

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER/DIRECTOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: DEEPAK MENON, DTM

Candidate's Office: IMMEDIATE PAST REGION ADVISOR Region Number: 13

Toastmasters member since: 2002

Education:
B. Com. (Hons.); Chartered Accountant (CPA)

Employer and/or position: Partner, J.P., Kapur & Uberai, Chartered Accountants

Served as district governor of district number 82 Term of service: 2009-2010

In term as district governor, district achieved: Distinguished Select Distinguished President's Distinguished

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service (international and regional level):
Region Advisor, Region 13, 2011-12 (year ended with three districts President's Distinguished and one Select Distinguished)

Toastmasters honors and recognition (international level):
Distinguished Toastmaster (Five times); President's Distinguished District Award 2009-10 (D82); Club Extension Award 2009-10 (D82); Leadership Excellence Award 2009-10 (D82); Excellence in Education & Training Award 2008-09 (D82); Excellence in Marketing Award 2007-08 (D82)
(District 82 was # 1 in the world in all three years: 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10)

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a Board member:
I have been practicing as a Chartered Accountant since 1985 and have been serving as a partner in a professional accounting firm since 1986. The firm has nine partners and about sixty employees, comprising both qualified professionals and support staff. I have varied clientele who seek my services for business growth and development and strategic planning. In addition, my role as partner has helped me develop entrepreneurial and administrative skills. All of these skills will help me perform my functions as a Board member.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?
Every successful business requires strategic planning. In my professional capacity I have assisted many small and large businesses in planning strategy as well as helped in implementing it. I specialize in international taxation, direct taxes, cross border taxation and transfer pricing. I have helped develop taxation strategy for many multinational clients who have set up business in India that has held them in good stead. In addition, I have also been involved in developing long-term strategy for my own firm.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?
As a student of commerce and finance and as a practicing Chartered Accountant, I have been dealing in matters of finance since over thirty years. Effective financial planning is a prerequisite for any successful enterprise and I have assisted many clients in this area. Also, for three years as part of the district trio, I helped manage the finances of a geographically large district and gained significant insights in Toastmasters budgeting and finance.

What experience do you have in developing policies?

Every business must set out clear policies to avoid ambiguity. I have helped many clients, both commercial and not-for-profit entities, in developing policies for various aspects of their businesses including those for finance, accounting, human resources and administration.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

I have learnt that leadership is all about people. As a leader it is essential to understand the needs of the people and the organization and to bring harmony between these two needs. The other aspect I have learnt of leadership is to empower your team so that they also learn essential leadership skills and grow into effective leaders. Finally, as a leader it is important to have clear vision and values that should be kept in focus every step of the way.

What experience and key strengths would you bring to the Board of Directors?

As a professional accountant, I have served as a consultant to fledgling and mature businesses using my long-standing experience in strategic and financial management. As a Toastmaster who has served at both district and international levels, I have learnt in-depth of how the Toastmasters program functions and how it benefits the world at large. These combined experiences will be of immense help to serve as a member of the Board to help implement its strategic plan.

Why do you want to serve as an international officer/director?

When I joined Toastmasters ten years ago it was with the intention of developing my communication skills. Over time I have gained much more than I had bargained for thanks to all those who have helped me in my journey. I have the requisite knowledge, experience and skills. I feel I am now equipped to pay back to the movement all that I have gained from it. Serving as a director would allow me to do just that.

What volunteer experience do you have outside of Toastmasters?

I am an active member of both my school and college alumni societies. I have served a three-year term as the Secretary of the Old Columbans Association (OCA), my school alumni society, comprising of about 10,000 members. As part of the OCA Executive Committee I have helped develop policies and procedures for the society. I was also a part of the core team that helped organize an alumni event that was attended by over 3,000 persons.

Have you worked with other Boards of Directors outside of Toastmasters? If so, describe your experience.

In addition to serving as a partner in my accounting firms, I am presently a non-executive director on the Board of a number of companies that have diverse businesses such as hospitality, real estate development, publishing and financial consulting. I am also the Chairman of a not-for-profit organization that has as its objective providing education and other aid to the underprivileged.

In your opinion, what are Toastmasters International's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

In my opinion the main objectives are to spread the benefit of Toastmasters to the largest number of people and to ensure that members gain these benefits through a robust educational program that helps them become better leaders and communicators. I will help in developing long term marketing strategies as well as assist in improving the educational program to promote high quality meetings and retention of members.

Additional information about candidate:

In the past one year I have worked with the US Government in conducting the Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program across six cities in India for 700 underprivileged youth involving over 100 Toastmasters. This also attracted significant press coverage and built awareness about Toastmasters in these cities.