

From Zero to CPA (Part 2)

In the final workshop, we need to present our group assignment. Every group consists of 5-6 persons. We have 6 persons in my group. Coordination for the group assignment was never easy as 5 of us were in different industry group in PwC and 1 of us is from another firm. We make efforts to set a time for our weekly discussion usually after our pre-workshop session. It was never easy. However, with team spirit we completed the assignment albeit with minor argument. During presentation, a miscommunication occurs.

One of our team members didn't come for that day as she is on her graduation ceremony.

She had notified us a week before that and her section was completed by another team member. I must thank him for that. During the presentation, the miscommunication arises...

Our topic is transfer pricing and I was the first presenter. This is a good chance for a local graduate like me who is always perceived as not a good speaker to practice public speaking. I was nervous then... Not only that I am the first presenter for my group, I was also the first presenter for the day. Oh my gosh, here goes nothing. I calm myself down and become my usual self and joke around before I start. After I started, it felt so good and I continue to deliver my piece till the end. I was so relieved once it's over. My hands were basically wet. Phew. I thought. I just went to sit aside and take hold of the PowerPoint presentation. I was happily clicking on the slides while listening to my "comrades" presenting. Hmm. Not bad. I tell myself about the slide and also my team member's presentation. Then, out of the blue moon my team members called my name and tell the whole class I will be presenting on the section on behalf of our team member who went for the graduation ceremony. I was like "WHAT!!" but I acted as if I am well prepared for that presentation. When I walk up, I totally have no idea what to present. While looking at the PowerPoint slide, I come up with something and talk and talk and talk until the last slide. I myself wasn't pretty sure what I am talking but I make an effort to sound confident and convincing. Is it over? I was asking myself. Not yet apparently... Another few more slides I ask myself is it over? It seems yes. BUT not yet! The next session is the Q&A session where we were basically shot front, back, left and right by the facilitator which indicate that we didn't really prepare ourselves sufficiently.

After the presentation, I was so relieved. I celebrated by going out to have a big meal that night.

After the whole workshop fiasco is over. We waited for our workshop result. And by this time the firm has actually deducted few hundred ringgits from our monthly salary. (RM100 per month). In case we didn't pass, the money is gone. The few weeks after the workshop were really fun. We can just forget about the exams for awhile while working.

Next comes the dreaded day. The dreaded day being the workshop result release date. Like I mentioned earlier, if you failed the workshop, you can't even 'smell' the chair in the examination hall as you will need to resit for the workshop before you are allowed to sit for the exam.

For those who pass, the war period starts immediately after that. The immediate weekends after the result is out, we have to sit for a trial exam in PAAC. This trial exam result will be sent to our firm. If we do badly, we will need to do some explanations. Stress....

After the trial exam, comes the crash course where the facilitator from PAAC will focus on the area that we are weak and explain to us again. After that, is our study break where most of us will go back to hometown to "meditate".

Our D-Day comes in November. On the examination day itself, we are all anxious about the exams but at the same time please to see each other again. When the clock ticks at 8.45am, the examination hall opens. Boom Boom Boom Boom. One by one the door opened. I was standing there stunned. Then I tell myself calm down calm down. I must remember to take all the necessary document. Once inside I write down my exam numbers and waited for 9am.

At 9am, we are allowed to answer the question. Looking that everyone was very anxious in pressing the calculator, I ask myself to stay cool and keep focus. At 12pm sharp, we are asked to stop writing and passed up our paper.

The conclusion of the first experience in taking MICPA continues with the first experience of peak period in the firm. I am really not used to it and cannot really fit in the team well.

Ends of January 2006 marks the day Module C result is out. I still remember how I know my Module C result. That particular morning, when I was going back to the audit room after getting some information from the client..... CONGRATULATIONS CHU GUAN. Shout my senior from the same university. I was like what!? He told me I passed Module C. I was like WHAT !??? YES!!! This is the best news in peak period!! I was so happy! I put the client information in the audit room and quickly run to the client library and access MICPA website to view the results. I am glad that most of my friend had passed as well.

To be continued.....

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