



where I was saying to myself ‘What next?’ I had been in the corporate world for my whole career and I felt it was time to take the plunge. At the same time I was going through some personal issues, so I left and went home to Australia for a year. That’s when the idea for ISIS started to grow.

“ISIS is the Egyptian Goddess of Motherhood and Fertility, and is often pictured with one foot in the water and the other on land. This suited the business perfectly—we have one foot in the business world with ISIS Limited, the other in development through the ISIS Foundation. If it weren’t for the Foundation, the business would be much more successful, but we’re doing it for the kids.

“I don’t get enough time to go to the projects and get feedback first hand, which is disappointing. And it is a lot of hard work. A few million dollars would help make our lives a lot easier! People told us to wait another five years until we had the money to do it, but it was the right time for it for so many other reasons.

“It has allowed us to do exactly what we wanted: build a successful business based on our personal philosophies, work with people with integrity, and work with children. We are able to be ourselves, have flexibility and we work in a friendly office environment. And it is humbling and gratifying to see the support the Foundation receives from the corporate and non-corporate world—ISIS seems to act as a funnel

**Audette Exel and Sharon Beesley**

Audette Exel is happy jumping out of a perfectly safe aeroplane, but she compares the gutsy move from her high-profile position as managing director at the Bermuda Commercial Bank (BCB) to start ISIS Limited and the ISIS Foundation with partner Sharon Beesley to jumping without a parachute. So why did she do it? When you are greeted at the company’s Crow Lane offices by Exel’s dog Noah, offered a drink from the office’s wine fridge, and see the photos of hundreds of children helped through the Foundation, you begin to realise that it’s a total lifestyle choice.

“I felt I had done my job at BCB and I was at a stage in my career

for bringing out the best in people.

“Part of being happy is not just being successful; it is making others happy. My goal when we started was to change the life of even one child. So far we have saved the lives of thousands of children—that makes me happy.”

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