

IFLP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The IFLP series 2 has delivered an exceptional programme of leadership development, not just for the future but with real impact today. Working with Sarah and the rest of the cohort has been not only insightful and challenging but has also been immense fun. The various speakers have inspired me to set focused time for thinking, ensure I make the conditions for performance optimization, and developed my leadership skills. I have grown my understanding of innovation in business; both what “counts” and how we can create the best environment for innovation. As we face increased future uncertainty the development offered by this programme helps set us up for ongoing growth and success.

Objectives / Business Challenge

- With a leadership role in Procurement and Supply Chain in a global manufacturing company the pandemic brought unprecedented challenge in managing supply.
- This environment led me to question if we could have done things differently. As my business challenge I chose to address “what learnings Knauf could take following the pandemic. Could we look ahead to pre-empt future issues and enable better preparedness or response to changing situations.”
- In addition to my business challenge, and as this programme is about personal leadership development and innovation, I wanted to increase my coaching skills, broaden my industry knowledge, and understand how innovation applied in my workplace.

Key Insights

About mid-way through the sessions Nic Suggit from the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office delivered a workshop on strategic thinking, scenarios and back-casting.

Despite being a tough session stretching my thinking, the introduced technique seemed to be the “perfect solution” for my business challenge.

However, the real challenge was bringing the learnings from IFLP to life in my organisation.

Leading my colleagues in a session with innovative thinking no-boundaries ideation and totally unfamiliar concept required trying out new techniques as well as getting uncomfortably excited, risking failure and a strong belief in the “why”.

Several of the other guest speakers influenced here – managing energy and environment to optimize performance from Ash Wallace, understanding thinking and fun by Kirk Vallis and Philip Bond. Most importantly the self-belief and accountability that being part of IFLP brought to me.