

INTERVIEWS



Long Service Award - Mr. Lee Youn Sang

by Edward Kuruvilla

On 31.12.2013, the Firm honoured Mr. Lee Youn Sang with the 'Long Service Award'; an award given to employees who have served the firm for 50 years. I was accorded the privilege of interviewing the man himself. When I first approached Mr. Lee with the idea of conducting an interview with him, he was very reluctant, saying "I've been here for 50 years, what else is there to write about?" After much persuasion I managed to convince Mr. Lee to sit down with me and share his half-a-century-worth of experiences at Shook Lin & Bok. Once Mr. Lee loosened up, it was clear that he was quite the character, read below for some historical insights into the Firm.

Lee Youn Sang = LYS

Q: When did you first find out that you will be a recipient of the 'Long Service Award'?

LYS: Actually, the process is automatic. When people attain 50 years of service with the firm, they receive the award. There was one recipient before me, and if I am not mistaken, there will be someone receiving it right after me as well. That's how I knew.

Q: How do you feel after receiving the award?

LYS: Nothing! I am happy about the extra RM5,000.00 that I have received though.

Q: If you have been 50 years in service, I take it that you first joined the firm in 1964?

LYS: No, it was a year earlier actually. I joined in 1963.

Q: Wow! That was the year The Beatles released their first album 'Please Please Me'!

LYS: That one I don't know.
[Mr. Lee proceeded to tell me he doesn't care much for The Beatles or their music...]

Q: Do tell us a bit about how you ended up at Shook Lin & Bok. What was it that made you apply here over 50 years ago?

LYS: I was initially learning typewriting, book-keeping and shorthand in Shaw Commercial, Kuala Lumpur. It was there that I was introduced by a fellow employee's relative to Lorraine Esme Osman, who was at that time, a Partner of Shook Lin & Bok. Mr. Osman took a liking towards me and offered me employment, and I accepted.