

CIPS Switzerland Branch Webinar

A Time To Learn:
Advancing Your Skills
& Knowledge

Wednesday 21 April - 18:00 CET

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Key insight from a panel discussion with senior industry experts, leading international recruiters and academic leaders on what skills businesses need now and in the future for a successful career in global supply chains and procurement.



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The 90-minute panel discussion organised by CIPS Switzerland on 21st April 2021 asked leading industry experts their view on what skills and training are necessary for a successful career in global supply chains and procurement. This document provides the insights and ideas from the panel discussion.

- 1) Many businesses today are looking for Supply Chain and Procurement (SC&P) leaders with the right mind-set, not just the right skill set. This mind-set includes traits such as demonstrating a curious mind, a desire to continue learning and developing new skills and the ability and desire to work in and create successful teams.
- 2) The two hot topics for many senior SC&P positions are: Digitalisation and Sustainability.
- 3) For digitalisation, a key skill is the ability to use and interpret data to help communicate ideas and enable decision making. There is no one single technology or platform that all SC&P leaders need to master. Instead, SC&P professionals should seek to gain a broad understanding of the main technologies such as Tableau, R, python, PowerBI etc.
- 4) For sustainability, many companies are looking for SC&P professionals who can both lead new sustainability thinking but also deliver change in parallel: In other words, building the plane, while learning to fly it. Sustainability is such an important area for many businesses that it is expected that an understanding of sustainability and how to deliver it will be paramount for all employees, not just specialist sustainability positions.
- 5) A crucial soft skill required in the industry is story telling capability: The ability to set out a plan, explain it in a way that it is understood by everyone and in such a way that it allows a team to come together, across functions, companies and even industries.
- 6) It is important for procurement professionals to understand the perspective of supply chain and visa-versa. Moreover, it is necessary for SC&P professionals to have an understanding of the full value chain, from R&D to customer service delivery. It is only with this full understanding of the business that SC&P leaders can best see where they can have the biggest impact.
- 7) The impact that CV-19 will have on future roles is still uncertain. However, CV-19 has made it clear that it is not always necessary to have people in the same physical office to work together successfully. In the future, it is likely that the need for senior people to be located in the same head-office location for example will be questioned.
- 8) There is currently increasing demand for SC&P roles, as positions that were on-hold during CV-19 are now reinitiated and businesses now start to recruit to help recover and respond following CV-19.