



PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology Best Student Award 2018/19



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What is your current role and areas of responsibility?

I am currently a Senior Packaging Technologist in the Global Packaging Support Team for Suntory Monozukuri Expert Ltd in Japan (on assignment from Frucor Suntory, NZ). My current role involves OEE line improvement, new line (Aseptic PET) commissioning support, and project work with a focus on sustainability for our global group companies. From a commissioning point of view this involves blowmoulder recipe development and support, check-sheet development, and training for our group companies. From a sustainability project point of view, especially with the new EU laws that are coming in to play there is a lot of work around rPET sourcing and new technology transfer from Japan to other regions and work around tethered caps to ensure fit for purpose with our product portfolio and consumer needs.

What does graduating from the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology mean to you?

Attaining the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology has allowed me to develop a solid foundation, increasing my knowledge base across a broad range of packaging materials and processes, above and beyond my expertise in beverage packaging. This has been invaluable not only within my current role; giving me the confidence in challenging

suppliers and the status quo, tackling issues and innovating, but also moving forward in my packaging career. Additionally, I feel it shows my dedication to furthering my career in packaging.

How will you apply this knowledge moving forward?

Packaging is a valuable resource; however, it also has a large effect on a products lifecycle. It is the first point of contact for the consumer and is therefore extremely visible not only in purchase and consumption, but also post consumption, where the resource of the package is still valuable. With the ability to effectively design for the conditions and requirements of the supply chain, especially from a sustainability point of view more important than ever, I plan to use the knowledge gained, to deliver innovative packaging, maximising its function throughout its lifecycle, whilst keeping both the environment and consumer in mind.

What do you believe the qualification will help you achieve in your career in the future?

The qualification has allowed me to develop a solid foundation, increasing my knowledge base across a broad range of packaging materials and processes, above and beyond my expertise in beverage packaging, whilst reinforcing my interest and potential direction in sustainability. In furthering my career it has given me the confidence to apply my knowledge not only within my current field, but beyond, and gives me the credentials for furthering my career whether that's within the packaging industry or an affiliated field. I feel it shows my dedication to furthering my career in packaging, allowing me to better deliver projects that meet the business, environmental and consumer needs, whilst being highly respected in my chosen field across any business.

So where to from here for your career?

I currently have at least another 6 months on my contract in Japan, so for the meantime I will be focussing on our European business support across OEE line improvements and new line installations. With packaging and sustainability at the forefront of industry and consumers minds, this is one area I am passionate about expanding my expertise, while contributing to 'better packaging' around the world.

Do you have any advice on why other people should complete the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology?

Especially within the Australia/New Zealand marketplace professionals that hold formal packaging qualifications are few, with on the job training and supplier expertise heavily relied on. For those passionate about a career in packaging, or for those wishing to gain a broader understanding of how packaging can influence their role within the supply chain, the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology provides a solid basis for the underlying packaging principles and processes, which I believe is fundamental to being an effective Packaging Technologist. Overall, it has boosted my confidence across a broad range of material substrates and processes allowing me to better deliver projects that meet the business, environmental and consumer needs. I would recommend that everyone contacts the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP) to discuss their professional packaging needs.