

GMAP Internship Report / GMAP インターンシップ報告書

No. 2024-01

I. Basic information / 基本情報

- 1) Name / 名前 : Kentaro Suga
- 2) Enrolled year / 入学年 : 2022/10/1
- 3) Period of internship / インターン期間 : 2024/8/19~2024/9/13
- 4) Place of internship / インターン場所 : Jeff Leong, Poon & Wong (JLPW)
- 5) Person who accepted your internship / インターン受入担当者 : Mr. Jeff Leong
- 6) Content of work in your internship / インターン中の作業内容
 - Contract review
 - Writing a legal opinion
 - Attending team meetings and in-house training

II. Details and impressions / 詳細と感想

Including the following points: Reasons for choosing Malaysia, work experience, private activities, and conclusion.

1. Why Malaysia?

To begin with, I have traveled to many foreign countries for both trips and studies. However, this is my first time visiting a Southeast Asian country. I was very curious about the opportunity to intern in this region.

Besides, I had a strong interest in understanding Malaysia's legal system, particularly how it addresses the challenges of a multicultural society and how it reflects the country's diversity.

This internship is important to me because I plan to engage in cross-border legal work after graduating from GMAP, and working in a multicultural environment like JLPW provides me with valuable practical skills.

2. Work experience

During my internship, I was assigned to the corporate group, which handles general corporate matters such as M&A, joint ventures, IPOs, and other commercial transactions. Upon arriving at the office on my first day, I was given a tour and introduced to my team members, the secretary, and

other lawyers at the firm.

During the internship period, I mainly engaged in reviewing two contracts and was also asked to write a legal opinion based on those contracts. I reviewed two tenancy agreements in order to ensure that there is no unfavorable clause to the tenant, to ensure that the agreements comply with the related regulations, including those related to tenant's rights and obligations, and to identify the potential risks and liabilities for the tenant.

My biggest challenge during my internship was the language barrier. I sometimes used Chinese and at other times English to communicate with the lawyers, but I found English particularly difficult. While reviewing contracts, I encountered many unfamiliar terms, and each sentence is so long that I had to rely on translation apps or seek assistance from other lawyers to understand their specific meanings. Fortunately, the lawyers not only kindly helped me interpret the content but also taught me how to read contracts and highlighted the important points to consider during a contract review.

I was also responsible for drafting a legal opinion based on the contracts I reviewed. After completing my review, I provided advice to the client regarding any clauses that needed to be amended, added, or deleted. Additionally, I addressed specific questions raised by the client in advance, and offered comments based on their inquiries.

After I received the final draft of legal opinion from my team leader, I learned that contract review is not that simple. When writing the legal opinion, I initially regarded the clauses as correct and provided a simple yes/no answer. However, I should have had a whole picture of the transaction and considered the client's underlying reasons for wanting to enter into this contract. By doing so, I could have reviewed it more flexibly and identified the key points that matter most to the client.



(Photo with the lawyers at the office)

It was also very valuable experience for me to attend the team meeting conducted by the team leader, and in-house training conducted by Mr. Jeff, which enabled me to know the real working practices.

3, Private activities

During this period, I not only engaged in legal work but also enjoyed sightseeing and exploring local food. On the first week of my internship, I met a group of interns from China. I had conversations with them during working hours, and we went for lunches and dinners, which helped me adapt to the new environment.

On the weekends, I visited several famous spots in Kuala Lumpur, such as Batu Caves, Central Market, Bukit Bintang, and the Islamic Museum. I found it interesting to experience Malaysia's diverse ethnic groups (Malay, Chinese, and Indian) and to hear a variety of languages spoken around me. Additionally, the lawyers took me out on weekday nights. We ate at Chinese restaurants multiple times and discussed various topics, including the firm, the living and working environment in Malaysia, and our future careers.

One of my most memorable experiences was a day trip to Malacca, one of the top sightseeing spots. The lawyers drove me there, and we visited Christ Church and the beach, and we also enjoyed delicious Chicken Rice, Nyonya dishes, and Satay.



(Hotpot with Chinese interns on their last day)



(Photo with the lawyers in Malacca)

4, Conclusion

In conclusion, I had a wonderful time in Kuala Lumpur and gained a lot from my internship. This was my first experience attending an internship at a foreign firm and reviewing a contract independently. It taught me how to complete legal work and communicate effectively with colleagues. Although there were times when I struggled to complete tasks on my own, I became more confident as the internship progressed, successfully finishing all my assignments and building good relationships with the lawyers by using my legal knowledge and language skills.

Next year, I will be working in the legal department of a Japanese manufacturer in Japan, and I believe the experience I gained in the multicultural environment at JLPW will definitely benefit my

future career.

Overall, living here for a month and facing new experiences every day was truly memorable. During my internship, I was able to complete my tasks and enjoy my surroundings, thanks to the support of the lawyers at JLPW. I am very grateful for being accepted as part of the team and for all the assistance I received.



(Eating sushi before sport activity)

(2024/9/19)