

What was the situation and why am I here?

“Building Transformational leadership towards Sustainable Development Goals” - this title touched my heart and suddenly I asked to join this program. Even more exciting was after look though the topics for the whole program, I saw that there were 5 days, 5Ps, and case studies that were compelling and worth my time to learn about.

As Interface staff, sustainability is not a new thing for us - we do it every day. Interface never says that we are the best or super star in the world of sustainability. Sustainability is something that Interface walks the talk, and we do that every day. Sustainability is in our DNA. However, it still not good enough we have to strive for more. The fact of the matter is that we can't do it alone. We need to tell the entire industry to do it so. There are too many more people who don't know or understand what sustainability is. Therefore, we are going out to share our story/activities with the public as much as we can. In the meantime, we would like learn more from other as well. From picture below, what is your answer? You know the answer. It is both – just a sustainability leader must be a great teacher and a great learner.

Rabbit or Duck?



Great sustainable leadership should include a clear vision and mission, high commitment, be well planned, and yet still flexible because you will never know what will happen. Respect for others and keeping an open mind is a necessity.

The case study “Panas Nikom - environmentally sustainable city” gave me an opportunity to learn from a great sustainability leader. Seeing what has been accomplished in the community through leadership for sustainable development is incredible. It is not easy at all to lead all villagers to believe and live sustainably. I was thrilled that this community is close to our facilities, and I’m sure we will have a good collaboration in the future.

Before I joined this programme, I was wondered why every time the government tried to do some mega project, there was often conflict with local people. But I learned so much from conflict management and the motivations of all the actors during our study. Ao udom is very lucky that they have Dr. Kheaw to support them, together with great leadership team. What I have learned from them is I have to practice my own listening skills to be a great leader. Deep listening is very important. We have to learn from others’ reactions and emotions because not everyone may say exactly what they would like to say. The most important thing is respect of others as a leader. If we understand and empathize with others, this is already half of your mission.

Another thing from this programme that I think I can adapt to my work place is I want to create a special internship program for senior students. I strongly believe that text books and theory for what they have been learned is a great foundation of their further career, but it would also be valuable if they have the real world experience before going out into the workforce. Below are listed some of the departments that I would recommend for interns to explore:

1. Sustainability
2. Safety and environment
3. R&D and technical department (we have accredit lab ISO17025 ready for them to explore)
4. Production and engineering team
5. Quality control department

Finally, thank you so much Dr. Somporn and team for your wonderful work and giving me a chance to participate in this program. I have learned a lot here. I have a bunch of new friends who I can share and consult with regarding to sustainability subjects. This will be a source of endless knowledge.

Thank you.

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