

Extract from Dossier Diversity/Original Recordings and Interviews



Anke Meier
Head of Global Diversity & Inclusion talking to Henkel Corporate Communications.

? What are your duties at Henkel?

Meier: The function of Global Diversity & Inclusion is relatively new at Henkel. Its objective is to render the company more international and more feminine in its make-up. Part of my job also involves looking into the effects of demographic developments at Henkel.

? What is a typical working day for you?

Meier: It is my task to pursue the path of active communications in order to explain the advantages of diversity worldwide, namely access to new markets, higher productivity and improved innovation capability within the team environment. Specifically, however, it also means improving the underlying conditions, say, for fathers and mothers within the company, by providing for example childcare and working time and location flexibility. For older colleagues, maintaining health and motivation is an important factor.

? Why do you find the job so interesting?

Meier: Globalization, demography and also the changes in social values which are taking place are trends that Henkel cannot avoid. Coming to terms with them at an early stage and creating appropriate structures and conditions are extremely exciting undertakings.

? What advice would you give to someone joining Henkel as a new recruit?

Meier: At Henkel, people should not specialize too early on in their career. Instead, they should make the most of all the opportunities that the company is able to offer. Because Henkel is in itself broadly diverse and can often provide unexpected chances for development.

? What posts have you previously held at Henkel?

Meier: I started in the Investor Relations department at Henkel HQ in Düsseldorf. I then switched to Investment Financing. Later on I became a project manager at Henkel Financial Services before going to Britain as CFO of the local subsidiary for 18 months at the beginning of 2004. I came back to Germany in 2005 and, until October 2007, worked at Internal Audit. Since November 2007, I have been responsible for Global Diversity & Inclusion.

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