

Global IT Professionals Development
Project Manager's Training Program
Joint Training for Filipino & Japanese IT Professionals
Filipino Participants' Testimonials

From: Mr. Ryan Niño B. Rodoriguez

R&D Supervisor

Advanced World Systems, Inc.

(Joined 1st Batch of Project Manager's Program, Oct. –Nov., 2009)

"The Global IT Professionals Training I was a part of was one of the most memorable things that happened in my career as an IT professional. My first expectation was that the training will just help me effectively improve what I was doing as a project leader. However, the training gave me more than what I originally expected. It helped me understand and appreciate different cultures; it helped me become more confident in my capabilities, and; it inspired me to empower people rather than just to manage them. What made it more worthwhile also was that I learned it together with a group of people who I got to be friends with during the training period. I am very grateful that I was given the opportunity to learn a lot from it."

From: Mr. George Lawrence T. Cordero

Senior Development Manager

Morph Labs, Inc.

(Joined 2nd Batch of Project Manager's Program, Feb.-Mar. 2010)

The Global IT Professionals Training gave me more than it advertised.

It delivered on all the courses it offered, and personally I was especially and pleasantly surprised with the Assertiveness and Cross-Cultural Communication classes - two courses with such unassuming titles yet effectively set the tone and theme of the training, and much more: the courses themselves and our instructor have raised the bar for any training or seminars I

would attend after this experience.

On a personal note, it was the bi-cultural environment of the training that made it unique and very enriching. As expected, there was effort involved to break down the language and cultural barriers between Japanese and Filipino, between Filipinos from the north and Filipinos from the south; but the rewards far exceeded said effort. It was refreshing to have something similar to my past training in Japan, to once again accept and celebrate the cultural diversity. In many ways, it was even better due to the minimal distraction from work - I am grateful to my employers for that. I am also grateful to my classmates and training coordinators, who were more than willing to share their culture with me, and in turn they also had that sincere willingness and curiosity to let me share my culture with them. All of this enabled me to earn not only knowledge, but friendship as well.

As I mentioned in my debriefing report, it was a situation where I was given the cherished opportunity of learning and sharing at the same time, both within and outside the classrooms. It is an opportunity that I would be happy to see other people get.

From: Ms. Jo-Anne Loquellano

Executive Director,
Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA)
(Joined the 2nd Batch of Project Manager's Program, Feb.-Mar. 2010)

The Global IT Professional - Project Managers' Training I participated in last March was a one-of-a-kind learning experience, combining an overview of project management in the IT sector, cross-cultural communication and assertiveness.

As one of two Filipinos who attended the full program, it felt a bit intimidating at first to be in a roomful of Japanese co-trainees, maybe because at work, I only interacted with older Japanese. To my delight, my co-trainees were like any

other normal "yuppie" or "young professional", and they were endlessly fascinated by Pinoys' habit of eating snacks in between meals, the "cheap but really soothing" massages, our beach, the hot sun, and even our taken-for-granted fluency in English.

Looking back, I feel blessed to have taken the program with them, not only because it gave me a firsthand opportunity to deepen my knowledge of cross-cultural communication, but also, it offered an interesting perspective to learning technical courses (requirements analysis and project management). Through our facilitators' help, we were able to appreciate the courses from each other's viewpoints. Furthermore, our batch faced a similar challenge in learning to become more assertive, perhaps because as a culture, Japan and the Philippines both place a high regard for politeness, to the extent of being submissive, and anything beyond that is seen as aggressive and brash.

I would definitely recommend the training program to anyone who is seeking to develop as a professional and as a person. The lasting and beautiful friendships we forged made the entire training program truly memorable.

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