



The call of home

Grabbing the opportunity to return home after 12 years abroad

The call to return home proved hard to resist for Antony Fook Weng Lee, having spent a large part of his life in Japan, Germany, China, USA and the UK working on large projects in aircraft manufacturing, hospitals, hotels and offices. "I came back to Malaysia in 2000 to begin my insurance career with AIG, before moving to Singapore and Vietnam." When the opportunity arose

for Antony to make a full-fledged return to the country, he took it and is now relishing his position of spearheading AIG Malaysia for the future.

You've just returned to Malaysia, what motivated you to come back?

I would say the main pull was work as well as family and friends. There was a great career opportunity, and at the same

time, my mother was missing the family. Living overseas can be lonely, particularly in countries where the language is foreign, so returning to see old friends became an added bonus. I heard about TalentCorp, and applied. I must say they were excellent in providing a swift response and pro-active service to process my application.

What did you miss most while you were away?

Well, apart from friends and family, I missed the food and the people. Malaysia is really unique with its multi-cultural make-up and there is a good sense of warmth and friendliness overall.

What did you learn from your work overseas?

The most valuable thing was gaining a better understanding of cultural differences, which allowed me to communicate better. I believe it is important to be collaborative if we want to get the best out of any situation and to get things done. I've also learnt about different work ethics and the many great life lessons, which I have strived to adopt and learn from.

Having returned to the country, would you encourage others to do the same?

I would absolutely encourage Malaysians to return. But of course, one has to have the right opportunities, which fortunately, the country is in no short supply of. However, if I could impart one bit of advice for returning Malaysians – be adaptable in both teaching and learning. Whilst there are many practices that can benefit people here, not all are applicable. Having a proactive and positive mind set is especially useful when coming from a larger, more mature economy.

Bio

Name

Antony Fook Weng Lee

Country of origin

Malaysia

Company

AIG

Position

Chief Executive Officer

Years Overseas

12

The REP facilitates the return of Malaysian professionals from overseas to contribute to Malaysia's development. In addition to qualifications and work experience abroad, the REP eligibility criteria now take into account prior work experience in Malaysia, current salary abroad, and experience and expertise relevant to a priority economic sector. To find out if you are eligible for the REP, visit www.talentcorp.com.my