

Amanda: So, according to your resume, you've been with Sakura Clothing for seven years. What can you tell us about that?

Kota: I first joined the company as the manager for their Osaka store, followed by two other stores in Fukuoka and Nagoya. I've increased sales in all three stores. For the last four years I've worked as a development manager at its Tokyo headquarters, overseeing the planning and launch of new stores in eastern Japan.

Amanda: Considering their speed of expansion, that must have been a great responsibility. What do you consider your most significant accomplishment?

Kota: Well, I've been successful in all seven stores that I've been involved in as a development manager. I've achieved this mainly by increasing the efficiency of the distribution process and researching carefully about the potential market for each store. The revenue for these seven stores is actually 20-50 percent higher than the average for all Sakura stores.

Amanda: That's quite impressive. What would you say are your strengths and weaknesses?

Kota: I think what sets me apart is that I work very well under pressure and that I'm a great leader. One of the key elements of successful store management is to motivate your staff and build a strong team, and I've been able to do that with everyone I've worked with. My weakness might be that I'm very energetic. Sometimes I find it difficult to do routine work for long periods of time.

Amanda: I see. And finally, why are you interested in this position?

Kota: I'm looking for the opportunity to take on new and challenging assignments that will allow me to use my experiences in retail as well as international communication skills I gained while studying in the U.S. While Sakura was a really great company to work for, it is essentially a domestic company and has no plans to expand overseas. I've always been interested in working for a global company and decided it was time to move on. I believe I'm the best person for the job and that my qualities and experiences would be great assets to your company.

Amanda: OK, I think I've covered everything I wanted to. Thank you for coming today. I'll get back to you within a week.