

STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

MDBC SIP briefing

Isold Heemstra, COO at ING, and Norlina Sulaiman, VP Human Capital Management at MAFC, followed with their advice. Both MDBC member-companies are very active and experienced in SIP. Both agreed that time and effort must be put into handling the interns to ensure that both the company and the intern get maximum benefit out of the experience.

The briefing ended with a very lively and valuable Q&A and panel discussion, and new companies joining the program!

Attendees at the SIP Briefing



Speakers at the panel discussion: Norlina, Heemstra, Hiemstra and Bleichrodt

In August, MDBC organised a briefing on its Student Internship Program (SIP) in order to assist MDBC members who were interested in participating in the program and employing a Dutch student intern. It was also an opportunity to explain latest developments in the program such as the additional study fields which MDBC now offers as well as what these students can deliver to their company.

The briefing started with a presentation by MDBC's Froukje Hiemstra on SIP overall. This information included what member companies can

expect in terms of requirements (such as job descriptions, intern's remuneration, SIP investment costs, etc) and benefits of the program. Froukje also explained MDBC's management role in matters such as matching the company's job description with the right student intern, coordinating with the partner-universities, and support given to the students on travel, accommodation and local cultural adjustments.

While MDBC coordinates mainly with Universities of Applied Sciences, AIESEC's Robin Bleichrodt provided informa-

tion on the opportunity to source for students from Universities of Scientific and Academic Education via AIESEC.

A current student intern, Richard van Wijngaarden, told the audience about his work responsibilities and cultural experiences at Pelorus. To have management work closely with the intern to ensure that their job scope is appropriate and relevant, a willingness to try new things and to absorb the local culture, in essence adaptability, was key in Ricard having a positive experience.

Don Gevelhof, a Trade Management Asia student from the Rotterdam Business School, is currently conducting his 5 months internship at the Supply Chain Department of Unilever Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. Unilever, based at the landmark Menara Telekom building, is a well known Dutch / British multinational corporation that is a manufacturer of leading brands in food, home and personal care items, such as Lipton, Rexona, Lux and Wall's ice cream.

With an Indonesian background and 6 months experience living and studying in Jakarta, Don felt it was more interesting to continue his career in Malaysia over Indonesia, as "Malaysia is one of the booming countries in South-East Asia".

Don proudly works on a variety of projects that require perseverance and independence. The workload here can be more demanding than in Europe, he said.

The Intern Interview



Currently in charge of the "Menara TM Sales", Don's second project, he feels that he is treated more like a regular employee (with all the duties and responsibilities inherent therein), rather than as an intern, even though the projects are not that comprehensive. When asked about his current project, Don said, "At the moment, we would like to dispose of all unsold stocks in our warehouse. These stocks are 'leftovers' from our recent sales activities and it is our job to sell them during the many warehouse sales projects."



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