CASE 8

Stepping Into the Future: Right Company, Right Decision

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It was an exciting and eventful morning of 10th September 2017 for Ameer Mohammad Firdaus when he received a call from his Internship Advisor Mr. Ahmad Zainal Malik. Ameer felt more excitement when, after some discussion over the phone, he came to know that Human Resources managers from two well-reputed IT companies namely Iain & Gable Company Singapore and Chen Yen Sdn. Bhd. are coming to interview him for internship placement. The internship was one of the compulsory requirements for Ameer who was at the third year of his undergraduate programme in information systems at the Institute of Techno-Informatics, Malaysia. Ameer happily accepted the offer to meet the two prospective employers, hence, the meeting was set at the Internship Student Support Services Room at the university.

Feeling the fresh breeze slapping his face, Ameer walked hurriedly to Mr. Ahmad Zainal Malik's room for the said appointment. Ameer was feeling nervous as well as excited as he hurried his pace. When he arrived at the discussion room, he had to wait for his turn as like him,

there were many other hopefuls on queue. Internship training placement at the Institute of Techno-Informatics is an eight-month stint, and the competition in getting a placement in the information systems is a big challenge. This is the reason why getting this opportunity for placement in such relevant companies was highly important for Ameer. He knew that he had to find out all he could about the prospective companies and then decide on his placement. An incorrect decision would be an expensive price to pay as he would have wasted precious learning and training time to learn new experiences out of the classroom.

Internship Tales and Attaining Placement

Internship is the time for an intern to gain a period of work experience offered by an employer to give students and graduates exposure to the working environment, often within a specific industry, which relates to their field of study. Internships can be as short as a week or as long as 12 months. They can be paid or voluntary; however, before you start an internship it's important to know your rights with regards to getting paid. Ameer needed to communicate and find out more details on his job specification and the job requirements expected of him. He had heard stories from his seniors where interns were treated as "coffee boys" and this was something he did not want to be ending up doing for the next eight months in the company. He had lot of questions to ask but was concerned whether he could ask these concerns and what would he be regarded if he asked too many questions. He felt that he had a right to ask but was also worried as to how much he could ask the designated employers who were awaiting him in the Internship Student Support Services Room.

Suddenly, Ameer heard his name being called and he was asked to enter the office of Mr Ahmad for discussion on his internship. Ameer got up and went into the room to be greeted by three other officers who he was unfamiliar with. He was told by Mr. Ahmad that they were representatives from prospective internship companies who were interested to recruit the appropriate candidate for the internship programme. Ameer could distinctly remember doing his analysis of searching for over twenty companies before he decided to apply to ten companies of his choice. So, this was the moment of truth where he had to make a decision to choose between the viable options provided by