

Amol Titus: Shaping the future

If there is one word that perfectly captures the essence of Amol Titus, it is 'education'. An award winning lecturer, an author, a poet, an illustrator, a strategic advisor, a management consultant and an ardent supporter of India-Indonesia relations, Titus dons these hats with élan. "In emerging countries like India and Indonesia, education is critical for national transformation. It is the only real ticket out of a world of dependency to a world of independency. However, education especially at the higher levels needs to be reoriented in line with the modern economy, workforce skills demands and national competitiveness," says Titus.



His strong interest in education has its roots in his childhood. Titus was born to a well-educated family in Jaipur. His father was a journalist who did his education from University of Columbia, USA. His penchant for writing was visible early on. He wrote his first creative piece at the age of five. He did his schooling from Delhi and went on to study literature at the prestigious St. Stephens College, University of Delhi. A favorite among his professors, Titus topped not just his college but also the University and received a gold medal and a scholarship for higher studies. He followed it up with a management degree from one of the best known institutes in the field of management education, XLRI, Jamshedpur. He worked with several companies in financial sector before heading to Indonesia in September of 2008. This was the time when the Asian financial crisis was at its peak.

"By nature I like to see the glass as being half full rather than half empty so instead of focusing on the doomsday scenario I adopted a more positive view believing in the long term potential of Indonesia. This allowed me to learn and adapt faster and contribute more consistently. Since the country was going through a major re-building process I decided to do my bit by not just excelling professionally but also by supporting the cause of higher education through teaching, mentorships and advisory support for designing new generation of educational institutions," he says.

He is currently the CEO of IndonesiaWISE, a strategic consultancy and advisory services firm covering Asian emerging markets. While he has done a number of projects on business development, M&A, innovation, branding, sustainability, risk management, among other things,

he finds “being able to work on people development through skills development programs, coaching, mentoring and student guidance” as most satisfying.

Titus attributes his success to having a strong achievement orientation, constantly striving towards high quality and maintaining a healthy work-life balance. For those Indians who wish to make a mark abroad, he feels it is important for them to always respect the motherland. “While we do have problems like every other developing country the right approach is to become part of the solution instead of continuously harping on the problem.... Indonesians have earned international respect due to their friendliness, ability to be calm in the face of adversity and deep levels of patience. I believe India can learn from these very important qualities” he adds.

He firmly believes that India is an attractive long term bet and sees multiple benefits of greater economic cooperation between India and Indonesia. “Our domestic market with a large growing middle class is a magnet for both Indian and international companies most of who continue to make reasonable profits. The energy and enthusiasm of the youth segment can be seen everywhere and as purchasing power picks up there will be a boom in many sectors like food & beverages, lifestyle, healthcare, automotive, electronics, middle level housing, entertainment etc...I also believe India’s agriculture potential can be significantly enhanced through focused policies on irrigation, grains storage and exports,” he says.

Titus has authored a couple of books, in addition to several columns and talks at various academic institutes. In 2003 he published *Darkness at Bamiyan* which was inspired by the tragic destruction of the great Buddhist statues at Bamiyan in Afghanistan. *A Summit at Jungfrauoch* was published in 2004 and *Modern Traumas*, a collection of poetry through which he has examined some of the issues of modern existence, was published recently. He lives in Jakarta with his wife, Jayshri, who is a professional school teacher and two sons, Karan and Tarun.