Digital Transformation in Action
An Industry Talk on PPG's IT Strategy: Analytics, Cloud & SAP
(Group 3)

INTRODUCTION

This industry talk was delivered by a team of IT experts from PPG, a global coatings and materials manufacturer with over 140 years of history. The presentation focused on key areas of PPG's digital transformation, including:

◆ Overview of PPG – Presented by APAC IT Lead Ai Ling Ooi , covering the company's history, business scope, sustainability goals, and its corporate mission to "protect and beautify the world."

◆ Data Analytics – Presented by Data Analytics Manager Derrick Tan, highlighting how PPG leverages data analytics to drive business decisions, optimize operations, and sharing real-world use cases.

◆ Global Infrastructure – Presented by Cloud Architecture Lead Vijaykumar Dhandapani, explaining how PPG builds and manages a cloud-first global IT infrastructure to support multi-region business operations.

◆ SAP Enterprise Systems – Presented by SAP Operations DTR Lead Patrick Thong, illustrating how PPG integrates core business processes through SAP to achieve end-to-end business digitization.

This talk not only demonstrated how a traditional manufacturing enterprise like PPG actively embraces information technology but also provided students with valuable insights into the application and value of ICT in real-world industrial environments. Through the sharing of the four experts, we gained a glimpse into how a global enterprise drives innovation, enhances efficiency through technology, and paves the way for future career development.

Our Guest Speakers

Ooi Ai Ling — Associate Director, APAC IT Lead
Derrick Tan Horng Shi — Data Analytics Manager
Vijaykumar Dhandapani — Cloud Dg Architect
Patrick Thong — SAP CoE Operations DTR Lead APAC

SUMMARY

This industry talk mainly introduced the company background, IT infrastructure development, SAP enterprise systems, and internship opportunities. The content can be summarized into the following key points .

1. Company background
PPG is a global company with over 140 years of history, specializing in paints and coatings and operating across multiple regions worldwide. Its products are widely used in automotive, aerospace, marine, industrial, and architectural applications, and the company also places strong emphasis on sustainability and environmental responsibility.

2. IT Infrastructure Trends
The speakers highlighted how modern IT infrastructure is evolving toward cloud-based, AI-driven, and autonomous systems, supported by trends such as Zero-Trust security and edge computing.

3. SAP
SAP ERP serves as the core system that integrates finance, procurement, production, supply chain, sales, and human resources into a single digital platform.

4. Malaysia Shared Service Center
The Malaysia Shared Services Center provides global IT, finance, HR, and supply chain support, serving as an important digital and technology hub for PPG.

5. Internship Program and Career Development
The internship program offers mentorship, cross-functional experience, real-world projects, and potential full-time employment opportunities after graduation.

Overall, the industry talk demonstrated how digital transformation, enterprise IT systems, and global operational strategies play a critical role in supporting PPG's long-term growth.

CONTENT

PPG

Company Size and Achievements:
PPG was founded in 1883 and operates in 70 countries. Ooi Ai Ling said last year, its global sales reached 15.8 billion US dollars, and it has been ranked in the Fortune 500 for 70 consecutive years. Currently, it ranks 234th. It has also been named one of the global employers by Time magazine and has received several research awards.

ESG and Sustainable Development:
PPG attaches great importance to ESG and sustainable development. It is committed to reducing waste of water, gas, etc., achieving 100% sustainability assessment of key suppliers, and ensuring that employees return home safely. In addition, the PPG Foundation has contributed 18.4 billion US dollars globally to STEM education, and its "Colorful Communities" project has achieved 60% of the goal in the past 10 years.

Different business areas of PPG

1. Building coatings: Account for 25% - 35% of the business, and are well-known paints used for buildings, schools, universities, etc.

2. High-performance coatings: Account for 35%, covering aerospace (aircraft coatings, special coatings for cockpit windshields), automotive repair paints (restoring the original color after vehicle collision repair), protective and marine coatings (protective coatings for ships, windmills, underground cables, etc.), transportation solutions (highway road marking coatings).

3. Industrial coatings: Account for 40%, including original car coatings (five-layer coatings during car manufacturing), agricultural machinery coatings, coin coatings, electronic products (laptop screens, mobile phone screens), and other industrial product coatings not belonging to packaging, ships, or aerospace fields

The PPG Digital IT Team:

Team composition: In addition to the teams involved in data analysis, SAPCOE,and global infrastructure, there are also teams such as Science and Technology, IT Asset Management, and Digital Business Solutions. The gender ratio of the team is approximately 59% male and 41% female, and this ratio is constantly changing. There are many UTM alumni and interns, and there are also more female employees. The majority are local Malaysians, and there are also employees from India and Indonesia.Below are the introductions of the three teams

MY Technology Center: PPG Digital IT Workforce Diversity

1.Data Analytics Team:
The main objective is to achieve data-driven decision-making, including improving efficiency, identifying growth opportunities, etc. The team structure is divided into four main areas: master data, ERP analysis, data lake analysis, and MLOPS. The required skills include programming languages such as SQL, data and file type processing, data visualization (using tools like PowerBI), ELT processes, DevOps practices, and database design.
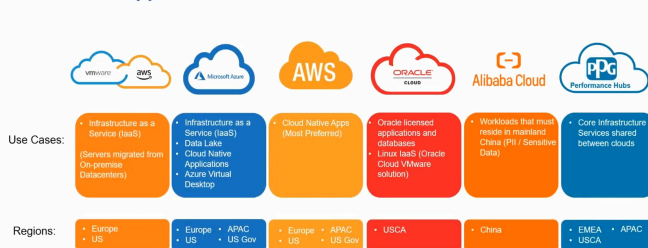
2.Cloud Global Infrastructure Team:
Operates under the "Plan-Build-Run" framework. The planning team is responsible for coordinating with business partners to formulate the global IT strategy; the construction team builds and adjusts IT services based on the plan; the operation team is responsible for ensuring the continuous operation of services. The organizational framework is divided by regions, including EMEA, APAC, USCA, etc. for regional infrastructure management.
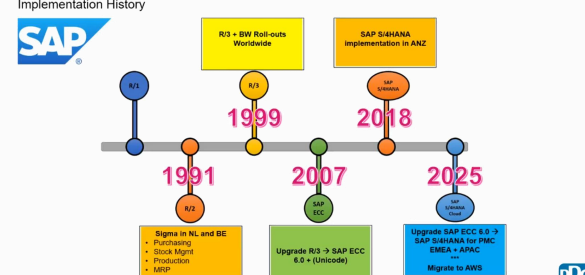
3.SAPCOE Team:
SAP is an enterprise resource planning (ERP) software that connects the core business processes of a company, such as finance, human resources, production, procurement, and sales, into a unified view, providing a single data source. SAP is divided into three main areas: functions (modules for various business domains), technology (system management, integration, ABAP programming language, etc.), and reporting (SAP BI suite).

REFIECTION

The PPG industry talk was a valuable experience that enhanced my understanding of how digital transformation supports global manufacturing. I learned how PPG uses cloud infrastructure and SAP ERP systems to streamline operations across regions, highlighting the importance of integrated IT systems.

The session also introduced key skills for IT roles today, such as SQL, Python, Azure, and DevOps. This encouraged me to keep learning and adapting to new technologies.

I was especially inspired by the internship program, which offers real-world experience, mentorship, and career opportunities. Overall, the talk motivated me to strengthen both technical and soft skills and explore future roles in enterprise systems and global IT operations.

PPG Location and Work development

Location :

PPG SSC Offices & Plant in Malaysia

Devlopment :
PPG Digital IT – Career & Learning

TEAM MEMBER

Group 3

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