

N22BBM - Droichead Abhann na Biochaille, Baile Bhuirne

Agallamh lenár gcomhghleacaithe Spáinneacha.

Is é Droichead Abhann na Biochaille (S03) ar an gCeapach Thiar, Baile Bhuirne an droichead is faide ar an scéim N22BBM, le deic atá 121m ar fhaid. Tá se ar eolas go maith faoin tráth seo gurb iad Tecade a thóg i Sevilla na Spáinne an deic droichid cruaiche seo. Aistríodh an deic féin ar an bhfarraige go dtí an áis ag Port Chorcaí i Rinn an Scidígh agus ón áit sin fan bhóthair go dtí suíomh an N22BBM ar an Tonn Láin. Tháinig foireann táthairí ó Tecade chomh fada le Baile Bhuirne chun dul i mbun oibre ar dheic an droichid a chur le chéile. Cuireadh an chéad “brú-sheoladh” i gcrích go rathúil ar an Déardaoin 4^ú Márta agus cuireadh an “brú-sheoladh” deireanach i gcrích ar Lá Fhéile Pádraig. Leis an méid sin déanta, bhí obair ár gcomhghleacaithe ó Tecade ar an gCeapach Thiar déanta agus d’fhilleadar abhaile.

Ach sular fhágadar do labhradar le gníomhaire suímh an Chonraitheora, **Kevin McSweeney**, mar gheall ar a dtaití i mBaile Bhuirne.

Álvaro Harana Martín-Arroyo a bhí i gceannas ar an ngrúpa de 7 táthaire ó Tecade agus os rud é go bhfuil Béarla ar a thoil aige dhein sé cumarsáid thar ceann na Spáinneach.

K.Mc: Cad iad na céad imprisin a bhí agat nuair a tháinig tú ón Spáinn?

ÁHMA: Bhí ionadh orainn cé chomh beag is a bhí “baile beag” Bhaile Bhuirne/Bhaile Mhic Íre toisc nach bhfuil an oiread sin taithí againn ar a leithéid. Ach, fuaireamar amach go mear cé chomh fáilteach agus cabhrach is atá muintir na háite, nuair a bhí deacracht againn an t-óstán a aimsiú, chabhraigh muintir na háite linn.

K. Mc: Cad a bhí ar eolas agaibh faoi Éirinn sular tháinig sibh?

ÁHMA: Sa Spáinn, samhlaítear gur daoine cineálta cairdiúla iad muintir na hÉireann. Bhí a fhios againn go mbeadh an aimsir an-difriúil ón aimsir a bhfuil taithí againn uirthi sa Spáinn agus bhíomar ullamh don méid sin.

K.Mc: An raibh thaithí acu ar obair in áiteanna a bheag nó a mhór iargúlta roimhe seo?

ÁHMA: Ar ndóigh bhí, ach don chuid is mó, tá na droichid chruaiche atá tógtha againn níos giorra do bhailte móra agus do chathracha. Tá droichid chruaiche tógtha againn in áiteanna chomh fada ó bhaile le Veiniséala i Meiriceá Theas agus Minnesota i Meiriceá Thuaidh, ach don chuid is mó is ar fud na hEorpa a oibrímid.

K.Mc: Cad iad na mór-dhifríochtaí idir bheith in bhur gcónaí i mBaile Bhuirne agus in bhur gcónaí i Sevilla?

ÁHMA: Seachas na difríochtaí soiléire i méide agus aimsire, bhí an bia an-difriúil. Ach an méid sin ráite, an rud ar thugamar suntas dó ab ea na cosúlachtaí idir chomh cairdiúil is atá na daoine ón dá cheantar, spéis acu sa luas céanna saoil agus dúil acu cúpla beoir a chaitheamh siar nuair a bhí an deis ann.

K.Mc: Conas atá ag éirí libh nuair nach bhfuil an teanga áitiúil agaibh?

ÁHMA: Ní fadhb í seo dúinne. Tá duine amháin againn, mise, le Béarla maith agus dá thoradh níl aon fhadhb againn cumarsáid éifeachtach a dhéanamh. Bainimid úsáid go héifeachtach as comharthaíocht choirp, lámha, aghaidhe agus mar sin chun an teachtaireacht a chur trasna. Úsáidimid saghas éigin teanga uilíoch do na nithe laethúla ar nós nuair a bhíonn ocra orainn, téimid chun lóin. Ní raibh aon deacrachtaí cumarsáide againn i ndáiríre.

K.Mc: Bhí an aimsir liath agus fliuch ó tháinig sibh chugainn. Ar chuir se sin isteach oraibh?

ÁHMA: Arís, ní raibh aon fhadhb againn leis an aimsir ach an oiread, toisc gur tháingamar ullamh di. Tá taithí ag Tecade ar bheith ag obair ar fud an domhain agus ullamh chun oibre i nach mór gach saghas timpeallachta. Má bhíonn na héadaí agus an trealamh ceart agat, ní bheidh aon fhadhb agat.

K.Mc: Ar tharla aon ní greannmhar daoibh ó tháinig sibh?

ÁHMA: Bhí rud amháin greannmhar a tharla ceart go leor. Uair amháin agus sinn ag tiomáint go háitiúil laistigh den 5km, chailleamar an comhartha don ghuthán, ní fhéadfaimis aon chomhartha gréasáin a fháil agus mar sin, bhíomar cailte. Bhí orainn leanúint do bheith ag tiomáint timpeall go dtí gur tháingamar ar chomhartha agus ansan a bhíomar ábalta ar fhilleadh ar an óstán. Gan an comhartha ní éireadh linn an slí ar ais a aimsiú.

K.Mc: Conas atá bia na tíre seo ag réiteach libhse?

ÁHMA: Bainimid an-sásamh as an bia agus tá an t-óstán tar éis bheith comhoibritheach linn ag cur béilí in oiriúint dár riachtanais. Táimid an-tógtha ar fad le mairteoil na hÉireann agus leis an iasc, go hálainn ar fad. Bhlaiseamar den bheoir áitiúil agus an uisce beatha agus tá siad sin go hálainn ar fad leis.

K.Mc: Conas atá ag éirí libh cur suas leis an dianghlasáil i mBaile Bhuirne?

ÁHMA: Tá sé ceart go leor. Ba mhaith lenar bhfoireann cuairt a thabhairt ar na háiteanna is díol spéise do thurasóirí um thráthnóna Dé Domhnaigh nó fiú tiomáint go cathair Chorcaí. Ach, ní raibh an deis againn de thoradh na dianghlasála. Caitheann an fhoireann mórán ama ag obair agus inár gcuid ama saor, is maith linn ár scíth a ligean, dul ar Skype lenár muintir nó ag imirt cártaí.

K.Mc: An bhfuil sibh ag súil le dul abhaile?

ÁHMA: Táimid. Tá teaghlaigh óga sa bhaile ag roinnt mhaith dár bhfoireann agus mothaíonn siad uathu iad. Is iad na daoine is mó a mhothaíonn tú uait agus tú ag obair i bhfad ó bhaile.

K.Mc: An bhfuil aon tithe tábhairne Éireannacha i Sevilla nó cén saghas iad?

ÁHMA: Tá roinnt acu i Sevilla ceart go leor agus iad bríomhar spórtúil, ar nós na dtábhairní Éireann ar fud na cruinne.

K.Mc: Ar mhaith libh filleadh arís ar Éirinn lá éigin?

ÁHMA: Ba mhaith, ba bhreá linn teacht ar ais anseo arís ag obair ach ba bhreá linn níos mó d'Éirinn a fheiscint, rud nár éirigh linn a dhéanamh an uair seo.

K.Mc: Agus ar deireadh, an bhfuil aon ní eile a ritheann leat sara gcríochnaímid?

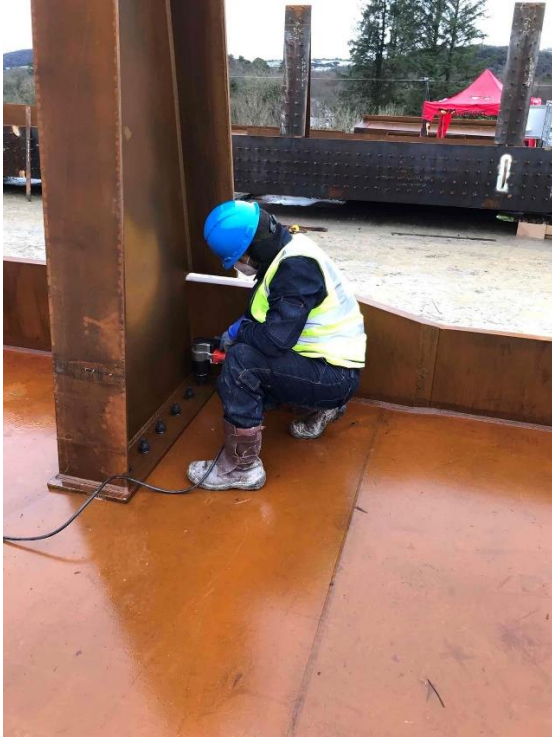
ÁHMA: Tá, ba mhaith liom a rá go mothaíonn an fhoireann ar fad ar a gcompord anseo i measc mhuintir na hÉireann agus tá siad an-bhuíoch as an slí cineálta a caitheadh leo ag an obair, ag an óstán le roghanna bia agus dí agus leis an bhfáilte a chuir gach éinne de mhuintir na háite ar bhuail siad leo rompu agus iad anseo in Éirinn.

Táimid buíoch de Kevin agus Álvaro as a gcuid ama agus a gcuid tuairimí a roinnt linn.

Is mian leis an gConraitheoir a mbuíochas a chur in iúl arís lenár gcomhghleacaithe ó Tecade a rinne sár-jab ar Dhroichead Abhann na Biochaille, an droichead is faide ar an scéim N22BBM. Cuireann sé áthas orainn gur bhaineadar sásamh as an am a chaitheadar inár dteannta ar thionscadal an N22BBM. Fágfaimid an focal scoir ag Álvaro:

“Is í an aidhm atá leis an r-phost seo ná chun ár mbuíochas a chur in iúl as an gcúnamh ar fad a chur foireann an JV a bhí páirteach i dTionscadal Dhroichead Abhann na Biochaille ar fáil dúinn. Tagann

deireadh leis an rud a thosnaítear, agus táimid ag filleadh ar an Spáinn ag mothú go maith de bharr gur chuireamar leis an obair, mar ghrán gainimhe leis an sliabh. Ón tosach, mhothaíomar mar chuid den fhoireann mhór agus leanfaidh an mothúchán sin i bhfad. Tá súil againn nach bhfuil sa tionscadal seo ach an chéad tionscadal de mhórán agus go bhfeicimid a chéile arís amach anseo.”



Críoch.

N22BBM

Droichead Abhann na Biochaille (Bohill River Bridge) , Baile Bhuirne Interview with our Spanish colleagues.

The longest bridge on the N22BBM scheme is the Droichead Abhann na Biochaille Bohill River Bridge (S03) at Cappagh West, Baile Bhuirne, with a deck of 121m in length. It is fairly well known at this stage that this steel bridge deck was manufactured by Tecade in Seville, Spain. The deck itself was transported by sea to the Port of Cork facility at Ringaskiddy and from there by road to the N22BBM site at Tonn Láin. A team of welders from Tecade made the journey to Ballyvourney to work on the assembly of the bridge deck. The first “push-launch” was carried out successfully on Thursday 4th March and final “push-launch” was completed on St. Patrick’s Day. With that, our Tecade colleagues’ work was done in Cappagh West and they returned home. But not before they spoke with Kevin McSweeney, the Contractor’s site agent about their experience in Ballyvourney.

Álvaro Harana Martín-Arroyo was the supervisor of the Tecade group of 7 welders and he had a good command of English so was able to communicate on behalf of his colleagues, who only spoke Spanish.

K.Mc: What were your first impressions when you arrived from Spain?

ÁHMA: Surprise at the size of the “little town” of Baile Bhuirne/ Baile Mhic Íre which was something we are not used to. However, we very quickly discovered how friendly and obliging the local people were, because we had difficulty finding our hotel without help from local people.

K.Mc: What did you know about Ireland before you arrived?

ÁHMA: Irish people are thought of in Spain as kind and friendly. We knew that the weather would be very different from what we were used to in Spain so we came informed and prepared

K.Mc: Had they worked in other relatively remote areas in the past?

ÁHMA: Yes we have, but mostly we have assembled steel bridges nearer to big towns and cities. We have assembled steel bridges as far away as Venezuela in South America and Minnesota in North America, but mostly we work all over Europe.

K.Mc: What are the major differences between living in Baile Bhuirne and in Seville?

ÁHMA: Besides the obvious size and climate differences, the food was very different. However, what we found striking was the similarities with people from both areas being quite friendly, enjoying a similar pace of life and anxious to enjoy a few beers when the opportunity presented itself.

K.Mc: How are you coping not having the local language?

ÁHMA: This is not a problem for us. We have one person, myself, with good English and effective communication is not a problem. We also make good use of body language and signals as a way of getting the message across. We use a kind of universal language for day-to-day things such as when we are hungry, we go for lunch. Communication has not been a difficulty for us.

K.Mc: The weather has been grey and damp most of the time you were here. Did that bother you?

ÁHMA: Again, the weather was not a problem for us, because we came well prepared. Tecade have worked all over the world and prepared to work in most environments. The key is to have the correct clothing and equipment and then you will have no problem.

K.Mc: Any funny experiences since you arrived?

ÁHMA: There was one funny incident alright. While driving locally within the 5km radius, we lost the signal to our phone, could not get any network signal and got lost! We had to keep driving around until we got a signal and were able to return to the hotel in Ballyvourney. If we had not found the signal, we would not have been able to find our way back!

K.Mc: How is the Irish food agreeing with you guys?

ÁHMA: We really enjoy the food and the hotel has been more than accommodating in making adjustments to the meal to suit our needs. We are impressed with the Irish beef and fish, very enjoyable. We also sampled some of the local beer and whiskey which was most enjoyable!

K.Mc: How are you coping with lockdown in Baile Bhuirne?

ÁHMA: It is ok. Our team would like to visit some tourist attractions on a Sunday afternoon or even drive to Cork City. However, this has not been possible with the lockdown. The team is working quite a lot and in our spare time in the evenings, we like to take it easy, Skyping with the family or playing cards.

K.Mc: Are you looking forward to going home?

ÁHMA: Yes, a lot of our team have young families and miss them very much. It's always the people you miss the most when working away from home.

K.Mc: Are there any Irish pubs in Seville and what are they like?

AHMA: Yes, there are a number of them in Seville and they are quite lively and good fun, much the same as Irish pubs across the world

K.Mc: Are you likely to come back again sometime:

ÁHMA: Yes, we would love to come back to work here again but we would love to see more of Ireland which we did not have an opportunity to explore on this occasion.

K.Mc: Any finally, anything else that strikes you before we wrap up?

ÁHMA: Yes, I would like to say that the entire teams feels very comfortable among the people here in Ireland and they are very grateful for all the kindness and help offered to them at work, at the hotel with food and drink preferences and also with the locals that they have met since there time in Ireland.

A big thank you to Kevin and Álvaro for taking the time to share these insights with us.

Another big thank you from the contractor to our colleagues from Tecade who did such a marvellous job on the Beochil River Bridge, the longest bridge on the N22BBM scheme. We are delighted to hear that they enjoyed their time with us on the N22BBM project.

And we can leave the last word to Álvaro:

"The aim of this e-mail is to thank all the help that the JV's team involved in the Bohill River Bridge Project has given us. Everything that begins has to finish, and we are going back to Spain feeling very good for contributing a grain of sand to the mountain. Since we started, we have felt like a part of your team and this feeling will continue in the time. We hope that this project is the first of many and to see you again in the future".

