

of goods and services and creation of jobs. I still get a thrill out of seeing it all happen.

BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN SINGAPORE?

The convenience and connectivity Singapore has with the rest of the world. Changi Airport is a wonder.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

I was a sales assistant at a large department store. But nothing 'cool' like the menswear or toys' department. They put me in dinnerware and (during the festive season) the Christmas decorations department. I became quite good at recognising sets of plates and decorations.



MICHAEL FELLER

SECOND SECRETARY, ECONOMIC AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION

WHAT IS YOUR TOP TIP FOR ASPIRING YOUNG BUSINESS PEOPLE?

Get out and network widely. Everyone says this but it can't be overemphasised. Further, a lot of the best advances in your career happen by serendipity. For serendipity to happen, however, you need to get out there!

HOW DO YOU THINK ORGANISATIONS AND MANAGEMENT WILL CHANGE (OR SHOULD CHANGE) WITH MILLENNIALS COMING INTO THE WORKFORCE?

So-called millennials aren't all the same – what group of people ever is? – but there is a tendency in this generation to be very independent, very ambitious and very forthright. Sometimes this can appear quite brash, but millennials at the same time can be the most hardworking and innovative employees you can have.

As millennials go from being the upstarts to the ones on top (it's already happened in Silicon Valley) expect change to become the constant in your organisation. 'That's the way we've always done things' will be increasingly less heard, but all the better because the world as a whole is rapidly changing as well. The 'annoying' tendency to move on and change things, seen in Gen Y, will become a virtue. In an increasingly globalised and dynamic world, if you don't keep moving you'll be run over!

DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY?

There's no typical day in my work. I could be writing a report on the Chinese economy in the morning, meeting a counterpart at another embassy for lunch, working on a bilateral investment program in the afternoon, helping an Australian food exporter in the evening and then speaking at a function later. Somewhere in that day there's likely to be an AustCham event too!

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN SINGAPORE?

The best thing about living in Singapore is the weather. I wouldn't have said that in my first few weeks here, but once you get used to the heat (you need to try a couple of nights without conditioning first) you learn to love it. A year without winter is something you can easily get used to. My colleagues in cold Canberra do never want to hear about it though.

“IN AN INCREASINGLY GLOBALISED AND DYNAMIC WORLD, IF YOU DON'T KEEP MOVING YOU'LL BE RUN OVER”

Michael Feller on the virtues of Gen Y's attitude to business.

Developing your director career?

If you want a board position, you need to be prepared. This practical workshop will explore strategies to help you take the next steps in your director career.

Developing your Director Career
Tuesday 26 April 2016, Shanghai
Wednesday 27 April 2016, Hong Kong
Thursday 28 April 2016, Singapore

To find out more and enrol +61 8 9320 1709
w: companydirectors.com.au/events

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
of COMPANY DIRECTORS