

Working at HIMECS

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During an interval of two weeks, from March 6th to March 17th 2017, I had a period of internship at the Japanese company HIMECS. The company is focused on equipment and accessories dedicated to the industry. Although I am not the most reliable person to talk about industrial machinery, their products seem to innovate the way in which the work is done at their clients' several facilities spread throughout China, Taiwan, and Japan.

When I first arrived at the company, I was somewhat nervous, for I did not know exactly what would my tasks be during this period of internship. This feeling of uneasiness, however, gradually faded away as I started experiencing their work and got used to their routine.

During the first day, I was told to learn about the company's various products by reading their catalog and, later, was given a quick tour of their facilities, as well as of one of their nearby factory place. The following three days, I started to work at their factory, assisting in what I could in the assembling work they engage in there, while attempting to absorb the most out of their work habits and of the overall experience. I was not active the whole time. Actually, during a good amount of the time I spent at the factory place, I took the role of a spectator. That was simply because my studies do not match their kind of work, so they had to really strive to make me busy from 8:50 to 18:00 for those three days. On each of those days, I was instructed to learn the job of a different worker by accompanying them in their routine. While on this subject, I must say that the work environment at HIMECS was very comfortable to me. From the start, all staff treated me well, but not just that, they also have a good relationship between each other. At the factory, each member has their own individual work, but in case there is trouble of some kind, they will quickly work in order to help each other and fix the issue. In other words, although each of them is in charge of a different task, all of their work comes together in the end, and it all works perfectly.

One of the things that were interesting to me were the morning meetings. In those, all members of the staff gather in a circle, all standing, and the ones in the highest positions talk about the tasks of that day, letting others speak about theirs as well right after. I had never seen that kind of meeting before and, different from what I had in mind before arriving at HIMECS, it was a very quick and efficient way of conducting these daily reunions. Besides the meetings, I was also instructed on the various expressions that they utilize on a daily basis, and after a couple days I can say that I have gotten used to it.

After those three days at the assembly work, I came back to the company's headquarters, and was employed in some translation work. I was told to convert a few catalogs and brochures to English and Portuguese, and although it was a big challenge for me because of the amount of technical jargon in these documents, I somehow managed to finish this project successfully.

In my internship schedule, there was too a field trip to another factory located in a farther place, where they make use of big machinery of the latest technology, in order to create delicate and precise industrial equipment and accessories. I also had the opportunity of accompanying other employees in a ceremony in which the company's president (and many others) gave a speech. At the end of my program, I was asked to do a presentation about my country, suggestions on how to sell products in Brazil, and on what I learned during this period at HIMECS. This presentation went better than my expectations, as they all listened carefully to what I had to say, and were proactive in asking questions to me, making the event a lot more interesting and engaging.

Last but not least, on the last day, I was invited to a get-together and everyone was nice and amiable to me, by striking conversations, as well as not minding my likes and dislikes of foods and

beverages. I felt comfortable around them and I had a great time. I think it was the best way of finishing this small cycle I had the pleasure of having at HIMECS. I am really thankful for it.

This internship was a very interesting experience for me, and I believe it will be important when considering future jobs – being them in Japan, Brazil, or anywhere else. I am thankful for having this opportunity and for the treatment I received at the company, and I wish success to the entire HIMECS corporation in future times.

