

NEWS RELEASE

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A World of Culture at FEP

People of 48 different nationalities – almost a quarter of those in the world – have worked at the Fife Ethylene Plant at Mossmorran this year alone.

Various projects on site over the past 12 months have called on the expertise of employees, contractors and students from countries as far away as Australia, Canada and China to name but a few, in addition to the strong local workforce.

And the wide range of countries represented at the plant has made for a great range of cultural experiences being shared.

The lengthy list includes South Africa, Russia, Singapore, Nigeria, Italy, Norway, China, Azerbaijan, Norway and Thailand to name a few.

One of the established employees who has made Fife her home is Carolina Contreras Quintanilla (32), who is originally from Colombia.

Carolina, an Economist and Optimisation Engineer, has worked at FEP since September 2017 and is married to Paul who comes from Ireland. The couple have an 18-month-old daughter, Mia Julieta, and live in Dunfermline.

Carolina came to the UK in 2009 to study English and went on to obtain a



Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering before joining the ExxonMobil graduate programme which eventually brought her to Fife.

But her journey wasn't an easy one and while studying English she was juggling FOUR different jobs to survive and get the money to pay for her undergraduate studies, working in sandwich shops and restaurants as well as being a part-time nanny.

"I would quite often find myself sleeping sitting up because I was so tired, but what kept me going was the thought of getting through my studies and making my family proud," she explained.

Carolina and Paul moved to Fife in 2017, and she now loves her adopted home.

"It did take a bit of getting used to, and there were lots of cultural differences, not least all the different accents, but when I got used to the directness of people here, I found them very welcoming.

"I love working at FEP and through the various interest groups we learn lots about the different cultures of everyone.

"I am very proud of where I come from and where I am now and glad I followed my dreams."

Hurol Aslan (39) was born and grew up in Izmir in Turkey, but is now living in Edinburgh with his Greek wife Rena and their two Scottish daughters Lara (10) and Lena (8).

Hurol is a Process Control Systems Engineer and has worked at FEP for over 10 years, while Rena also works at the plant as an Applications Engineer.

"After graduating from university in Turkey we married and started applying for jobs. Luckily we were both accepted to work for Motorola in Livingston and that's how we came to Scotland."

Hurol went on to work as an Electronics Engineer with Siemens followed by a spell as a sub-contractor for Honeywell, where he moved into process control and automation systems. He worked with BT on infrastructure projects and got to see a lot of Scotland as he travelled all over the country.



“When I came to Fife to work at FEP, I didn’t know a lot about the plant.

“At that time there were lots of people from around the UK and Ireland working here, but in the last few years it has become much more multi-cultural, which is great.

“What I like best is that it is like one big family and you are made to feel a valued part of that.

“We can often face challenges, but even in difficult times you won’t find grumpy faces. The focus is always on solving things and there is a very positive attitude.”

Jacob McAlister, FEP plant manager, who himself is from the USA, said: “It is great to see so many different nationalities represented at our plant.

“Not only do they help boost the Fife economy for the time they spend here with us, but they give our local employees a chance to experience different cultures and expand their understanding of the world.

“The number of people choosing to make Scotland their permanent home shows how attractive a destination it is for overseas workers, myself included.”