

KITA NEWS

KITA
Kitakyushu
International
Techno-cooperative
Association

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— Visit of JICA President Shinichi KITAOKA to KITA —

On Dec.3rd 2015, JICA President Shinichi KITAOKA visited KITA and had a familiar talk with KITA executives mainly on current situations and issues of overseas technological cooperation.

Exchanging opinions for future cooperation, we believe the visit has strengthened the partnership between JICA and KITA. For more information, please refer to page 11.

Policy of Management for FY 2016

The media is increasingly reporting about a slowdown of China's economic growth. This is likely to have no small impact on business trends in Japan as well. Economic expansion in other emerging nations is also slowing down so there are concerns of a ripple effect on other parts of Asia as well as Japan, and of course on the global economy.

In addition, the extremely complex international conflict in the Middle East was the cause of terrorist attacks in various regions. As a result, not only did financial uncertainty gradually start to increase in the latter half of 2015, it was also a year that saw an expansion of global social unrest, including security problems.

KITA, meanwhile, has been undergoing an overhaul of our set-up since 2011, based upon the following medium and long term perspectives.

KITA's Medium and Long Term Policies

1. Accumulation of KITA's assets
2. Investigation of "what is typical of KITA" and the advantages of being based in Kitakyushu

Based on these policies, we have promoted the following four guidelines since FY2015 and plan to get results from them during the two-year period ending in FY2016. In addition, we have almost completed our plan for FY2015, as outlined below.

1. Enhance and improve project capabilities with the aim of establishing the KITA brand

(1) Training brand : Reliable implementation, from the grasp of local needs to follow-up on outcomes

- a) Comprehension of local needs
- b) Providing solutions and effective expertise, information and experience
- c) Building a win-win relationship between the countries participated in a training course and the companies collaborated in it
- d) Reliable follow-up on the outcomes of training courses

▶ Via repeated discussion and research each time a training course is run, we are enriching content with regard to challenges a) to d) and gradually getting closer to attaining our objectives

e) Greater utilization of networks with former participants overseas

▶ We are expanding and consolidating our networks of former participants, and also making more active use of them.

(2) Technical assistance brand : Global deployment of small and medium-sized Kitakyushu companies

a) Support for small and medium-sized Kitakyushu companies starting up activities overseas (act as a coordinator)

- Finding out the needs of overseas companies and matching them with what Kitakyushu companies can offer

- Expanding markets by proactively launching activities overseas and establishing production systems such as joint ventures with overseas



Hideki FURUNO, President

companies

▶ In regard to the above, we are steadily developing overseas activities and so on, with a particular focus on Vietnam.

b) Proactive collaboration to launch activities overseas with related organizations

- Kitakyushu municipal government
- Japan Association for Trade with Russia and NIS (ROTOBO)

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME)

- Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

▶ Collaborations with the Kitakyushu municipal government and JICA are particularly active, and we are focusing on those whilst also proceeding with other collaborations.

c) Aggressively boosting our brand awareness overseas via activities such as overseas seminars and forums

▶ We try hard to boost our visibility each time we carry out overseas activities, and awareness of KITA abroad is steadily growing.

d) Greater utilization of networks with former participants overseas

▶ We are expanding our networks with each project, with a particular focus on Vietnam.

2. Formulate and implement the KITA Master Plan

(1) FY2015: Final draft of the KITA Master Plan (10-year plan)

- Giving concrete form to the scheme to establish the KITA brand

▶ We have finished drafting our master plan, and are now in the process of explaining it to the Kitakyushu municipal government and moving forward with KITA decision-making procedures. We have also started giving concrete form to the scheme to establish the KITA brand.

(2) FY2015: Start to move forward with the KITA Master Plan

- Starting work on the realization of the KITA brand

- ▶ Implementation of the master plan is scheduled to start in the fourth quarter of FY2015, and arrangements are in place to give tangible form to the KITA brand.

3. Further promote the streamlining of project management

- (1) Clarifying the respective roles of organizations and operations, and boosting coordination between organizations
 - Streamlining administrative work and reducing costs
 - ▶ Preparations aimed at implementing concrete measures as of FY2016 are almost complete.
- (2) Promoting effective use of the IT infrastructure and improving its functions
 - ▶ This is a challenge we are tackling as a matter of routine and we are making daily progress.

4. Establish ourselves as a public interest incorporated foundation, and ensure transparency, fairness and disclosure

- (1) Scrupulously protecting information and providing full disclosure
 - ▶ This is already becoming habitual, but we are working to promote still greater thoroughness.
- (2) Preparation of the relevant documents for external audits by the Cabinet Office and Kitakyushu municipal government
 - ▶ Preparations for the audit are almost complete but are scheduled to continue on the assumption that some tasks still remain given that we have no experience of a Cabinet Office audit.

As indicated above, we are getting results almost exactly as scheduled.

FY2015 was a year in which we collaborated even more closely with partners such as the Kitakyushu municipal government and JICA Kyushu, and these strong cooperative relationships helped to intensify overseas activities.

We have been pushing forward for nearly five years now with the medium and long term policies I constantly advocate for KITA, and a two-year project was launched for FY2015-16 to establish the 'KITA brand' as one of the fruits of our medium and long term policies, a step that will give added clarity to their image.

This KITA brand is the core concept of the ten-year KITA Master Plan launched in FY2015. During the two-year period of FY2015-16 we will steadily implement the guidelines below, which have the establishment of the KITA brand as their central focus.

FY2016 Guidelines

1. Enhance and improve project capabilities with the aim of establishing the KITA brand

- (1) Training brand: Reliable implementation, from the grasp of local needs to follow-up on outcomes
 - a) Support for small and medium-sized Kitakyushu companies starting up activities overseas (act as a coordinator)
 - b) Providing solutions and effective expertise,

- information and experience
 - c) Building a win-win relationship between the countries participated in a training course and the companies collaborated in it
 - d) Reliable follow-up on the outcomes of training courses
 - e) Greater utilization of networks with former participants overseas
- (2) Technical assistance brand: Global deployment of small and medium-sized Kitakyushu companies
 - a) Support for small and medium-sized Kitakyushu companies starting up activities overseas (act as a coordinator)
 - Finding out the needs of overseas companies and matching them with what Kitakyushu companies can offer
 - Expanding markets by proactively launching activities overseas and establishing production systems such as joint ventures with overseas companies
 - b) Proactive collaboration to launch activities overseas with related organizations
 - Kitakyushu municipal government
 - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
 - Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
 - c) Aggressively boosting our brand awareness overseas via activities such as overseas seminars and forums
 - d) Greater utilization of networks with former participants overseas

2. Formulate and implement the KITA Master Plan

- (1) Final draft of the KITA Master Plan (10-year plan)
 - Giving concrete form to the scheme to establish the KITA brand
- (2) Start to move forward with the KITA Master Plan
 - Starting work on the realization of the KITA brand

3. Further promote the streamlining of project management

- (1) Clarifying the respective roles of organizations and operations, and boosting coordination between organizations
 - Streamlining administrative work and reducing costs
- (2) Promoting effective use of the IT infrastructure and improving its functions

4. Establish ourselves as a public interest incorporated foundation, and ensure transparency, fairness and disclosure

- (1) Scrupulously protecting information and providing full disclosure
- (2) Preparation of the relevant documents for external audits by the Cabinet Office and Kitakyushu municipal government
- (3) Securing daily manners as a public interest incorporated foundation

As outlined above, during FY2016 I intend to shape the KITA brand which was given a clear outline in FY2015, and to build up the momentum to power forward with the KITA Master Plan during the next decade.

Training Division

Dr. Masakatsu UENO, Vice President, Director of the Training Division



On the occasion of its registration in 2012 as a public interest incorporated foundation, KITA summarized the characteristics and ideal direction of the training courses implemented by the training division of KITA as KITA's

training brand. The core of the training brand consists of "providing solutions", in other words, providing a key to the solution of problems that the participants have. To this end, we have been emphasizing the following in the implementation of training courses:

- 1) Clarification of issues to be solved (collaboration with the participants)
 - Practical use of the IAS (Issue Analysis Sheet)
- 2) Provision of appropriate and correct information to

help solve the problems

- Provision of information needed by the participants rather than the information we want to offer

For the clarification of problems, we make use of the IAS. The first target for this year is to further improve our diagnosis capabilities by making practical use of the IAS.

The second target is to promote the sharing and integration of information obtained from the participants. Every year, we undertake about 40 training courses with participants from about 90 countries. When KITA shares internally and integrates the information obtained from the respective training courses, deeper understanding will be made possible about the problems that the participating countries are facing. My intention this year is to proactively promote such integrated understanding and to apply the results to enrich the curricula.

Technical Cooperation Division

Tomoharu ASAHARA, Managing Director, Technical Cooperation Division



The technical cooperation division will take the first steady step toward the reformation of our business structure and system this year, the first year of the implementation of the newly-established master plan.

- 1) We will perform our role as a primary body promoting international businesses, taking "the environment" and "Asia" as our keywords.
- 2) We will reform our business structure, which is highly dependent on public services, to become profit-oriented and capable of autonomy.

Specific activities

- (1) Continuation of the public service-related business, one of the fundamental roles of KITA
 - Assistance for the overseas business development of enterprises in Kitakyushu, plus information

gathering, reconnaissance and lectures in response to the needs of the city of Kitakyushu

- Assistance for the environmental international cooperation, environmental business and urban infrastructure business promoted by the city of Kitakyushu

- (2) Development of a new domain of profit-oriented businesses

- Consulting work to assist enterprises in Kitakyushu and the city of Kitakyushu in doing their business (The key to success is human resources. We will therefore actively seek competent retired officials and employees.)
- Incorporation of the Kitakyushu Maintenance Engineering Society (KME) to enrich and enlarge the maintenance engineering training business, including expansion into new fields such as acceptance of trainees from abroad
- Development of commissioned training courses in various fields

Highlights of KITA Training Courses

Expected Discovery of Champion Articles for Sale

「Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy (B)」Course

Yasunori NAKASHIMA, Course Leader

This course was newly introduced for the purpose of promoting the export of articles made from local resources and as a result, to stimulate and vitalize local industries. Ten participants from six countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Swaziland and Tanzania) joined this course of about one month.

The fundamentals of marketing exist in “producing merchandise that sells”. In other words, both “sales know-how” and the “capacity to produce quality merchandise” are essential for better marketing. However, the participants did not seem to have been favored with opportunities to specifically practice both. This course therefore included as many workshops, training opportunities in companies and lectures by persons active on the front lines as possible.

As a result, the participants seem to have learned from experience the way to amalgamate both “sales know-how” and the “capacity to produce quality merchandise” in a practical manner.

Africa has tremendous latent potential in terms of human and material resources. I strongly hope that the participants will discover unique and high-quality goods that reflect the cultural and historical backgrounds of their countries, and will lovingly develop them into “champion merchandise”.



Workshop on marketing strategies



Sampling superfoods at the Harajuku branch of Seikatsu-no-ki

Kitakyushu's Experience as an “Environmentally-Advanced City” Go Global!

「Urban Management for Sustainable Urban Development (A)」Course

Yukito IO, Course Leader

In recent years, various environmental issues have surfaced in developing countries as well due to the progress of industrialization, population increase, urban centralization and so on, forcing the countries to face the challenge of implementing sustainable urban development plans to improve the situation. The city of Kitakyushu was confronted with urban problems such as environmental pollution issues and transformation of the industrial structure, but implemented various measures and policies and continued developing as a sustainable city until it is now highly appraised as an “OECD Green Growth City”.

Against such a background, JICA Kyushu has decided to hold a training course targeting key officials from the central governments and local governments of developing countries so that they can learn from the experiences and policies of the city of Kitakyushu, develop the capacity to dealing with urban management and formulate sustainable urban plans.

This session was the first of the training courses to be held in Japan and was attended by ten participants from Asian countries. Officials from Kitakyushu City Hall with experiences relevant to the subject were mainly invited as lecturers to speak about their experiences, and discussions were held on how to advance “sustainable urban development” in developing countries. The course included

visits to places such as the Kitakyushu Eco-Town and the Higashida Comprehensive Development Project site, and an introduction to the progress of “sustainable urban development projects” undertaken around the world was also included in the course. The session was well received and another two sessions are planned to be held this fiscal year.



Training at JICA Kyushu International Center



Visit to Murasakigawa River

Highlights of KITA Training Courses

The Importance of “Seeing Is Believing”!

「Capacity Development for Entrepreneurs and MSMEs Activation in African Countries (A)」Course

Makoto KOSUGI, Course Leader

This course is designed for African countries to launch the promotion of local industries, creation of new jobs, vitalization of local communities and reduction of poverty in rural areas. The participants were African entrepreneurs and government officials aiming for regional development. Ten persons from Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Zambia participated in this round of training.

The “One Village One Product” movement and rural electrification using micro hydropower generation, wind power generation and photovoltaic power generation were introduced as catalysts to get the participants thinking about promoting enterprises. In the course of facilitation work with the participants, they became aware of the importance of “Seeing is believing”, in other words, the importance of seeing with their own eyes and thinking about the issues.

Based on information about African infrastructure acquired in the course, a returned participant from Ethiopia personally visited a micro hydropower generation facility,

traveling as far as 230 km to investigate its utilization. He sent me photographs of issues he had identified. I expect significant progress to be made from now on.



With Mr. Goto, Chairman of the NPO/Oita Human Resource Cultivation and Local Cultural Interchange Association



Returned participant Kuma-san from Ethiopia visiting a micro hydropower generation facility to carry out an investigation

For a Clear View of What Is Important Now for Waste Management in Countries and Regions

「Management of Composting Project (A)」Course

Tsutomu SASHIWA, Course Leader

As this round of the course was intended for practical application, efforts were made to incorporate advanced technologies and up-to-date information. However, there is no denying that, in due consideration of the situation of the countries and job-related issues of the participants, the contents shifted from rather advanced matters to instruction on basic know-how about solid waste management with the 3R at its core. Kitakyushu is an industrialized city and recycling is a growing industry here, so there are a lot of sites to visit.

From the basic stance of 3R, recycle comes after reduce and reuse but from the perspective of stimulating the economy or fostering industries, recycling is expected to have the biggest effect. However, in addition to the development of infrastructure, other important factors in fostering recycling industries include a tradition of manufacturing skills, human resources, and markets, which hampers some countries from making an immediate start.

From the situation of the countries of the participants, it seemed that their interest was centered on comprehensive waste management, the solution of operational problems and the effective use of household food leftovers and the like, rather than on industrialized recycling technology. One of the promising methods to gain a clear view of what is

important for the waste management in the countries and regions may be to adopt a portfolio approach with their situations expressed in graph form showing itemized priorities, and to group together countries and regions with similar tendencies for the purpose of analysis and discussion.



Experiencing segregation of household waste



Visit to the Tire Chip Center, Fukuoka

Introduction of Lively Activity of a Former Participant

INDIA

Dr. Takatsugu UEYAMA, Course Leader

Former Participant **Mr. Jayakumar Raveendranadhan**

Training Course **Energy conservation techniques for India**

Course Period Jul.12, 2009 to Aug.08, 2009

The course for the energy conservation techniques for India started in 2008 as a course on an annual basis, but in 2009, the year of Kumar-san's participation, the course was expanded to twice yearly, and then to three times yearly from the next year onward. During the meantime, the technical capabilities of the participants have improved dramatically.



When I received a letter from Kumar-san, I reread his action plan from the course and was impressed anew by how fine his report had been. In the first paragraph of the report, he stated that he would take systematic action following the example of Japan. According to his letter, he faithfully put this into practice after returning home and received a commendation from the state. He also wrote that he would deal with CBM (condition-based maintenance) and that, on this point, he was making a contribution to business enterprises using the thermograph, one of the tools of CBM. Recently he has set up his own business with this technology and is actively involved in consulting work. From what he wrote to me, and from the improvements in the technical capabilities of the participants I have seen in recent years, I have a strong sense that this course, which has continued for eight years now, is making a contribution to the energy conservation programs of India. I pray that Kumar-san will go on to even greater success.

KENYA

Makoto KOSUGI, Course Leader

Former Participant **Ms. KINYUAH Gladys Karen Wangu**

Training Course **Capacity Development for Entrepreneurs and MSMEs Activation in African Countries (B)**

Course Period May 02, 2014 to Jun.27, 2014

This course is designed for African countries to launch the promotion of local industries, creation of new jobs, vitalization of local communities and reduction of poverty in rural areas. Here I introduce Gladys-san, a female government official from Kenya's Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism.



Driven by a sense of crisis concerning the poor quality and lack of export power of domestic small and medium-sized enterprises, she is tackling regional development with great enthusiasm. Throughout the training course, she displayed strong leadership and played a central role in the group, always being the first person to raise a hand to ask a question during the visits to enterprises. She was constantly looking for seeds to start up new businesses, such as opportunities for overseas trainees to be accepted in Japanese enterprises, each time she got some attractive information. For example, it was Gladys-san who highly evaluated the effectiveness of the solar lantern. Although there still is a long way to go before implementation, her attitude toward challenges is amazing and I am pleased to offer my cooperation through exchanges of information. I expect her to go on to do some remarkable work.

Introduction of Lively Activity of a Former Participant

■ CHINA

Junji KAWASAKI, Course Leader

Former Participant **Ms. LU Jing**

Training Course **Industrial Wastewater Treatment Techniques (A)**

Course Period Jun. 16, 2013 to Sep. 07, 2013

There is much to say about China's environmental issues, such as PM 2.5 air pollution and the existence of a village ravaged by cancer caused by industrial wastewater. A report by Lu-san, a former participant, arrived from China about the progress of the research into wastewater treatment technology that she is engaged in as a university lecturer.

The applied wastewater treatment research using chloroperoxidase as a catalyst that she is presently undertaking is known to be a difficult process and for this reason is rarely applied to dye effluent. During her stay in Japan, she acquired a great deal of knowledge through lectures on the dye effluent treatment theory and on-site visits. In her report this time she writes about research aiming at a more advanced treatment technique. The university where she works is in Shaanxi province, China, a central region of inland China along the middle reaches of Huang He (the Yellow River), famous for the lifelike statues of soldiers and horses in the Museum of the First Qin Emperor. I was amazed by the fact that such advanced research is being carried out in a university in inland China and could also surmise China's attitude toward the solution of the environmental issues they are presently facing. If such challenges are continued, I believe that the environmental pollution issues will undoubtedly be solved in the near future.



■ REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Hajime SUETA, Course Leader

Former Participant **Mr. DURAKU Vehbi**

Training Course **Capacity Development in Waste Water Treatment Sector**

Course Period Oct. 16, 2014 to Nov. 08, 2014

After completing the training course related to sewage works, the participants returned home and held a workshop in which they all participated and where they also presented reports about the training course. A report of the workshop arrived from Vehbi-san, one of the course participants. According to the report, quite a number of persons from major water-related organizations of Kosovo attended the workshop, where there were presentations and discussions about subjects essential for the implementation of sewerage projects, such as the design of sewage treatment plants, advanced treatments, sludge treatment, the renewal of sewage piping, and sewerage charges.

The report shows the country's deep interest in sewage works and makes us feel the national determination to push forward with sewerage projects. Kosovo presently has only one sewage treatment plant. An additional plant will come into operation in the city of Prizren two years from now, and another is said to be planned in the suburbs of the capital city although it will be small in size. It seems that sewerage projects in Kosovo will move forward at a high pace from now on. I am very pleased that this workshop is functioning as a venue for brainstorming about the implementation of sewage works.



Recent Activities for Overseas Development Cooperation

Recent Progress of JICA's Grassroots Technical Cooperation Projects

Tomoharu ASAHARA, Managing Director, Technical Cooperation Division

Triggered by the conclusion of the friendship and cooperation agreement between the city of Kitakyushu and the city of Haiphong, Vietnam in April 2008, we have been engaged in projects designed for productivity improvement in the manufacturing industries in Haiphong.

Apart from the enterprises transformed from state-run enterprises, newly-started local enterprises still have a low level of management proficiency. Our guidance, therefore, concentrated on the 5S, which form the basis of management. Although there are still only a few enterprises that have reached the desired level, the university teaching staff who were our partners of the activities have developed the capacity to be leaders and an environment has formed where we can leave the rest to them.

In addition, with the aim of creating lecture courses on manufacturing control in the local universities, we invited to Japan professors whom we expect to play a central role so that they could acquire basic knowledge and experience field practice through visits to companies. Business administrators who are expected to assume a leading role in Haiphong in the

future also joined in this training. Presently, a new curriculum of lectures has been launched and, with the existing curriculum being enriched, younger-generation human resources who have studied manufacturing control are starting to move out into the world.

As stated above, we could only achieve a little in such a short period of time but I am confident that we could certainly sow seeds for the future.



Kitakyushu meister Mr. Ikuno teaching cutting work



Closing ceremony of the training in Japan(JICA Kyushu)

Second Round of Technical Exchanges Held in Haiphong, Vietnam

Toshikatsu MIYATA, Executive Technical Advisor

On November 11 and 12 last year the second technical exchange session was held in Haiphong, a sister city of Kitakyushu. This exchange session was opened as part of the "JICA grassroots technical cooperation projects" presently being implemented by the city of Kitakyushu and KITA for the purpose of promoting technical exchanges and business networking between Kitakyushu enterprises and local enterprises that have improved their technical and managerial capabilities thanks to this project.

There were exhibitions from 13 Kitakyushu companies from a variety of industries including metal processing, machinery manufacturing, measuring instrument manufacturing, environmental equipment, food processing and a car mechanics' school, and three from Haiphong manufacturing companies. The visitors tallied 700 and the exchange session was more animated than the previous session. On the second day, we were honored by a visit from the deputy mayor Mr. Son, which showed us how high the interest of the city of Haiphong was in this exchange session.

This exchange session also saw the signing of the "Memorandum concerning promotion of mutual interchanges between the two cities" by the head of the Industry and Economics Bureau of the city of Kitakyushu, Mr. Nishida and the head of the Industry and Trade Department of the city of Haiphong, Mr. Phuong, stating that the mutual interchanges

between the two cities would continue even after the end of the JICA grassroots projects. Closer interaction between the two cities in a wider range of fields is expected from now on.



Active technical exchanges and business networking seen everywhere in the venue



The deputy mayor of the city of Haiphong, Mr. Son (second from the right) on a tour of the venue



The signing ceremony of the "Memorandum concerning promotion of mutual interchanges between the two cities" To the left, Mr. Nishida, to the right Mr. Phuong

Recent Activities for Overseas Development Cooperation

A Visit to Japan by the Chinese Air Environment Improvement Mission

Mitsuaki KAWASHIMA, Executive Technical Advisor

After concluding agreements with five cities in China, last year the city of Kitakyushu started a training course concerning air environment improvement. This year, higher-level content has been introduced throughout the course. Chinese cities can learn a lot from the experiences of the city of Kitakyushu over half a century, from the "history of Kitakyushu overcoming pollution" to the "restrictive measures taken by Kitakyushu against emission of VOC (volatile organic compounds)", and the cited five cities must make efforts to apply what they have learned straightaway.

China, developing from the so-called factory of the world, is about to transition into a stable market with an economic growth rate of less than 7%. With the national policy in search of a middle of the way between economic growth and control of the environmental pollution, the participants, who were visiting Japan with big expectations of their "training in the environmental capital of Kitakyushu" and shouldering the burden of the expectations of the state government and the municipal governments, showed a fervent determination not to miss a word of the lectures, a keenness that was clearly apparent in the following Q&A sessions.

As many of Japan's famous analytical instrument manufacturers are located in Kyoto and Osaka, we made a short trip to visit some companies. After the stifling heat of summer,

the sightseeing spots of Kyoto were seething with more tourists than ever. The participants could get a glimpse of "dreamy Kyoto" between our on-site visits, but they were already viewing it with the eyes of an environmentalist, murmuring impressions of the streets of the old city of Kyoto under the beautiful skies and by the beautiful streams after sharply analyzing the sights from an environmental perspective.

They knew that Osaka is a commercial city and seem to have raced around downtown Osaka in the evening, knowing that it is the best place for shopping. As a result, the return Shinkansen became a souvenir carrier, making the short trip really fruitful. The main souvenir they took back to China, I think, will be the "administrative and technological policies for the improvement of the urban environment".



At an analytical instrument manufacturer

Speech of Thanks at the Closing Ceremony from a Representative of All the Participants who Completed This Training Course



- Representative : RAHMAN Mohammad Bazlur (Mr.) from Bangladesh
- Training course : Policy for Energy Efficiency and Conservation (C)
- Course period : Jul. 07, 2014 to Aug. 02, 2014

Konbanwa, Very Good Afternoon:

I am deeply honored and humbled by this opportunity to pass a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. I would like to thank Kitakyushu International Techno-cooperative Association (KITA) for the very effective facilitation and coordination of this training course. KITA has pooled best resource persons for our training program. The training has accorded us a unique opportunity to learn about EE&C and also to share experiences. On behalf of the participants I would like to convey our deep appreciation to all the facilitators who have labored during the last four weeks to help us comprehend the topics that they have delivered with great humility, mastery of the content.

Truly speaking, I could not find such dedication, meticulousness in any training program anywhere in my service life. I would like to thank them all on behalf of my fellow participants. We appreciate that EE&C is a vast subject. Four weeks training program is not sufficient. But this training program has helped us to acquire some tools and techniques and also has shown the path for acquiring further knowledge to

kaizen. Indeed we will earnestly try to acquire more knowledge and apply to our work environment in our respective countries.

My dear fellow participants: We the twelve participants from nine countries have stayed here together for four weeks and became mutual friends. I hope we will return to our home safely with sweet memory of Japan. I have a request to my fellow participants to keep contact each other and share your knowledge, views, experience and any new developments about EE&C or other energy related issues in your country through email.

Finally, I would like to thank my all fellow participants for your nice cooperation, mutual respect and togetherness you have shown during the stay here in Japan.

Thank you all

(As in the original speech script)



JICA President KITAOKA Visits KITA

Naokatsu FUJIWARA, Senior Managing Director, Secretary General

JICA appointed a new president last October 1 and, on his first domestic business trip, President Kitaoka arrived in Kyushu on Thursday December 3. After arriving at Kitakyushu Airport on a drizzly evening, President Kitaoka headed straight for KITA with a group that included Hiroshi Izaki, Director General of JICA Kyushu, keen to hold discussions with people directly involved in training courses.

President Furuno and other executives were waiting at KITA to welcome President Kitaoka, who had just got back from Africa the day before. After exchanging greetings, President Furuno gave a brief outline of KITA which led into informal discussions between President Kitaoka and KITA executives that focused on such topics as the current situation and challenges in overseas technical assistance.

Although the visit only lasted around 40 minutes, President Kitaoka also spoke about such topics as the current state of affairs in the development of small and medium-sized companies in Africa. The time just flew by amidst the intense discussions. At the end of the discussions President Furuno promised to visit Tokyo at least once a year to hold top-level talks between the presidents of JICA and

KITA. Although this visit was their first meeting, the informal talks gave a strong sense of an enthusiastic partnership.



A firm handshake between JICA President Kitaoka and KITA President Furuno



The two presidents with JICA and KITA staff after the informal discussions

One Day Bus Tour to Shimonoseki

Tatsuhiko TAKAI, Director, General Affairs Section

We held a stroll around the Chofu castle town and a tour of Shimonoseki Marine Science Museum on Saturday October 24, at the peak of the autumn sightseeing season.

There were very few tourists in the Chofu district as it was too early to enjoy the autumn colors, and at times it seemed as if KITA had taken over the sightseeing spots. The participants from Latin America might possibly have an impression of having slipped back in time and entered a Japanese town from a bygone era. It was the first time for them to experience this aspect of Japan, and I think that they enjoyed relaxing and savoring the exotic atmosphere.

The participant who won an ukiyoe-style picture in the bingo game played at lunchtime was fascinated by the classic Japanese poem written in the picture, asking what it said and asking me for its meaning.

We visited Shimonoseki Marine Science Museum in the afternoon where we enjoyed the dolphin show and surveyed the majestically swimming marine life from a variety of different angles. The participants displayed an almost child-like carefree innocence as they busily videoed the scene.

I think that being able to spend a fun day away from their training will be a good memory for the participants.



Iminomiya Shrine



The Chofu Mori Residence

Training for Improvement of the Water Environment in Kunming, China

Saburo TSURUTA, Course Leader

Dianchi Lake, located south of Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan, China was once also known as the Jewel of the Plateau, but its water quality has so deteriorated that it can no longer be used even for agricultural purpose owing to the eutrophication caused by the ever-increasing inflow of untreated sewage to Dianchi Lake that has accompanied economic growth. Dianchi Lake is counted as one of the “three rivers and three lakes”, the synonym for the environmental pollution of China, and was designated by the Chinese government as a priority region for environmental conservation.



Bird's-eye view of the No. Seven and No. Eight sewage treatment plants

Leveraging the technology and experiences accumulated through its history of overcoming past serious environmental pollution and the know-how accumulated through its sewage system projects, the city of Kitakyushu was entrusted by JICA with a proposal-based survey regarding a “water environment development project for Kunming, Yunnan” and proposed the implementation of “training to improve the water environment for Kunming, Yunnan” with the aim of developing the capabilities of the persons in charge of Kunming’s sewage system projects.

The city of Kitakyushu and the Kunming city government exchanged memoranda regarding cooperation toward the smooth implementation of the “training in Japan” for the relevant personnel from Kunming, and KITA has entered into an agreement for the implementation of training with Kunming Municipal Construction and Management Bureau for the Comprehensive Treatment of Dianchi Lake’s North Bank Water Environment.

Aiming at comprehensively boosting the operational, maintenance and management capacities of the persons involved in the water environment of the city of Kunming, a training course was held which included Kitakyushu city’s experiences of improving the water environment, management and planning of sewage system projects, maintenance, management and advanced technologies of pipe facilities, operation and management of sewage treatment plants, efficient use of sludge, and so on. The course also covered the water quality conservation measures taken at Lake Biwa and Lake Kasumigaura, advanced sewage treatment technologies, sludge digestion, incineration of sludge and the use of incineration ash, power generation using digestion gas, efficient use of treated water, and so on.

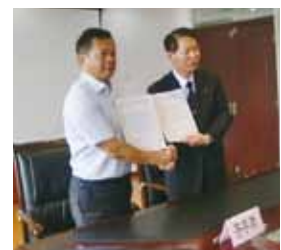
The course started in March 2007 when the first session was opened and ended in December 2014 when the tenth session was closed, with the number of participants reaching 81 in total.

A follow-up survey was implemented after the course had finished, which found that the No. Seven sewage treatment plant (JICA-ODA) was being properly operated and managed, and that a new water conduit had been laid to Dianchi Lake with which replacement of the lake water was being carried out. Treated water from the sewage treatment plants was said to be being discharged outside of Dianchi Lake, which made us believe that the water quality of Dianchi Lake would be so improved that the “Jewel of the Plateau” would be restored in the near future. Lastly, a certificate of confirmation was signed to confirm the completion of the course and the continuation of an amicable collaborative relationship in the future.



Dianchi Lake in the days of serious pollution

Dianchi Lake in the present day



Exchanging signed copies of the certificate of confirmation

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