



Tell us Mr Larzul... the experience of a lifetime...

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Descriptif :

Mr Larzul, garment technology teacher.

It's better to see once than hearing thousands of times.

The first time I heard this quote was in Moscow in 1986 and till now, it's been my favourite quote. I keep on referring to it with my students at Jean Rostand vocational high school in Angoulême.

At that time, I had to make a three-month training to complete my ESIV **Garment Engineer** Diploma in Paris. The Albert Company, located at Les Herbiers in Vendée, proposed me to work on 2 projects for the renovation of **garment factories** in U.S.S.R. My training period was extended by one month and I had the opportunity to go to Moscow and discuss about the technical part of the **project**, which was followed by a job proposal in the company. Two months later, a contract of 21 million Swiss francs was signed for one **project** for a small **garment factory** located in Oujgorod, near the border of Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia. For this **project**, I wrote a very detailed **technical documentation** about the Albert's **know-how and technical files** of some selected **garments for women and kids**. Then, I supervised the equipment setting up, the travel organization within U.S.S.R. as well as visa issues. However, my main activity was about the organization of **training programs** for the Ukrainian people in Vendée and **training programs** in the Oujgorod factory with the assistance of qualified technicians from Albert Company.

Such **training programs** were the key to our success in such a project, and less than one year later, four other contracts were signed in Moscow, Belgorod, Erevan in the Armenian Republic, and Alma Ata in Kazakhstan. Thus, during 4 full years, I had to communicate in English but also in Russian, a language that I had to learn very quickly. Unfortunately, after having completed more than seventy-five per cent of those four contracts, they were stopped at the end of 1990, due to the financial and political situations.

In 1991, I joined Catimini, a **kid wear** company, to set up a joint venture in Madras (presently Chennai) in south India. Besides, working on the joint venture project (land, equipment, planning...) I oversaw some production. In collaboration with the supplier partner, we had to source the **fabric** locally, in Korea or in Hong Kong.

I also happened to supervise the development of exclusive printed **designs** using different **techniques** (discharge print, pigment print...), making suggestions to Catimini.

I also improved the productivity of the **sewing lines**, training supervisors and operators so that they could get a **stitching operating process** like those in France, with some adaptation to the Indian way however.

In addition, I contributed to the establishment of a school within the company in order to train future **workers** on **sewing machines**, as well as ones who would be assigned to the final **control of products** at the end of the **production line**.

If my experience in Thailand for Christian Dior and the following were quite similar to the Indian one, I decided in 2002 to extend my knowledge by doing social audits. Based on my own experience, I noticed that most **suppliers** had lots of difficulties to have a high **quality level** and respect the delivery dates.

This personal desire to contribute to the improvement of **working conditions** also corresponded to the strategy of most international companies having a Corporate Social Responsibility.

From 2003 to 2019, this auditing activity allowed me to visit around five hundred factories in a dozen countries and discover the entire **cotton textile industrial activities** from **ginning** to **weaving**, **printing**, and making some very

specific **garments**, also in shoes, toys, Christmas decorations and small household appliances.

I became a **garment technology teacher** in 2018, and then completed the DNL certification in February 2022, to share those **experiences** with my students and colleagues and transmit my knowledge.

I think that giving my students strong **operational skills** in English will help them integrate into **the professional world**.



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