Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network,

As we are approaching April at a rapid pace, you can merely wonder how the weather can continue to treat us so badly. March has been the most rain full month ever since we started measuring rain in Denmark. Thankfully spring is coming which means it’s time to ditch the umbrella and put on your favorite pair of sunglasses.

As mentioned in our latest Newsletter, April has a lot to offer. First of all we will all celebrate Easter in the middle of April. That means a few days off from work and school and time to meet up with your favorite people and share a big meal. At least that’s how Danes do it. You might have your own traditions celebrating Easter—or maybe you don’t celebrate it at all, either way Copenhagen has a lot to offer, especially if you have kids.

International House Copenhagen will host “Easter Fun” on the 14th from 2-4 pm. Here you will get an insight as to how Danes celebrate Easter and it will be a blast for you and your kids.

Many museums will have special Easter attractions and Tivoli will be full of decorations and chocolate eggs for everyone to enjoy. There are plenty of ways to explore the Danish Easter traditions. Here are a few options written in English.

When the sun decides to make an entry there are many parks and gardens in Copenhagen to enjoy. One of the biggest is Valbyparken. It is located in Sydhavnen and is neighbor to Sydhavnstippen—where you can see llamas and sheep living in the wild. Valbyparken is a huge park with all sorts of flora. You can play disc golf, take a swim in the ocean, your kids can play on the big playground or you can just go for a long walk and breathe it all in. It has an endless list of options.

If you just can’t get enough of plants you should check out the Sakura Festival. Here is the top 3 places to go and enjoy the beautiful Cherry Blossoms in Copenhagen. The annual Sakura Festival takes place in Langelinie Park on 27-28th of April.

On the 29th of March, Reffen opens up for a new season. Reffen is located on the far north of Amager with a view of Langelinie and Sweden. It has an abundance of food stands of all kind and it has a cozy and chill vibe. Whatever your taste buds desire, you can get it at Reffen!

Remember, that you are always welcome to visit us in International House—we have coffee and tea ready for you.

See you soon!

Mary K. Kobia and Mark de Vos

“Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever.”

Charles Lamb

“Spring would not be spring without bird songs.”

Francis M. Chapman
Dual Career Newsletter

Spotlight: Volunteering is networking!

Rahul Oswal
From India

MBA, Marketing and Finance
Senior Business Credit and Compliance Specialist at Nordea

How long did it take for you to find a job in DK? It took me about a year to find a job of my choice, matching my experience and qualifications.

What has been most challenging about your job search? The most challenging aspects of my job search were to identify my particular skills that is in demand in Denmark and to learn Danish and scale it up to a level where I could make small conversations.

How has IDCN helped you? IDCN has helped me, both professionally and personally. Professionally, it gave me a network and helped me in making an effective job-hunting strategy. As Vice President of IDCN I got the opportunity to address about 100 spouses and various corporate partners in Maersk and DTU events. This helped me improve my public speaking skills. Personally, IDCN gave me an opportunity to meet new people who were in the same position as me and could relate. We connected well and I have made some good friends for life.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview? To my surprise all my Danish job interviews were open and candid conversations both about me and the job. It made me feel comfortable and brought out the best in me.

What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview? Smile and relax. Be yourself. No matter if you get the job or not, you will gain experience from the interview.

What kept you going when things didn’t turn out the way you expected? My wife and few good friends supported me during tough times; Danish classes kept me busy and regular exercise made me feel positive.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in Denmark, what advice do you have to give to other spouses? Although it was a challenging and difficult year, I have learned so much. When you face difficult times you learn things. Which you would have never learned in normal settled life. My suggestions for other spouses would be:

1. Be open and take initiatives to interact with locals. Be proactive to learn new things and do not hesitate to approach and interact with local people.
2. Be patient and positive. This might sound very cliché but it’s true. If you feel depressed, watch motivational videos, read inspiring stories and most importantly believe in yourself.
3. Create your network, involve yourself in volunteering, join a club/association, and engage in small talks with your neighbours. You never know where your next job opportunity comes from.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop: Stress in your expat life: How to detect and manage it?
April 5th 2019, 9:00-12:30 (light sandwich lunch)
Dr. Nadya Dich is a stress researcher and educator. She has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Cornell University, USA. She studies the interplay between stress, emotions and health in children and adults. Register here.

International Spouse Career Lunch
April 23rd 2019, 10:00-13:00 (with delicious lunch and time to talk with other spouses)
Hands on approach to LinkedIn. Come and get inspired as to how you can use LinkedIn as a strategic tool.
Morten Esmann is a LinkedIn expert and Career Consultant.
Register here.

Workshop: Reach your highest potential in life: How to make your dreams come true
April 24th 2019, 9:00-12:30 (light sandwich lunch)
Starting a new life in a new country can be a golden opportunity to turn it around and make it happen! Make your dream come true and fulfil your truest potential! Register here.

Nordea is one of the top ten banks in Europe. The bank operates in 20 different countries. There are 9,3 million private costumers and 572.000 corporate costumers.

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