



Filbert Tsai
DEBIT CREDIT

By Filbert Tsai

(First of two parts)

I am now back in the Philippines raring to pursue my entrepreneurial and professional career. It's been over three years since I went to the start my United Kingdom (UK) career in 2014. It sounds cliché, but I still think it was just yesterday when I decided to sign an offer letter to move to the UK.

I have been asked several times to share my experience working overseas. It's quite difficult for me to share my experience since I have pre-decided that my move to the UK is not my long-term goal, it's a stepping stone for my wider ambition.

It was August 2014 when I signed my offer sheet to work for a global professional firm. It took me more than two months to decide since I was almost sure that I got the job after my final interview - it's not an easy decision.

Back in the Philippines at that time, I've gotten fantastic offers which pays far more than what I'm signing for since I can speak in Mandarin and I've got quite a good industry profile. It was a challenging decision due to several factors.

Let me share some of the more substantive factors which I considered then.

Back in Philippines, in the auditing firm where I worked, I had a pretty good profile and my superiors trusted that I can deliver. Moving to another country would mean that I would need to re-establish my credentials and build my profile..

I was quite sure then that I would likely had been promoted to manager in the auditing firm where I was working if I had stayed for a couple of more months. Moving overseas would mean that career advancement will likely take some more time since I would have to establish anew my baseline performance plus adjust to my new environment in the UK.

I have never really considered moving overseas - not until I fancied applying for an overseas job for the fun of it. It was a challenging decision to leave all the networks that I have in the Philippines - from colleagues to partner to clients. They're all important to me.

It was challenging to take a massive leap of faith when I have a promising career back home. It was uncertain if I will be able to do well outside the Philippines.

So what made me decide to sign the contract?

Filbert Tsai has his own consulting firm, the UpSmart Consulting, Inc. . He's key areas of interests are start-ups and MSMEs. His blog and page, "Ask the Accounting Advisor", provides relevant insight for start-ups and MSMEs in the Philippines.

This column accepts contributions from accountants, especially articles that are of interest to the accountancy profession, in particular, and to the business community, in general. These can be e-mailed to boa.secretariat@gmail.com.