

JAN W. VASBINDER**Nanyang Technological University**

Jan Wouter Vasbinder (1945) studied physics at the Technical University of Delft (1972). He started his professional career as a researcher in a nuclear laboratory. Until 1981 he worked in the nuclear industry in Israel and the Netherlands.

In 1981 he was appointed Attaché for Science and Technology in Washington and Ottawa. In 1985 he returned to The Netherlands to head a small organization responsible for developing large and long term cooperative industry university research programs. Subsequently, he became member of the management team of the Dutch organization responsible for executing government innovation policies.

In 1991, he became partner and then CEO of an interdisciplinary consultancy firm. Since 1994, he is an independent consultant and since 1995 partner of Prisma & Partners, a small firm dedicated to finding, strengthening, and mobilizing the innovative capacity of companies, consortia (e.g. of corporations and universities), government (related) organizations and regions.

The joy in his work comes from finding new potentially powerful combinations of knowledge, and developing programs to explore and exploit these combinations. A lot of his time is invested in helping organizations to develop their strategies for the future. In 2003, he initiated Institute Para Limes¹ of which he is the president. He is concurrently Director of the Complexity Program at Nanyang Technological University, a position he held since July 2011.

In his career, the common thread is "looking for new combinations and connections, building bridges and coaching". His motto is: "the value of knowledge is in its application". He is married and has four children.

¹ Nobel Laureates and scientists of equal eminence founded Institute Para Limes (IPL) in 2006 to transcend disciplinary boundaries in search of new concepts and ideas. Being run in a virtual way, IPL delivered its proof of principle in the following years.