

In conversation with ...Dieter Hahn



Q: How long have you been involved in the diamond industry and where and how did your involvement begin?

A: I started working as a cutter and polisher in 1959 and by 1964 I attended my first industry congress in Antwerp.

Q: What is your company called and what do you enjoy best in your daily work environment?

A: My company's name is Ph. Hahn Soehne and what I enjoy most is always working towards a reliable and fair diamond trade.

Q: Are you married and do you have children? If so, what do they do?

A: I've been married since 1967 and have two children – Annette and Christoph. Both my children as well as my son-in-law, Christian, joined my company.

Q: What has been your greatest achievement so far?

A: My greatest achievement is being a founding member of the IDC (in 1975). I am so proud of the progress and success we've achieved in the field of diamond grading since then.

Q: In what way has the industry changed over the years?

A: Tremendous changes have taken place over the past years like the development and constant updates and changes to technical devices, the changes in rough supply, the various treatments (including synthetics) which are now more common, and the role of the Internet.

Q: Are you optimistic about the future of the diamond industry and would you encourage young people to get involved?

A: Even though the future might be challenging, I would definitely still encourage the younger generation to get involved.

Q: What advice would you give a young person thinking about entering the diamond industry?

A: They must realise that it demands high ethics and might not always be profitable. I always say the following: "... the diamond business reliably handled is as hard as the material itself".

Q: If you had the choice, would you consider any other profession?

A: No.

Q: Do you hold any position in any other club or association other than the WFDB?

A: Yes, I am chairman of the German Gemstone Museum, honorary president of the Diamant und Edelsteinboerse Idar-Oberstein and chairman to the advisory-committee of Inhorgenta Munich.

Q: Who is your role model and who in the world would you most like to meet?

A: It would be such an honour meeting Nelson Mandela.

Q: Is there anything you can tell us about yourself that your colleagues might not know about you?

A: I am sure that after 50 years of service to the industry I have no secrets – except maybe that I don't like bananas and tomatoes.

Q: Do you have time for a hobby and if so what do you do?

A: The little time I have I spend with my grandchildren or I go hunting.