

Meeting Minutes

Time: Saturday 24.07.21, 11 am ET, ClubHouse

OPMs: [Volodymyr \(Vol\) Berezniy](#), [Dao Jensen](#), [Prahlad Advani](#), [Arshi Tayyab](#), [Hetal Parikh](#), [Hyoungjin Kim](#), [Janak Mehta](#), [Ezi Rapaport](#), [Manuela Pliżga-Jonarska](#), [Freddy Sidi](#), [Shane Tragethon](#), [Scott K. Mullen](#), [Chelsia Goh](#), [John Kojiro Moriwaka](#)

Secretary (not OPM): [cristina brodu](#)

Topic: HBS OPM ClubHouse 11th Meeting: “HOW TO ENGAGE OUR NETWORK IN A CREATIVE WAY”
(Next meeting: 31.07.21, 11 am ET. Topic: “HBS Prof. Frances Frei: Empowering Everyone”)

- Vol experience with the OPM is very positive, a good investment to network globally
- Prahlad mentioned quarterly Zoom to stay in contact with the OPMs and networking lunches
- Dao endorses the OPM investment too, due to its 13K members network, celebrities she met. She finds 1:1 online meetings easier to coordinate. For effective creative networking she has used the tagline “hey, I just broke up with my boyfriend, anyone I should meet?”: this generated many VIP introductions for 1:1 meetings, which had the best value back. Her favourite topics to get to know each other in 1:1s: family and/or friends, food, fun, future
- Hetal too networked thanks to the advantage given by HBS of being invited to many events globally, with topics such as ‘how harder is maintaining a business than starting it’
- Janak mentioned the value of learning from other OPMs after the financial crisis. Every 1.5 years all OPMs of his year meet on campus, and there’s meetings in various countries too
- Dao values experience as “the reason why we live”. Her experience is enhanced by the OPM network: e.g. months of “fun blast time” with Mike Tyson; joining OPMs as Arshi in her travels to 100s of countries; OPM Bridge, by Simon Cohn, for family events. She teaches to the world to not be defined by others: she was considered ‘with no brain’ but at 40+ she went at Harvard
- Vol had help from an OPM friend with his franchise Quintessentially, a British concierge (eg. when he went successfully around a contract term that banned posting clients pics on FB)
- Hetal endorsed Dao’s concept “it is not who you know, but who knows you”. So she asks: “how can we balance time between networking, building a business, looking at the future?”
- Vol feels that “by not networking is missing out something”, because he’s an extrovert, he’s comfortable doing it, but he wants to monetise talking on Clubhouse all the time, not just talk
- Hetal says that networking is about learning, so that’s what she wants to prioritise in her time
- Dao mentioned as creative networking inviting friends at home for meals that her dad cooks
- Bella, from Hopkins, does not value networking for the sake of it, because she believes in connection authenticity. She says she used to network with Head of States, government leaders. Because “successful people stay with successful people”, when she spent time in Medical School and changed career, she says VIP connections were no more easy to meet
- Cristina (me), not-OPM, said had no access to the HBS network as only took HBS exams while completing another Harvard MA. She agrees with Bella: a change of career, after going again to university for further degrees, can affect the prior network access. She separates professional and personal networking (also by using different dress code, event formats). She can see the OPM way of blurring barriers between the two is more successful to network
- Shane, in Dakar, realised that without relationship management is easy to lose connections
- Kamal admires Dao’s fun-time network. His OPM connections are based on common interest
- Manuela, Poland, dreams to teach at Harvard and that’s why she joined the OPM Clubhouse
- Freddy, in Miami, says networking needs time management. Friendship is about trust, giving by not expecting anything back. In business network is difficult to filter connections’ value