

ISSUE 470

DATE: 15/12/2017

Believe in What We Do & Being Open to Criticism.

Dear Penfabricans,

Believing in what we do does not mean we close our doors to the world and just do the damndest in our project, hoping to arrive at our goal. Rather, we need to be open to the world, open to ideas from others. Open to criticisms even, no matter how harsh they may be.

[Cher Wang](#), CEO of HTC has this to say about being on top of the class: "It takes humility to realize that we don't know everything, not to rest on our laurels and know that we must keep learning and observing. If we don't, we can be sure some start-ups will be there to take our place." It goes to show the importance of keep learning and observing that even Cher Wong, at the pinnacle of her career at a high powered electronics company, also subscribes to the notion that no one knows everything. Continuous improvement and progress is the way forward, lest someone will overtake us in no time.

Furthermore, it has been observed that the wealthy and the leaders in their field, always keep up with their pursuits of constant and non-stop learning. Taking the initiative to learn new knowledge will enhance our existing skills, thereby widening our scope and vision pertaining to our own fields of expertise. This self-learning and self-improvement becomes instrumental to evolving our personal and professional life to a higher level. Accepting criticism will let us learn the humility of knowing the fact that different people look at things differently. No

matter how well we think we performed, some other people may harbour the idea that things could have been done in a better way. Should we always think that our work is the best possible piece, we will stop learning. Stop progressing. Impeded in bringing out the best in us. Our VIP customer, TAL in Hong Kong, one of the best and biggest garment makers in the world, has this corporate philosophy when it comes to quality, "There is no such thing as the best as we can always do better. Continuous improvement will make us bring out better and better product and value."

I believe that when a person stops subscribing to criticism from others or stops listening to others, he starts to think too highly of himself. Hence, he will be deluded into thinking that there is nothing more to improve. It will bring about the downfall of this person. He becomes too arrogant, tyrannical and too proud to be contributing to the well-being of the society and the progress of mankind. Accept criticisms, though at times they can be very caustic. However, do not waver in the pursuit of our goals. Believe in what we do.

Dear Penfabricans, in this day and age, people tend to be more self-centred, selfish even. They are less open-minded to ideas and criticisms from others. Many tend to live in an oasis of their own. We may be very well connected to the world and information highways through the internet and the numerous websites, but our interpersonal skills and acceptance of criticisms have become eroded. We need to learn to be more patient with others and with ourselves. Have face-to-face communication and conversation with others around us, rather than habitually lowering our heads and immersing in the worldwide web, busy connecting with people we hardly know personally through Facebook or other social media. Have a wonderful weekend. Believe in what we do while we put up with the real world.

Remember Determination is the thing: Believe in What we do even in the face of harsh criticism.

Thank you.

With kind regards,
HSTeh.