

Interview with the editor

For the second year running, Standard Asia took on an intern as part of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Global Internship Award (GIA). Ziyi (Zac) Lim discusses his experience of working in an international maritime company.

The Standard P&I Club is committed to promoting the professional development both of its staff and the wider shipping industry. For the second year running, Standard Asia participated in the MPA GIA. This fully sponsored internship provides high-achieving students who aspire to a maritime career with the experience of working with international maritime companies in Singapore and beyond.

Andrew Tan, Chief Executive of the MPA, said of the 2017 MPA GIA awards: *'The strong interest in this year's GIA shows that, notwithstanding the current challenges facing the industry, the maritime sector continues to invest in future talent. The number of GIAs has seen a steady increase from 23 in 2014 to 39 in 2017.'*¹

Ziyi, who joined Standard Asia for a 10-week internship, discusses his experience below.

Tell us about yourself

I am currently in my penultimate year at the Singapore Management University (SMU) reading Economics as a first degree with a focus on maritime studies.

I come from an average Singapore family. No one in my family works in the shipping industry. Nonetheless, they know that shipping is my interest and are behind me all the way.

Why maritime studies?

Believe it or not, I was inspired by the anime *One Piece*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. I was curious to find out more about the shipping industry. I subsequently enrolled and completed a Diploma in Maritime Business at the Singapore Polytechnic.

Over the course of my studies, I realised that the maritime industry extends wider and deeper than the media could portray. I appreciated the industry's importance to Singapore and indeed to the global economy.

How did you know about the programme and how were you selected?

The MPA reached out and conducted a roadshow at the SMU to generate interest in the programme. At the first round of interviews, candidates were required to collaborate, brainstorm and present solutions to resolve current maritime challenges facing Singapore. The second round of interviews was conducted by various participating companies. Standard Asia was the first company to interview me. The chance to work with a leading International Group P&I club in a position which is not desk-bound and with plenty of opportunities to interact with people from across the spectrum of the maritime industry was simply too good to pass up. Needless to say, I accepted Standard Asia's offer right away!



¹ <http://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/media-centre/news-releases/detail/c6e0c98b-8dfd-437f-80d2-b56c48217452>

The MPA Global Internship Award Ceremony 2017 on 11 May 2017. 2017 MPA GIA intern to Standard Asia, Ziyi Lim flanked by Andrew Tan (R) and David Roberts (L), Managing Director of Charles Taylor Mutual Management (Asia) Pte. Limited, managers of Standard Asia.

What did you do as an intern?

The ten-week programme was well-structured and aimed at providing the intern with the widest possible exposure to the workings of the P&I club and its related businesses.

The first four weeks were spent with Standard Asia in Singapore. I was introduced to the different aspects of marine insurance with a focus on war insurance. I worked closely with the underwriters of the Singapore War Risks Mutual (SWRM).

I then spent four weeks in London working with the club's reinsurance team. I was given a thorough grounding in the process of underwriting in respect of onshore and onboard risks.

My final two weeks were spent in Singapore where I worked on a project culminating in a 45-minute presentation on piracy to the Standard Asia team.

Top three takeaways

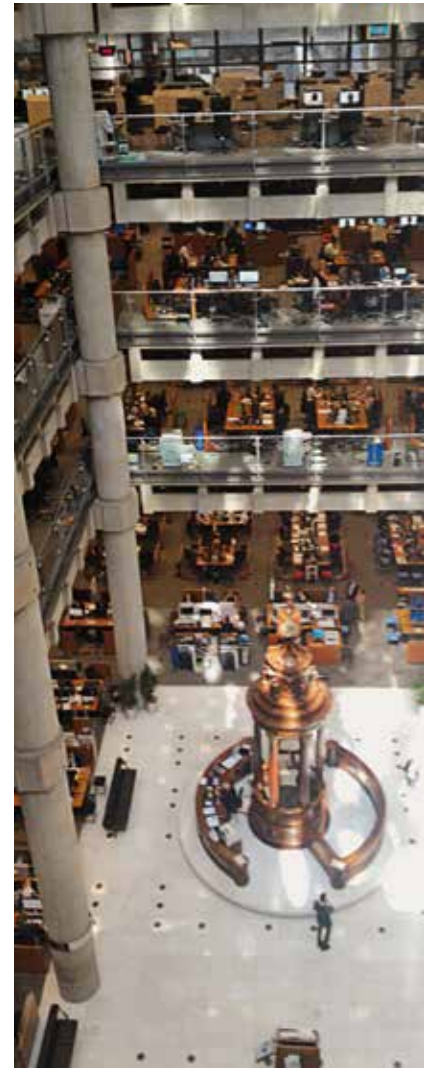
Soft skills are as important as technical skills, even more so in shipping. I shadowed various underwriters and brokers, which was invaluable training at communicating in a business setting. I learned to converse and craft emails from different perspectives and for different purposes.

In London, I had the opportunity to experience and immerse myself in a different cultural environment from Singapore. I realised the importance of adapting to different cultures in order to conduct business worldwide.

Lastly, visiting Lloyd's of London was a great learning experience. The architecture and lively atmosphere are unique, as are the formalities. I was reliably informed that removing my jacket or tie whilst in the building may attract the attention of security! I was particularly impressed that face-to-face brokering has been retained over the centuries to good effect.

Final words?

I am grateful to the MPA for the opportunity to have a headstart in pursuing a shipping career by experiencing life at work in a top-tier international maritime company and living in the UK. Thank you too to the people at The Standard Club both in Singapore and London who made me feel welcome and who generously shared their expertise.



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 The Standard P&I Club

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Registered address:
Standard House, 12-13 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3AA

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**Charles
Taylor**