

Presenter Profile

NAME **Dr Peter Sun**

POSITION **Lecturer**

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Peter Sun is university-based these days and currently functions as the Associate Dean Enterprise but he wouldn't have missed his years in industry for anything. He grew up in Sri Lanka, earned degrees in engineering and worked for 15 years in various positions on a variety of projects, including the privatisation of Sri Lanka's extensive tea plantations. He worked for Coopers and Lybrand, Unilever and MAS Holdings - a large apparel manufacturing group with operations worldwide, and his last assignment was setting up a 1000 acre apparel city in VIZAG India.

He then did his doctorate in management. "My areas of interest are knowledge management and organisational learning. I'm interested in how good ideas are translated across an organisation and in breaking down barriers that hinder or prevent good ideas or schemes being implemented."

Dr Sun says sometimes people have to "unlearn" their beliefs before being able to adopt new ideas, but at the same time existing knowledge is important for spurring new learning, "and for me that's an interesting mix".

Corporate & Executive Education participants often have similar working backgrounds to Peter, so he can relate easily to their situations. "You can only empathise if you've been through it," he says. "It feels natural working with them, and I like the way we get the combination of theory with in depth discussion about its application, drawing on aspects of leadership, emotional intelligence, social networks – everything relating to successful management."

Peter was joint winner of the Waikato Management School's 2011 Dean's Award for Outstanding Emerging Scholar.

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