

Professional biography : Houda Dahmane

After graduating in 2004 from ISCAE (Business school in Casablanca) with a major in accounting, I worked in procurement in Atlas Hospitality Morocco, a hotel subsidiary of Royal Air Maroc. In 2008 I worked briefly as an SAP functional consultant for VISEO where I specialized in managing customer requirements for the MM/MM modules (procurement and warehouse management).

In September 2009 I came to Japan for a master's degree in business administration in Osaka University. After completion in May 2013 I worked for the Infrastructure Business Development Division at Sumitomo Electric headquarters in Osaka. During this period, I was a member of the solar business group in charge of promoting the company's solar panels technology. I was especially involved in the field study and negotiations leading up to the agreement with MASEN (the Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy) for the installation of a test unit of the Sumitomo solar energy systems in Ouarzazate. I was also in charge of organizing and participating in different promotional events both in Japan and abroad; as well as the follow-up of the contracting process with external consultants.

Despite the relatively short time I spent with Sumitomo Electric (around two years), my status as a mid-career recruit and the nature of the department made these two years an intense and rich learning experience where I could develop my understanding of the Japanese business mindset along with the language itself.

In 2016 I moved to Tokyo to work at POLIMEKS as a market research analyst. POLIMEKS is a Turkish holding that has built its business on the design and construction of infrastructures and major buildings mainly in Central Asia, and that has established its first liaison office in Japan in Tokyo in 2016. So far, it has been a chance to put to use what I have learned while discovering a new field of business. It has also been a good chance to improve my understanding of the Turkish language.

On a personal side, I am the mom of two boys: 3 years old and 3 weeks old.

1. Why do you want to join MBC-J's board?

I would like to join the MBC-J's board in order to have a more hands-on role in the

activities of the club and thus be able to give back to our communities both in Morocco and in Japan.

2. What specific skills, experience or networks do you think you could bring to the table in order to help MBC-J move forward on its goals?

Through my previous working experiences I developed a capacity of bridging the communication gap between Morocco and Japan. I also had the chance to be part of event organization and contract negotiations which might come in handy in the club's activities.