

For several years I have been approached by women who are either logisticians in the private sector or have taken or graduated from humanitarian logistics training but find it nearly impossible to get a job in the humanitarian sector because many jobs require previous experience. While I believe that there are some jobs that require experience, such as being in front-line logistics, I wonder how those without it can be given a chance to gain the necessary experience.

Some of you may have found it easy to start your career in logistics and supply chain and we would like to hear from you. This is critical as some of us plan to hang up our boots in the near future and it is important to ensure there is a new breed of young talent to pass the baton to.

The question that has been on my mind for some time is how can we best support their ambition, inspire and mentor them and help them to see the whole world (beyond their current areas of expertise and knowledge) as their territory for achievement and be part of a noble cause?

I am planning a compilation of 20 to 30 short stories (of about 3-4 pages each) about ordinary men and women who have worked hard and succeeded in their respective fields and whom they can relate to. If you are, or have been, involved in humanitarian logistics or supply chain then I want to hear from you. Are you willing to participate in this project?

Should you decide to participate I require a short story of your life that touches on your childhood, education, training, employment and family life. It should include your key achievements and the critical lessons of what it took for you to succeed in your life and career. Later I will ask those whose stories are selected to provide me with one or two photographs to be included. Stories should be around 2,000 words (max 2,500) and must be submitted by the end of November 2009. For examples see <http://www.wise.uk.net/stories.php>.

By early 2010, I intend to provide the publication to download from the WISE website. Later I hope to find a publisher to provide hard-copies. Any profits will be used to finance a WISE conference.

I am mulling over possible titles and would welcome any ideas you may have. This publication will provide aspiring logisticians with a ready source of inspiration and role models to guide their careers. As a participant, you will receive a copy of the book for your own records.

Please send all your correspondences to:

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