

PrimeTime Member Spotlight

September 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

Ami Jobanputra
Consultant
The Spencer Partnership

Personal talk ...

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

Ami: This is a difficult question to answer. I was born in Kenya, am of Indian origin and a British and Canadian citizen. Prior to moving to Singapore I was in Toronto, Canada so I consider myself Canadian. Culturally and in terms of values I feel Indian but with a very open bend. I embrace many different lifestyles and cultures. In the last 13 years I have lived in Singapore for 9 years.

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

Ami: I have lived in nine countries across five continents. It all started when my grandfather left India and set up a family business in Kenya. My father became a specialist in setting up manufacturing operations across the globe. I went to school in Addis Ababa and London (with a short stint in Geneva). I finished high school and my university studies (economics and MBA) in Toronto. After my MBA, I went to Santa Monica to indulge in my passion, the study of gemstones. I returned to Toronto, travelled the world and got married in Toronto. Four years is the longest stretch I've stayed in any city. I have lived in Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia (and Eritrea), UK, Switzerland, Canada, USA, Australia and Singapore. My core friends and family are scattered around the globe and I have learnt to make a home wherever I am.

Connections: What brought you to Singapore?

Ami: My husband's work. He works with a Canadian bank and we were transferred to Singapore in 1996.

Connections: What do you enjoy most about living here?

Ami: Singapore is such an easy place to live in. You can have a great lifestyle and quality of life even though we have busy schedules. As a woman you can choose to work and there are so many opportunities here. Asia is very happening right now. Singapore's infrastructure allows us to take time out for ourselves and it is a great spot to travel from!

Connections: What are your interests and hobbies?

Ami: Travelling and anything related to travel. I am a bit of a gypsy. I love exploring different countries, various cultures and just talking to people. Reading and walking are other passions.

Connections: Have you had any particularly interesting experiences you would like to share with us?

Ami: My trip to Antarctica on board a Russian 'Research Vessel'! It is the most amazing trip I have ever been on: intense blue icebergs, abandoned whaling stations, a variety of penguins, whales, sea lions, 24 hour sun. I even swam in the sea. Antarctica is the 7th continent and it is the only place on earth that does not have an indigenous population, culture or a language of its own. The whole experience is beyond words.

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

Ami: Favourite restaurants include Graze, Glow and Cha Cha Cha. My favourite places to go include the Botanical Gardens, MacRitchie Reservoir and any open spaces.

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

Ami: I definitely want to get a helicopter or airplane pilot's license at some point and I want to travel more! Future travel destinations on my list are Bhutan, Peru, Easter Island and Eastern Europe.

Professional talk ...

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

Ami: The Spencer Partnership is a boutique consultancy that specialises in enhancing the operational performance of financial service institutions. I am a consultant with them and have worked in a number of areas including implementation, post project support, cultural programmes and business development.

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

Ami: I have been consulting for the past twelve years over a number of areas including international human resources, technology and change management.

Connections: What do you enjoy most about your job?

Ami: I love the variety that the role offers. I get bored doing the same thing all the time and it is great to explore different areas and face new challenges with each project.

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

Ami: My colleagues! It is great working with people that you can connect with both on a professional and personal level. The camaraderie makes for a fun environment.

Connections: Have any of the Prime Time programs you've attended helped you in your job?

Ami: Not directly, but I have extrapolated ideas and concepts and applied them in my work.

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

Ami: Be flexible, creative, logical and have a positive attitude. Consulting can be rewarding but it is frustrating as well and the key is to minimise the frustrations.

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PrimeTime talk ...

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

Ami: I first joined Prime Time in 1997. I found out about it through the Career Resource Centre for Expatriates.

Connections: Which PrimeTime subgroups do you belong to?

Ami: I subscribe to Marketing, Finance & Accounting, Human Resources, Arts, Wine Time, DineTime and Golf.

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

Ami: I have occasionally volunteered for the 2nd Thursday events, where I have been on door duty and a PrimeTime 'Ambassador'.

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

Ami: This is my second stint in Singapore and both times I found work through PrimeTime! The ability to meet like-minded women and the insight/exposure into so many different industries is great.

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

Ami: They are all interesting and inspiring, however I particularly enjoyed Claire Chiang of the Banyan Tree and Yvonne McNulty.

Thank you Ami!