

KITA NEWS

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Participants with Course leader and coordinator
(At the JICA Kyushu Center Entrance)



Anisa-san giving a speech at the
closing ceremony

“Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System (B)” Course

The purpose of this course is to train engineers for maintaining and managing sewerage facilities. Since some of the participants were new to the sewerage project, we carried out lectures about sewerage planning theory including pipe/drain and treatment facility design overviews as well. Please see page 5 for details.



A Message from the President

In Promoting FY2018 Business Plan

Hideki FURUNO, President



The world order is being impacted by US President Trump's doctrine of America First, and heads of state are scrambling to deal with that. Japan seems to have done relatively well at averting friction in its relationship with the US, but it did have to spend a lot of time making adjustments regarding matters such as the TPP issue. It has also been a year in which Japan has been scrambling to deal with national defense issues as a result of North Korea's nuclear capabilities and missiles. In addition, Japan was faced with various situations, including a National Diet stalled by the management of official documents concerning domestic permit and license procedures. The problem of international terrorism means that the world remains tense.

The ongoing global situation means that, as an organization with strong overseas connections, KITA must remain vigilant, and the past year has been one where our business was put under a strain by both the economy and public order concerns.

Given this situation of societal turbulence, KITA's results for FY2017 were worse than had been estimated. We did our best to achieve the tasks planned for FY2017, however the training business that is our mainstay was impacted by factors such as JICA, on whom we are very dependent, having difficulty in deciding on training courses, even though we devoted a lot of energy to actively proposing courses. In addition, although we endeavored to move forward with the FY2017 challenges in our technical cooperation business, national policy changes meant that the Ministry of the Environment can no longer contract us. Factors such as these made a decrease in our business revenue inevitable.

The circumstances described above meant that, in terms of revenue, KITA had its worst results ever in FY2017. However, it was also a year in which we prepared for the future with the policies below designed to enhance KITA.

<Training business>

1. Further promoting the establishment of KITA Training brand
2. Intent follow-up on participants' training outcome and grasping local needs

Many course leaders intently follow up on participants' training outcomes after they have returned to their homelands. We want them to continue to do so as this not only helps to boost KITA's global presence, but also makes a major contribution to increasing the number of Japanophiles around the world. These follow-ups are of significance for the future.

<Technical cooperation business>

1. Assisting global expansion of small to medium-sized companies
2. Technical instruction, technical assistance
3. Consigned training
4. Consulting business
5. Operating Kitakyushu Maintenance Engineering Society

Focusing on themes such as the above, we are building the framework of KITA's technical cooperation business.

In particular, we expect the consulting business to become one of KITA's key attractions in the near future.

With regard to FY2018, although we have been able to put together a budget that will put us slightly in the black by mobilizing all possible measures given that KITA's business is highly dependent on the situation at JICA, we can assume that the situation will remain far from rosy in FY2018.

To start with, in our training business I have decided that we will continue seeking to brand our training, and specifically tackle the themes listed below, with "Reliable implementation, from the grasp of local needs to follow-up on outcomes" as our main theme.

1. Further enrich the content of our training courses
2. Create structures aimed at receiving orders for new training course
3. Build win-win relationships between the countries that participate in training courses and the companies that collaborate in them

It is still unclear at the moment whether the situation regarding JICA's training decisions will improve, so we need to be careful about plans for KITA's future in our Master Plan. It is difficult to maintain our current master plan, and the situation also makes it hard to see the direction needed in our rolling plan, so I have decided to suspend the master plan for our training business for one year. During that period we will coordinate closely with JICA and make every effort to launch a rolling master plan as soon as possible.

Also, in our technical assistance business we will further intensify the same themes as in FY2017, including continued expansion of our consulting business by boosting our technical cooperation brand, and taking action to strengthen links with Kitakyushu organizations (including the Kitakyushu Asian Center for Low Carbon Society).

KITA as a whole will follow the three business guidelines below.

1. Enhance and improve project capabilities with the aim of establishing the KITA brand
2. Further promote the streamlining of project management
3. Establish ourselves as a public interest incorporated foundation, and ensure transparency, fairness and disclosure

I humbly ask for your continued support and cooperation.

FY2017 Operation Results / FY2018 Operation Plan

I. FY2017 Results

Although we implemented the three guidelines below, an unexpected decision about training courses at JICA caused problems. KITA's business revenue depends heavily on JICA and we ended up even further in the red than had been anticipated due to this unforeseen trouble. However, we were able to deal well with almost all the future-oriented challenges listed 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
- 2) Technical cooperation brand: Continuing projects intended for the public benefit and pioneering the global expansion of small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies

2. Further promote the streamlining of project management

- 1) Clarifying the respective roles of organizations and operations, and boosting coordination between organizations

- 2) Promoting effective use of the IT infrastructure and improving its functions

3. 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

II. FY2018 Plan

JICA will continue to face problems in FY2018, and this will have a big impact on KITA. Nevertheless, KITA will muster all its strength to tackle the themes listed below, and will attempt to claw its way back into the black in FY2018.

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
 - (1) Further enrich the content of our training courses
 - a. Accurately grasp the participants' needs and provide sound solutions
 - b. Respond to increasing diversification and specialization, and further develop and upgrade training sites
 - (2) Create structures aimed at receiving orders for new training courses
 - a. Improve follow-up on participants after they have completed their training course, and get an accurate grasp of local needs
 - b. Identify new training needs and continue to promote the diagnosis of training issues
- 2) Technical cooperation brand: Continuing projects intended for the public benefit and pioneering the global expansion of small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies
 - (1) Continue to implement projects intended for the public benefit
 - (2) Pioneer the global expansion of small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies and study profit-making business

- (3) Coordinate with the Asian Center for Low Carbon Society
- (4) Enhance our maintenance training projects: utilize the Kitakyushu Maintenance Engineering Society (KME)

2. Further promote the streamlining of project management

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

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

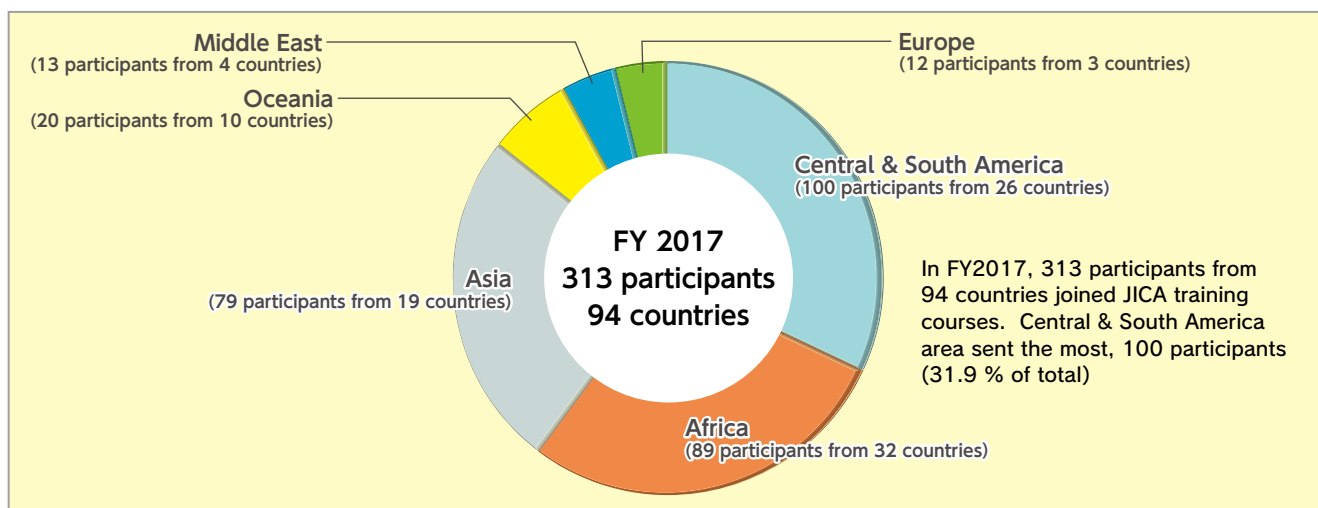
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- 2) Preparation of the relevant documents for external audits by the Cabinet Office and Kitakyushu municipal government
- 3) Securing daily manners as a public interest incorporated foundation

Highlights of KITA training courses

JICA training courses in FY2017

No.	Title of training course	Training term	Course Leader	Participants
I Environment Management				
1	Advancement of Solid Waste Management Technologies (Advance, Technique) (A)	Jul.09,2017 - Sep.09,2017	Sashiwa	9
2	Advancement of Solid Waste Management Technologies (Advance, Technique) (B)	Oct.15,2017 - Dec.16,2017	Haraguchi	9
3	Management of Composting Project (A)	Oct.29,2017 - Dec.02,2017	Sashiwa	8
4	Management of Composting Project (B)	Aug.20,2017 - Sep.22,2017	K. Kido	11
II Water Resources & Water Treatment				
1	Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System (B)	Jan.09,2018 - Feb.24,2018	Sueta	8
2	Water Environment Administration	Jul.09,2017 - Aug.30,2017	A. Kido	7
3	Sewerage Administration Vietnam	Sep.03,2017 - Sep.20,2017	S.Ogata	10
4	Integrated Water Resources Management (B)	Jan.14,2018 - Feb.15,2018	S.Ogata	7
5	On-Site Wastewater Treatment System	Aug.27,2017 - Sep.22,2017	Haraguchi	9
III Production Technology & Local Industry Activation				
1	Small and Medium Enterprises / Local Industry Promotion for Latin America (A)	Jan.16,2018 - Feb.17,2018	Kitamura	9
2	Small and Medium Enterprises / Local Industry Promotion for Latin America (B)	Jun.06,2017 - Jul.07,2017	K. Kawasaki	13
3	Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy (B)	Aug.19,2017 - Sep.23,2017	Nakashima	9
4	Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy (E)	Jan.27,2018 - Mar.03,2018	Watanabe	8
5	Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy (C)	Sep.03,2017 - Oct.07,2017	Io	10
6	Enhancement of Training Management in Vocational Training Institutes (C)	Oct.01,2017 - Nov.03,2017	Aritake	9
7	Know-how of MONOZUKURI at Japanese Manufacturing Site	Oct.22,2017 - Dec.07,2017	Torikai	11
8	Capacity Development for Entrepreneurs and MSMEs Activation in African Countries	May 13,2017 - Jun.17,2017	Nakashima	8
9	Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion	Jun 25,2017 - Jul.20,2017	Miki	6
10	"Japanese Food" Business Promotion	Nov.05,2017 - Nov.30,2017	Miki	6
IV Saving Energy & Renewable Energy				
1	Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (A)	Jul.02,2017 - Aug.05,2017	Kawaguchi	9
2	Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (B)	Oct.31,2017 - Dec.16,2017	Ueyama	8
3	Renewable Energy in Grid -Mainly on Photovoltaic- (A)	Jul.02,2017 - Aug.11,2017	Fujii	9
4	Renewable Energy in Grid -Mainly on Photovoltaic- (B)	Mar.04,2018 - Apr.21,2018	Ueyama	8
5	Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Commercial and Residential Sector (A)	Aug.20,2017 - Oct.07,2017	Ueyama	8
6	Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Commercial and Residential Sector (B)	Jan.21,2018 - Mar.10,2018	Kawaguchi	8
7	High Efficient and Clean Thermal Power - for Executives (A)	Aug.20,2017 - Sep.09,2017	Kubota	6
8	High Efficient and Clean Thermal Power - for Executives (B)	Jan.28,2018 - Feb.17,2018	Fujii	9
9	Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Young Leaders) for Central Asian_Caucasus Countries/Renewable Energy Course	Nov.26,2017 - Dec.13,2017	Kubota	21
10	Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Young Leaders) for African Countries /Renewable Energy Course	Jul.23,2017 - Aug.09,2017	Kasama	14
11	Drilling Management	Jul.05,2017 - Aug.10,2017	Takasaki	7
12	Advancement of Municipal Solid Waste Management Technologies	Jun.18,2017 - Jul.01,2017	Haraguchi	14
V Health Care, Urban Development & Others				
1	Food Safety Administration	Oct.01,2017 - Nov.01,2017	Nakahara	10
2	Urban Management for Sustainable Urban Development (A)	Oct.15,2017 - Oct.28,2017	Kitamura	7
3	Urban Management for Sustainable Urban Development (B)	Jan.14,2018 - Jan.27,2018	Takasaki	8

Number of countries and participants by area



Highlights of KITA Training Courses

We expect the promotion of the sewerage system project !
“ Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System (B) ”

Hajime SUETA, Course Leader

The purpose of this course is to train engineers for maintaining and managing sewerage facilities. Since some of the participants were new to the sewerage project, we carried out lectures about sewerage planning theory including pipe/drain and treatment facility design overviews as well.

In this training program, we had eight participants from Albania, Brazil, Cambodia, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, South Sudan, and Tunisia. Although the circumstances of the sewerage system in the country of the participants are different and some of the content of the lectures were not necessary for each individual, all the participants were enthusiastic in all lectures and tours.

They had so many questions in the lectures and tours that it

was difficult to tell the end of the training sometimes. When a participant asked a question about Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), we asked a participant who was knowledgeable about BOD to become a temporary lecturer and everyone discussed BOD. The entire class was very lively with questions and answers actively being exchanged.

The participants in the class were eager and active to learn, fun, and had excellent teamwork. It made me very satisfied with the training program. From now, each participant will apply the basic knowledge they gained in the training program in their own country. I expect the participants to play a leading role for the promotion of sewerage projects.



Practice of suspended solids (SS) analysis



Commemorative photo in a sewage treatment facility in Nantan City

＝Speech of thanks at the closing ceremony＝



■ **Representative**
Anisa-san from Albania
■ **Closing Ceremony**
Feb. 23, 2018
■ **Course period**
Jan.09, – Feb.24, 2018

Sometimes in such cases it is not necessary to use a piece of paper because the most beautiful words, that come out from your heart, are those of the moment but I do not want to forget any of who were part of this course.

So on the occasion of completing of this training course, I have the pleasure and in the name of the group I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all of you and I believe all those who took part in this training agree with me.

1. At first we thank the Japanese Government that funded JICA who made this training possible.
2. We thank Mr. Imoto, Director, Training Program Division of JICA Kyushu and Mr. Terada, Vice President of KITA, that realized this project in the best possible way.
3. Of course this would not be possible without the

contribution and commitment of the Course leader Sueta-san and our coordinator Mafumi –san, our thanks also go to them!

4. Another thanks go for the Japanese people who with their culture, simplicity, ingenuity and their desire for the work told us that this is the best way to achieve something. I would like such events to be continued and to return to a good tradition in the future.

I would like my country to be an organizer and hospitable place for such events someday.

I wish you all the best and good luck for the next years.



The closing ceremony

Highlights of KITA Training Courses

Branding and Creating the Sixth Industry to Vitalize Local Industries

“Small and Medium Enterprises / Local Industry Promotion for Latin America (A)”

Takashi KITAMURA, Course Leader

We conducted a training course with the theme of vitalizing small and medium enterprises in connection with agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries as well as local industries in Latin American regions. The participants came from a wide range of countries from the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean Sea in the north to Paraguay in the south.

When the participants visited Hoshino Village to learn about the history of Gyokuro (refined green tea) in Yame and the Aso region which has become one of the world's agricultural heritage areas, they experienced a heavy snowfall. For the participants who had not seen snow, snow covering the mountains and grass fields must have been an unforgettable memory.

The keys of vitalization of the primary industry in Japan are creation of the sixth industry in which the producers also process and sell their products and the direct sales of the products. The participants learned about these things through visiting Oyama Agricultural Cooperative Association and Michi-no-Eki (roadside station) Munakata that have been successful in such direct sales.

In addition, branding and promotion of exports are also important perspectives. In this training course, the

participants learned about the assistance for branding of “Amaou” strawberries and “Yumetsukushi” rice by Fukuoka Prefecture as well as the assistance by the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO) on research projects. I hope the participants will bring what they learned back to their home countries and use it in public administration and NPO activities as references.



Aso covered with snow:
In Kusasenri



Participants receiving a lecture
in NARO

Care for Students, Basis of Education and Training

“Enhancement of Training Management in Vocational Training Institutes (C)”

Iwao ARITAKE, Course Leader

The targets of this training course were “administrators and instructors of vocational training institutions”. The purposes of the training course were to improve the required skills for raising the level of operations and management of vocational training facilities, to set training curriculum based on the market needs, and to carry out vocational training in collaboration with the industry. I spent one month with nine participants from Angola, Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. They were all extremely bright and cheerful so they were very welcomed by the people and instructors in all the institutions they visited, which made the training courses there fruitful.

The main purpose of the project is to make the participants understand the history of vocational training in Japan, systems that have been cultivated in the history, education in schools and organizations before people start to work, and the reality of “training in companies” which is the greatest feature of vocational training in Japan. As the participants began to understand the main purpose little by little during this course, they started to have specific ideas about restrictions of their own country and environmental

dilemmas. They received advice from their instructors and created action plans for making improvements in such environments. I feel that these activities gave them confidence to implement the action plans, which is the most important, after they return to their home country.

I think they came to understand another important thing, that is, “to develop students with care”.



Smiling with their
graduation certificates



Gifts given by Mr. Nakano
from OVTA
(Bookmarks made by children in a
handicapped people's facility)

Introduction of former participants

■ Yemen

Taisuke FUJII, Course Leader

Former Participant **Mr. HASAN A. S. Abdullah**

Training Course **Renewable Energy in Grid - Mainly on Photovoltaic (A)**

Course Period Jul.02 – Aug.11, 2017

The participants in Renewable Energy in Grid - Mainly on Photovoltaic (A) course in 2017 were a diverse group of nine participants from nine countries. Mr. Hasan and the other participants all have their respective challenges to tackle, and I am impressed by the great zeal with which they engaged in the lectures, field trips and practical training. The tight training schedule took us from Kitakyushu to Tokyo and then back to Kitakyushu, and the participants tackled the training as a team, sharing information and enthusiastically asking the lecturers questions.



Socotra island

In Mr. Hasan's homeland Yemen, the electric power supply currently depends largely on oil and gas, but they are suffering from supply shortages. The electric power infrastructure supports people's daily lives, but its facilities and equipment are also having problems. A solar power generation project has been announced that will be implemented with the University of Aden and Socotra island, a famous tourist attraction in Yemen. The project is intended to spread the use of solar power generation with a focus on the future. Located in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen has great potential for solar power generation. I hope that the political stability be restored so that Mr. Hasan's project can be realized before too long.

■ Brazil

Yoshio MIKI, Course Leader

Former Participant **Mr. Caio Minami Yokota**

Training Course **Japanese Food Business Promotion**

Course Period Nov.13 – 29, 2017

I am always delighted to receive messages from participants. They are a major factor in motivating me to keep moving forward, and really are a great joy for me as a course leader. I am in charge of participants who are of Japanese descent. Since 2007 I have been able to hold this course three times and interact with 54 participants. I do this because I personally have a very high regard for participants who are of Japanese descent. Nikkeijin (non-Japanese of Japanese descent) have inherited the Japanese spirit, and I am deeply moved by the way they earnestly engage with all their might in their life in a foreign land.



Yokota-san, who invited friends round as soon as he returned to Brazil and demonstrated his Japanese cooking skills

Yokota-san was a cheerful and inspiring presence during the training. Apparently he still invites friends round for dinner every week now that he is back in Brazil, and I think that his personality endears him to everyone. This photo shows the scene at a Suki-yaki dinner. Don't you think that the ingredients are incredibly beautifully arranged? Using a little ingenuity with the ingredients and taking care to arrange the food so that it is visually attractive is the essence of Japanese cuisine, isn't it? Yokota-san has thoroughly mastered the art of Japanese cooking, and I hope that he will soon have his own shop and get married.

Recent Activities for Overseas Development Cooperation

FY2017 Overseas Activities Results

Tomoharu ASAHARA, Director of the Technical Cooperation Division

In FY2017, the Technical Cooperation Division conducted a wide range of technical cooperation with countries in Southeast Asia as shown in the table below.

- ▶ Technical guidance on improving compost manufacturing capacity ... (1)
- ▶ Assistance for overseas business exchanges for companies in Kitakyushu City ... (2)
- ▶ Assistance for a training program visiting Japan for corporate managers in Hai Phong City, Vietnam ... (3)
- ▶ Assistance for overseas business development by companies in Kitakyushu City ~ assistance for the feasibility study of JICA projects ... (4), (6)
- ▶ Grassroots technical cooperation relating to the improvement of waste management capability ... (5)

	Country	Contents of survey, cooperation, guidance, etc.
(1)	Vietnam	Consideration and assistance relating to the expansion of compost production and business creation in Hai Phong City
(2)	Vietnam	Assistance for business exchanges with companies in the southern Vietnam
(3)	Vietnam (Host country)	Assistance for training courses visiting Japan in Japanese-style Management School for corporate managers in Vietnam
(4)	The Philippines	Assistance for preparatory surveys and consideration of business creation relating to waste-to-energy in Davao City
(5)	The Philippines	Assistance for the improvement of waste management capability in Davao City (Grassroots technical cooperation)
(6)	Malaysia	Assistance in feasibility study of the composting of food waste and the establishment of a recycling loop in Malaysia

In particular, "Preparatory survey and consideration of business creation relating to waste-to-energy in Davao City, the Philippines" has a synergistic effect with the "grassroots technical cooperation project" undertaken in parallel, which has led to the signing of an exchange note of "Japan's Grant Aid for waste-to-energy" to Philippines.

In addition, a new grassroots technical cooperation project for Phnom Penh, Cambodia has been adopted, which will keep us busy in FY2018 as well.

Expanding Business - Business Exchange in the Southern Region of Vietnam Kitakyushu City and Southern Vietnam Economic Exchange Project

Toshikatsu MIYATA, Executive Technical Advisor

Continuing from last year, KITA gave assistance to the business exchange project with the southern region of Vietnam for the second time in January 2018. This time, three landscaping companies and four manufacturing companies participated in the project because Japanese garden has been booming in Vietnam in recent years.

On the first day, the participants visited a local office of a Japanese bank and a law firm, etc. to receive lectures about economic trends in the local area and legal issues that the participants should be aware of. Then, they visited local companies in relevant business fields (13 companies in total) and had business negotiations.

In the manufacturing sector, many of the companies we visited have introduced the latest machines made in Japan or have been strengthening their quality control systems, inducing vigorous business negotiations. In the landscaping sector, the participants visited a Japanese garden in a large-scale residential area as well as a theme park of Japanese gardens in the city. They exchanged opinions about trees and stones used there and collected information including the circumstances of the local landscaping business.

During the visit this time, we actually felt a booming economy in Vietnam, particularly a surprising economic growth and the expansion of purchasing power in the southern region around Ho Chi Minh City. I felt that the business will expand into the sales and service sectors in the future, beyond the range of conventional entrusted manufacturing and parts procurement.



Participants had active business negotiations in casting, automated machines, molding, and environment-related companies.



Participants visited a theme park of Japanese gardens, RIN RIN PARK. They exchanged information about trees, stones, and circumstances of the landscaping business.

Second-phase Started for Assistance in the Composting of Urban Waste in Hai Phong City, Vietnam

Koji TAKAKURA, Executive Technical Advisor

Regarding the assistance for the composting of urban waste in Hai Phong City on which KITA and Kitakyushu Asian Center for Low Carbon Society have been working, the activities advanced from phase 1 to phase 2 after the project was reported in KITA News No.47 (July 2017), aiming to increase the amount of receivable organic waste from 20 to 40t per day to 100t per day.

In order to achieve the above, not only the technical matters at the compost center, but also separate collection of organic waste that can be used as high quality compost is required. The separate waste collection was formerly applied to only 26 markets and 23 restaurants or hotels in the city, but it was expanded to 30 markets, 100 restaurants or hotels, food manufacturing factories, and septic tank sludge. Furthermore, two areas were selected as the model areas where such separate waste collection in general households was to be started.

In addition, there are plans to prepare a testing and educational farm for cultivating vegetables and flowers using compost, hold an international exhibition to

advertise the activity to citizens, and use waste as compost for organic farming by establishing a close relationship with the Agriculture Bureau. Through these activities, we have been working on the formation of a market of compost in addition to simply consuming the compost in home parks and green spaces.

Our goal is to form an organic waste recycling system in Hi Phong City.



Training Program in Japan for the Project Assisted by the Ministry of Environment "Preparatory Survey and Consideration for Business Creation Relating to Waste-to-Energy Project in Davao City"

Yasumitsu KONDO, Executive Technical Advisor

We have been working with Nippon Steel & Sumikin Engineering Co., Ltd. and the City of Kitakyushu, etc. for four years, aiming to introduce a waste-to-energy (WtE) facility in Davao City, the Philippines. The project was finally adopted in March 2017.

For the establishment of WtE facility, understanding of municipal employees, citizens and NGO about WtE facilities and dioxin measures, etc. is required as well as grasping the amount of waste. For this reason, we planned a training program in Japan which enabled the participants to learn waste management in Kitakyushu City.

The curriculum included lectures about waste management in Kitakyushu City and tours to WtE facilities and recycling facilities. Ms. Sarah, the Mayor of Davao City and NGO staff, etc. participated in the first training program in 2017, also for the purpose of concluding the "Environmental Sister City Agreement" with Kitakyushu City. The second training program was implemented in February 2018, and the vice deputy mayor and city council members participated in the training program.

The participants told us that the WtE facility was strictly

controlled and Kitakyushu City was clean and hygienic. The most impressive thing I remembered in this training program is that the Mayor, Ms. Sarah was highly interested in the city planning in the future, and that I could feel her pure character. The WtE facility construction project started in March 2018.



Waste-to-energy facility (1st training program)



Garbage station (2nd training program)

A Trip to the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History

Tatsuhiko TAKAI, Director, General Affairs Section

Members of FIVA (*1) organized a trip to the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History for participants in the Food Safety Administration course on October 21, 2017.

Ten course participants and five students gathered just after 11 a.m. in the JICA Kyushu lobby. The plan was for the participants to experience kaiten-zushi (conveyor belt sushi) first so the group headed for a kaiten-zushi restaurant in the Higashida area.

It was still a little early for lunch, but the restaurant was already bustling with families and students. It was the first time that the participants had visited a kaiten-zushi restaurant and they seemed a little surprised by the scene. The participants had been divided into four groups beforehand and each group sat at their own table. The participants and students immediately opened up to one another in lively conversation as they followed each other's lead and picked out sushi from the selection going around or placed a separate order. They also enjoyed competing to see which group had the highest pile of plates (though unfortunately several of the participants observe dietary restrictions so it was not exactly a close contest).

After we had finished our lunch, we made our way to the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History. The museum had a lot of visitors that afternoon, in spite of the fact that it had started to rain quite heavily, and I was a little worried that the participants would get lost in the crowded museum. None of the participants had ever been to a museum like this with dinosaur fossils and displays about the natural history of ancient times. They took lots of photos and bombarded the students with questions, so I think that they really enjoyed this day off from their training.

The Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History had not been included in the KITA international friendship program before because it is so close to where we are, but the participants

rated it very highly so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students who took the lead in planning this trip.

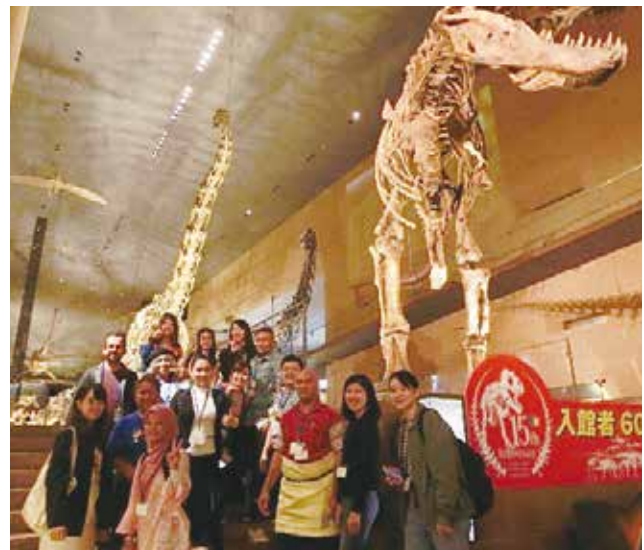
*1 FIVA

Fukuoka International Volunteer Association. An international exchange project at Regional Symbiosis Education Center, The University of Kitakyushu.

With "Walk, enjoy, learn. International exchanges in Kitakyushu" as its slogan, FIVA plans and runs events to familiarize overseas visitors with Kitakyushu via cultural exchanges that will teach them about Japanese culture and the history of Kitakyushu.



At the kaiten-zushi restaurant



At the Kitakyushu Museum of Natural History & Human History

Hello!

from ex-colleague of KITA

Leading an Uneventful Quiet Life

Mr. Junji Kawasaki

[Period of enrollment 2002 - 2016]

It has been two years now since I left KITA. I feel my age now and am leading a quiet life surrounded by the blessings of the natural world.

I was mainly in charge of environmental courses during my time at KITA. I discussed Japan's environmental challenges and their countermeasures with environmental officers from many different countries who had been invited to Japan (the participants in my courses) and we learned a lot together. Even now happy memories of times spent with the participants flit through my mind, and I sometimes open my files of photographs and wallow in those memories. At the same time, with the way that society is changing so rapidly in recent years, I sometimes wonder about the lives former participants are leading back in their homelands.

My daily life is spent with my wife of many years. We take care of our health, and I spend my days doing things like growing a few vegetables and tending our fruit trees.

It's an uneventful life, but it makes me so happy that Japan, which a few decades ago was troubled by polluted air and water, has restored its blue skies and clear water. I consider myself blessed to be living in this clean environment now.



Mr. Kawasaki is in good health and leading an active life

Moved to a Village in Chiba

Dr. Ken-ichi Fujimoto

[Period of enrollment 2004 - 2015]

People are living longer, and we are said to have entered the era of "100-year lifetimes". However, some people perceive longevity negatively. It is thought that the cause of this negative thinking is the gap between healthy life expectancy (for a male in Japan: about 71 years old) and average life span (for a male in Japan: about 81 years old). The maintenance of a healthy life expectancy is very important for each individual. I think that efforts on both the physical side and intellectual aspects are necessary for the maintenance of a healthy life expectancy.

A senior-friendly area ranking was published by Nikkei Inc. Amongst 767 areas in Japan, our Kitakyushu City was ranked in the 21st place. In other words, the senior citizens who live in Kitakyushu City have useful support measures. Making use of my geographical advantage, I have exercised in the municipal gymnasium and participated in a culture circle. Through such activities, I tried to maintain my health.

Because I am approaching the end of my life, I decided to move to the metropolitan area where our children's families and younger sisters' families live. Our new address is "Chosei"-Village, Chiba Prefecture. "Chosei" is a very lucky place name, because the Japanese meaning of "Chosei" is longevity. However, in the ranking mentioned above it is placed 764th, so the village is not thought to be a gentle environment for senior citizens. Therefore, it seems to be difficult to use municipal facilities to maintain our health. Fortunately, as I could borrow a large area of farmland, I intend to maintain my health by engaging in agriculture, which needs not only physical strength but also intellectual activity.



In a field



Composting Food Waste Part I

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This time, composting technology is considered through the "Takakura-style compost" that is spreading mainly in Asia and Latin America.

As the conditions for introducing appropriate composting, three conditions are particularly important, such as "air (oxygen), water content and microorganisms (bacteria)".

1. Air (oxygen): As shown in Figure 1, composting is possible regardless of existence or non-existence of oxygen. However, aerobic environment can restrain a risk of corruption.

In addition, aerobic decomposition generates a lot of biological activity energy, that is, ATP (adenosine triphosphate). For example in glucose, the ATP generation amount of aerobic composting is as much as 19 times higher than that of anaerobic composting. As microorganisms are active when the ATP content is high, a time required for decomposition of organic matters is shortened.

2. Water content: A range of water content suitable for composting is 40 to 60%, and excessive water content increases the risk of corruption.

The oxygen concentration in the air is 21% while the oxygen concentration in water is only 0.0008%. Therefore, when the compost has an excessive water content and the space is filled with water, the conditions immediately turn anaerobic, increasing the risk of corruption. Many failures in food waste composting occur because the water content is not adjusted properly even when the water content of food waste is 80% or higher.

3. Microorganisms (bacteria): Relationship between composting and microorganisms can be classified into three phases as shown in Figure 2.

Characteristic microorganisms in each phase have been known and dominant species change depending on to the decomposition status. In other words, it is considered that arrangement of required microorganisms in advance can lead to a smooth shift.

In the first phase, microorganisms related to the local fermented food (yogurt, etc.) are effective.

Actinomycete in the second phase is a white fungus under leaf soil, which can collect bacteria and filamentous fungus (mold) at the same time. A dirt-like smell in a forest is created by actinomycete, which is a fungus familiar to us.

Basidiomycete in the third phase means a "mushroom", which can also be collected in a forest. The commercially-available hard tip of mushroom can also be used.

We cultivate these familiar microorganisms to create a fermenting bed and mix organic waste for composting. The fermenting bed can be created conveniently using chaff (habitat of microorganisms) and rice bran (nutrition for microorganisms). Alternatives in local areas can also be used depending on the intended purposes.

- Next issue will report on the practice. -

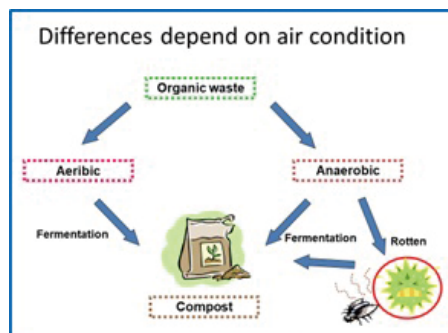


Figure 1. Amount of oxygen supply and composting

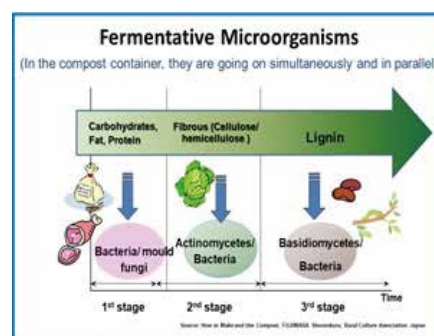


Figure 2. Relationship between composting and microorganisms