



“Steeling” The Show Wherever He Goes

Singapore Polytechnic graduate Lim Kok Heng steals the show wherever he goes. The multi-award winner is a confident and promising engineer at NatSteel Asia with a “never-say-die” attitude. Ever since joining NatSteel Asia after graduation, the Manufacturing Engineering graduate has had his career put on the fast track.

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Kok Heng’s main job scope is to ensure the best possible flow in the manufacturing process at NatSteel Asia - the only steel mill in Singapore. He and his team constantly review and improve processes and provide all the necessary technical support needed to run the day-to-day production. He is also responsible for designing the plant’s layout to meet the needs of all departments, introducing new systems and providing on-the-job training.

An exhilarating industry

Kok Heng’s responsibilities may sound technical to many but he finds much satisfaction and fulfilment in his career. “The engineering field is very challenging. But I obtain great satisfaction each time a technical difficulty is solved and as a result, processes are improved for greater efficiency. At NatSteel Asia, we recognise that continual improvement is essential in today’s competitive industry.”

With over 3,000 employees in seven countries, NatSteel Asia is one of the largest steel producers in Asia Pacific. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Steel, NatSteel Asia is also well-placed to tap into Tata Steel’s extensive resources for further expansion in the region.

To further develop his potential, NatSteel Asia seconded Kok Heng to NatSteel Asia’s subsidiary, Siam Industrial Wire in Thailand for half a year in 2005. “The Thailand project gave me the exposure and opportunities to solve various product and process problems in an unfamiliar environment. Through these challenges, I have gained much valuable

work experience and knowledge. More importantly, I have emerged a stronger and more independent person.”

Always accelerating towards excellence

Kok Heng’s drive for excellence can be seen in his days as a student in Singapore Polytechnic. He was a Tay Eng Soon Gold Medallist for topping his course in 2002. This former Singapore Polytechnic Model Student Award winner actively participated in community work and was recognised for his volunteer work by the National Youth Council when he received the National Youth Achievement Gold Award in 2002. His outstanding talents include two consecutive wins at the Pro/Engineer Design Competition in 2001 and 2002, a national inter-tertiary competition.

Having achieved so much in his polytechnic days, Kok Heng credits his Polytechnic for moulding him into a well-rounded individual. “Singapore Polytechnic has equipped me with technical skills and knowledge which have proved valuable in my career in the steel industry. The dedicated lecturers and excellent curriculum have honed my interpersonal skills, developed my interest to learn more and made me what I am today.”

Kok Heng continues to upgrade himself and is pursuing a part-time Mechanical Engineering degree which is sponsored by NatSteel Asia. Work is important but Kok Heng strives to balance work and life by actively participating in events organised by the company’s Sports and Recreation Club. His advice to SP students reflects his take on life: Take challenges in your stride and learn from each mistake to emerge stronger.