

My name is Chris Kwan and I am currently a Project Manager working for a Hong Kong developer, The Link Management Limited. The major tasks covered within my role include project budget estimation and cost plans for finance investment committee approval, developing master programmes, supervising the performance of project consultants and cost control, both at the design and construction stage.



Before joining The Link, I was an Associate at the E&M consulting firm and also worked for Arup after leaving university 9 years ago. I have participated in a variety of building projects relating to building services engineering design and energy audits including recreational,

commercial, institutional and residential buildings in Hong Kong, Macau and PRC. This experience covered system design, tender preparation and analysis, project co-ordination and administration, contract administration and liaison with authorities. In 2006, I was appointed to work as Resident Engineer in Venetian Sands Casino & Hotel, Macao.

BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER

After completing my Masters degree in Building Services Engineering from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2005, I started my career in Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited (Arup) as a graduate engineer. Shortly after joining Arup I became a Graduate member of CIBSE and followed the company's structured training scheme. Arup is an international engineering consultancy firm, which provides various aspects of consultancy services in the construction and engineering field. I enrolled on the 2-year Scheme 'A' training programme in the building services discipline under the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) which is recognized by CIBSE, from 2005 to 2007.

Six years later, in February 2011 I became a Chartered Engineer.

I have progressed from a graduate engineer to project

engineer, building upon my engineering design skills and practical site experience through various jobs. The primary activities I am involved in are system design, tender preparation and analysis, project co-ordination and administration, contract administration and liaison with authorities. I have worked on a wide range of projects in Hong Kong, Macau and PRC, from inception to completion. These projects include recreational, commercial, institutional and residential buildings.

“ I HAVE PROGRESSED FROM A GRADUATE ENGINEER TO PROJECT ENGINEER, BUILDING UPON MY ENGINEERING DESIGN SKILLS AND PRACTICAL SITE EXPERIENCE THROUGH VARIOUS JOBS ”

To enrich my project experience, I joined SunLand AL International Company Limited (SunLand) as a project engineer in 2008 and participated in various aspects of consultancy services in the building services engineering field, majoring on designing for new development projects and A&A works in Hong Kong. I was promoted to the position of Associate and this involved projects covering project management, budget control and quality assurance of both technical and cost aspects. I led a sustainability team to carry out feasibility studies, energy audits for central building services installations and to identify energy management opportunities / recommendations of various commercial projects.

“ PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION IS OBVIOUSLY A KEY DRIVER FOR BECOMING A CHARTERED ENGINEER! FOR ME IT IS ABOUT ENGAGING WITH THE INDUSTRY EVERY DAY AND CIBSE PROVIDES THE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT PLATFORM TO DO THIS, SUCH AS THE KNOWLEDGE PORTAL FOR EXAMPLE ”

My interest in building services engineering was inspired through a desire to improve the conditions in buildings during hot and humid summers! Personally, I hate summer, especially the high humidity weather conditions in Hong Kong. The centralized air-conditioning systems used inspired me a lot and drew my interest in HVAC design application. Throughout my Masters degree course I took an interest in fluid dynamics / HVAC applications on commercial buildings and expressed my interest in these areas when applying for jobs. Arup gave me a great chance to develop as a mechanical engineer and by participating in the fast track Venetian Casino and Hotel project in Macao. The duties explained to me at my interview sounded interesting and I liked the idea of the challenges awaiting me.

THE MOST ENJOYABLE ASPECT OF MY JOB

The environment I work in challenges me and allows me to explore new things about energy conservation and sustainability. To develop my career in a managerial role, I joined The Link Management Limited (The Link) as Project Manager in April 2012 and focused on project planning, asset enhancement & improvement works. Currently, I am leading E&M project teams and have been appointed as leader of the task group on Energy Efficiency Certificate Scheme (EECS) to share technical experience on energy audit. The objective of EECS is to develop a score card system in accordance and compliance with Building Energy Efficiency Ordinance (BEEO Cap.610),

Code of Practice for Energy Audit (EAC) and BEAM Plus / Interior standard for Link projects.

GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

I would say that there are two things I've accomplished in my career of which I'm extremely proud, the first was when I achieved CIBSE Chartered Engineer status in February 2011 within a short term of my ultimate goal. The second was when I achieved the honourable award of outstanding BSE alumni by Hong Kong Polytechnic University.



REMEMBER, CIBSE DON'T WANT YOU TO FAIL BUT ARE LOOKING FOR HOW YOUR EXPERIENCE MEETS THE COMPETENCE CRITERIA



ADVICE TO OTHERS CONSIDERING A CAREER IN BUILDING SERVICES

I believe in trying to do everything whole-heartedly, then success will come at last. I am proud of being a student member, graduate member and now MCIBSE CEng. With determination and commitment, achievements and satisfaction will never be impossible!

APPLYING FOR MCIBSE CENG

I cannot deny that professional recognition is obviously a key driver for becoming a Chartered Engineer! For me it is about engaging with the industry every day and CIBSE provides the professional support platform to do this, such as the Knowledge

Portal for example. I also wanted to demonstrate my experience operating at a higher level in building services through CIBSE membership and my commitment to making a contribution to the wider industry.

The application process of MCIBSE can be looked at on the CIBSE website. CIBSE were clear about what they wanted to see to ensure competence criteria and provided examples of evidence that they were looking for. The interview, which lasted one hour, was friendly and put me at ease, allowing me to provide the engineering solution and judgment confidently. Remember, CIBSE don't want you to fail but are looking for how your experience meets the competence criteria.

HOW CIBSE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ME

The CIBSE Journal allows me to keep up to date with engineering development / innovative building services products and interesting engineering projects. CIBSE members can also search the CIBSE Knowledge Portal for updated CIBSE Guides and publications, a useful design tool for engineers. These benefits help keep me informed about what is going on in the industry.

BUILDING SERVICES IS GREAT BECAUSE....

The role of the Building Services Engineer is becoming more and more important in the industry. There are lots of challenges to building services design and hot topics like global warming and building sustainability, need to be further developed / explored by engineers in the coming future. ■