

CHALLENGES AS REGIONAL SECURITY MANAGER

by [Mohamad Saiful Mohamad](#)

The prerequisites of a Regional Security Manager

I have been a Regional Security Manager since 1996. Looking back, it has not been a smooth sailing for me. I realized that when I took the challenge to take the Regional Security Manager position, I was not prepared to face the expectations. Now on hind sight, I am able to visualize the challenges ahead and how one can prepare himself to take up the challenges and be an effective Regional Security Manager. Below are some areas that anyone aspiring to become a Regional Security Manager should consider.

Physical health

This is a prerequisite for anybody that aspires to become a regional manager. You need to keep fit so as to avoid you getting sick when you are on the road. It can be costly to you as well as your employer if you get sick whilst on the road. The physical demand is also higher than when you are at home (office). You may have to make adjustments to yourself due to time difference, food, traffic conditions, weather conditions, harassments from touts etc. Long queues at airports are common experience where physical strength is key factor to our personal well-beings.

Mental health

If your physical health is severely affected, it will have an impact on your mental alertness. In most cases, when you are on business travel, the expectations on you are also higher than normal. You may have to squeeze your brains more than usual if you are attending business meetings or doing employee interviews or simply investigating. You are the center of attraction like it or not. Thus, your mental alertness is paramount. You can achieve this by having enough rest as well as do some light exercise everyday

Communication skills

A regional manager is always regarded as a consultant and people are always expecting answers from you. Unfortunately, you do not have answers most of the time. Your communication skills will be your savior. You need to acquire these skills or else you may have a disaster on your hands. Fast thinking, public speaking are some of the required skills.

In addition you will have to do some homework before attending any business meetings. You must list down FAQs and anticipated questions. The most difficult part would be how to answer questions that are confidential in nature and you cannot share it. You need to use your own judgment on what you can and cannot share and how not to reveal any confidential facts without upsetting your audience.

Local practices and traditions

Understanding some key local tradition and practices will be a bonus for you. It helps you to unlock the mind set of the local people which may be useful especially if you are planning to do employee interviews. It may also help you with your surveys or audits. Winning the confidence of the locals goes a long way in your career.

Knowledge on local laws

As part of your research, you will need to look at relevant. Study the law on privacy if you intent to confiscate hard documents or computer files. Different countries have different law, some may not even have the law and in this case you need to see the best practices from other companies. If you have a local security representative, you can depend on him to guide you. Encourage your local representative to network with the local law enforcement personnel.

Food and beverage

In order for you to sustain your daily activities as a Regional security person you need to take the right kind of food and beverages. Internet can be a very useful tool for you. For Muslims, looking for 'halal' food may be a daunting experience at times. We have to drink only renowned brands filtered water even though they maybe a little expensive. Bring along some medications with you such as for stomach ache, headaches, pain killers etc.

Tips

Anyone interested to take up the challenge to be a Regional Security Manager must take the trouble and efforts to learn the in depth of security management. You need to expand your basic knowledge. See below some of the knowledge expansion expectations.

1. Understanding the need for Security Policies and Procedures and the ability to formulate one for your organization.
2. Setting of standards and methods to apply in order to sustain set standards.
3. Research and understand the key security issues in the region and develop your own mitigation plan.
4. Understanding the divisions of security management namely investigation and physical security.
5. Crisis Management and Business Continuity Management knowledge.
6. Setting up daily activities in order to meet and sustain set standards.
7. Brush up on your report writing and communication skills. Be a part of the region's security groups and network. They can be of help when you have issues.
8. Learn how to do simple building security designs and audits.
9. Always be on your toe and never complacent.