



Salpisoth HENG

Nationality: Cambodia
Current employer: Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd.
Graduated university: Kyoto University (Kyoto)

Self Introduction

My name is HENG Salpisoth. I am originally from Kambol, Cambodia and came to Japan to study civil engineering at Kyoto University. It's been one year and 9 months since I graduated from Kyoto University, and started working for Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd.

What was your initial motivation to come to Japan?

I've been interested in studying civil engineering, especially in road and bridge engineering, since my childhood, and never imagined that I could come to study and work in Japan. But, I am thankful to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan for a perfect opportunity to pursue my studies in Japan. As Japan is one of the most interesting destinations to study abroad due to its high technologies and research discoveries, I believe that I could benefit hugely from being able to take part in the Japanese education system and being able to experience Japanese culture during my stay. I think it would lead me to become a much better engineer.

What were your reasons for staying and working in Japan?

When I finished my studies at university, I wanted to gain experience and enhance my understanding of practical work. I also had the motivation to learn the quality and standards of work along with the safety requirements that influenced my strong interest to stay and work in a Japanese company.

What were the positive and negative aspects of your academic experience? How did your academic experience affect your decision to stay in Japan? What aspects of the academic environment helped you in acquiring a job?

As I had learned Japanese for one year before entering Japanese university, I can understand some Japanese and got used to campus environment more and more. If I should express my feeling about my academic life in Japan, I can say that professors are very kind and are always ready to help international students not only in any difficulties or troubles that one may have during their studies, but also for acquiring a job, in case we strongly wish to stay and work in Japan.

What sort of work are you doing at your current job?

I worked in the bridge design department for about half a year, then moved to the technical and engineering service division for more than half a year, now.

How would you describe your interaction and relationship with your coworkers?

Working with everyone else, even Japanese or foreign coworkers in the company, has been fun so far, and I believe that I have learned a lot.

Have you experienced any issues or problems thus far in your work environment?

I still have some difficulties in writing and my technical comprehension should be improved.

Based on your experience, what sort of support is necessary from universities or other organizations to help foreign students who want to stay and work in Japan?

Field visits, technical trips, as well as internship programs are what we need from the university to support us to have opportunities to learn and know about Japanese companies.

What should foreign students do if they are interested in staying and working in Japan?

If I have to give an advice to foreign students who want to stay and work in Japan, I would say that they may need to improve their technical knowledge and also know Japanese for communication.