



Ruschlikon

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A Day in the Life of Dietmar Meyer, Ruschlikon Steering Committee Group Member

My name is Dietmar Meyer and I am Head of Technical Accounting at Munich Re in Munich. I am also a member of the Ruschlikon Steering Committee.



Describe your typical working day

In my daily work as a manager, I am responsible for all Technical Accounting issues including all payment transactions with our clients (cedents, brokers and retrocessionaires) and intercompany business with our subsidiaries, ensuring proper postings, reconciliations and delivering quality service to our clients. In addition, I am responsible for Munich Re's General Accounting (travel expense, creditors and debtors) section.

One of my main tasks is to automate processes as far as possible. I am involved in several internal projects in this respect, partly as project member, partly as project sponsor or overseeing them as a Steering Committee member. Therefore, communication with stakeholders and staff members is a big part of my daily business. The biggest challenge in communication is not the visibility of technical possibilities but to meet expectations when merging new technologies with legacy systems. Also the change in mindset consumes time in discussions and communications.

Focusing on automation in the Technical Accounting arena also means to cooperate closely with people from primary insurers, brokers and other reinsurers to push for common data and process standards. For example, there is close cooperation with Acord for the Ruschlikon initiative and B3i (Blockchain). A reliable global network grew over the years as we figured out that data exchange in the reinsurance business could be highly standardized on a global basis. However this requires joint efforts to spread over the various markets and strive for efficiency in a still too much paper based industry. At Munich Re, this requires the global roll-out of our IT system to all branch offices and subsidiaries. Therefore, I often travel to different locations all over the world. However, it is clear that several activities have to be covered by a business trip, e.g. roll-out topics, management meetings, Ruschlikon meetings and of course client meetings.

There are both rewarding positives and challenges to business travel. Being present in a local office gives me the opportunity to experience the local office culture and obtain an understanding of local needs and concerns. However as with all business travel, it is hard work, especially as you are always on the go – whether it be from the plane to the hotel, to meetings, or to business dinners, leaving limited personal time for relaxation and leisure. Additionally as we work in a global environment, regular calls with head office at strange hours add to the challenge.

Despite often running on adrenalin, I am grateful for the opportunities to forge better working relationships with colleagues and clients; and also the chance to experience different cultures/ lifestyles. Of course fitting in some leisure activities where possible (even if the weather does not cooperate) is a bonus!



JUST FOR FUN



Several years ago, my wife and I looked for sporting activities which we could do together. As we both love to travel, we wanted to combine those sports with our travels. Running, cycling or other endurance sports were out of question due to different physical shapes. So finally we ended up with playing golf. We both enjoy it because you can play all over the world according to the same rules and habits.

Plus: it's a real challenge to control yourself. I am an impatient person when things don't move in the direction I want and golf helps me in learning humbleness. Honestly, I have to say that I am not really good in this (neither when golfing nor in my professional life), but hope dies last.

Day in the Life is a special feature produced by the Ruschlikon Marketing Group introducing various members of the Ruschlikon Group to the community. We think you will find it interesting to discover what they are working on and find out more about them as a person. If you'd like to be featured in A Day in the Life, please contact Melanie at ACORD mharding@acord.org