

My part-time job at Sunwon Construction Co.

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February 22, 2013



2nd Gen. Milika Kunda from Zambia, Africa got a chance to have a part time job at Sunwon Construction Co., one of the affiliates of Tongil Group. Let's see what she experienced.

Working at Sunwon Construction is one of the experiences in my life that I will never be able to forget. The first week was the hardest for me, and on the first day I was very nervous. I still was not sure what type of work I was going to be doing or if my Korean level was good enough. But anyway, I put a smile on my face and tried not to seem very nervous. For the first few days no one was really sure what I was supposed to do and I never had much to do so it was quite frustrating. After that period I was assigned to do some jobs; cleaning, temperature check and making coffee and tea. I did all of that and with the time that remained I studied for my TOPIK exam which I wrote on the 20th of January and also studied my major subjects. I also went around the construction site and looked at what people were doing. If I had a question I could always ask any of my sunbae's and they would explain it to me.

The thing that I found very interesting was how they pour the concrete to make slabs. I had only seen that in books at school and I was really happy to get to see it in reality. The first time that I saw the slab being made I actually stepped into it by mistake. Cutting of steel and bending it was also very fascinating. I never knew that so much steel was used in construction! I really had fun watching this. Also all the Gongsa Ajeossi(공사 아버지) 's that were working there were very good to me. They would talk to me and explain everything that I asked and they would also give me snacks sometimes. Usually when I get off of work, one of them would also be getting off at the same time and we would walk to Yeoungdeungpo station together.

Working in a Korean office taught me how it operates and also the difficulties that may be faced. One of the difficulties I faced was that I didn't know how to call the people I was working with as each person had to be called by his title; Sojangnim(소장님, The head), Bujangnim(부장님, General manager), Timjangnim(팀장님, Team manager), and so on. It took a while for me to get all of them but I finally did. Everyone in the construction site office was really nice to me and also very helpful. The Sojangnim(소장님) would always advice me and explain to me how construction sites worked and how the employment situation in Korea is. The Timjangnim(팀장님) would do likewise and he always gave me chocolates and other snacks.

There are a lot of things that I learnt and now I know what I must do in order to be great Civil Engineer.

- Study my major (including CAD) and get excellent grades

- Study Korean and be able to speak it very well
- Have more experience working in Korea i.e. internships
- Get fit! I realized that construction work is quite difficult because you have to walk up and down, go up stairs and so on. So I need to get more strength and be fit.
- Learn how to type fast in Korean



So this semester that is what I will be working on.

I am very happy that I was given this opportunity to work for Sunwon Constructions and I hope that I may be able to work there again in the future. I really enjoyed working with everybody and it was sad leaving them. I am also very thankful to Sun Pyo Hong, secretary general of Tongil Group for giving me this wonderful experience.