

Company visit to Nippon Koei CO., LTD

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November 29, 2016

Report

According to the introduction presentation of the company, Nippon Koei is the biggest international engineering consultant company in Japan. The company's branches and target areas are mainly located in developing countries of Asia, Africa, and south America. The company is comprised of several sections, namely: energy infrastructure, water and sanitation, urban and industrial development, transportation infrastructure and environment. The mission of the company is to help and provide advice in engineering construction, or sometimes build and operate the project themselves.

After the briefing and introduction, we had a chance to visit the show room showcasing the history of the company. We were then brought to the branch's workplace inside the Kudanshita office, the company's headquarters. After the short tour, we listened to two presentations about experiences and projects handled by two of their staff members.

Visiting to the office, workplace, makes me understand more about the system and working environment in a Japanese company. It was the first time for me to be in a real Japanese office. Although we had only brief conversations with Japanese employees and an Indonesian employee and short exposures to their workplace, I strongly feel the systematic, well organized and Japanese-style practice. For instance, there are the well organized table divided in small departments, without separate rooms for the heads of departments; they have only separated desks in the front of rolls of table.

The presentation of two employees gave a lot of information about both the engineering knowledge about the project and the method and process they employed as an engineer consultant. Infrastructure and urban construction has many procedures such as site examination, cost evaluation and calculation in economics. One project showed that purification of sea water costs a lot more from ground water but can be a necessary alternative. The method to purify and transfer water supply is a complicated system.

We had a dinner party. I had a good chance to talk to company people. I realize that they have lots of oversea experience. Since Nippon Koei is an international company which has many branches in other countries and many constructions and consultants outside Japan, most of them have been in four or five countries abroad and some of them can speak more than three languages. This company is a very good chance and experience for me and other GSEP members to get to know more about Nippon Koei, Japanese company, real engineering works, and also the way to live and to work in the future. Communication and interaction skills are essential.