

Laying a strong foundation

JTC Mid-Term Scholarship holder Toh Wei Jie realises his dream to help shape the industrial landscape

PANCHALEE THAKUR

AS A young boy, Mr Toh Wei Jie was inspired by the sight of heavy machineries in his father's company that held the promise of building something great. Those memories guided him to a career in JTC Corporation, where he aims to lend a hand in shaping Singapore's industrial landscape.

The JTC scholar is currently in the third year of a Bachelor of Science (Real Estate) at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

In the first semester, Mr Toh made the Dean's List for meritorious performance.

The JTC Mid-Term Scholarship came in the semester after he joined as a summer intern.

"I chose this scholarship because it would allow me to pursue my interest in the built environment and contribute to the industrial landscape of the nation," says the 23-year-old.

It covers his tuition fees, hostel-related expenses, monthly allowance and expenses towards an overseas exchange programme. It comes with a two-year bond.

During his summer internship, Mr Toh was attached to the SME Programmes Division (SPD) which develops programmes and products to spur the growth and development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Singapore.

Working on the project gave him first-hand knowledge and experience.

Learning to lead

"I gained the trust of my director, which led to an opportunity to lead a project to review our ready-built facilities and propose recommendations for improvements. It helped me understand the issues faced by JTC's customers. I was also given an opportunity to learn how industrial land and spaces are tendered out, and the

various assessment criteria for such applications," he recalls.

His positive internship experience, where he found his colleagues to be friendly and helpful, also helped him decide in favour of JTC.

Potential scholars need to go through an assessment, an interview with directors, and then a final interview with the CEO before being offered the JTC scholarship. However, as Mr Toh was already undergoing his summer internship at JTC, he had to only go through the final selection round.

"I was amazed to know how much research and preparation work goes into a project prior to its construction. I'm waiting for the day when these projects are completed and I'll feel a sense of pride in looking at them," he says.

The internship has helped him gain a better understanding of how the industry works and how he can apply what he learns in school when he joins the company.

Exciting future beckons

"The course that I am currently pursuing covers the whole cycle of a real estate development — from planning and design conceptualisation in the pre-construction stage, to developing and financing the development, and property management after the completion of the development," says Mr Toh.

Once he got back to NUS from the internship, he realised that he was thinking from an industry player's point of view. "The internship has helped me to understand the lectures at NUS better," he says.

Looking forward to his JTC career, he is eager to work on projects that the company will take up for the nation's progress.

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of developers in the private sector. Often, these projects involve large amounts of capital. As a JTC employee, it would be exciting to take part in these innovative projects and shape Singapore's industrial landscape," says Mr Toh.

He advises aspiring scholars who want to follow in his footsteps to look beyond what the scholarship offers, be aware of the job scope and join the JTC internship programme to get a better understanding of it before taking up the scholarship.

"I'm happy to be part of an industrial sector that fascinated me as a child and now allows me to participate in pioneering projects for Singapore's changing industrial needs," he says.



As a JTC Scholar, Mr Toh is looking forward to joining the company and contributing to the industrial sector. PHOTO: NURIA LING