

Journey from Ivory Tower to the Real World of the Food Industry

by **Mr. Foo Check Woo**
Director, of 5P Consulting

Host: Dr. Zhou Weibiao **Date:** 11th Jan, 2016, Monday
Time: 12pm to 1pm **Venue:** Seminar Room S16-04-30

Abstract

In the Chinese classic novel, Journey to the West, Xuanzang, was assisted by three main capabilities personified in the form of Sun Wukong, Zhu Bajie and Sha Wujing in his quest. Today, this story is still as relevant as it was first told more than a thousand years ago. During the talk, we shall spend some time examining those capabilities personified by the three protagonists. Similarly, your journey from university to working in the current Food Industry will require you to acquire three management capabilities to buttress you in your quest. They are time management, project management, and early warning management. While these three capabilities are essential in all industries, I shall explain what they are and why they are crucial in the food industry.

About the speaker

Mr. Foo Check Woo had more than 32 years' experience in R&D for Nestlé, specializing over the years in laboratory practices and management, applied sciences in food manufacturing, quality and food safety systems, early warning systems, sensory evaluation and consumer preference, process and project management, knowledge management, then in change management, innovation partnerships, people development, and eventually in training and facilitation.

He spent 6 years in China from 2008 – 2014 for Nestlé R&D. Although stationed in Beijing, his work required him to travel and work in other parts of China. For a stint of 16 months back in 1998-2000, Check Woo even taught English in a local college in Wuhan, China.

He had co-edited the Proceedings of the 7th World Congress of Food Science and Technology Congress (1989) and co-authored 2 books rendering classical Chinese poetry into English (1991, 1996). He has also published papers in food science (2009, 2011), knowledge management (2008) and policy journals (2008), and is cited as co-inventor in a patent (2011).

4 years ago, Check Woo decided to channel his experience, know-how and interpersonal skills into training and people development. Since retiring end July 2015, Check Woo has decided to focus on training and facilitating scientific application, process, project and people management for the technical community, and coaching young professionals to deal with the new realities, in which complexity reigns, and where critical thinking and interpersonal skills are needed more than ever.

Check Woo is married with 2 boys, and is currently pursuing a PhD in International Law with China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing.

