

THE CHEMISTRY OF ANALYTICS

INTERVIEW



Distinguished
Alumnus

MR WING LUK CHAN

1973 BSc Graduate

Profile:

- Financial Commentator

“Your academic and career pursuits can be two separate things. What truly matters is always follow your interest and goal, and enjoy the process. It is like a Chemistry experiment”

Probably you know him by the name of Uncle 6 (陸叔), Mr Wing Luk CHAN, a renowned financial commentator and a Chemistry graduate from HKU. Right after his graduation, he joined HSBC for nine years, then gradually ventured into the securities industry.

His job now surrounds his radio shows and newspaper columns, where he gives comments to his audience. With his personal wisdom and experience, he is always able to convey good advices in a light-hearted way. In his role as a mentor, Uncle 6 is extremely good at showing Science students how to plan their career path unfolding his own journey.

Looking into his career path, he was definitely a goal-oriented person. He knew that he wanted to study Chemistry but would not pursue career in this field, hence he prepared and applied for HSBC knowing that the banking industry was taking off and had high demand for young talents. Banks believed in general

education, that the bank would teach you everything specific to the industry once you get in.

This was certainly different from how it is now — banks look at qualifications and aptitude test results in the first round of interview. Nonetheless, it does not mean one with Science background who wants to pursue a career in banking should feel defeated. Uncle 6 shared that Science, instead of teaching the specific, trains our analytical mind. Know your strength, then we could start learning, then we could start pursuing.

To decide what to pursue, observing and knowing the current trend is extremely important. Uncle 6 advised that you should identify the growing industries and markets before committing yourself into a job. Your degree may not correlate to your career, and the market changes and demand shifts constantly.

Some may observe that founding a startup is the trend and you could gain a lot of popularity these days. From his interviews with market leaders, Uncle 6 has gained a lot of insight into building a startup. “The first thing you need is vision and knowledge. Then you need to know if you have the drive and how willing you are to devote your time.” He shared a successful case of startup to prove how deep knowledge and experience from working from bottom would drive a startup. Yet he went on to pinpoint that behind every successful startup project, there were hundreds and thousands of projects that went under the desk.

Uncle 6 was once a dedicated hall-mate of University Hall before all these. Looking back to his time, he mentioned that “University students were rare, not to even mention HKU students. They were considered as the gifted ones (天之驕子) and a lot of times all we need is reality check.” The reality checks that not all of us are best of the best or a special snowflake, but we are all part of a larger group where we need to appreciate and learn from each other — the need to “smoothen one’s rough edges.”

This idiom resonates with many of us. In a team setting, we may encounter difficulties from different people and issues. However, success starts from within. Success lies in how a leader could pull through tasks despite all these problems — through respect, motivation, compromise and communication, whatever it takes to “smoothen one’s rough edges”. HKU is such an amazing place owing to how we get to experience and learn from all these challenging moments.

Uncle 6 resonated with this value too, when commenting what was his motivation of staying in hall, he mentioned precisely how he got to learn with people who he admired so much, and how the brotherhood value manifested in his life even till now. Though time passed and he did not expect the current generation to follow whatever legacy was left, he still hoped that the current generation would know what their goals were and what was right or wrong.

Uncle 6’s advice shows how much insight and experience he has. Looking into his journey, the importance of an analytical mind, sensitivity to the industry and general trend are critical for people standing at crossroads. He sets his own goals, sees a lot and analyses a lot, and that spirit of grit is something we all can learn from.

STUDENT REPORTER

“First impression of Uncle 6 (陸叔) does fit my expectation — Goal oriented and practical. It’s extremely fruitful to talk to Uncle 6, even though I am not into stocks. His business insight and personal story from university are interesting enough to listen to, and definitely motivated me to continue finding my own career path.”



Kaman Lee, BSc Student
(major in Chemistry,
minor in Global Studies)