

Inspirational Sparks

Hallmarks of Success



Flying High

By Ian Neo



Every aspiring youth would have a dream that he or she is proud of. Since my younger days, it has always been my childhood dream to be a pilot. That one and only career option motivated me to work hard during my pre-university years. It was certainly not an easy option but an arduous one. In fact, I have never dreamt of going to the university. Now that I have fulfilled my dream, it is my pleasure to share with you my story.

‘Making it happen’ was not something on my task list during my Pre-U days. I guess the only reason I had made it to where I am today is the determination and perseverance to attain what I always wanted to do in life. Back then in former Jurong Institute (JI), being a pilot was my goal and I was set to achieve it.

Like most desirable things in life, one would have to invest a considerable amount of time and energy in order to establish success in a big way. In reminiscence of the good old days in JI, I knew well enough that I was not exactly academically inclined. However, that weakness did not deter me to do my best. I did not give up. There were many limitations and what kept me going was my will to pursue my dream as a pilot. To be a professional pilot, I needed a good education and qualification. That was my personal challenge to excel and I knew sacrifices would have to be made on my end. However, I did not regret it.

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To many, joining the 3-years Pre-University course in a Centralised Institute was not something favourable. Perhaps, it could be the last option for many other students. On the contrary, I beg to differ. During my time, I tried to make full use of the three years to acquire more content knowledge for my subjects. My peers in Junior Colleges (JCs) were envious as they wished they could have an extra year to catch up on their lessons and revision. Undoubtedly, there were some merits in this academic system for learners and students like myself.

Time flies. My life in JI was a memorable one. Without dedicated teachers like Mdm. Ong Chai Hong, I could have given up. Personally,

I believe that the key to success comes from within. “When there’s a will, there’s a way.” Always be motivated and put in the effort to achieve your goals in life. Last but not least, I would like to wish the future generations of Millennials all the best for their ‘A’ levels examinations.



A current member of MI Alumni Association 2007/2008, Ian Neo graduated from the former Jurong Institute (JI) Class of 1993. Thereafter he obtained his Bachelor’s degree in Aviation in New Zealand. Ian is currently working as the Senior First Officer pilot in SilkAir. We wish Ian all the best in his career and future endeavours.