

ON THE FAST TRACK TO *career path*

Singapore boasts a world-class light-rail network. And we are still constantly upgrading and expanding. Construction has begun for the 42km stretch of Downtown line; the Thomson line is being planned; and the 157.9km of existing track lines are being upgraded in stages.

When Mr Yap Kimm Ho graduated from the School of Mechanical Engineering in 2008, he never thought he would be part of a Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) design team. His interest in design first ignited during his university days, when he won third prize in the design category for Technopreneur 21 Competition.

(CSD) and Structural Electrical and Mechanical (SEM) drawings for various Thomson Line projects.

"In AECOM, time was of the essence," Kimm Ho describes his experience. "I enjoyed it a lot because the time pressure creates an adrenaline rush. I acquired all my MicroStation skills during the in-house training period." The foundation training at AcePLP helped him to use shortcut keys more efficiently, thus improving his work efficiency.

Kimm Ho now represents AcePLP to work at another client's firm, Arup, a global consultancy firm. He is knee-



NTU Mechanical Engineering graduate, Yap Kimm Ho, participated in various MRT design projects this year through AcePLP's Graduate Traineeship Programme

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However, his technical skills did not meet the industry's immediate requirements. Things took a turn in February 2012 when Kimm Ho joined AcePLP's Graduate Traineeship Programme. The programme imbues architects and engineers with design skills and capabilities by exposing them to real industry projects. Kimm Ho went through two months of intensive in-house training, during which he learnt to use software such as AutoCAD, MicroStation and Revit. He was then assigned to assist clients as a BIM/CAD Support Engineer in various design teams around the island.

REVVING THE ENGINE

Kimm Ho's first assignment was for the client AECOM, a global provider of professional technical and management support services. He used MicroStation to produce Combined Service Drawings

deep in Downtown Line projects such as Kallang Bahru, Jalan Besar, Sungei Road, Bencoolen and River Valley MRT stations.

NO DESTINATION FOR LEARNING

Aside from producing details, plumbing and sanitary drawings using MicroStation, he found it most challenging to work on fire safety measure drawings for MRT tunnels. "Tunnel drawings are quite tricky," he says. "I have to understand technical information such as water valves and drainage systems."

Kimm Ho found the exposure to the different types of services in MRT infrastructure particularly interesting. "Although my background is in mechanical engineering, I want to learn beyond the M&E fields," he says, explaining that a few of his assignments require good structural understanding.

He also had the opportunity to coordinate his work with Arup's global project partners using Projectwise, an engineering information management software. "My present goal is to learn as much as I can through different client assignments. I am especially keen to be exposed to different company's practices, systems and cultures."

So, to all mechanical engineers out there, keep an eye on the sky. Your career could bring you plentiful work opportunities in mega infrastructure design.

For more information on AcePLP's Graduate Traineeship Programme, email cad@aceplp.com.sg or call Ying Leong 6455 9938 to ask for career opportunities.

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