It's Good To Be Here…

By Eric G. Espinosa[1]

A lot of my friends, families, and colleagues have asked me why leave Philippine's Chevron for Saudi Aramco. My quick and candid answer is - I found a bigger cheese. And I usually leave them in awe. But to what quantity and quality of cheese that I'm getting into, I'm not really sure during that time. What I know about Saudi Aramco is that it is the biggest national oil company in the world and it gave me a very enticing offer that is hard to refuse – a better future for my family.

From the hiring process that is well-managed by IPAMS Inc., I truly felt that I'm getting into something big. Saudi Aramco sponsored all my hiring expenses and provided me with business class ticket to travel to my new place of work. The company also has its own private lounge inside the arrival area of Dammam Airport. Unfortunately, I didn't stay in the Aramco lounge and asked for assistance. Instead, I lined up on my own to the immigration counter. It was too late for me to realize that I could have avoided the long cue if only I stayed in the Aramco lounge until the arrival of the company representative. After the immigration procedure, everything flowed smoothly. I was provided with the welcome kit and temporary ID, brought into a temporary accommodation in Khobar, attended orientation seminars in Dhahran, and started working in the most beautiful workplace I have ever been – the Ras Tanura Refinery (RTR).

The RTR plant is the biggest refinery in Saudi Arabia. It is so big that one would definitely need to travel by car to see the far end of the refinery. There is a community camp beside the refinery and the camp has a lot of amenities for the resident employees and families to enjoy with. The best part of RTR for me is the beautiful white sand beach that adorns the view from the community camp and some part of the refinery plant.

In addition to the beauty of the workplace, I can say that Saudi Aramco is a world class, family-oriented company. In fact, during my first meeting with my supervisor and mentor, we immediately talked about our respective families. We talked about kids and how they inspire us to work hard. We talked about the expected date of arrival of my family before we discussed about my competencies and work experiences.

From my first day of work and onwards, I continuously meet a lot of smart and well-experienced people not only from the Kingdom but also from other parts of the globe. I am confident that for any project or task that I will handle in the company, I will not be alone as I am surrounded with brilliant and globally competitive employees in the world. I find that my background and experiences will blend well with my co-employees and enable me to perform well.

I am an Aramcon and it is good to be here. (E)

Saudi Aramco: Company General Use

Eric Espinosa started working in Saudi Aramco on the 17th of February 2015. He is a loving husband of Bernadette and a responsible father of two lovely kids – Macky 5-yr old boy, and Maria 2-year old girl. His wife is 3-months pregnant and Inshallah will give birth to a healthy baby in the Kingdom this year. Eric has 13-years of working experience in Chevron before joining Saudi Aramco. He is currently working as Engineer of RTR RESD/Projects Unit under the supervision of Mr. Mansour Al-Abbas and mentorship of Mr. Abdullah Al-Ghubari.

Photo: Eric standing along the beach near the Dining Hall of Ras Tanura.

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