



TAN BOON HIAN

- NTU CLASS OF 2023 -



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How would your close friends describe you?

Workaholic, disciplined, and always hungry for knowledge.

How would you envision your future self to be like in the next 5 years? What would you have hoped to achieve or accomplish?

After becoming part of the family business six years ago, managing both my work and studying part time at NTU, my vision is to assume responsibility for the day-to-day operations from my dad and uncles in the future.

This shift is intended to give them the chance to enjoy life and recover some of the time they sacrificed in their youth, a sacrifice that paved the way for the life we currently cherish. Moreover, my goal is to effectively propel the business to international success and greater achievements. This way, they can enjoy the remaining aspects of life without the burden of business concerns.

Is there a figure in your life that you look up to and why?

I have immense admiration for my father. Despite lacking a primary school education, he, alongside his brothers, diligently built a business through hard work and perseverance. Thanks to their sacrifices over the past 30-40 years, the subsequent generations in our family are fortunate enough not to be overly concerned about working solely for financial reasons. This has granted us the freedom to pursue what truly matters to us in life, and for that, I am truly grateful.

What is your favourite quote / motto in life that keeps you going, and why?

One of my favourite quotes is "Success is not a destination, it's a journey" as it inspires me to discover satisfaction and purpose in the process rather than fixating solely on achieving a predetermined destination.

Often, we underestimate our capabilities over a 10-year timeframe, and upon reaching our initially set goals, a subsequent decline in motivation may occur, leaving us uncertain about the next steps to take. Hence, I propose setting milestones instead. This approach allows us to appreciate and find fulfilment in the daily efforts, progress, and setbacks experienced in the pursuit of success. It aligns with the notion that personal development and the ongoing journey play a crucial role in our overall sense of accomplishment.

What were some of your most memorable moments in NTU?

Burning the midnight oil at the library with my classmates during exam periods, and rushing back home quickly after the sessions to maximize sleep time before heading to work the next day.

Also, connecting with my classmates amidst exam periods, engaging in discussions about our post-graduation plans. Exchanging tips and advice, considering our diverse backgrounds in various industries.

What is one piece of advice you would give to your younger self?

Always stay hungry for knowledge, and refrain from crafting comforting excuses that prevents you from pursuing what you truly desire and achieving your true potential.

