

Create Our Beautiful Future Together

Hello fellow Area 83 club officers and toastmasters,

This is Victor Xiao, Area 83 governor for term 2008/2009. I am very glad to have this opportunity to work together with you all in this new toastmaster year. In order to know each other better, I'd like to introduce myself first.

I was born in a small village in southern China. When I was 7 years old, I went to elementary school. I didn't think I was a smart pupil. During my first years in elementary school, my teacher had always said "Today, MOST pupils have done well." I believed that I had also done very well, so as many other classmates. But I couldn't understand why my teacher only praised someone, whose name is "MOST". I admired him/her so much, but I actually didn't know who is MOST for a long time.



When I was 17 years old, I went to a university in northeast China. After 10 years of hard work, I eventually got my PhD in mechanical engineering. When I was a kid, I never thought I could be a PhD holder, I even didn't think about going to university. At that time my big dream was to be a trainman. Why? Because a trainman can always travel free from one big city to another by train. What an interesting and valuable job, I thought.

Since graduating from the school, I worked in the same university as an assistant professor and associate professor. In 1997 I moved back to southern China and worked as a senior engineer in a high tech company.

In 2005 I immigrated to Canada with my wife and my son, and started a brand new life. It was really a big challenge for us, because the culture here is totally different from China. In order to adapt myself to the new environment quickly, I joined Toastmasters and found that a Toastmasters club is a wonderful place to improve my English skills. At first I could not even understand what the table topic master asked me. Instead of laughing, my fellow toastmasters always encouraged me. With my fellow toastmasters' constant encouragement and help, I kept attending my clubs weekly meeting, and prepared all of my speeches to the best of my ability. My English has improved step by step, which helped me get my current job as an engineer in a local company. I also got my first Toastmaster's award -- competent communicator (CC) certification just in this June.

I have benefited a lot from Toastmasters; which not only include English communication skills, but also the leadership skills as being VP education in the last year in the Golden Eagle club. Although my English skills are still not good enough, and there is a long way to go, I would like to try my best to do something for our clubs and members. The role of area governor surely offers me a great opportunity and big challenge, I am very confident to face this big challenge with the past governor Lydia's assistance and your support. I cherish this special opportunity and like to work with all of you to create our beautiful future together.

If you have any questions, suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: victorx88@yahoo.ca

Or 604-299-8216 (night and weekend).

Thank you.

Victor Xiao