

**CEO/** The  
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Institute

# TOP 5 CEO ISSUES

JULY 2025

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# Succession planning

# 01

As boards and CEOs look to de-risk their organisations, succession planning has re-emerged as a strategic imperative. CEOs are being urged to identify and develop future leaders well in advance of transitions. It's not just about continuity, it's about ensuring the business remains resilient, agile, and growth-ready under new leadership.

# Working for a global parent

CEOs reporting to international head offices face a unique set of challenges; time zones, cultural misalignment, differing strategic priorities, and limited local autonomy. Discussions focused on how to effectively influence global stakeholders while still delivering local impact. The ability to navigate these dynamics is seen as a key leadership differentiator.



# Board and stakeholder management

Navigating board expectations, private equity involvement, and broader stakeholder dynamics is becoming more complex. CEOs highlighted the need for clear communication, third-party validation, and strategic stakeholder mapping. Complex ownership structures and diverse stakeholder relationships were highlighted as a challenge, particularly in highly regulated or franchised environments.



# Cybersecurity and risk management

Cyber risk remains front of mind, fuelled by real-world breaches, compliance pressures, and reputational exposure. Many CEOs shared concerns about their current protection measures and the need for better internal adherence to protocols. Risk mitigation, insurance, and consistent training are key focus areas moving forward.

# 05

## Disaster management

Natural disasters, cyberattacks, and geopolitical disruptions have put crisis response plans to the test. CEOs are reassessing their disaster preparedness frameworks to ensure business continuity and protect both people and reputation. The emphasis is on scenario planning, communication protocols, and building organisational resilience.



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