

PORTRAIT ROLAND DONZÉ

# Internationality united: JCI & Rochester-Bern Executive MBA

Roland Donzé is a JCI member and current student of the Rochester-Bern Executive MBA Program. He identifies many similarities between the two: «JCI is an international organization for young leaders and entrepreneurs. The Rochester-Bern Executive MBA Program provides precisely that audience with a professional and personal horizon broadening on international level. Leadership skills are developed, nurtured and formed.»

When Roland Donzé (37) took over the position as Deputy CEO and Chief Credit/Lending Officer at the BANK EKI Genossenschaft, he got regularly involved in projects and decisions requiring more management knowledge, improved leadership and problem solving skills plus a broader strategic thinking than in his previous role as relationship manager. With that in mind and high interest in internationality, he decided to apply for the Rochester-Bern Executive MBA Program which was recommended to him by colleagues and fellow JCI members. Roland comments his choice as follows: «Among others, the Rochester-Bern Executive MBA Program convinces with well-structured and integrated courses, a good cost-benefit relation, trustworthy institutions, and an international accredited dual degree.»

In November 2009, Roland met his class mates for the very first



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time during the preparation courses. Like his JCI Interlaken LOM, the class consists of people from different educational, functional and industrial backgrounds. The variation highly enriches discussions and improves the learning factor. Since participants do not only benefit from professors and books, but also from fellow students, the class is divided into study teams. «In the first team, I had the pleasure to collaborate together with a Risk Manager, a BLS Head of Corporate Development, a Head of Administration & Legal from the automotive industry, and a founder of a culture marketing firm.» To assure interaction and variation, the teams are reshuffled after the Rochester stay. In the current team, Roland works with a SBB Director of Sales&Marketing, a Head of Corporate Affairs from

the tobacco industry and an After-Sales Director from the machinery industry.

Classes start in January and meet biweekly on Fridays and Saturdays until the end of May in Switzerland. The students then spend an intensive summer residency of six weeks at the University of Rochester. «The Rochester stay is one of the highlights of the program. For one and a half months you live the life of an American student.» On the first day of school, students are shown around the campus and then start with the first courses. «The professors impress with immense knowledge and practice examples from the US as well as the rest of the world. Each professor is in his own manner very interesting and competent, and they all highly appreciate the exchange with the students.»

After the Rochester summer period, instruction continues in Switzerland from mid-August onwards. In April 2011, a study week in Shanghai completes the educational experience. Roland is very much looking forward to travelling to China. «Asia is an emerging market with a huge capacity for development, making it an extremely interesting place.» The



Roland Donzé, member of the JCI Interlaken and current student of the Rochester-Bern Executive MBA Program

The Rochester-Bern Executive MBA Program in a nutshell:

- 1) Dual university degree: U.S. MBA degree from the University of Rochester (accredited by AACSB) and EMBA degree from the Universität Bern.
- 2) International MBA degree without career interruption: Schedule is compatible with the business and family responsibilities of executives.
- 3) Long-standing experience: General management programs with a focus on finance since 1966. Continuous adaption to the needs of students and companies.

trip to Asia is the concluding highlight of the program which lasts 18 months. Graduation will take place in June 2011. Looking back to the first semester, Roland concludes: «The Rochester-Bern Executive MBA Program promises to change the way you think – I am still in the middle of the program but can confirm that I have already changed the way I think. JCI and Rochester-Bern match perfectly, they both foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences on international level.»

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