

IFERC Newsletter

IFERC

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International Fusion Energy Research Centre, Rokkasho, Aomori 039-3212, Japan

PT member

Memory in IFERC

Coming to work for Broader Approach, and in particular for the IFERC project, was not a straight path for me. I was born in Barcelona to German parents, but left when I was 2 years of age. It was not until much later in my life that I returned to my natal city. Most of my childhood I spent growing up in Puerto Rico and Madrid, I then completed my initial university studies in Glasgow, Scotland, and the first years of my working life were shared between London and Brussels.

After doing an internship at the European Commission in Brussels and working with EU funded projects, one supporting street children and the second Cancer Research, I decided to complete my initial studies in psychology with a Masters in International Relations. This is how in 2006 I returned to Barcelona, where I completed a two year Master's degree in International Development and Relations. It was then that I came to hear of Fusion for Energy and after applying I first started working with the Project Office of the ITER department.

After one year in F4E I joined Broader Approach. All of a sudden a new door opened and I was allowed a glimpse into the, to me unknown world of supercomputer simulations, testing of DEMO R&D materials, the construction of a Remote Experimentation Centre and the planning of DEMO design. All this was very new to me but with the guidance of my IFERC colleagues, I slowly became to understand the basic principles behind these technically complex projects and was able to navigate the seas of information and documentation of the DMS, CMS, IDM and many other platforms and tools. One of the aspects that I most enjoyed about the project was certainly its cross cultural nature and a definite highlight was my visit to Rokkasho, where I got to see the project on site and to meet the Japanese colleagues. Even if time was short I did get to enjoy Japanese food, experience a bit of Japanese culture and to see just a few of the countries beautiful sites. I certainly hope to return one day.

In October it will be six years that I have worked with the Broader Approach project and I must say that I feel honored to have been part of this team. Working in Barcelona alongside Susana Clement-Lorenzo, who has not only been my boss, but also mentor and friend, has been a privilege. I thank her for her insight, humor and positive outlook. The BA team members, who are based in Germany and Japan, and the colleagues in European laboratories, are an exceptional group; hard-working, kind, always available to help and without doubt experts in their field. It has truly been a pleasure working with all of them.

To all the colleagues in Rokkasho, most particularly, Nakajima-san, Someya-san, and Shimada-san, (as well as their predecessors), I want to thank you all for your kindness, patience and for the things that you have taught me over the past 6 years. I will not forget our many video-conferences, meetings and exchanges, which have always been pleasant and even enjoyable, despite being work. I leave the IFERC team and the Broader Approach project with sadness, but also with gratitude for the time spent together. I wish you all the best of luck and success for your professional and personal projects. I will certainly be following the developments on fusion energy from afar. From Lisbon, Portugal, to be exact, where my family and I have decided to move to. Should you ever come visit please stop by to say hello.

Even if ITER is not up and running yet, I am lucky enough to say that I have already felt the warmth and (positive) energy from Fusion.



(Nuria Decker)