is now into its third edition. Herman serves as a Professor at the Graduate School of Business at UCT and adjunct faculty at Duke University, University of Johannesburg and at The Gordon Institute of Business Science in Johannesburg. He has worked, facilitated and spoken around the world and has served as the Chairman of the Solution Space which is an Incubation Laboratory at the University of Cape Town. Herman also sits on the Advisory board for the Faculty of Engineering at Wits.



## Career

Herman commenced his Career in the manufacturing sector and moved to Consulting and Advisory work in 1994 at Monitor Consulting before taking a role as Managing Director in the Siemens Company in 1996 to lead a large scale turn-around of the Industry Division responsible for Sub-Saharan Africa (13 countries) between 1996 and 2000. The business continues to operate successfully over 15 years after his departure.

He joined Standard Bank in 2000 as the Director of Online Services. He lead the banks foray into Internet Banking, one of the world's first national rollouts of smart cards and continued to pioneer Fintech innovations with mobile banking JV's in 2003 (one of the first globally) and operated one of the first African Fintech business incubators (Beyond Payments) from 2007 until 2012. He also joined the board of Eccentric Switch, a payments processor.

In 2012 Herman moved into the role of Managing Executive of mobile Commerce Vodacom where he successfully launched and managed a short term insurance business, a life assurance business and a mobile wallet. He then moved to MTN in 2015 where he served in the role of Group Chief Digital Officer for four years. This role carried a Profit and Loss responsibility of over a Billion Dollars His broad portfolio entailed serving on 7 boards as well as in advisory capacities in multiple industry level initiatives.



## Board Roles:

Herman has served on over 10 boards and board committees in his career and has chaired a number of them. His recent Board obligations are detailed below:

MTN Cameroon: Herman has served as a non-executive board director for two two years.

MTN Ivory Coast: Herman has served as a non-executive board director for two years. He also served on the Remuneration Board sub-committee.

aYo: A Johannesburg based digital Insure-tech firm. Herman is served as Chairman of this board for two years and was on the board for three years.

Africa Internet Group. A Berlin based multi sector e-Commerce business that is operating in over 20 African countries. Herman served on both the advisory board as deputy chairman and the Audit and Risk committee and had done so for three years. The firm had already attained a valuation of over a Two Billion Dollars in its IPO

Middle East Internet Group: A Dubai based multi sector ecommerce firm operating in three GCC countries. Herman serves on both the advisory board and the Audit and Risk committee and had done so for three years.

Iran Internet Group: A Dubai based multi sector ecommerce firm operating in Iran. Herman served on the advisory board for three years

GSMA Strategy officer group: London based. Herman has been a member of this group representing MTN for three years.

In his personal capacity Herman is investing in and serving as Board chairman of Intergrateme, a R200Mn digital start up in the Regtech space in South Africa

Adcorp: A JSE listed workplace solutions form. Herman serves on the Board, the Risk and Audit Committee and the Investment committee.



#### Technical abilities

Herman developed three distinct capabilities in the Digital World:

1. Creating digital means for customers to interact with the firm via new channels and devices.
2. Digitising the internal processes of the firm
3. Creating digitised products and services and disruptive business models

Herman for over 20 years' experience leading led technical teams that were involved in those three areas in order to deliver new business development, change and large scale IT developments as well as tactical IT start-up initiatives. He is accordingly comfortable to operate at senior levels while still engaging daily with rapid application development teams across multiple verticals.



#### Interests

Herman is an avid cyclist both on road and off-road and completes over 3000 kilometres of riding a year. His first passion is his family and he is married with four children. He contributes extensively as a thought leader at multiple forums including having almost 20 000 followers on LinkedIn and publishing one of the most widely used text books namely, Operations Management, in the field in the region.

