

Company visit to Nippon Koei CO., LTD

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Report

On November 29, I together with the other GSEP students and teachers visited Japan's top international engineering consulting company with a long splendid history, Nippon Koei.

Mr. Yutaka KUBOTA established Nippon Koei soon after the World War2 by constructing a dam and hydropower station in North Korea, and China, respectively. Since that time, the company has been working on projects covering wide range of fields (energy, transportation, water and sanitation, environment and agriculture, urban and industry, public sector) in over 130 countries worldwide.

After a warm introduction between Nippon Koei engineers and us delegates from Tokyo Tech, we visited the memorial room for Mr. Yutaka KUBOTA, the founder. While Mr. Koji MORIO was explaining about the root of the company, the contribution and vision of Mr. Yutaka KUBOTA, which haven't lost its value even a bit over the years, we could see the employers respect for the company's founder and their enthusiasm towards their amazing construction works.

The two young engineers presented to us about the projects they worked on in the past 5 years of being in Nippon Koei. Mr. Kenichiro YOSHIDA from Urban Development Department talked about three projects and the general procedure of consultancy work. Engineering consultancy is comprised of a big team which conducts projects through a long procedure (from feasibility study to construction) depending on the contract. When he showed photos before and after project implementation, I witnessed an evolution from vast green land with cows to an urbanized area with highway and tall buildings. I was very proud that I'm going to become an engineer like them who can create things and make a change in society.

Mr. Hiroki YOSHIKAWA from Water Supply and Sewerage Department introduced us his project on the purification of seawater. For me, who didn't have much information about purification of seawater, it was a new and very interesting presentation. Water is a most vital necessity for human life, but as population increases and agriculture, industry develops, the demand of water increases and source of clean water decreases proportionally. In this situation, the method of seawater purification for everyday use is promising, without mentioning its cost. During his speech, I was instantly thinking about what can be an alternate water source for landlocked countries like Mongolia, my home country.

After getting familiar with the company in general, we had a great opportunity to ask questions and talk more freely with the engineers during the Welcome party. One of the great advantages of working in international division of a consulting company, which I liked, is working in many different places- meeting various people from diverse backgrounds. By that meaning, all the engineers had astonishing language skills and wide range of topics to talk about.

One good example is Ms. Yuka NAKAGAWA, who greeted me in Mongolian and worked in Mongolia for 2 months. Coming from the Environmental Science and Engineering Department, she said engineering is a lifelong study. Doing consultancy work especially requires wide range of knowledge from different engineering fields to economics, etc. After talking with her, I was thankful for joining the GSEP where I can study various subjects from engineering and liberal arts.

During this visit, we also managed to ask for an advice for our university years. Mr. Hiroki YOSHIKAWA

and Mr. Kenichiro YOSHIDA advised us to learn languages and improve the communication skills, which is very important to make others understand your idea, beside engineering studies.

In the end, I would like to thank to our GSEP teachers and Nippon Koei family, who welcomed us warmly, and for providing us this great educational and inspiring visit. As they said, we hope to work with you maybe in Japan or in our countries in a few years!