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THE MENTORING SWITCHBOARD



September 30 Networking Event

We only reserved the room until 8:00 PM. But at 8:10 the group of *Mentoring Connections* clients were still chatting, writing down each other's contact information, and looking for another person to chat with and another person's contact information to write down. The eager and motivated group could have used more time.

Attendees had just experienced an inspiring presentation from Lokesh Chaudry about the power of connections and they were eager to get started. Lokesh, an immigrant himself, shared with those who attended how networking has helped him professionally. He provided advice and also offered tips about the skills that can be improved to become an effective networker.

[Take a look at some networking tips from the networking event](#)

[About Lokesh Chaudry](#)

Meet a Mentee - Heru Prajogo

My mentor in the architecture field had extensive knowledge and experience both in Canada and the USA. He shared with me his experience from past projects, and I was able to learn about theory and practice. My mentor educated me about business ethics, building codes, Architecture Acts, professional associations, the certification process and other non-project issues. I feel that learning about these topics has prepared me to stand out from the rest of the competition. Meeting with my mentor gave me the opportunity to review my own research and understanding of Architecture in Canada. I found that there are unique practices that differentiate Canada from other countries. Other than learning from a local professional, I also benefited from the support my mentor gave me. He was a source of my positive outlook and made me feel at home in this new land. I believe that my knowledge about my field has improved greatly through my mentorship, and I am eager and excited to help build Canada.

Networking Tips

The group gave Lokesh Chaudry their undivided attention as he delivered his engaging presentation on the Secret Power of Connections. Here are some of the tips he offered on how to build their network:

Find the connection - Make a connection by finding common ground with the person you are talking to. Learning about another person can assist you in maintaining a relationship in the future.

Become a true egalitarian - There is no telling what will happen in the future. Be an equal opportunity networker. Be open to network with everyone.

Use business cards - Collect business cards and hand out your own. When you take someone's business card, it is helpful to write down something about the person that you met. Although be aware that in some cultures it is considered rude to write on the back of the cards in front of the person.

Keep it going - It can be difficult to stay in contact. However, an email or a brief phone call can go a long way in maintaining a connection.

Talk about these tips with your mentee. If you have any networking tips of your own, please share them with the rest of us. Email your tips to [Mentoring Connections](#) and we can pass your knowledge on to others.

About Lokesh

Lokesh Chaudry currently works as a Senior Tax Manager at Ernst and Young. He moved to Vancouver from India in 1997. Despite his busy schedule, Lokesh has volunteered at retirement homes and is a valued volunteer at ISSo/BC's *Mentoring Connections*. Lokesh is an ambassador for the mentoring program. Our program is in awe of his kindness and generosity. Thank you Lokesh for all of your contributions to our program.

Spread the Word

Do you know any passionate professionals interested in sharing their knowledge with a newcomer? *Mentoring Connections* is currently looking for mentors in the following industries:

- Architecture
- Engineering
- Graphic Design
- Healthcare
- Interior Design
- IT
- Marketing
- Quality Control

If you know an individual who is interested in volunteering as a career mentor, please contact us at 604-637-1307 or email mentoring.connections@issbc.org

Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Multicultural Moguls

Two immigrant professionals from Philippines recognized an opportunity and seized it. Read about it [here](#).

Timeraiser

ISSo/BC and fellow non-profit organizations were at the Roundhouse Theatre on Thursday, September 24th for the 2nd Annual Vancouver Timeraiser. Timeraiser is an amazing grass-roots initiative that has flourished into a well-known, annual event that operates in six cities across Canada. Timeraiser gives people a first step on the road to a life of engagement, connects community organizations with highly skilled volunteers, and gets local artists decent prices for their work.

As a chosen non-profit, ISSo/BC and *Mentoring Connections* were given a display table, and connected with many eager, skilled volunteers interested in helping newcomers settle in Canada. *Mentoring Connections* hopes to make good use of these new volunteer mentors in the months to come!

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