

Women's Story in Vinci - Part 1 of 5:

Casting of Concrete Cube Test Samples by Maya Limbu on HIK Site

Nowadays, there is a highly appreciated steady trend of increasing number of women in engineering and construction. Over the past 20 years, women in Hong Kong were barred from tunneling projects due to a combination of superstition and prejudice. In the forthcoming issues of the Bi-weekly News, we are going to publish short interviews with some of them who are currently working on the VCGP/SCL1103 Project.



The following conversation was recorded by Katrina LEE during the interview with Maya Limbu on HIK site.

- Katrina: Majority of the frontline manpower is male. Can you tell us something about the difficulty you have come across when starting your career in construction field?
- Maya: (Paused a few seconds thinking...) No, I don't have much difficulty.
- Katrina: What are the major difficulties that you have ever encountered in your career?
- Maya: Working overtime is sometimes exhausting. As time is limited, I have to balance casting concrete cubes in time and the tidiness of the working place. Although there are difficulties, I am able overcome them and enjoy my work very much.
- Katrina: Is there any change that you have encountered that drives you to this place?
- Maya: When I first joined Vinci Construction, I was a traffic controller. Then, Mani asked me to help in concrete cube casting, and I have no hesitation. I would love to accept new challenges.
- Katrina: Have you ever met any encouragement / discouragement from your family?
- Maya: No, my family has no comment in my choice.
- Katrina: How do you feel about the frontline working environment here?
- Maya: HIK blasting noise enclosure is serving very well, that there is not much noise. Here (HIK site) is a nice place for work, actually.
- Katrina: What draws your interest in construction work?
- Maya: Construction is like doing a masterpiece, while casting concrete cubes likewise. It is very interesting to me. While I am the one and only one casting concrete cube here (HIK site), I feel the uniqueness. I enjoy making my own product indeed.
- Katrina: What is the advantage and disadvantage of being a woman working in the construction?
- Maya: As a woman, the mindfulness may be one of the advantages that I can think of. However, in general, women may be paid by some local construction contractors in a lower wage. *(smiled)*

Women’s Story in Vinci - Part 2 of 5:

Kiran Pun, the Lab Technician of the Slurry Treatment Plant on DIH Site

In the previous issue of the Bi-weekly News, we have interviewed Maya on HIK site. Staying in the frontline, this time we have talked to Kiran, another woman who is currently working on the VCGP/SCL1103 Project.

The following conversation was recorded by Katrina LEE during the interview with Kiran Pun at the Slurry Treatment Plant on DIH site.

Testing of Samples by Kiran Pun at STP



- Katrina: Majority of the frontline manpower is male. Can you tell us something about the difficulty to start the career in construction field?
- Kiran: I don't have much difficulty in fact, as there are many female workers here in DIH site.
- Katrina: What are the major difficulties that you have ever encountered in your career?
- Kiran: My English ability is limited.
- Katrina: Is there any change that you have encountered that drives you to this place?
- Kiran: No, as I enjoy doing test from the very beginning.
- Katrina: Have you ever met any encouragement/discouragement from your family?
- Kiran: They have no comment about my work.
- Katrina: How do you feel about the frontline working environment here?
- Kiran: It is clean, not hot and not cold here.
- Katrina: What draws your interest in construction work?
- Kiran: The team spirit here is good, no matter now in Vinci SCL 1103 or when I was in previous project.
- Katrina: What is the advantage nor disadvantage of being a woman working here?
- Kiran: No special advantage and disadvantage.

Women's Story in Vinci - Part 4 of 5: The Safety Officer, Ling OR on SCL1103 Work Site

In the previous issue of the Bi-weekly News, we interviewed Candy on DIH site. Going to the frontline management, this time we have talked to Ling OR, another woman who is currently working on the VCGP/SCL1103 Project.

The following conversation was recorded by Katrina LEE during the interview with Ling OR.

Katrina: Majority of the frontline manpower is male. Can you tell us something about the difficulty to start the career in construction field?

Ling: No difficulty. Once I graduated from Occupational Safety & Health, I started my first job in construction.

Katrina: What are the major difficulties that you have ever encountered in your career?

Ling: There is no difficulty. Should there be any unsafe act, I report to foreman or directly stop the work if urgent. He will then announce to the frontline staff. This is just my work, nothing difficult.

Katrina: Education level of workers is higher now so that kind of superstition is fading away, do you agree with this saying?

Ling: I think it is not too directly related. In fact, since there was a civil engineer who complained about sex discrimination, there became more women working in construction.

Katrina: Is there any change that you have encountered that drives you to this place?

Ling: Once I graduated, I got into this field, and now I have already adapted to this.

Katrina: Have you ever met any encouragement / discouragement from your family?

Ling: My family is neutral towards my decision of getting into construction frontline.

Katrina: How do you feel about the frontline working environment here?

Ling: It is okay in general; just sometimes it is hard to find a toilet for female in the tunnel.

Katrina: What draws your interest in construction work?

Ling: I have no hesitation in getting into construction work, after graduation.

Katrina: What is the advantage and disadvantage of being a woman working here?

Ling: The communication between men and women colleagues is better in general. It is easier for the men to accept the opinions from women. However, working underground is quite physically demanding which for me as a woman can be quite exhausted.



The Third Annual Lion Rock Charity Hike & Run

The Company sincerely thanks the staff and workers for their participations of the event on 4 December 2015, and the generous donations of HK\$26,000 to The Hong Kong Red Cross in support of their operations to help improve the lives of vulnerable people.



Please kindly send your valuable opinion to the IMS Department