Grand Plans

Amcor Packaging engineer and AIP scholarship winner Rebecca Du believes good packaging is one of the ways world hunger could be prevented, reports **Anna Game-Lopata**

Amcor's ***Rebecca Du*** *works proactively with the sales and production teams, customers and suppliers. Pictured with APMA Chairman* ***Rob Lawrence*** *(left) and AIP President* ***Craig Wellman.***

Amcor packaging engineer Rebecca Du has grand ambitions for her career. "One of the reasons for food shortages is that up to 50 per cent of the food grown never survives to be consumed," she says. "Unless food has been adequately packaged for transportation, it will deteriorate because of natural biological change, or it will be eaten by rodents, insects or be destroyed by the effects of the wet season. I hope one day I'll have an opportunity to bring the gospel of packaging technology into less-developed countries."

Du's role at Amcor involves working proactively with the sales and production teams, customers, and suppliers to resolve packaging issues while providing technical expertise, monitoring, and advice on processes and procedures to ensure maximum efficiencies are obtained. "I also oversee performance of the inner and outer packaging with the aim of reducing costs and the impact on the environment," she explains.

As the proud winner of the AIP scholarship to study a Diploma of Packaging Technology, Rebecca Du looks forward to expanding her knowledge of the various forms of packaging materials especially glass, aluminium foil and plastic packaging. "The course will allow me to understand the dynamic change within and demands of today's packaging requirements," Du enthuses. "Hopefully this additional knowledge will help me identify opportunities that will allow me to integrate all the various forms of packing together to achieve the maximum optimisation and results overall."

According to Rebecca Du, who takes pride in seeing her own packaging designs manufactured from raw materials displayed at the supermarket, the most significant form of packaging that needs reform is plastic shopping bags. "Plastic bags aren't biodegradable," she points out. "They actually end up in landfill and take thousands of years to break down. While biodegradable bags cost more, they are produced using much less energy and will break down in landfill composters in several weeks."

"Packaging is an integral part of business," Du adds. "If you don't manage it well, it can undermine both your business and the environment but if you manage it well, it can contribute to your company, the community and the environment."

See the full article at www.packagingmag.com.au

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