Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

Winter really kicked in, it is February! Take out your warmest clothes and be ready to embrace Denmark at its best. Try to be part of one of the Fæstelavns (Carnaval) festivities - especially if you have kids. You can read more about it in one of our previous newsletters.

To beat the darkness, Copenhagen Light Festival lights up Copenhagen again in February. The harbour and city spaces are lit up by great light experiences from Nordhavn to Ørestad. There will be light on dark drifting clouds, beautiful old buildings, architectural squares, the city's canals, and other city spaces. There will be 35-40 light installations. You can go experience them by yourself or join one of the festival’s guided tours by Segway, in canal boats, in kayaks, as well as regular guided walks.

If you prefer to stay indoors, do check out the Dining Week Festival, where you can eat at more than 200 quality Danish restaurants. What they all have in common is that they serve a three-course menu for just DKK 215 per person. All of these menus are specially made for the festival, so you won't find it outside this week. It is not only in Copenhagen that you will find restaurants to choose from. The concept goes beyond Copenhagen limits.

If you are also into drinking, on 15-17 February Copenhagen Gin Festival invites you to taste your way around 71 stands with gin, food, snacks and tonics. With 10,000 m2 of festival, there is plenty to choose from. You can try lots different types of gin and cocktails as well as delicious snacks and dishes.

Besides (candle) light, eating and drinking, music can also light up your February. Vinterjazz is a nationwide music festival that takes place in February each year. The festival spans three weeks featuring more than 600 concerts, 100 venues and 25 independent organizers from all across Denmark – from Aalborg, Aarhus, Odense and Esbjerg to the historic jazz capital of Copenhagen. The combination of the festival’s length and the countrywide aspect makes Vinterjazz an opportunity to meet international stars on tour, new Danish award-winning projects and concert themes.

So there are plenty of things to do, to survive the cold and dark month of February in Denmark 😊.

We would also like to invite you to our cozy and warm attic in International House, to meet Charanya Venkatesh from India, Kenia Rodriguez from USA, Kostas Tsirigos from Switzerland, Sakun Suwal from Nepal, Wenjie Ku from China, and Dominic Soh from Australia, who will give you some good input on mental resilience.

See you soon!

Mary K. Kobia and Mark de Vos

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UPCOMING EVENTS (FREE OF CHARGE)

- CPH Light Festival
  1-24 February

- Leisure Guidance & Networking
  4 February
  17:00 - 19:00

- Danish Traditions
  19 February
  17:00 - 19:00

INTERNATIONAL STAFF MOBILITY

WELCOME TO NEW SPOUSES

- Charanya Venkatesh
  India

- Kenia Rodriguez
  USA

- Kostas Tsirigos
  Switzerland

- Sakun Suwal
  Nepal

- Wenjie Ku
  China

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"There is always in February some one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer."

Gertrude Jekyll
How long did it take for you to find a job in DK? I have been living in Copenhagen since November 2018. It took me 10 months, 2 interviews and countless applications to find my current job.

What has been most challenging about your job search? The most challenging for me was – How can I make the recruiter to trust me and believe in me so that they can give me a chance? A culture change was another aspect that I had to adapt to with respect to how things work in the Danish job market.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview? I was surprised to see that the job interview was informal. 20% of the time we spoke about Denmark and the weather. We laughed, made jokes and when we were serious, we were down to the core of seriousness.

How has volunteering for the International Dual Career Network (IDCN) helped you? IDCN has been my go-to platform whenever I would hit upon a challenge in my job search. This is because IDCN is for people who are like me, all of us there are in the same boat and we learn from each other.

IDCN has a lot of benefits; Friendships, support from mentors and a diverse atmosphere where I got to know about life in other countries, and more importantly, I got to meet corporate representatives who helped me fine-tune my job search. IDCN is also the first place where I found friends here in Denmark. Moving to a new country is hard and meeting people felt good. It felt never like work for me at IDCN, it was mostly fun and more fun!

What kept you going when things didn’t turn out the way you expected? My wife is my greatest support. A quote that she and myself share – If it is 100m to the destination and I walk 1km everyday, it takes 100 days to reach my destination. If I walk 2km everyday, it will take 50 days to reach my destination. Similarly, the faster I go out, apply, meet people, fail, learn, and grow – the quicker is my chances to get a job.

What are you most excited about doing in your new job? I am excited about new projects and learning. It is exciting to see how corporates and universities work together. This is a way to learn more, and now I can learn more and contribute to the society at large.

What is your best advice to someone new how is job seeking? The best thing that one can do for a job interview is be themselves. Go with an intention of ‘What I can give’ rather than ‘I need this job’. It took me sometime myself to change my way of thinking, but later I realised its important.

Thyrolytics is a Swedish medtech start-up that develops a first-of-its-kind diagnostic device for measuring thyroid hormones.

UPCOMING CAREER EVENTS

Facilitator
Dominic Soh
International Resilience Trainer and TEDx Speaker

5th February
10:00 - 13:00
Develop Mental Resilience for Success and Overcoming Adversity!

Why do some people thrive under pressure while others crumble? Why is it relevant at all to have mental resilience and how do you develop your “mental six-pack”? These questions and many more will all be answered, at this unique event where we have the pleasure of meeting Dominic Soh an author, international trainer and TEDx speaker, and has spoken in the U.S., Australia, Asia and Africa.

Registration

Facilitator
Mary K. Kobia
Dual Career Consultant

22nd February
09:30 -11:30
Public Speaking and Presentations: What are the Dos and Don’ts? Feel free to join this informal and cozy event where you will get the opportunity to network with other like-minded professionals and get inspiration on how you can elevate your communication skills!

Registration

Find out more about other upcoming events using this link.