MICHAEL ROSEMANN
Professor and Head of the Information Systems School, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

1. What did you aspire to be when you were a child?
My childhood dream was to become either an engineer who designs complex bridges or a journalist. In my current role as a professor for Information Systems, I continue this fascination for complex man-made systems with the desire to reflect and write.

2. What is/are the highlight(s) of your current role?
The extreme variety, covering research, teaching, and services. Working as part of an intensive, global network. Academic freedom and the daily inspiration – the one I get and the one I give to others.

3. In which role do you think you work best?
In a role that addresses emerging challenges and requires creativity and confidence. A role that is part of an excellent, motivated, and exciting team.

4. What was your biggest transformation? What did you learn?
Moving from Germany to Australia taught me how to adapt to a different environment, to appreciate cultural diversity and to see the world more holistically.

5. Which countries have you worked in and in which country would you like to work? Why?
I worked in Germany, Australia, and in the USA. Fortunately, my current role allows me to visit on average more than 10 countries every year. At this stage, I love the quality of life, the dynamics, and the multi-cultural environment in Australia. However, Boston fascinated me as well, and there is nothing better than spending some time in Rio de Janeiro.

6. What do you think are the three most important factors for being successful in life?
Authenticity, passion and flexibility. Combined with health and the required luck, success in the matters which are important to us will be possible.

7. From which failure have you learned the most?
All those failures that taught me to be careful with my own commitments. I learned that my pragmatism has to override my passion (at least sometimes).

8. What are the three most important virtues of a superior?
Being approachable, inspirational, and trusted.

9. What qualities do you appreciate most in your employees?
Dedication, talent, complementary skills, endurance, confidence, and critical opinions.

10. In which area did you train yourself recently?
Leadership and team management skills. Being a good academic does not mean you are automatically a good academic leader.

11. What annoys you most in your daily role? And what do you do about it?
Inefficiencies and conflicting opinions on priorities.
I allocate time for reflecting on the way we work and how this could be improved, and I spend time with relevant stakeholders to gain a shared understanding in terms of priorities.

12. How do you balance between work and life?
Regular sport, in particular soccer, short holidays, and via my family who gives me the right sense for priorities.

13. What do you consider your biggest virtue? And your biggest vice?
My optimism – I try to see something positive in every situation, and I acknowledge that we can only change the future, not our history.
My fascination for new ideas needs to be better balanced with a focus on execution.

14. Which personal goals would you still like to achieve?
Many, including improved cooking skills, attending a Champions League final, and spending significant time on cycling.

About Michael Rosemann

Dr. Michael Rosemann is Professor and Head of the Information Systems School at the Science and Engineering Faculty of the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. Michael Rosemann is the author/editor of seven books and of more than 200 refereed papers. He is editorial board member of ten international journals and co-inventor of two US patents. His recently edited "Handbook of Business Process Management" (BPM) is the most comprehensive consolidation of global BPM thought leaders. His book "Process Management" has been translated into German, Russian, and Mandarin. Michael's PhD students won the Australian award for the best PhD thesis in Information Systems in 2007, 2008, and 2010. He has been the Chair of the first International Conference on Business Process Management outside Europe (BPM 2007) and Co-Chair of the Australasian Conference on Information Systems (ACIS 2010). Michael is founder and chair of the Australian BPM Roundtable, one of the largest BPM Communities of Practice in the world.

His research projects received funding from industry partners such as Accenture, Brisbane Airport Corporation, Ergon Energy, Infosys, Rio Tinto, Queensland Government, SAP, Suncorp, Water Corporation, and Woolworths. Michael regularly provides advice related to performance, innovation, and process management to organizations and their executives from diverse industries including telecommunication, banking, insurance, utility, retail, public sector, logistics, and the film industry.

In February 2010, Michael was appointed as a Visiting Professor at Viktoria Institute in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Contact: m.rosemann[at]qut.edu.au