

CEO Spotlight



Avinash Vashista,
Chairman & CEO
Tholons

Stop – Look up and see the Sun

The events of the last few weeks have changed the landscape of global financial business as we knew it. While the effects are still unwinding there are few interesting takeaways. People are talking of

impending recession, unemployment and spending cuts - sounds all very gloomy – is it all so bad?

We believe that the whole cleansing of the financial system is actually having a positive impact in its own ways. The other day, I came across the extraordinary 'farewell letter' from Andrew Lahde, the renowned hedge fund manager of Lahde Capital Management. In his letter, he says, "What I have learned about the hedge fund business is that I hate it". He goes on to say that while he made money, he still didn't like it and it almost killed his personal life. Endless travels around the world, 17-18 hour days and fighting one fire after another day in and day out. Seems familiar? It is a feeling many echo about their jobs but don't do much, if anything about it.

Well, this economic downturn has offered these busy executives a chance to stop and think. Pubs in US and UK are awash in stories of investment bankers who have lost their jobs, but are actually happy that it has given them an opportunity to take a much needed break with the family. Others are happy that companies have dramatically cut down on business travel. It is giving them freedom from Airport food and Red eye flights. Still others are happy that they no longer have to conduct their meetings from coffee shops in 5 star hotels seven days a week. Hotel employees are also happy that they have less crowded dining rooms and are seeing more families with kids.

So, you see in all this gloom, there are few rays of hope and seeds of happiness. Hope that people will take a step back, and re-think the priorities in their lives. Hope some of us may look up and see the sun and pause once in a while to think about why we are running in the first place.

Festive season is approaching – Happy Thanksgiving! Before you know, Christmas and the New Year will ring in – hopefully good times and a great year ahead!
