

YPPC Winners' Sharing

In Dec 2019, we interviewed Theo and Mario on their experience of winning the FEDS final and entering the Grand Final of Young Persons Paper Competition (YPPC) in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Do you want to know the tips for winning? Here we go!



Theo joined the Hong Kong and China Gas Co. Ltd in November 2016 and is currently working in the Customer Maintenance Services Department, providing technical support in the areas of preventive maintenance services, gas service riser replacement as well as process improvement.

Theo's Winning Paper: Development of Gas Detection Device for Riser Inspection

Gas service risers erected outside building are one of the main components in gas service pipe system in Hong Kong. To maintain a reliable and safe supply of gas, the condition monitoring and control to these service risers are critical. In this innovative project, therefore, an inspection device is developed to facilitate the early detection of gas leakage and further enhance occupational health and safety.

Mario Cheung joined The Hong Kong and China Gas Group in Hong Kong as an Assistant Engineer in 2016, having 3 years of work experience involved the feasibility studies, designs, project management, operation and maintenance for landfill gas or biogas related utilization projects and processing facilities. In 2019, Mario received his Master of Science degree in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



Mario's Winning Paper: An Innovative Landfill Gas Product Redesign

Landfill gas (LFG) is generated during the decomposition of organic material. If LFG is emitted directly into the air, it can aggravate the greenhouse effect that threatens the environment. This paper is about an innovative landfill gas utilization project, involving the process of design, testing, implementation and results. This project acts as a reference and showcase and can be applied in other countries to utilize the renewable green energy of LFG flexibly.



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Q: Why are you interested in joining YPPC?

T: Joining the YPPC, I am able to give myself a challenge in getting some achievements. Also, it is undeniably a chance to evaluate my ability under the comparison with the candidates from different countries.

Q: Any tips on writing the 250 words abstract in order to gain a chance into the Section Final?

T: An abstract that can be easily understood by the audience might be helpful in gaining a chance to get into the Section Final. Use precise and concise wordings to explain your ideas.

M: Tips from me is to show clearly how unique or special your topic is, using words such as innovation, design, etc. Let's other more easily get your idea from the abstract. Attaching a picture in the abstract can present your idea better. Apart from the content, keep the 250 words document in a tidy manner like selecting a good-looking font. I suggest using Times New Roman as it looks professional, tidy and clean.

Q: How do you select the topic for joining YPPC?

M: I believe interesting topics can attract judges' attention especially the topics related to innovation, design, or breakthrough. Besides, the topic shall be closely related to the gas industry such as the gas supply, transmission, distribution, appliances, etc. Of course, I shall familiar with the topic first and participated in it.

Q: Does innovative ideas give you an advantage of entering to the Section Final?

M: I think yes. Those judges are experts in the gas industry and familiar with most of the traditional existing systems and technologies. In general, innovative ideas are referring to something new in the industry that may raise judges' interest. And the only way for them to know more about your topic is to select you into the section final. Then, they can read your technical paper and listen to your presentation.

Q: What difficulties did you come across when writing the paper and how did you solve it?

T: When writing up the paper, it takes time in summarizing the contents into a structured piece as there are bunches of information in the project. To deal with such difficulty, my approach is to list out all the important points then select the worth mentioning details before writing up the paper.

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Q: Any advices for Q&A section?

T: Stay calm and enjoy the Q&A section. It would be a golden opportunity to hear some opinions from your audience and reflect if you missed some details when carrying out the project.

Q: What are the crucial elements of winning in YPPC?

M: To me, the critical element of winning is your attitude. It reflects on how much you have prepared, how deep you have thought, how many times you have practiced, how passion you would like to show the best of you in front of the others.

T: Rather than a competition, the YPPC is actually a valuable platform for various young professionals from the gas industries to learn from each other. Thus, winning the YPPC is a bonus, it is more crucial for us to enjoy the show and be humble to learn.

Q: How does the YPPC experience affect or contribute your career in gas industry?

M: Chartered Engineer registration is one of the goals for young engineers and the biggest challenge is the interview section. YPPC gives us a chance to prepare for the interview as we have to prepare the material from our gas experience, give a presentation in front of gas experts, and answer challenging questions asking by the judges. Those are the essential tasks in the interview section. YPPC rehearses us for the interview and lets us have more confident during presentations or interviews. Besides, broaden our horizons can strengthen our personal growth and development in the gas industry.

Q: How is the Grand final experience in UK different from FEDS final?

T: In the UK Grand Final, most of the finalists are not from mainland China. Hence English speaking and listening skills would be more essential to facilitate the communication among the finalists.

M: I was attracted by the diversity of UK contestants' presentation. Apart from using PowerPoint slides for the presentation, some of them prepared props such as cardboard, equipment or device. One of them demonstrated how to install and dismantle fittings within a short moment by using their tools. Besides, the competition room was well decorated and looked like a party room rather than a competition venue. While FEDS final's venue was more serious and sound professional. Both of them had a unique competition's style and atmosphere.



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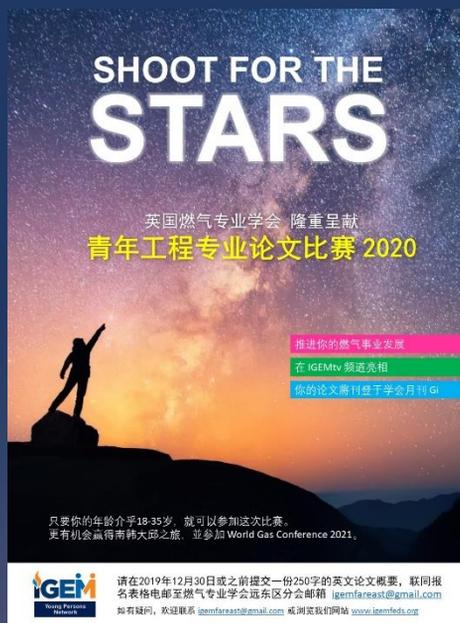
Q: What did you gain or learn from joining YPPC?

M: During the preparation of paper or presentation material, I strengthened my engineering knowledge as I organized and summarized my experience. At the moment, I realized I didn't completely understand all the details. Of course, I cannot ignore it and has to research or ask my senior colleagues to understand the whole story. Besides, listening to others presentation can broaden my horizons. Especially as a young engineer in Gas Production Department, it was a great time to know the gas projects, operations, difficulties and solutions in different places or cities such as LNG receiving terminal analysis, NB-IoT technology, power-to-gas technology, jointing methodology, etc.

Q: Would you recommend to others for joining the YPPC and why?

T: Sure! The YPPC would never disappoint your expectation, it does not only broader your horizon but also enrich your knowledge in gas engineering and enlighten your journey in the gas industries.

M: YPPC can strength our engineering knowledge, broaden our horizon and prepare ourselves as a Chartered Engineer. No matter we can get any awards or not, we should learn or gain something from YPPC. Besides, the winner of YPPC will have a chance to the UK and have fun. Next year, the winner of YPPC will have a chance to Korea!! Don't be hesitate. Join YPPC and have fun.



Don't wait!

Join YPPC 2020