

***“Persistent & Creative – Moving up the ladder
to own million Dollar houses and income of US \$ 100.000 per year”
by Ir. Yulianto Roessaptono, MBA, CISA***

“We can do anything we want as long as we stick to it long enough” Hellen Keller, "the Miracle Worker" for her lifetime dedication, patience and love to a half-wild southern child trapped in a world of darkness.

Creativity is not some magical trait, says creativity expert R. Keith Sawyer, Ph.D. "You have to work hard to be a more creative person. You have to be diligent."

Think about persistence and creativity for a moment. You will realize how true it is that you will be unbeaten if you are persistent enough. You will be flourishing if you are creative enough. And you believe that “there is always a better way to do things, find it”.

Let me share with you what I’ve been through since I left my unforgettable University 25 years ago as a proud young ITB engineer. I have gone through many different chapters of life, voyage through all the major five continents, from West Africa up to North America, worked in the jungle and off-shore of a deep sea.

Now, I live between cities from Montreal to Miami, back to Toronto and go straight down to Philadelphia. I have been helping banks, insurance companies, and telecommunication companies offering consulting and advisory services as a Professional Technology Risk Management and IT Auditor for Jefferson Wells International.

Why does an engineer work in the field of risk management and IT Auditing?

A friend of mine said that my life and work is unique. Yes, that is true. But, no. Many people would have been doing the same thing should they encounter the same challenge and have persistence and creativity to deal with. Why don’t I write this story in chronological order and narrate what I have done, how I did it, why I did it, and what lessons learned can I share with you. Ready?

A young and proud Schlumberger Engineer

I was 25 when I graduated from ITB. Got the job and worked for Schlumberger as a Field Engineer, I traveled from Melbourne to Paris, to Lagos, to Douala and to the jungle of Sumatra.



Some people say I was lucky to have been employed by such a prestigious company. Agree, but luck is actually a combination of preparation and opportunity. I was working hard and well prepared for the interview, I even read “How to win the interview”. I researched and asked people who had been interviewed, and learned meticulous body language and practiced to make smart jokes, just to impress people and make them believe that I am “one of them”



Then after four years with Schlumberger, I felt the heaviness. As a young parent with three toddlers of 1 and 2 and 3 years of age, it was just unbearable to travel that much. Thus, I lost my concentration and I lost my job.

Lessons learned:

- *Take a break, take a deep breath, sit back and relax*
- *Communicate and talk over your problems to your superior – they will help you and offer you the way out. And they will feel being respected just because you ask them for help. Believe me.*

✓ *But I didn't do all of those. And I just moved on.*

An Investment Banker

What? An Investment Banker? What a career change? You're kidding me.

No, but yes, that's what's come about. A brilliant move, a great one, and I just love this part.

When I realized that I needed to have a “9-to-5” kind of job, for me to be closer to my kids at all times, then working for a bank suddenly became a logical metamorphosis.

It took me only two weeks to understand all about investment, stock market, financial structure, etc. I bought and read a book titled “Investment and Portfolio Management” and wrote a presentation and an impressive simple software program formulating price volatility and how to build a profitable portfolio. Genius? Not at all. It was such an intense study and heavy devotion. It's basically a curiosity-triggered motivation underlying these ventures.

Then the bank hired me, then I was busy with corporate financing, financial restructuring, merger and acquisitions kind of stuffs for five years. I was lucky to have been trained by Swiss Bank Corporation professionals and a Harvard Professor in the field of investment banking, for six months on the job training.

Lesson learned:

- *Do what you think is good for you, and do it right the first time.*
- *Don't stop until you get it and get it right*
- *Try to keep things in perspective.*
- *Remember KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid) – no offence. This is just a principle.*
- *Be creative and enjoy your work.*
- *Be curious. (I know, people say curiosity kills the cat.... But I don't like cats anyway)*

Risk Management Division Head

What? Again? A Risk Manager? Another career jump?

Yes, I was promoted to assume responsibility to lead a risk management division of a bank of the same group. Basically it was all about understanding the business and technology objectives, addressing the risks and pondering how to control and mitigate those risks, as simple as that.

But how did I get that job in the first place? The secret is how you package your skills and experiences, wrap it nicely and present it with confidence and convince them that you are Mr. Perfect for the job.

Creative, able to look things from many different angles, have an open mind, candid and fair are the qualities I learned from this job. And moreover, I grow to be a calculated risk-taker kind of person. I can make a risky move and get away with it. I know how to mitigate and control the risks and move up, up to the sky. And sky is the limit.

Lesson learned:

- *Learn how to package your skills, experience and wrap it and present it in such a way that people would believe that you are the right person for the job, if you really want that job.*
- *Keep an open mind. It's fun you know.*

Ernst & Young Manager

Wow! Seems so easy to jump around and get the best job in town. No and no. It was again a calculated and well planned move.

While I was working for the bank and managing risks, I suddenly had a good idea and at the same time found solutions to make my lifetime dreams come true, that is to have my kids obtain the best education, abroad, and I am still living among them and with them. The answer is Canada.



Yes. I planned and told everybody that I wanted so badly to move to Canada.

But how do I get a job there? A good job in Canada? Competing with the well-known most sophisticated and talented North American professionals?

The answer is simple: get a good job in Canada.

So I took week-end executive MBA classes at IPMI, and completed them in two years, was one of the top of the class, and obtained Award of Excellency. Then I applied for a job at Ernst & Young Jakarta, and during the interview I managed to convey the message that I am the cream of the cream; they believed me, they hired me, trained me and they liked me. And I performed.



And only then did I tell them I got my "Permanent Residence, Canada". In 2001, I and my wife and our kids immigrated to Canada, got the same job, as a Risk Manager for Ernst & Young, this time in Toronto, with a payslip of almost \$100K a year. Not bad for a new comer.

And in five years I own two houses in Toronto worth million dollars, and friends, lots of them, and most wonderfully, living closer to my three brilliant kids who never failed to win people's hearts and minds. And above all, the kids never missed a single shalaat. (*I am not sure if you understand this part, but just leave it as it is*).

Lesson learned:

- *Again, luck is a combination of preparation and opportunity.*
- *Persistence and creativity is the key.*
- *If you want it so badly, be prepared, opportunity will come. This is one of the many mysteries, a gift from the Almighty, and you can just safely take it for granted.*
- *Also, you need to know one thing; if you don't plan, you plan to fail.*
- *When you plan, make sure you do what you write and write what you do.*

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That's it. These are half of my tale. The next half of my story is yet to be lived in. I am now working for a company called Jefferson Wells International.



Jefferson Wells delivers professional services in the areas of internal audit, technology risk management, tax, and finance and accounting. We serve clients, including more than half the Fortune 500, through highly experienced, salaried professionals working from offices across North America and Europe.

I am far from being complete, and for me personally, this is just the beginning. The beginning of a new and exciting journey. I am now to guide my kids and at the same time to learn from them to live a better life, here, there and everywhere.

And without further ado, I am closing this narrative by returning all credits for all the good things happening to me, to the Owner of everything, and I quote: ***“Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds”***.

Yanto
Toronto, Spring 2007

About the author

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