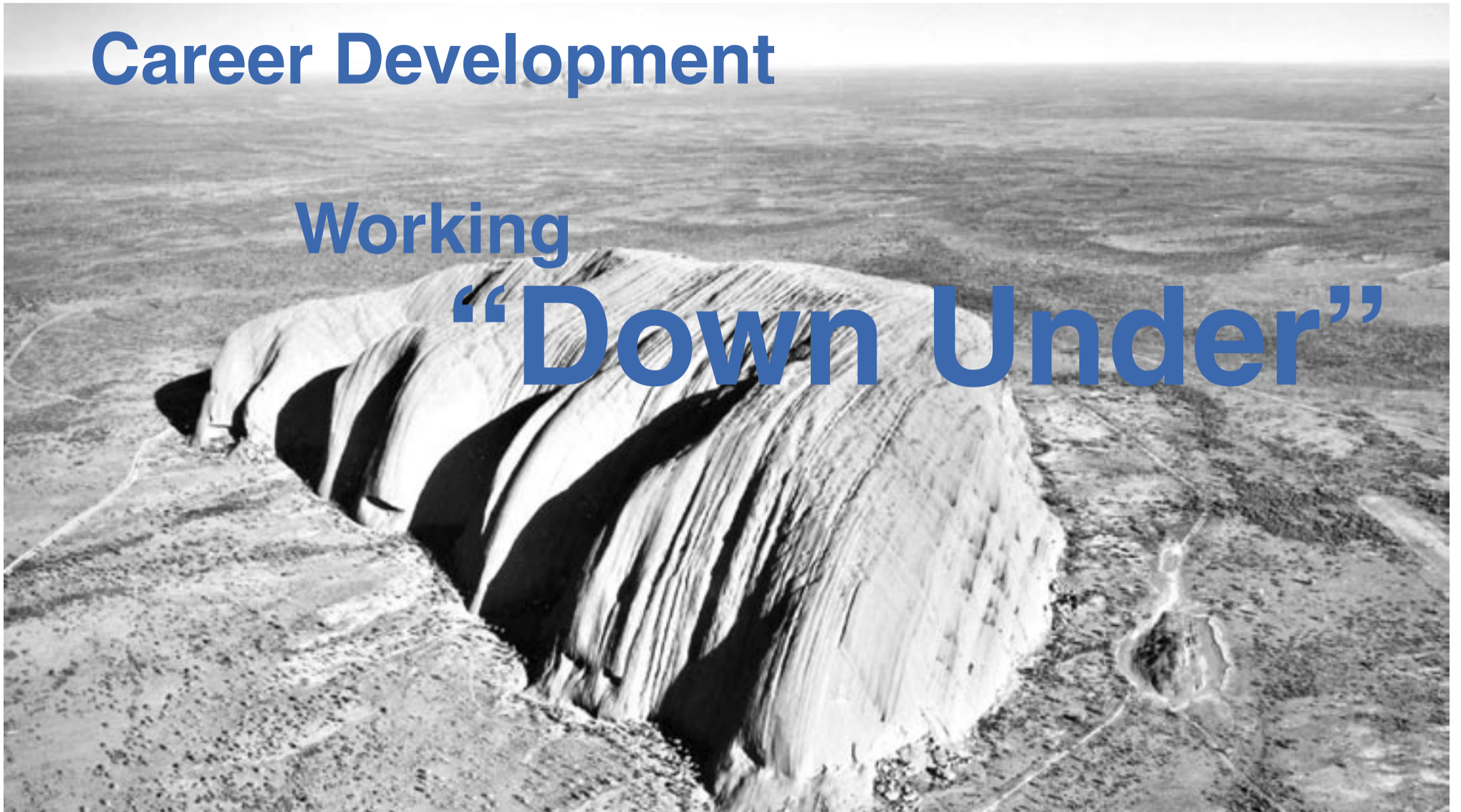


Career Development

Working “Down Under”



German students working “Down Under” with Australian Aerial Mapping and Surveying firm Qasco have an opportunity to gain experience in a unique environment. They also have a lot to offer.

From modest beginnings in 1962, Qasco has grown into a National company with 75 staff and offices in four Australian capital cities. Today the Qasco Group is an IT organization providing specialist services in spatial information throughout Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific. The company’s operations cover all aspects of land and project management, surveying, aerial photography, photogrammetry, image mapping, and 3D fly-throughs.

BY DAVID SINCLAIR

This privately owned company encourages ownership participation to Senior Management and is actively involved in Industry Associations. Continual improvement from a management perspective occurs through the Senior Management Group, and from a technical perspective through research and development partnerships with Universities and Government.

Resources include three aircraft and aerial film camera systems, ten softcopy mapping systems, and fifteen survey field crews. Projects vary from small land sub-divisions and detail surveys, to major road, rail and pipeline infrastructure projects taking 2-3 years to complete. The extent and variety of work with Qasco is seen as an employment advantage.

Why Take on German Students?

In 2001 a Geomatics student from the Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences sent an email to Qasco in Brisbane, Australia, enquiring about work experience opportunities. Providing work experience and training to univer-

sity students is a standard undertaking for Qasco. Senior staff regularly provide guest lectures to local Universities, keeping the company name familiar with students.

While training another student is not something new, the opportunity to directly experience some German culture in the work environment sent a buzz through the office. That excitement continues today, with a number of German interns gaining work experience at Qasco every year. Many Qasco staff have formed genuine friendships with students they worked with and who now live back in Germany.

What does Qasco Offer?

The variety of tasks, both in the field and in office, is one of the big positives towards gaining experience.

Field survey operations could see you working at the Brisbane Airport on

the International Terminal Extension, or doing GPS photo control for a water pipeline, or a high accuracy detail survey to upgrade a sporting stadium, or cadastral surveys for easements over a transport corridor, or stockpile volume surveys at a Quarry. Other on-site works may include attending Health & Safety induction, talking to project neighbours regarding site access, or undertaking calculations for setout. This work is always undertaken in the presence of an experienced Senior Surveyor.

Office work includes learning the management and quality systems, downloading and processing total station and GPS data, calculations and plan preparation. Through interaction with work colleagues you are exposed to a wide range of perspectives from clients, sub-consultants, government and management. You will develop your communication skills in an English

speaking environment by meeting people with varying levels of experience and qualifications.

Qasco makes a deliberate effort to move students between jobs at regular intervals. This gives exposure to different roles and different operations. While the majority of students are surveyors who spend most of their time in the surveying division, all students will spend time learning about our Aerial Operations, Photogrammetry and Digital Imagery.

What Students Offer

Students from all walks of life bring an enthusiasm to the workplace and a willingness to learn quickly. This enthusiasm is infectious.

Often a student’s analytical and computer skills can assist the experienced workers with whom they are placed. The transfer of knowledge becomes two-way with all parties benefiting and enjoying the experience. The personal experience of learning about life and culture on the other side of the world is fun for both Aussies and Germans.

The Future

Qasco’s German student internship programme has expanded from taking surveying and geomatics students to also include mathematics students. As of January 2009 there are three German interns working in two offices (Sydney and Brisbane), with a further five experienced German surveyors permanently employed in two offices (Brisbane and Darwin).

The current economic crisis makes the need to plan even more important. We seek feedback from staff and students to determine what aspects of their job they enjoy and what they would like

to do next. This helps the company and the employee in the development of a plan to guide careers. The overall aim is to maximize interesting and challenging opportunities for the individual and for the company to retain quality staff.

In August 2008, Qasco director David Sinclair visited the Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences and met with Professors Moenicke and Guelch to discuss how to maximise the training value offered by Qasco. The contact brought up a number of valuable ideas, including the suggestion of this article.

Students from Germany should consider the experience to be gained from internships and working outside the home comfort zone. Enquiries to Qasco are always welcome.



David Sinclair.

Photo: private

Contact Qasco director David Sinclair, the author of this article, at email: david.sinclair@qasco.com.au

More information about Qasco can be found at www.qasco.com.au



A Qasco Brisbane office survey section social function. The photo includes nine Germans. Photo: private

– HFT-Studentin Esther Schmidt hat bei Qasco ein Praktikum absolviert. Ihren Bericht lesen Sie auf Seite 35. –