

PrimeTime Member Spotlight

November 2009



Each month *Connections* talks to a PrimeTime member to find out more about who they are, what they do, and their association with PrimeTime.



This month we spotlight

Leesa Lovelace

General Manager:
Eastern & Oriental Express

Personal talk ...

Connections: Where are you from originally, and how long have you been in Singapore?

Leesa: I'm from California and I have been in Singapore for almost 17 years.

Connections: Have you lived in other foreign countries? If so where?

Leesa: I spent a year and a half working in Australia, which was a wonderful experience.

Connections: What brought you to Singapore?

Leesa: In the 10 years prior to living here I travelled frequently to Asia on business and decided I would really like the opportunity to live and work in the region. I was working for a Singapore-based company and asked for a transfer. After some discussion, they eventually offered me a position in Singapore.

Connections: What do you enjoy most about living here?

Leesa: Singapore is such a "rojak" – with people and influences from all over the world.

Connections: What are your interests and hobbies?

Leesa: I love travelling and enjoy wandering around a new city or destination. I go for a walk with friends almost every Sunday morning in Singapore and like discovering new areas to explore on foot.

Connections: Which are your favourite restaurants/shops/places to go?

Leesa: Well I always look forward to a sloppy chilli crab dinner at the East Coast Seafood Centre and I occasionally indulge in a roti prata at the Railway Station Canteen. I can spend a very pleasant Saturday afternoon window shopping at Tanglin Shopping Centre – particularly at Tatiana's and Mata Hari.

Connections: What one thing would you like to accomplish in your lifetime?

Leesa: I'd love to be able to wear a size 2 – without exercise or a starvation diet.

Professional talk ...

Connections: Could you tell us a little about the company you work for and your current role?

Leesa: I am General Manager at Eastern & Oriental Express, which is a luxury train service that operates in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. I work with an incredible team to welcome guests from all over the world and provide them with a wonderful holiday.

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Connections: How long have you been working for in your present role?

Leesa: I have been with the company for 15 years and have been General Manager for 5 years.

Connections: Have you always worked in the same industry? If not, what else have you done/where else have you worked in the past?

Leesa: I have worked in the travel industry for most of my professional life, starting out as a secretary in the regional sales office for Mandarin Oriental Hotels. Before that I worked for a magazine, sold mini-blinds and was Office Manager in a talent agency in Beverly Hills.

Connections: What do you enjoy most about your job?

Leesa: I like the people I work with and - most of the time - our customers!

Connections: What do you enjoy most about the company you work for?

Leesa: Eastern & Oriental Express is a very unique and unconventional company.

Connections: Do you have any advice for job hunters trying to move into your industry?

Leesa: Yes - don't do it for the money!

PrimeTime talk ...

Connections: When did you join PrimeTime and how did you find out about it?

Leesa: Honestly it's been so long since I joined PrimeTime, I don't remember!

Connections: Which PrimeTime subgroups do you belong to?

Leesa: I subscribe to DineTime.

Connections: Do you volunteer at PrimeTime? If so, in what areas have you become involved?

Leesa: I served on the Board for 4 years as 2nd Vice President and 1st Vice President and I was also on the planning committee for the Village Bank Fundraiser.

Connections: What do you personally feel are the benefits of being a PrimeTime member?

Leesa: For me, the benefits are networking and getting the chance to meet other professional women.

Connections: Which was the most interesting or inspiring PrimeTime event you've attended?

Leesa: The Village Bank Fundraiser was truly inspirational.

Thank you Leesa!