

My Work and Life in Visp, Switzerland

-----Tian Tony

I am so grateful for the opportunity to take part in the Omega+ project, for which I went to Visp, Switzerland in February 2011 to learn the process design of Omega+. During my stay here, I also act as a project coordinator between the design teams that are based in Visp and Nansha. Having the chance to work closely with the design team in Visp, I have learned lots from my Swiss colleagues.

When I first arrived in Visp, I attended a PID review where my Swiss design team explained to me the process design of each system for Omega+, what kinds of improvements had been done based on Omega 1 and 2, and what kinds of key points we need to be care in the detailed design. My colleagues were very helpful and tried to answer all the questions that I raised. For questions that they could not answer, they quickly noted them down and came back to me promptly with the answers. So I gained a more in-depth understanding of Omega+ process design at the beginning of my work here.

During the job rotation here, I worked closely with Toni, Diego, Fabian and Valery. They have rich experiences in the process design and plant construction design respectively. So No matter what kinds of problems we encountered refer to this project we could always get some proper answers or suggestions from them. As the detailed design of Omega+ proceeded, the Nansha and Visp teams had more and more chances to communicate, so I also gained lots of opportunity to participate in discussions about the problems involved. In addition to learning about the Omega+ process from the discussion and communication, I also knew some advanced design concepts such as optimal heat integration of the entire plant in order to achieve higher energy efficiency. Another example is how to improve heat transfer by changing some inside structure of the equipment. If I encountered problems in design, I would also ask them personally and they were always happy to answer my questions.

For certain problems, especially the cross-disciplinary ones, the two design teams had different point of views on them sometimes. For these cases I would gather the opinions of the two teams firstly, then make some comparisons and finally discussed them with both sides in order to arrive at a common point. This experience strengthened my ability to consolidate information, analyse problems and facilitate discussions. From those opportunities I gained more design knowledge and also improved my English and communication skills

In addition to their expertise in design, my colleagues in Visp really impressed me with their good working habit. If we enter any room in the Visp site, we are always finding a high standard of cleanliness and tidiness. Having been influenced by them gradually, I started to be more organised at work and this actually help me a lot. For example, I could find a specific document much faster as compared to the days before.

For my life, my Swiss colleagues here also helped me a lots whenever I need help from them. Before I came here, my colleagues Odin from Nansha introduced me to a few Chinese colleagues in Visp. During my free time, we often had small parties and travelled together. One of our favourite places is the local market in Visp, which is open on every Friday from the afternoon until the evening. We often sat down together and had a talk while enjoying the local specialties such as Raclette, wine and dried meat after one week's work. Another memorable event was the local religion carnival, where people from the local villages dressed up in weird costumes and participated in



parades. I was dragged into the crowd by my friends and my face also painted with different kinds of colours by them. I am so enjoyed the special culture that night.

In Switzerland, this beautiful, peaceful land, I am not only happy with my work and study, but also to try to learn their way of life. When the weekend comes, we can always find many people go for hiking from train stations. Wallis (the state of Visp) is one of the best places for hiking in the world. Most of the hiking routes are properly maintained and have clear signs of direction and level of difficulty. Beginners like me can easily find the ways that are suitable for my level. Hiking is one of the best ways



to enjoy the scenery in Wallis, because you can always find the good view of the snow mountains is in front of you, the flowers is surrounding you and the fragrant air is always along with you.

Thanks for Lonza offer me this opportunity to work with the excellent engineers in Visp and live in one of the most beautiful countries in the world for around 9 months. This job rotation not only has enriched my knowledge and experience, but also has taught me how to work with enthusiasm and to live with passion. This is no doubt will be my most memorable experience with Lonza, and, in many ways, it will continue to benefit me for the rest of my life.