



## Another year over ...

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*We are all connected through our work but in the big world of Nacelles we celebrate a great variation of traditions. We even have different dates for Christmas and New Year's Eve.*

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"And so this is Christmas. I hope you have fuuuun...."

There is no way around it; the Christmas calendar countdown proves the point; I am in the middle of it; a traditional Danish Christmas. And once again the classic John Lennon song is stuck in my head.

Luckily, I have colleagues to remind me of the world outside which saves me from going totally jingle bells. Actually, all I have to do is turn my head and talk to the Controller in SCM, Oleksandr Andrushkiv who sits next to me at the office here in Århus. As an orthodox Catholic from the Ukraine, he is not going to celebrate Christmas until January 6th. Oleksandr works with numbers and does not have the time to entertain this constantly talking girl in Communications. Fortunately, the Office Communicator keeps me in contact with co-workers who happen to be a bit further away than my desk.

And my fantastic colleagues are more than willing to share information about their end of the year traditions.

From Magdeburg, Michele Müller tells me how the Germans put their shoes outside the door on the evening of December 6th. This is not to get your shoes cleaned as if you were staying at a hotel; rather, because they celebrate Nikolaustag on this day. The catch is: the shoes need to be clean before they are placed outside for Nikolaus to be able to find them and make a small gift appear in the shoes.

Isabella Collett Sikel from Kristiansand explains that in Norway they have a tradition of serving "Julegrøt" (Christmas porridge) for all employees on the day they also receive the Vestas Christmas present.

And dear Ann-Louise from Guldsmedshyttan in Sweden went on vacation and came back only to find out that the management group had decided to celebrate the Swedish Lucia tradition on December

13th. To everyone's big surprise and amusement the management team showed up like .. well, the picture says it all:



So in Sweden they sing trying to look like angels; in Spain they have many important Christmas traditions but they also have Lotería de Navidad, the great Spanish Christmas lottery.

And as sweet Maria Carmen Vigo Insua from the factory in Vivieiro says, "It is not a holiday, but all over Spain people turn on the TV or radio when the numbers are drawn over a period of many hours. Everybody in Spain has bought a ticket in the hope of winning "El Gordo – the fat one."

Of course, the employees in Vivieiro are participating as well, hoping their ticket will have the lucky number that gets drawn on Thursday December 22nd.

So as it turns out we celebrate the turn of the year in many different ways in the great Vestas world. But it is not only in December that employees celebrate different traditions.

In the beautiful and colorful India they celebrated Ayudha Pooja in October at the factory in Chennai.



Ayudha Pooja is an essential part of the Navratri festival (festival of triumph of good over evil), a Hindi festival which is traditionally celebrated in India. The word Ayudha, in Sanskrit, means weapon. This is a festival when weapons and tools are worshipped. During this day, the workers clean the tools and refrain from using them; this to give them fitting honor for one entire day.

I was captivated as I always am when Sanchita Pande tells me about India. She told me that what you see in the picture is mantras or holy chants being performed to beget happiness, prosperity and good health. The day was spent in worship and contemplation followed by distribution of sweets to all staff.

In November I got an email from my great pen pal Gary Held in the factory in Brighton telling me about the annual holiday in the US; Veteran's Day; a day of great importance to many people in the States. In Brighton they have chosen this special day of celebration to create a new tradition. And for the second year in a row the Management team served lunch to all employees.

In China they celebrate the Spring Festival.; usually called Chinese New Year. The date is different from year to year, because it follows the lunar calendar not the solar calendar. The celebrations of the New Year, the year of the Dragon, will begin on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. As my friend Cindy Shujuan Wen from Vestas Machining kindly explains:  
"The tradition is to celebrate spring's coming after the cold winter. The entire country will celebrate and people take time off from work. Companies usually have an annual party 4 or 5 weeks before the Chinese New Year since the real holiday belongs to the family."

As I come to think of it that is what we need in Denmark: a celebration rejoicing the coming of spring. Maybe that is actually why Danes go Christmas bananas in December. Though the month is cold and dark it is also full of joy, light and get-togethers with family and friends. We need to get fueled-up to be able to stand up against the last part of the winter – January and February!

But we all need to get fuel-up throughout the year.

It's easily done; simply take advantage of having great colleague's from all over world sitting almost right next to you. Let them tell you about their life and traditions and celebrate with them.

To all of you whenever you celebrate I wish you; "A very merry Christmas. And a happy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one without any fear."

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