

DigiPodcast Ep.29 Transcript ENG

Intro: The DigiPodcast. Digital Trends in Supply Chain Management.

Thomas Holzner

Hello and Welcome to our DigiPodcast. I am Thomas Holzner, from Siemens DigiNetwork with the DigiPodcast. The podcast and digital innovative topics for procurement in the future. Today we add GDP to our podcast series about the global development program. It's for talents at SCM, here another episode. And today we have a very interesting international global citizen as a guest. Cyrus Irani, head of Enterprise Services Finance for Siemens Healthineers in Tokyo. He will share some insights on how a program like this worked for him. Hello, Cyrus. Nice to have you here with us.

Cyrus Irani

Hey, Thomas. Thanks for having me. Really excited to record today's podcast with a real podcast veteran such as you. I appreciate the opportunity.

Thomas Holzner

Thanks, Cyrus, that you agreed to produce a podcast with us because I know Cyrus, I think since 2016, because at the time I was the coach for the GDP and Cyrus was one of the front runners of the GDP, and I always enjoyed working together with him because he's really global. I think he has a kind of background from Persia, from India, from Bavaria, living in Japan, married with a Japanese wife. I think he has kids, and he is traveling back and forth up and down all across Asia. And what's amazing, he has always a very nice and dry sense of humor. So, Cyrus, I hope this was not too detailed about you because we would like to know from, you now, a quick overview, what is the GDP for the new listeners and what kind of benefits you took away.

Cyrus Irani

Very flattering introduction. Thank you for that. I need to admit though, with two small kids, traveling has been now refocused more on Japan than in Asia lately. Well, okay, let me try to summarize the GDP question. The GDP at SCM is part of the Siemens AG potentially development program, PDP is a two-year program, a membership for procurement professionals and talents that want to contribute to the procurement network beyond what they do today. And of course, who and which are looking for a network that provides visibility in a certain development potential. Moreover, and this is very interesting, the program runs autonomously, meaning membership runs via self-nomination, and the members of this program are responsible for driving and evolving it. Each are in the program, such as you have been in the past. Modi support when needed. And there is one thing I can never stress too often, it's that terminology such as diversity or global international environment come to life in this program. And this is something I personally was very impressed with. Now, I think you also asked about the benefits that I have gained from this program.

This is maybe a little harder to summarize. First of all, it is maybe the easiest answer. I was offered a new job to join a membership and move from a Siemens AG to Siemens Healthineers procurement. That job is actually helped me develop from procurement into risk management to finance where I am today. Hence, I really have a great appreciation among others towards this program as it has really helped me develop and evolve during and beyond the program. Secondly, along with an unbelievably valuable network across all different areas of procurement, I have also gained incredibly personal relationships and friendships. Sometimes, when focusing purely on business, this aspect is often neglected. But I think this is very important. Thirdly, I have learned about the benefits diversity and inclusion can bring to a group which is helping me today in my role as a DENI Ambassador. The GDP literally embodies DNI, and I believe that it is the reason the program has steadily evolved over the last years and is now a recognized foundation of the ASEAN community. Last but not least, I had the pleasure to have Jens Eckard as my mentor for the two years and even beyond. And I think my regular mentor/mentee exchanges have helped me gain important new perspectives and insights of someone who has not spent his whole career in procurement but started his career in finance. So, I actually believe that this is also one of the reasons I thought to myself, why not do the other way around and move from procurement to finance in the near future? In case the answers listening to this podcast. Thanks again, Jens. You see, our talks have not come to nothing and please continue being a mentor and inspire others as well. This has been a great experience for me.

Thomas Holzner

I think that's a very comprehensive summary. From mentorship to international experience to a global network. And I noticed this when I talk with also former and current GDP members. One lady from Siemens Healthineers got appointed, I think last week, and she was happy and proud, like now we know why. So, from your point of view, is it now a stepping stone for more or less young SCM talents?

Cyrus Irani

Well, first of all, we remind all GDP members that this should be a two-way street, right? As a member, your motivation should be to contribute to the program and safeguard its existence. In return, the GDP can and will provide certain means such as mentoring as I mentioned before, visibility to the organization. For example, by working on real life projects coming from the organization or countries, by being part of the World Conference and the program will provide the opportunity for learning and networking. Let it be within the GDP group itself or with colleagues from the SCM community. Nonetheless, there is one thing the GDP can't do. It can't develop its members. Each member has to proactively get involved in order to make use of what the GDP has to offer. He or she needs to set their own direction for development of or whatever other reason they may have joined this program. I strongly believe that members who have been utilizing the means smartly have actually achieved the next step they were looking and hoping for. So yes, it can help boost your career and personal development, but it does require own additional effort.

Thomas Holzner

Thanks. So, we are back to the ownership of yourself. It's a support, but you have to do something. And you did a lot because you are not with SCM anymore but with Siemens Healthineers in Japan. Can you give us some insights on how your daily business looks like work wise and Japan culture wise?

Cyrus Irani

When I moved back to Japan six years ago, I started off in a procurement role. But as mentioned before, eventually I wanted to move into finance. Hence, I took a sidestep into risk and internal control and one and a half years ago I then moved into my current role as the finance head of our Enterprise Service Division. Well, now I'm sure you are interested in what enterprise service does, right?

Thomas Holzner

Yes.

Cyrus Irani

But even even if not, I'm still going to tell you.

Thomas Holzner

Thanks.

Cyrus Irani

Just in a nutshell, we from enterprise services, we deliver system wide solutions to healthcare providers to increase value in the organizations by improving outcome and reducing costs. We basically offer providers a comprehensive portfolio of products and value-added services, including digitally enabled services or consulting services. But sorry, let's get back to your question. As much as I enjoyed the procurement community and all the different jobs I have performed over the years, I need to admit that I'm currently also very happy in my new position. So, if you asked me about my day-to-day business, I feel that the dynamic is different than in my former jobs. In my current role, I need to communicate with frontline, with sales. bit managers, with banks on financing schemes, and with backend departments on contractual topics, accounting and else. So as much as it has been always very satisfying and rewarding to generate savings, or as we like to say, CNI booking in order, generating revenue just feels like a different sort of thrill for me right now.

Thomas Holzner

Yeah, I'm totally convinced that you are able and willing to adapt because when we had the projects at the GDP, you were always quite flexible. But I think what I really admired always straight ahead and that's interesting in Japanese culture.

Cyrus Irani

I mean, culture is always a very sensitive topic. It requires open mindedness and willing to accept differences. Same applies, obviously to Japan. I mean, standard case, western interpretation of Japanese gestures and mimic is not necessarily in line with the message that Japanese wants to convey. So, I feel that especially in interpersonal relationships, intercultural sensitivity is of high importance. And often I need to remind myself also not to be too clumsy at times. As one of very few foreigners in my company, I think I have a certain level of freedom to continue valuing what is important to me. But on the other hand, I don't want to be seen as the foreigner who doesn't adapt. So, it's a little bit of a balancing act. Would last years do our company steady the evolving meaning we are promoting DENI trying to improve work life balance and decided topics where I can proactively support and promote a different mindset and also try to lead by example.

Thomas Holzner

Regarding culture, I think you have one big advantage you have a strong mentor at home. I don't know how much it helped, but what I learned so far from you, you never needed help because you are quite straight, quite smart, quite clever. And I don't feel it's bad that you move to finance because now we have an ambassador who understands procurement in the area that we need. Because without sales, no procurement.

Cyrus Irani

I'm glad you see it the same way, Thomas. I think it is very important that the view from procurement diversify and spread our knowledge and especially spread the importance of procurement within our company.

Thomas Holzner

Cyrus, thanks a lot for these Insights regarding business and GDP. Now we are coming to my last but not least and most favorite question. Who is Cyrus Irani?

Cyrus Irani

Thanks Thomas, save the most difficult for last right. I am a husband. I am a father of two wonderful small boys. I am a foodie. I am a supporter of the soccer club Werder Bremen. I love to work, but I also value my private life and ensure having a family time. I used to be a nomad, moving locations frequently, but now six years in Japan is by far the longest I have lived anywhere after high school, and I am someone who continuously seeks and longs for new experiences. And as of today, I have concluded my very first podcast attendance. So, thank you very much for that.

Thomas Holzner

Cyrus. It was a pleasure. I'm totally convinced that this is not your last step in your career. Well, I'm quite curious and I will watch which places in the world you will discover. I'm totally convinced it won't be the Oberpfalz, because that's the recording place we have today. So, we have Munich, the Oberpfalz and Tokyo. Siemens, again, totally global with great people. Thanks to Cyrus for sharing and thanks to our listeners. I hope you enjoyed this episode of the Digi Podcast. If you have questions or if you want to find out more information about the Digi network reach out to our internet page [siemens.com/diginetwork](https://www.siemens.com/diginetwork) or search at LinkedIn for the blog Digi network. I'm looking forward having you as a listener at our next episode yours Thomas from the DigiNetwork, goodbye.

Outro: The DigiPodcast. Digital Trends in Supply Chain Management.