

# Job Hunting & Working Experience in Japan

**Bing Zheng SOH** 

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# **1. Self Introduction (About Myself)**

- Name
- Nationality
- Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Current job

- : Bing Zheng SOH
- : Malaysian
- Bachelor's in Civil Engineering,
  University of Technology Malaysia,
  Jun 2010
- : Master's in Environmental Engineering, Hokkaido University, Sep 2013
- : Civil Engineer at TOA Corporation, since Oct 2013~





# **1. Self Introduction (Malaysia)**



### **Petronas Twin Towers**



Tallest building in the world (Year 1998 to Year 2004)

Tallest twin towers in the world (459.1m).

# 2. My Research Topic in University (Malaysia)

- Bachelor's in Civil Engineering, University of Technology Malaysia, Jun 2010.
- Thesis:

Low Flow Analysis – A Comparison between Gumbel and Log Pearson Type III Methods.

• Aim of low flow analysis:

> To improve drought management in the future.

- 24 years low flow data for Mengalong River in Sipitang, Sabah, Malaysia was collected.
- <u>Conclusion:</u>
  - Log Pearson Type III Method can provide better prediction for this data.

# 2. My Research Topic in University (Japan 1 of 5)

- Master's in Environmental Engineering, Hokkaido University, Sep 2013.
- <u>Research:</u>
  - Direct Membrane Filtration (DMF) with Chemically Enhanced Backwash (CEB) for the Recovery of Organic Matter from Domestic Wastewater
- Laboratory on Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation, Division of Environmental Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University.
- <u>Supervisor:</u>

Assoc. Prof. Katsuki KIMURA (now Prof.)

# 2. My Research Topic in University (Japan 2 of 5)

- Wastewater contains internal chemical energy.
- <u>Problem</u> ⇒ Low concentration

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<u>One idea</u> ⇒ Direct membrane filtration (DMF) of raw wastewater to increase concentration.





# 2. My Research Topic in University (Japan 3 of 5)

- Advantages of DMF
  - ✓ Simplicity in design and maintenance.
  - ✓ Concentrate wastewater.
  - ✓ Smaller footprint.
- Limitation of DMF
  - Membrane fouling
- <u>To control membrane fouling</u>
  O Chemically Enhanced Backwash (CEB) is used.





# 2. My Research Topic in University (Japan 4 of 5)

- The objectives:
  - The feasibility of DMF for organic carbon recovery from domestic wastewater.
  - 2. The effectiveness of CEB to control membrane fouling.
  - The characterizations of foulants and understanding fouling mechanisms.



# 2. My Research Topic in University (Japan 5 of 5)

- <u>Conclusions:</u>
  - 1. DMF can increase concentration of domestic wastewater.
  - 2. CEB using NaOCI and citric acid were able to mitigate membrane fouling.
  - 3. Total recovery of organic matter is > 70 %.
  - 4. Selection of chemical reagents for CEB will affect recovery of organic matter.
  - The estimated potential energy is 0.23kWh from 1m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater treated.

# 3. My Job-Hunting Experience in Japan (1 of 3)

- My job-hunting started 1 year before I graduated from Hokkaido University.
- <u>Aim:</u>
  - Water business related companies
  - Design or construction companies
  - Oil or plant engineering companies
- Attended seminars by companies.
- Submitted "Entry Sheet" to the companies.
  - Resume, qualifications, motivations to apply for the company, strength and weakness, research topic etc.

# 3. My Job-Hunting Experience in Japan (2 of 3)

Summary of Job-Hunting

Description	No. of companies
Seminar	Approx. 30
Entry Sheet	Approx. 10
Interview/group discussion	3

- However, all was not successful.
- One main reason of failure was Japanese language.

# 3. My Job-Hunting Experience in Japan (3 of 3) May 2013

- Coordinator of Engineering Program in Hokkaido University asked me about my plan after graduation.
- She introduced me to TOA Corporation.

Sep 2013

➢ Interview and Engineering Test at TOA Head Office.

<u>Oct 2013</u>

Started work at TOA.

# 4. My Current Job (TOA Corporation 1 of 2)

## Introduction to TOA Corporation

- General contractor construction company.
- Founded in 1908 by Soichiro Asano.
- The first landfill developer in Japan and famous for dredging and reclamation.
- Operations:
  - ✓ <u>Marine civil engineering</u> such as marine construction works (jetty, breakwater etc.) and reclamation works.
  - ✓ <u>On-land civil engineering</u> such as roads, bridges, tunnels etc.
  - ✓ <u>Architectural building works</u> such as factories, power plants etc.
  - <u>Research and development</u> such as soil improvement works, recycling of dredging material etc.

# 4. My Current Job (TOA Corporation 2 of 2)

### **Project Examples**



Paiton Private Power Project in Indonesia



Suez Canal Dredging Work in Eygpt

# 4. My Current Job (My Responsibilities 1 of 6)

## From Oct 2013 to Oct 2018

- Worked at Overseas Design Group in Design Department, Head Office.
- <u>Responsibilities:</u>
  - ✓ Perform civil engineering design for marine facilities based on Japanese standards and/or International standards.
  - ✓ Perform computer-aided drawings.
  - ✓ Prepare quantity estimation.
  - ✓ Prepare design calculation sheet or report.
  - ✓ Provide long distance training for Philippines' office staff.

# 4. My Current Job (My Responsibilities 2 of 6)

## From Nov 2018 ~

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- Currently at Engineering Service Department, International General Headquarters.
- <u>Responsibilities:</u>
  - 1) Design support for bidding and tender.
  - 2) Design and technical support for construction site.

# 4. My Current Job (My Responsibilities 3 of 6)

## 1) Design Support for Bidding and Tender

 A new jetty is to be constructed and TOA participated in the bidding process.

## Image of completed jetty

# 4. My Current Job (My Responsibilities 4 of 6)

## 1) Design Support for Bidding and Tender

- Based on natural conditions (soil, waves, seismic etc.) and loading conditions (vessel size etc.), the jetty was designed.
- The estimation team will use our design for cost estimation for the bidding.



### <u>3D Image of designed jetty</u>

# 4. My Current Job (My Responsibilities 5 of 6)

## 2) Design and Technical Support for Construction Site.

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# 4. My Current Job (My Responsibilities 6 of 6)

## 2) Design and Technical Support for Construction Site.

- The construction site requested for repair method.
- Discussion with TOA's Research and Development Centre, the repair method is to inject Epoxy Resin to prevent water from penetrating.



## **5. Advice to International Students**

- Acquire the help of Japanese students.
- Increase your Japanese Language ability.
- Prepare to work long term in Japan.
- 郵に入っては郷に従え (ごうにいってはごうにしたがえ);
  ☆When in Rome do as the Romans do.
- Appreciate and enjoy Japan!!!

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# Thank you for your attention