

## My Stay in China

My Name is Araya Ghebresslassie from Eritrea (East Africa). I have been working for Rural Electrification Unit, which is Under Supervision of the Ministry of Energy and Mines. I was appointed by the Ministry to participate in the Rural Electrification Seminar for Developing Countries organized by (HRC) Hangzhou regional center (Asia-Pacific) for small hydropower and sponsored by ministry of commerce of the Peoples republic of China.

For me it is a great chance to have such impressive experience. In my career I have never been in China but also never been abroad. Thus it is something exceptional in my life time. Even though I had some overview about China, but I did not expect such unique world. Really in my experience China is another world in many sides of the country's development.

Without exaggeration I get life in Hangzhou very pleasant and enjoyable. In all standards the city is very charm and enchant. Really "Paradise on Earth." Especially the west lake, the Grand Canal and all the attractive streets which are extremely delightful to see them.

When we arrive at Hangzhou airport we went to our Hotel accompanying by one of the HRC staff (Forest). In the morning of 11/06/10 it was the opening ceremony of the Seminar as well as the official beginning of the one month workshop. The seminar was about Rural Electrification for developing countries. And then all the lectures come one by one according to the given schedule and thus let me give some summary of my Experience from the seminar.

During the four weeks time we cover all the prepared lectures and the second part of the program, which is the direct observation to different Hydropower stations and different Dams? In my opinion the course was very impressive, all the lecturers were very talented, they know how to transfer, how to teach and how to manage time. Not only that but also they had knowledge of the subject matter. Moreover they had good English command. Before I come china I expect that the lecture could be in Chinese and then we will learn with an interpreter. Because I heard such way of lecturing.

However, everything was out of my perspective in HRC. Here I understand that HRC has a long time experience of providing such courses. Thus this adds the course more elegance and tidiness. Generally HRC provided to us a perfect and precise course with professional lecturers.

The other remarkable program was the direct observation/visit to the hydropower stations and Dams. According to the program of HRC, I had also visited the SHP stations and hydropower equipment factories. I studied how the dam and hydropower station comprises and how the hydro turbine and generator operate in the plant. I had seen the modern factories which produce many kinds of turbines and generators, especially the CHANGHE Generating Equipment. After that I had a chance to visit the Tinghu hydropower station which is located in the Basin of Caoe River. Here I noticed that how a Rubber Dam has been constructed. And then we headed to NANSHAN Hydropower station which located in the Basin of Changle River and we had seen the power station and the amusing dam as well as all the designs and infrastructures there. And also at this juncture, I can say that it was a dual benefit because I get a chance to see the beautiful mountains covered with dense forest around the Nanshan hydropower.

After that we lead to Xikou pumped storage plant which located in Ningbo city. And I had seen the turbines and the two Dams, lower and higher reservoirs. So here I learnt that we can construct a hydropower station by adapting such experience. Especially in areas of low rainfall, this is more preferable in my country.

In addition to this, I had a chance to visit the marvelous THREE GORGE DAM. I consider myself as very lucky man to have this opportunity. Three Gorges is a very famous dam for many reasons which comprise so many world records. At this point we noticed all the infrastructures and the 12 hydro turbine generator units in the right bank power station, and also we get an explanation about the 14 left bank turbines and the 6 units in the underground power station. All in all currently 22,400MW have installed capacities, which account the world's largest hydro electric power.

I can say it that one of our stage's amazing Episode. And also it was a project which witnessed the potential and creativity of Chinese Engineers and professionals, and as a whole this realizes the People's Republic potential. So again I am very lucky lucky man to get this precious opportunity.

During our stay we had another exciting program, which is the sightseeing program. So as per schedule of HRC we start by visiting the Grand Canal. This is the famous Hangzhou- Beijing artificial canal. Here I perceived that the great performance of the ancient Chinese people. And we visit the three Grand Canal museums, Very impressive and unique. Then our next visit was the west lake which is very attractive. Even though the city Hangzhou is one of the tourist center in many sides but I do not think that there could be a site which compare with West Lake as a means of tourist center. Because in my opinion I can say it is a place which makes people pleasurable and delightful. Especially its artificial beauty as well as its natural performance made it very remarkable.

Another interesting visit was Shangahai. When we finish visiting of the hydropower station of the Ningbo city we lead to Shangahai. At this time, we had a chance to visit and to pass through the 38 km long sea bridge (the world's longest sea bridge) which connect Ningbo city with Shangahai city. This is very marvelous creation of Chinese people. Moreover, when we enter to the largest city of china. We head to the Shangahai Expo of 2010, which had been considered us as lucky participants. Yeah, we are really lucky to visit the Expo which has been very unique in many aspects. Notably, it is a world Expo which has been conducted for the first time in the Asia content. But it is also first time out side of the first world. Also it is very large Expo which gathered the entire world's culture, development, technology and soon. So all us visit to our respective pavilion and every got his/her country in Shangahai. Thus we are lucky that we get this precious opportunity and to visit this wonderful Shangahai Expo, which many people of the world covets to visit it. And we also visit to the newly developed area of Shangahai which is called Pudon square; it is the center of the city. And in our way back Home we had a chance to visit the Henan city, which is known as a leather town. And here we notice so many beautiful leather made materials.

Our next visit was Shennongjia scenic spot and natural reserve. This trip had a dual purpose; particularly as a continuity of the seminar we get a lecture about environmental protection and solar energy industry. Here I understand that china has great achievement about solar Energy industry. From the lecture we had, I perceived that the materials for the solar energy which produced by Chinese industries are cheaper than the western once. So it is advisable to use these Chinese equipments. And I hope we will make it feasible on our side.

In addition to this as a continuity of visiting hydropower stations and dams we had a visit to the three Gorge hydropower project. (Which I explain above)

Furthermore the other program was continuity of sightseeing thus we had a visit to Shennongjia scenic spot and natural reserve. According to the schedule in the first day we observe the beautiful scenic spot of the Shennongjia area. Generally this area is extremely attractive and marvelous; especially I was much amazing about the Natural Bridge. Here we also observe the cultural belief, custom and values of the local inhabitants of the area. In the whole of our visit we had a helpful explanation about every event by an escort; this gives flavor to our trip. In the next day we lead to the Shennongjia Natural reserve and at this point we visit to different sites, which are very interesting and delightful and as a Termination of this trip we visit to a small zoo of Golden monkey. And after that we head back to Yichang city, here we used another way and we notice many infrastructures under construction.

In the next day we direct our way to wuhan city and here we had a visit to another tourist area which is called East lake not west lake as well as to Moshan Mountain scenic spot. After that we got back to Hangzhou and the following days we finished the remaining lectures. On 08/07/10 the closing ceremony of the seminar was conducted in a very glowing manner.

Generally on my side both programs, meaning that the lecture as well as the sightseeing program was very enjoyable and interesting. Moreover during my stay I observe that china is beautiful country which possesses so many resources. Especially

its natural resources have kept naturally. I perceive that Chinese people love their nature and they are very keen to keep their natural beauty.

Furthermore the highest thing which really inspires me is that the ***spectacular organization of Chinese people everywhere***. I mean from top to bottom as well as in the reverse. I think it could be very difficult to administer about 1.33bil people without such organization. However, it did not face me any failed occurrences during my stay. In addition to this all the amazing development which china has acquired should come from this great integrity and organization, both among the people as well as between the government and the people. Because I believe that organization is a fundamental issue in every progress. I hope we will have such kind of organization in Africa, especially in our country. So I can say that I learn this wonderful experience during my stay.

And I would like to extend my gratitude to the government of China for the constructive relationship with Africa specifically with developing countries. Besides to the ministry of commerce of the People's Republic of China for their sponsorship to this interesting and valuable seminar. Likewise, to HRC for their preparing to us a perfect course and for their great organization in every situation and to all member staffs of HRC, especially to the organizing committee who lead by Mr. Pan (quiet man) for everything they did to us. Really they made us to feel just like in our home.

Last but not least I would like to express my heartiest thanks to all Chinese people especially to residents of Hangzhou for their smiling face, guest friendlier and soon.

Finally, I would like to give some suggestion;

Among them I suggest that HRC should to consider in preparation of specific and detail lecture related to the previous course notably, concerning SHP for developing countries.

Moreover, I suggest continuing of the health and constructive assistance of the People's Republic of china and Africa.

**Xie Xie !!**