

## Thinking Ahead Institute

An innovation network founded by WTW

### World's largest pension funds return to growth

Mobilising capital for a sustainable future



The world's largest 300 pension funds returned to growth in 2023, erasing much of the decline of the previous year. In collaboration with Pensions & Investments, we've recently published our annual study, the [Global Top 300 Pension Funds](#), which highlights high-level trends in the pension fund industry and provides information on how the characteristics of these leading funds have changed. For a deeper dive into these findings, explore the [study](#) here.

Earlier this year, we hosted the [Global Asset Owner Peer Study summit and symposium](#), sponsored by Future Fund. We are now pleased to present the [summary report, insights and interviews](#) from this event which explore the nuances of asset ownership, emerging trends, challenges and opportunities shaping global investment decisions and best practices.

Highlighted in this peer study was the importance of systems thinking. Systems thinking provides a holistic approach to uncover root causes and

create more effective solutions. If you want to explore more, visit our newly launched [Systems thinking content hub](#). It features curated publications and content on systems thinking concepts, tools, and applications, offering valuable resources for understanding and applying this methodology effectively.

Additionally, our [Integrated Report 2023](#) highlights the extensive research we've conducted over the past year. It details the practical applications of our research, our collaborations, the value we create for members, colleagues, and the planet, and our global media presence and engagement. Be sure to explore the report for a comprehensive look at our efforts across the year and anything you might have missed.

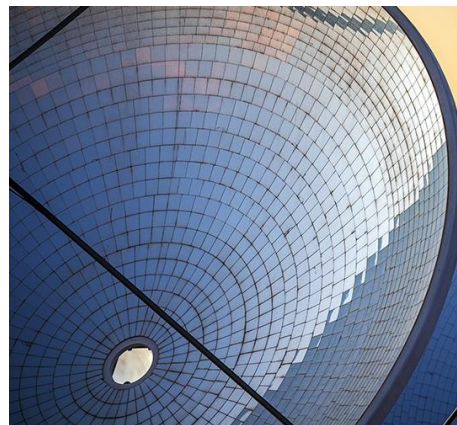
To learn more about the Institute and the benefits of membership, join us at an [upcoming event](#) or book a [one-on-one meeting](#). We look forward to connecting with you soon!

[The world's largest pension funds – 2024](#)

[Network+](#)



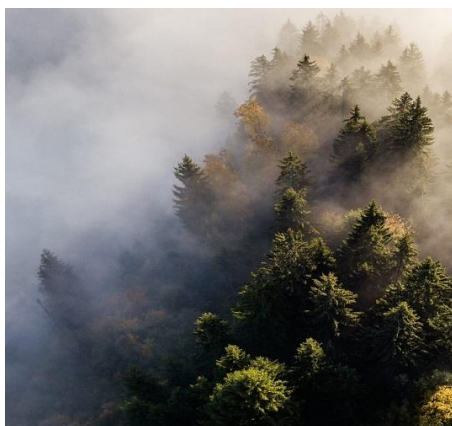
**The world's largest  
pension funds –  
2024**



**Systems thinking  
content hub**

The Global top 300 pension funds is an annual study conducted by the Thinking Ahead Institute, in conjunction with Pensions & Investments. The research highlights high-level trends in the pension fund industry and provides information on the changing composition of the top 300 list of pension funds globally, including the characteristics and investment allocations of these pension funds.

[Explore this study](#)

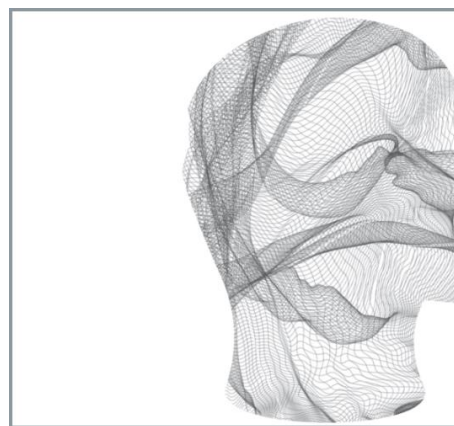


## **Global Asset Owner Peer Study on best practices**

The Global Asset Owner Peer Study on best practices is an examination of 26 prominent asset owners from around the world. Conducted in partnership with Future Fund, this study explores the nuances of asset

In our increasingly complex world, traditional problem-solving methods often fall short. Enter systems thinking—a holistic approach that delves into the interconnections and interactions within systems to uncover the root causes of issues and devise more effective solutions. Explore Institute resources to learn about concepts, tools, and real-world applications of systems thinking. This includes training videos covering a broad spectrum of topics included in systems change theory and practice.

[Explore here](#)



## **Integrated report 2023**

Each year, the Institute publishes our Integrated Report, providing an in-depth look at our activities and achievements. This report highlights our research and its practical applications, our collaborations with members and industry

ownership, emerging trends, challenges and opportunities that shape investment decisions and best practices of asset owners globally. Explore our website for the summary report, investment insights, [podcast](#) and a compelling series of short video interviews featuring asset owner leaders recorded at our London event.

[Explore the study](#)



partners, the value we create for members, colleagues, and the planet, and our global media presence and engagement. Explore this report to gain a comprehensive understanding of how we dedicate our time and resources.

[Explore this report](#)

## Can artificial intelligence (AI) help stewardship resourcing?

Our investment insight by Jessica Gao acknowledges the need to double stewardship resources to meet growing ESG demands, as outlined in our [May report](#) with UNPRI. The insight highlights the potential of AI to streamline tasks such as voting and data

analysis, freeing up resources for more critical stewardship activities while enhancing, rather than replacing, human expertise.

[Read here](#)

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## Join us at these events this year:



### **Manager Ideas Exchange 2024 (Global)**

We are delighted to announce the 2024 Manager Ideas Exchange Asia at [The Conrad](#) in Tokyo on **Wednesday 6 - Thursday 7 November**. Check out the website for all the relevant information.

[MiX 2024 global series](#)



### **Training: Systems curriculum (Virtual)**

Do you consider your organisation to be a system? Have you ever been trained in systems? We are offering members a 'systems curriculum' featuring external speakers, our own content, and discussion forums. We will be running six sessions throughout

the year, the next session is on **16 October** and is on the topic of **Beliefs**. A great opportunity for everyone in your organisation to participate!

[Register now](#)



## **Network+ (London)**

Join us in London in November for Network+, a dynamic morning event featuring impactful, rapid-fire talks from the Thinking Ahead Institute. Our speakers will cover some of the most difficult and best TAI's projects over the years, providing practical examples of how we navigate complex issues and deliver robust outcomes. The full agenda will be published soon.

[Register now](#)

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## **Past events:**



## **Network+: big risks, big solutions, big change (Sydney)**

This August, we hosted Network+: big risks, big solutions, big change – a series of impactful, rapid-fire talks. Marisa Hall, Head of TAI, and

Co-founder Roger Urwin were among the prominent speakers, alongside fresh faces who delved into significant topics such as the future of ESG, governance, culture, and systemic risk. The event provided a dynamic platform for thought-provoking discussions. See event slides and images [here](#).



## **Society+: the voices of change**

In June we hosted an engaging film night featuring a curated selection of impactful short films, enlightening perspectives from a distinguished guest speaker, and an expert panel discussion focused on the 'S' of ESG. See event summary and images [here](#).



Please do share this with your colleagues. If you have been forwarded this email and want to receive it in future, you can [subscribe here](#).

**Feel free to forward**

We love to connect with new organisations. To find out more about how your organisation can start thinking ahead by getting involved in our working groups, events, and collaborations, please [read more](#).

**Join our community**

## Thinking Ahead Institute

An innovation network founded by WTW

### About the Thinking Ahead Institute

The Thinking Ahead Institute was established in January 2015 and is a global not-for-profit investment research and innovation member group made up of engaged institutional asset owners and asset managers committed to mobilising capital for a sustainable future. It has over 50 members around the world with combined responsibility for over US\$16 trillion and is an outgrowth of the Thinking Ahead Group which was set up in 2002. Learn more at [thinkingaheadinstitute.org](http://thinkingaheadinstitute.org).

### About WTW

At WTW (NASDAQ: WTW), we provide data-driven, insight-led solutions in the areas of people, risk and capital. Leveraging the global view and local expertise of our colleagues serving 140 countries and markets, we help you sharpen your strategy, enhance organizational resilience, motivate your workforce and maximize performance.

Working shoulder to shoulder with you, we uncover opportunities for sustainable success—and provide perspective that moves you.

Learn more at [wtwco.com](http://wtwco.com).

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