

“You need to upgrade yourself” – Micheal Hensley

When Micheal Hensley won the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT NZ) Young Achiever of the Year award in 2009, his employer at the time said he was “a proven candidate to develop future leadership in the industry”. How right they were.

The award – made annually by CILT NZ – recognises outstanding individuals under the age of 35 who are actively involved in the day-to-day operation and development of transport and/or logistics in New Zealand. They must have demonstrated leadership and/or organisational skills, creativeness and professionalism. At the time, Micheal was working as a regional training advisor for the Tranzqual industry training organisation, and successfully delivered a new training programme for young people entering the freight forwarding industry – a first of its kind in New Zealand at the time.

He then represented New Zealand at the CILT global conference in 2010 in Malta where he took out the CILT International Young Achiever of the Year award, beating nominees from Asia, Africa, Europe and Oceania.

Exceptional programme

Throughout these career highlights, Micheal was studying for the CILT UK Professional Diploma in Logistics and Transport through the Logistics Training Group (LTG). “I started the programme in 2008,” he says. “I recall shopping around for a programme that was (a) practical, and (b) internationally recognised. I looked at various options run by New Zealand universities, but the LTG programme stood out the most. The programme structure, training content, and the CD-ROM containing the business merger case study were exceptional.”

Micheal completed the diploma in 2010, achieving the Top Student award in the diploma programme from among all that year’s graduates taught through LTG. He says his career then took off in leaps and bounds. “Walter Glass, the LTG course director, had warned us that would happen – and it did,” he comments.

After leaving Tranzqual, Micheal worked as a logistics manager for UTi Worldwide in Auckland, took on a brief warehouse consolidation project with 5Star Distribution (part of the TNL Group), and then moved to his current position as supply/logistics manager for Huawei Technologies, a global leader within the telecommunication industry and supplier of both commercial public-use telecoms networks and end-user devices. The company, which was established in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China, in 1987, has over 110,000 employees worldwide, with an average age of just 29.

Highly complex

Working for Huawei Technologies is a demanding and challenging role. “I have to plan, implement and manage supply and logistics solutions to support the new build and upgrade of various telecommunication infrastructure projects,” Micheal explains. “Being a project-based business and sourcing from third parties around the globe, our supply and logistics models are highly complex. For instance, ‘last mile’ deliveries might have to utilise helicopters, quad bikes with trailers, tractors, and cranes. And these all have to be coordinated amongst the build subcontractors.”

He cites the network build for 2Degrees as a standout project. “We used two main warehouses – one in the North Island, the other in the South Island – and



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14 regional depots. The speed of deployment was critical, and so too the regional support we had to provide to our subcontractors. Juggling this flexibility with a lean/cost-down strategy was no easy feat. In a project like this, you learn a lot about the various complexities involved with an end-to-end supply chain,” he adds.

Micheal Hensley: “Take a proactive approach to your self-development and you will reap the rewards”

Experience is not enough

Micheal credits the diploma programme for providing the foundation from which his career has progressed. “I’ve always said to be a successful and effective logistician you need to be creative, analytical, practical – and educated!” he says.

“I believe professionals need to look at themselves as a piece of machinery. To keep up with the ever-changing environment, you need to upgrade yourself. Simply plodding along accruing experience is not enough. Take a proactive approach to your self-development and you will reap the rewards.”

The CILT-UK Professional Diploma in Logistics and Transport is offered in New Zealand by the Logistics Training Group; for further information, visit www.ltg.co.nz

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