

The Vital Link to Project Cost Management

Phan Lay Eng from KPK Quantity Surveyors (Singapore) Pte Ltd shares her thoughts on why she finds her quantity surveying job both challenging and satisfying.

Quantity surveying is possibly one of the most misunderstood professions in the construction industry. When talking to people outside the industry, I always attempt to explain the nature of my profession in the simplest way – which is to handle all cost related issues of construction projects.

While this does not do justice to the scope that quantity surveying encompasses, it takes away the awkward moments of people trying to grasp what exactly a quantity surveyor does.

As a Project Director with KPK Quantity Surveyors (Singapore), I find my job as a consulting quantity surveyor a challenging one. Quantity surveying is a vital part of the entire construction process. It encompasses formulating procurement strategies, providing cost and contractual advice, controlling costs, value engineering and post contract administration of construction projects up to the final payment for the project.

I have been provided with many opportunities to work on different types of projects both locally and overseas. Some of my completed projects in Singapore include the One North Condominium, located in the lifestyle and business hub of



Phan Lay Eng
Project Director
KPK Quantity Surveyors (Singapore) Pte Ltd

biomedical, infocomm and digital media industries at Buona Vista and Stage 3 of the MRT Circle Line. The project includes stations and tunnels from Bartley station to Marymount station. Overseas, I have worked on the Villa Riviera, a riverfront development by Keppel Land in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Banyan Tree Resort located at the foot of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the charming ancient town of Lijiang, a Unesco World Heritage site in China.

At the moment, I oversee the Vietnam office of KPK Quantity Surveyors and spend 75% of my time shuttling between Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Danang and Singapore. Running an operation in Vietnam is undoubtedly a big challenge as the construction industry is at a different stage of maturity as compared to Singapore. I have to work with local practices and cultural differences as well as varying skill levels of staff.

However, I find fulfillment in overcoming the odds and achieving clients' satisfaction of a job well done. This provides me with the motivation and zest to excel in future endeavours.

The Built Environment Young Leaders Programme (YLP) is BCA's latest initiative to nurture young professionals with the dedication, passion and leadership qualities to lead the construction sector in the near future. Launched in 2009, this programme aims to proactively engage these capable professionals within the industry by giving them a greater stake in the advancement of the industry. In addition, the YLP will facilitate their training and upgrading progression so that they can constantly enhance their competency and enjoy greater job satisfaction.



One North Condominium, Singapore



Banyan Tree, Lijiang, China