

Banking On Success

After having worked around the world for many years, Foong Pik Yee, Chief Financial Officer of Hong Leong Bank Berhad made a decision to return to Malaysia recently. She tells us why.

Like many Malaysians, you've recently returned to the country. Tell us your story.

Well, I've just returned from Lebanon where I was working as the CEO and Chairperson of Standard Chartered bank there for four years. My career has largely been with the banking industry. I've been away for over 18 years working in places such as Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong as well as stints in Malaysia.

What influenced your decision to come back?

Actually, the whole rationale behind my return is a personal one. It was a tough decision to make but it was the right one nonetheless. Having said that, I guess having worked extensively in other countries, I would say you learn to appreciate your own country even more. One always thinks the grass is greener on the other side but you do tend to miss things about home.

What role did TalentCorp play in facilitating your journey back?

I was highlighted about TalentCorp by my head hunter actually, and after a bit of research, I contacted them and we started correspondence. I have to say TalentCorp was exceptional in sending me information and answering my queries as well as assisting in the completion of the application. They were very helpful as relocation is seldom easy. TalentCorp helped smoothen the process, which I am very grateful for.



What would you say is the most valuable experience you've gained while working abroad?

I would say it has given me a good understanding about the diversity of cultures as well as appreciating cultural differences. However, I do attribute being able to work in all these countries to the fact that I am Malaysian. We grew up with cultural diversity and we've learned to live with it. I think that's our greatest attribute as Malaysians as it allows us to be more adaptive in other countries and environments.

Finally, what are your thoughts of your homecoming, now that you're back?

To be honest, I was initially afraid, as I feared I could not settle back in but that was hardly the case. Being Malaysian, home is really where the heart is and I am really enjoying my time here since I've returned.

Bio

Name:
Foong Pik Yee
Country of Origin:
Malaysia
Company:
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Position:
Chief Financial Officer

For more information about working in Malaysia, visit www.talentcorp.com.my