

KIMAP Internship Report / KIMAP 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 : RUIQI LI
- 2) Enrolled year / 入学年 : 2023
- 3) Period of internship / インターン期間 : 15th March 2024-12th April 4, 2024
- 4) Place of internship / インターン場所 : One Asia Lawyer (SG)
- 5) Person who accepted your internship / インターン受入担当者 : Mr. Tetsuo Kurita
- 6) Content of work in your internship / インターン中の作業内容 :
Translation and verification of Japanese-Chinese contracts ; Drafting of newsletter on Singapore immigration policies ; Drafting of newsletter on Greater Bay Area policies ; Fact-checking ; Learning to read termination contracts...

II. Details and impressions / 詳細と感想

Including the following points: merits, demerits, lessons, contribution to your future career, personal experience etc.

- Work in Singapore

This is my first time working in a law firm, and this experience has fulfilled my curiosity about the reality of life as a lawyer, which raised a question: Will it suit me? As one of the KIMAP students, I am eager to work abroad. Thus, the intern opportunities offer a great chance to evaluate if a country fits my future career. With this valuable experience at One Asia Lawyer in Singapore, I seem to have found my future path.

Firstly, One Asia Lawyer is a medium-sized law firm situated in the heart of Singapore. The team comprises lawyers from various countries: Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Korea. This diversity exposes me to different perspectives, not only on Singaporean law but also on matters concerning Japan, mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. As a Chinese student, I found plenty of opportunities

within the firm. For instance, I reviewed contracts in both Japanese and Chinese, conduct research on Chinese government data marketing policies using my language skills, and utilize my Japanese and English abilities to study and verify contracts.

Having previously worked in a large Japanese company where punctuality and clocking in and out were mandatory, I found there was more flexibility here. Some lawyers also have experience working in China. I've encountered a Japanese colleague who attended the same undergraduate university as me. Despite the variable work hours in the legal profession, everyone is dedicated and hardworking, often putting in extra effort even when not physically present in the office. The location is near La Ba

Sha and is very convenient for commuting, with easy access to public transportation. I took the MRT to work every day, and there are numerous coffee shops nearby.



The staff and lawyers at OAL were friendly and welcoming. We shared meals together on the first and

last days of my internship, and every second Friday of the month, they host a birthday party for those born that month. This provides a great opportunity for cross-departmental interaction and networking.



*image: lunch of first day and last day, and the birthday part

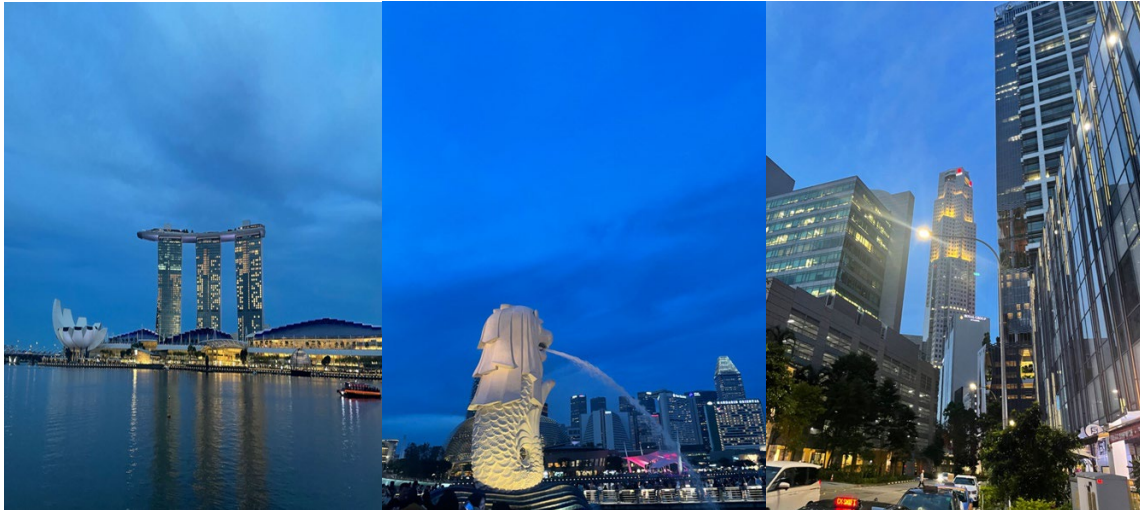
During the party, I had a meaningful conversation with a lawyer from Korea who specializes in mediation. She emphasized that Singapore is exceptionally welcoming to foreign lawyers, with numerous opportunities available from Korean, Japanese, and local companies. Compared to litigation, she finds mediation to be more relaxed. Additionally, she shared insights into the lengthy preparation process required for real cases, dispelling the dramatized portrayal of law firm life. As a female lawyer, she highlighted Singapore's supportive environment for women in the workforce, noting that she was able to return to work shortly after having a baby. This discussion with a foreign female lawyer provided me with valuable perspectives on Singapore and boosted my confidence, affirming the idea of pursuing a career there.

The kindness of the law firm staff, as well as the building's security personnel, left a positive impression on me. Though we may not have engaged in lengthy conversations, the friendly greetings exchanged in the morning and farewells in the evening, accompanied by warm smiles, conveyed a sense of care and camaraderie. The genuine smiles of Singaporeans serve as a daily reminder that every day is a good day.

- Life in Singapore

The city is remarkably beautiful and modern. The subway, like in Japan, operates punctually.

However, when taking the bus, you need to signal the driver by waving your hand; otherwise, they may assume you don't intend to board, and the bus will proceed without stopping. Naturally, I visited the famous tourist attractions during my stay.



*Image of famous places of Singapore.

Because Singapore is a melting pot of cultures, including Chinese, Malay, Indonesian, and Indian, I had the opportunity to try various types of cuisine during my internship. Additionally, I experienced Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, while I was there. This provided me with the chance to sample many Muslim dishes that are rare in Japan. One memorable experience was visiting a bustling Muslim market, where I encountered people from diverse backgrounds, including Muslims, tourists, and local Chinese Singaporeans. During my visit, I even witnessed an interview being conducted with the Minister of Education of the Singaporean government. I also noticed many people ordering food but refraining from eating



*image: the wall near the Muslims market

immediately. Before coming to Singapore, my market Singaporean friend explained that, due to Ramadan regulations, Muslims only eat after sunset during this period. This unique experience taught me a great deal, and I am grateful to my friend Crystal, who was an exchange student at Kobe

University during the spring semester of 2023, for enriching my time in Singapore.



*Image of the Muslim market

- Conclusion:

During my time at the law firm in Singapore, I learned a great deal, which gave me a clearer understanding. Working as a lawyer is not as dramatic as portrayed in TV shows or movies; it's more about dedicated daily work. While it can sometimes be tedious, with long hours spent scrutinizing every word in contracts on a computer screen, it's crucial for our clients. Responsibility is the most significant aspect I've come to appreciate. Unlike in the corporate world, there's no set time to clock in or out at a law firm, but everyone takes their work seriously and responsibly, because responsibility matters.

Singaporean life is highly adaptable for Chinese people. It's a clean and beautiful country. Although I missed the seafood from Japan during my time in Singapore, I had a wonderful month there. I look forward to returning to this beautiful place again someday.

(Date / 記載日) 23th April 2024