Experience Sharing of Our Inaugural Training Award Graduates

Mr Leong Chee Meng

I’m grateful to be awarded the Office of Safety, Health and Environment’s Training Award program. It offers an excellent opportunity for those who have no prior experience on safety and health to be formally trained in NUS, one of the top university in Asia.

Prior to receiving this program, I was a Staff Engineer with Seagate Technology, one of the industry leader for the development and manufacturing of hard disk drives. I was a firmware engineer designing the latest hard disk drive for the market. I learnt a lot about technology from Seagate but after 8 years, I decided to move on to pursue my new found passion in safety. But there is a barrier to entry as I had no relevant work experience or academic qualifications. The opportunity came when I found out about this training award scheme.

This program comprise of a master program and a work attachment. The Master of Science (Safety, Health & Environmental Technology) program is a rigorous yet fulfilling program that challenges the students to think holistically. It imparts knowledge on all the essential aspects of safety and health to enable its graduates to be proficient in the workplace.

The coursework is complimented by a 16 hour attachment per week with the Office of Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE). This work attachment enables me to relate and apply what I have learnt from the master program to the workplace. I observed what I learnt from the evening lectures in the workplace and understand the challenges of implementing safety and health practices in the various laboratories. These 2 components of the Training Award program synergistically help me to gain proficiency on safety and health matters quickly.

The colleagues in the Office of Safety, Health and Environment are all very friendly and welcomes me into the “family” warmly. They are quick to offer advice and are always supportive as I “learn the ropes”. My reporting officer is patient, kind and invests his time to mentor and guide me all these while.

A BIG thank you to OSHE for offering such an excellent opportunity for Mid-Career individuals like me to make the switch into the safety and health industry.
(Picture taken during NUS commencement: Class of 2016)

(Training Award Candidates with the senior management of OSHE’s SHM division)
Dr Wong Su Ee

Background

Having just completed my PhD from The University of Melbourne in 2011, I returned to Singapore and started teaching Biomedical Science in a polytechnic. After 2 years, I moved to the Office of Human Resources within the polytechnic for exposure and it was there that I started getting interested in Workplace Safety and Health. While searching for courses and programmes in Safety, Health and Environment, I chanced upon the Mid-Career Teaching Award from OSHE.

Why I Decided to Enter the Profession

It felt like a natural progression to Safety and Health in NUS as it was a marriage of my experience as a researcher and my experience as a Human Resource Officer. I was particularly passionate about Workplace Safety and Health as I have a personal belief that we should not only spend a large proportion of our time doing fruitful and productive work, but we should also be performing our jobs safely, healthily and happily.

What I have really enjoyed:

The opportunity of being able to be a part of OSHE on a part-time basis while pursuing the MSc. (Safety, Health and Environmental Technology) gave me the chance to put into action what I have learnt in class right away. It was very beneficial to be able to gain theoretical knowledge in school and to be able to validate this knowledge through the mentorship and guidance of colleagues in OSHE.

Advice for future TAs recipients:

My advice for future TA recipients would be to ‘ask, ask and ask’! OSHE is full of friendly and helpful colleagues who have either also completed the Masters’ programme or have a wealth of knowledge through experience. In addition, it would be useful to tap into available OSHE resources as it can help to make what you are studying more relevant and can help you better understand how to apply certain solutions to real-life situations.

Overall, it has been a great experience and I am grateful for OSHE to have given me this opportunity. The support and understanding from supervisors and colleagues throughout the year has been pivotal in helping me succeed.