

Riding the Twists and Turns of a Professional Career in a Global Mining Industry

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ABSTRACT

As the industry develops more of a global focus, the opportunities that are available to professionals grow in number and scope. Today's buoyant minerals market is most definitely employee-driven and the world in its entirety is, without a doubt, your proverbial oyster.

Opportunities have never been so plentiful and exciting; leaving the only question to be 'how do I take advantage of the current market to ensure I create the career that I want?' And wouldn't we all love it if there was one simple answer that ensured we could fulfil all of our hopes and dreams for our careers, families, travel plans, investment portfolios, etc. We all want it all, as we should! The secret is balancing all the different areas to create the balance that suits you.

Can I offer you all the answers here today in 15 minutes?

No, I cannot, but what I can do is give some insights from my experience in industry as a mining engineer, my peers' industry experiences and my time in the recruitment industry to really flesh out some of the options that exist and discuss some tactics to make your goals become opportunities and in turn realities.

As I see it, there are three main components to ensuring that the career that you create is a reflection of who are and what you want. Firstly, you must be aware of your priorities, secondly, you must have the courage to take risks and thirdly, it helps greatly to have key mentors and role models to ask for guidance.

Priorities change. We must ensure that we not only think long term when making career choices, but react to the inevitable changes in our priorities as they occur. To be able to really love your life and make powerful choices, you need to make sure you are in touch with what is important to you right now and continually reassess and take stock of where your life and career are heading.

Acting on priorities that are not mainstream ideas can be overwhelming. However, having the courage to go outside the norm will not only ensure you are rewarded with the life you choose, but will also see an amazing number of opportunities opening up to you when you show that you are flexible and adaptable. This is the reason why my peers who studied mining engineering with me are now enjoying careers across a wide range: mine management, mine planning, business development, finance, environment, business improvement, education, recruitment, construction, sales and more. Your mining career in today's global industry can take you anywhere!

Finally, I suggest you identify people around you who are effective in the way they live life and manage their career. Choose people whose priorities align with yours or approach decisions in a manner that inspires you. These people should be your mentors irrespective of their exact job title/direction. Take advice from these people and then make choices that are right for you.

A career in mining is a very exciting prospect. The industry is a bit like a family and the networks you form will be invaluable irrespective of where your career leads. Make the most of your opportunities and pick the path that gives you challenges, satisfaction and a life you enjoy. You are part of a massive boom in the global mining industry; make sure you seize every moment and take the ride of your life!

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