

I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE...

To look smart, presentable and to be able to speak good English, are the key things I am trying to achieve for myself. The reason I want to master public speaking is that I know it is a skill that will help me move ahead in my job and life.

I recall the first time I stepped into the meeting room. It was a shock to me! The majority of those present were Indians and Sikhs, which was frightening to me. I felt insecure! I did not know what to do next. I tried planning my escape, with my heart pounding fast. I regretted coming!

However, I felt deeply that this was no way to behave. My inner voice, from deep within my soul, told me to stay and watch. At the end of the meeting, I felt that this would be the best place for me to overcome my greatest weakness - poor spoken English.

I delivered my "ice-breaker" on 29 July 2008. I could not sleep the few nights before my speech, thinking about having to deliver a speech in English. It was no laughing matter for me! Finally, I overcame my fear, but it was not an easy task for me.

At the beginning, I did not really enjoy the meetings, especially if I have promised to deliver a speech during that meeting. My whole day would be filled with anxiety and nervousness. Believe me, it is not a feeling any one would enjoy.

Today, I would like to thank the club members. The first person who comes to my mind is Lucky, who was kind enough to take me around to explore other clubs' meetings. It was an eye-opener for me to observe how people deliver their speeches. One thing is for sure, they were passionate about this Toastmasters journey. One could see this from their facial expressions. I could tell that time has been essential for them to reach the stage where they have reached today - full of confidence when delivering each speech.

During the whole journey, I believe that the most important thing is to overcome the obstacles that are preventing self-progress. It requires high levels of self-discipline and self-esteem to do so.

I took three years to complete the Competent Communicator manual, but I do not believe it will take me another three years to finish the Competent Leadership manual. I need to speed up! No more excuses of being too busy or too tired to avoid attending a meeting. Excuses will not get me anywhere!

I would like to thank all the club members for their support, especially Lucky, Ranjit, Sham Sunder and Lourdes. All of them have been great guides to help a junior member like me to grow. Furthermore, I really enjoy listening to their speeches, which have been very entertaining and informative.

I do hope we can get more members into the club, and have fun at each meeting. The Toastmasters club meeting is a place to learn and, truly, the experience depends on the perception. This is a place to build the confidence to stand in front of a crowd and deliver a speech!

Now, I look forward to each meeting, to meet fellow members, share experiences and fellowship. Each meeting will be a great experience.

Again, I thank all the members.

I feel very proud to be a member of the Bangsar Toastmasters Club, which has been around for more than 10 years. I made the right choice of a club for my personal needs and growth.



Lim Mooi Kheng, CC (1 August 2011)