

Arthur (centre), with some project teammates at a formal Christmas dinner party



Welding

By Cheryl Lim

Passion

A career that melds both interest and aspirations – that's what the NatSteel Scholarship has conferred on high-achiever Arthur Tay.

“My strength in Mathematics skewed me towards an Engineering degree,” says Arthur, “but I always wanted to be on a management track in my career.”

Promoted four times in five years, the Assistant Vice President of the Technical Planning and Logistics Departments at NatSteel Holdings (NSH) is certainly on track to realising his dream of taking on a management role in the long-term.

MAN WITH A PLAN

At the age of 18, despite being fresh out of junior college, Arthur was not one to dally – he had a plan.

“I wanted a scholarship that was clearly for a management track career path, and the company convinced me of that,” he explains, on why he was drawn to the NatSteel Scholarship over others.

Besides having impressive results for the ‘A’ levels and two Special Papers in C Mathematics and Physics, Arthur also exuded strong leadership capabilities at the scholarship interviews.

After graduating from National University of Singapore with a bachelor and master's degree in Engineering, he finally joined NSH as an engineer – the start of greater things to come.

TO GREATER HEIGHTS

Scaling the ranks from being an engineer to Assistant Vice

President has been both rewarding and challenging for the go-getter. When he joined NSH in 2003, Arthur primarily dealt with processes, engineering, while managing a small team. His responsibilities gradually expanded to both local and overseas projects, particularly in Australia, where NSH has several joint ventures and subsidiaries in operation.

“In the last year, I had more hands-on experience in Technical, Planning and Logistics, and had delved in the macro management of the overall business performance in Singapore,” he adds.

At NSH, scholars receive neither preferential treatment nor an accelerated career track. Yet, despite undergoing exceptional career growth at 30, Arthur remains level-headed and attributes his success to “a lot of luck and hard work”.

"I had a lot of help from seniors who gave me good guidance and advice... My superiors also helped me learn and develop as fast as I could, always giving me challenging tasks and providing

"I think the career growth opportunities at NatSteel are huge."

me opportunities that I can learn and grow from," he recounts. "The mentoring arrangement I had also benefited me greatly. Hence, I feel I was really lucky in many ways."

THE URBAN BACKBONE

NSH, the only steel mill in Singapore, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Steel – an industry leader and the world's sixth-largest steelmaker. Besides having more than 3,500 employees across the region (comprising Singapore, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Australia), the organisation also boasts an output of more than two million tonnes of premium steel products annually.

NSH's wide array of pre-fabricated steel products form the backbone of well-known architectural marvels such as Vivo City, Singapore Management University, One Raffles Quay, The Esplanade and more. Its products have also been used in the construction of various Housing Development Board estates, private residences, as well as infrastructural works like the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) systems.

"The steel industry is a dynamic and globalised industry at a where global players from various regions pursue different strategies and markets," says Arthur. "It is definitely not a boring business!"

MORE TO COME

Today, Arthur is mid-way through pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Cambridge's Judge Business School. His overseas education has been fully sponsored by NSH, which believes in grooming its talents to achieve a win-win outcome for both its staff and the company.

In fact, his superiors have been nothing short of supportive

ever since he first mooted the idea of taking up an MBA. Come his graduation in August 09, Arthur expects there will be higher expectations of him, set by both the company as well as himself.

"I hope to contribute to the overall business of the company, both in terms of the local Singapore business, as well as the regional business," shares

ARTHUR TAY, NATSTEEL SCHOLAR

Arthur, on how he sees himself value-adding to NSH upon his return. "I am excited about the challenges ahead, but right now, it is important that I continue to learn and grow as much as I can here in Cambridge."

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

A profession that melds both engineering and management was what Arthur was searching for, and this is precisely what he has now. While the NatSteel Scholarship gave him a headstart, the opportunities available at NSH, coupled with his capabilities have served to progress his career according to plan.

Says Arthur with fervour, "I think the career growth opportunities at NatSteel are huge. Being still very junior, there is definitely plenty of room for me to improve and grow myself! As part of the larger Tata Steel Group, NatSteel definitely has plenty of career growth opportunities for me to explore and pursue."

ARTHUR TAY
NATSTEEL SCHOLAR

DESIGNATION:
Assistant Vice President, Technical Planning and Logistics, NSH

STUDIED:
Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical Engineering), NUS

Master of Engineering, NUS

STUDYING:
Master of Business Administration, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

