

Mary Lou Mason
Foreign Relations

(07:36:22)

Mary Lou Mason: No actually I had met some of them before. I had been, gonna talk about Nigeria at the Women Forum and it was actually hosted at Barclay's, a couple weeks before the Lehman bankruptcy. And then when Lehman went bankrupt and Barclay's sorta bought out the North American operations, they had specifically requested that I go over to their team. So I was very lucky to be picked up.

(07:36:44)

Mary Lou Mason: In terms of, 'cause I work in commodities. And I'm the geopolitical strategist for the commodities group. And so a lot of sort of commodity teams have someone who does politics but it's not that big a community who do sort of geopolitics and oil.

(07:37:02)

Mary Lou Mason: Well, I was an economic analyst for Africa. So basically Nigeria was the main country I focused on which was geopolitics and oil.

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Mary Lou Mason: The Council has been instrumental in my doing my work. Um, basically I rely on a wide variety of sources, but the Council has a number of sort of forums that are very very useful between the Council meetings with the Africa program, the Middle East program. We are constantly exposed to the leading experts in the field. Whether it be from the region or actual Council fellows who are doing important work on the region. I was on a task force on energy and national security, which is tremendously helpful for the work that I do. (07:37:50) It has fantastic updates almost every day on the sort of geopolitical hot spots. And particularly the oil producers. So it's a tremendous resource for me.

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Mary Lou Mason: I've been a term member... I'm in my fourth year.