

KITA

NEWS

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Food inspection training at Kitakyushu Life Science Center



Visiting a SPINA's shopping mart in Sakura Street

Securing food sanitation is everyone's wish

The training course of "Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity for Food Sanitation" is designed to deal with the food safety issues confronting the countries and to cover such subjects as basic knowledge about pathogenic microbes that have an impact on food safety, nutritional problems and the measures taken to ensure food safety throughout the processes from production to consumption in the food industry.

Please see the article on page 8 for more details

Regarding FY 2013 Annual Report and FY 2014 Annual Plan

Hideki FURUNO, President



Circumstances are changing at a bewildering pace in places such as South East Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Eastern Europe, all of which have a close connection with the future of Japan. We need to pay close attention to changes in the circumstances surrounding our country, and to promote operations based upon government guidelines as we coordinate with JICA and the city of Kitakyushu. KITA provides support for activities that deploy Japan's fortes overseas. What we should be aiming for are activities that can be transmitted from Kitakyushu and that capitalize on the special qualities of Kitakyushu.

In accordance with those viewpoints, we are now in our fourth year since KITA took our first step towards a full-blown overhaul of our set-up from a medium and long term perspective. Since assuming the office of President in January 2011 I have verbalized our basic policy as "Accumulation of KITA's assets" and "Investigation of 'what is typical of KITA' and 'the advantages of being based in Kitakyushu'". These two points were reaffirmed as KITA's medium and long term policies at the start of FY2013. I will devote myself to further studies in accordance with these policies.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, our FY2013 business performance was able to stay in the black even though our operations were downsized.

The business environment will be harsh in

FY2014, but we will continue to follow the five guidelines given below, which are based upon our medium and long term policies, just as we did in FY2013.

1. Intensifying the surveying and finding of overseas needs and the building of networks with overseas
2. Enhancing and improving the project capabilities of training and technical cooperation
3. Getting KITA's current account balance firmly into the black
4. Promoting a three-year plan for the maintenance of our IT infrastructure
5. Establishing ourselves as a public interest incorporated foundation: securing transparency and fairness, and disclosing information

Our track record for the 33 years between FY1980 and FY2013 shows the participation of 150 countries and a total of 7,453 participants in our courses.

Although it is important to further build up the number of participants, I believe that it is even more essential to draw upon previous participants, who are valuable assets for KITA from now on.

I would like to ask for your continued support.

The five management guidelines in accordance with KITA's medium and long term policies – KITA will pour our efforts into implementing the following five guidelines over the two fiscal years from FY2013 to FY2014 –

KITA has decided to promote the following five guidelines set in accordance with KITA's medium and long term policies over the two years from FY2013 to FY 2014 and eventually to realize them by FY2014.

(1) Intensify the surveying and finding out of overseas needs and building of overseas networks

The following three points will be promoted with the highest priority for the sake of accumulating assets for KITA.

- 1) Find out and share needs in collaboration with JICA and related administrative divisions of Kitakyushu municipal government
- 2) Find out and summarize overseas needs and create programs on a regular basis
- 3) Develop and launch an overseas human resources database to establish networks with former participants overseas

(2) Enhance and improve the project capabilities of training and technical cooperation

For the enhancement and improvement of project capabilities, it is essential to consolidate partnerships with the parties concerned and always to proceed with tasks in a planned way.

- 1) Closer cooperation between KITA divisions as well as between KITA's projects
- 2) Consolidation of partnerships with JICA and related administrative divisions of Kitakyushu municipal government

- 3) Formulation and implementation of an annual plan

(3) Get KITA's current account balance firmly into the black

The following will be promoted for the improvement of KITA's financial strength, a prerequisite for KITA's further growth

- 1) Improve the accuracy of KITA's income and expenditure plan and establish a medium and long term forecast
- 2) Enhance profitability in each division of KITA

(4) Promote a three-year plan for the maintenance of our IT infrastructure

KITA's IT infrastructure is being developed over the three fiscal years from FY2012 to FY2014.

- 1) Complete development of the work support system which is the core of our IT infrastructure
- 2) Expand utilization of our IT infrastructure and promote introductory training in the use of our work support system

(5) Establish ourselves as a public interest incorporated foundation: ensure transparency and fairness, and disclose information

KITA will stabilize the operation of our reformed public interest corporation system within three years of being recognized as a public interest incorporated foundation.

FY2013 Annual Report

I. Annual Report

We have promoted the above five guidelines since their launch in FY2013. They have all been implemented thoroughly and have progressed almost completely according to plan.

In the settlement of accounts income did not attain our budget projection, but our income and expenditure balance (profits) did. It has been a year in which we made steady progress with regard to our medium and long term policies.

II. Income and expenditure

Current income : 280,436,000 JPY
Current expenditure : 273,607,000 JPY

FY2014 Annual Plan

I. Annual Plan

Based on our FY2013 performance, we will refine the above five guidelines into more detailed plans and aim to achieve our targets in FY2014. No particular impediments have arisen in their implementation from FY2013 that would prevent us from achieving our FY2014 targets. We anticipate that we will achieve practically all our objectives if we continue to make concerted efforts in FY2014.

II. Income and expenditure plan

Current income : 304,092,000 JPY
Current expenditure : 303,520,000 JPY

Greeting of retirement and new appointment

Technical Cooperation Division

Retirement Message



Dr. Ken-ichi FUJIMOTO

very much.

As Executive Director of the Technical Cooperation Division I did all that I could to somehow give material form to *"what is typical of KITA"* and *"the advantages of being based in Kitakyushu"*, as per one of KITA's basic policies. During my tenure I endeavored to capitalize on *"what is typical of KITA"* and *"the advantages of being based in Kitakyushu"* while surveying overseas needs and building overseas networks. Fortunately, thanks to the hard work of everyone in the Technical Cooperation Division and to support from Kitakyushu

I resigned from the post of Executive Director of the Technical Cooperation Division on March 31, 2014.

I served in that position for three years, starting from April 1, 2011. Many people gave me their support during that time, and I was able to complete my duties without any serious errors. Thank you

municipal government and related organizations, we were able to build networks with many countries.

We built networks with South East Asian countries such as Vietnam and Thailand, as well as with Russia and its neighbors, countries in the Middle East, Turkey and Taiwan. It is anticipated that we will be able to leverage these networks to develop new projects. I am confident that the development of new projects will help to improve KITA's financial standing.

Project development, and the enhancement and improvement of our project capabilities, require coordination and exchanges of information with related administrative divisions of Kitakyushu municipal government and the Training Division of KITA. We ask all the parties concerned for their support.

I joined KITA in 2004 so I was employed here for ten years. During that time I went on 43 business trips to 9 countries, including some in the Middle East. I am grateful for being granted such precious experiences.

My successor as Executive Director of the Technical Cooperation Division is Tomoharu ASAHARA. I ask you all to give him the same support you gave me.

I pray for KITA's further development and progress.

A Message from the New Executive Director



Tomoharu ASAHARA

have lived in Kitakyushu City for 40 years, although I was transferred to Hikari City for three years. I retired last year, but just as I was thinking that I could still do something for Kitakyushu, I came across the work being done at KITA. It has been six months since I started to help out in the Technical Cooperation Division, and I get the impression that the work is even tougher than I initially thought. This is because the

I've been appointed Mr. Fujimoto's successor as the Executive Director of the Technical Cooperation Division. I still lack experience and humbly ask for your support.

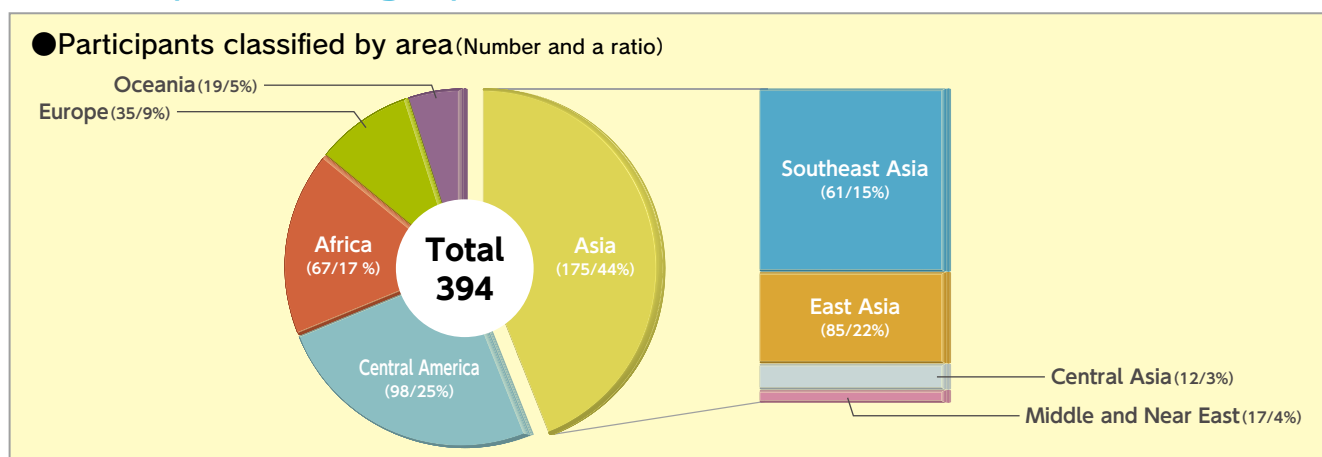
I joined Nippon Steel Corporation in July 1971 and was assigned to the Yahata Steel Works, since which I

Technical Cooperation Division's work does not have the strong and stable underpinning that JICA does; it is formed each year by the building-up of individual projects. Be that as it may, fortunately during Mr. Fujimoto's tenure the division built up an expansive network with the Industry and Economics Bureau and the Environment Bureau of the City of Kitakyushu, JETRO, the Japan-Korea Industrial Technology Co-Operation Foundation, and ROTOBO. I intend to further expand our fiduciary relations with this network and develop new operations for the Technical Cooperation Division. I also feel that from now on we need to place greater emphasis on consulting work with its higher profit ratios. Wide-ranging expertise and the ability to analyze information will be indispensable for this. I want all the members of the Technical Cooperation Division to work hard and study diligently, tackle this as a united team, and build a new operational infrastructure for KITA. I ask you all for your cooperation.

1. Results of JICA training courses implemented in the last half of FY2013

No.	classification	Title of training course	Number of Participants	Course Leader	2013					2014			
					8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
1	Environment management	Industrial Pollution Control Management	11	Junji.KAWASAKI						1/15			4/12
2		Waste management Technique (B)	13	T.SASHIWA			10/23		12/20				
3		Waste management Technique (C)	5	K.KIDO							2/16		4/19
4		Environmental Technology for Low-Carbon Society	11	S.YAZU	9/2	10/3							
5		Management of Composting Project (B)	9	K.KIDO				11/6	11/30				
6		Environmental Education	14	K.HARAGUCHI				11/1	12/3				
7	Water resource	Industrial Wastewater Treatment Techniques(B)	6	K.SHINOHARA							2/16		4/19
8		Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System and Waste Water Treatment Technique	10	H.SUETA						1/13		3/8	
9		Kosovo Capacity Development in Waste Water Treatment Sector	8	H.SUETA			10/17	11/1					
10	Production technology	Maintenance Management for Productivity Improvement	8	Junichi.KAWASAKI							2/16		4/25
11		Practical Technology for Mechatronics and Robots	8	M.TANIGUCHI						1/19			4/26
12		Cleaner Production in Process Industries for Latin American Countries	8	T.ABE	8/30				11/21				
13		Practical Corporate Management for Productivity Improvement through Practical KAIZEN and Quality Control Methods for Viet Nam	6	T.MIYAMOTO							3/4	3/14	
14	Energy conservation	Energy Conservation Techniques(2)	16	T.UHEYAMA						1/15		2/25	
15		ENERGY CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES IN INDIA	10	S.YAMATO			10/15	10/31					
16		Energy Conservation Technology and Machine Condition Diagnosis Technique(A)	7	T.UHEYAMA	8/14				11/6				
17		Energy Conservation Technology and Machine Condition Diagnosis Technique(B)	9	T.UHEYAMA				11/7	12/18				
18		Policy Planning for Energy Efficiency & Conservation (B)	8	K.KAWAGUCHI				11/10	12/12				
19		Solar Power Generation Technology (B)	16	T.UHEYAMA							2/26		5/2
20		Alternative Power Generation Technology for Low Carbon Society (B)	14	T.FUJII			10/28	11/27					
21		Alternative Power Generation Technology for Low Carbon Society (C)	8	S.YAZU						2/2		3/7	
22		Promotion of Energy Conservation in Commercial and Residential Sector (A)	10	K.KAWAGUCHI	8/26		10/10						
23		Promotion of Energy Conservation in Commercial and Residential Sector (B)	11	K.KAWAGUCHI						2/2		3/20	
24	Job training and Healthcare	Vocational Training for its Application to Business for Central and South America	15	T.MIYAMOTO						1/26		2/22	
25		Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity for Food Sanitation	11	K.NAKAHARA						1/13		2/28	
26		Training Program for Local Activation	6	Y.MIKI		10/7	10/24						
27	Capacity Development for Entrepreneurs and MSMEs Activation in African Countries (B)	9	Y.MIKI				11/8	12/12					

2. Participants visiting Japan in the last half of FY2013



Highlights of KITA training courses

Words of thanks to SAO Electric Corporation for the unfailing cooperation extended to the training courses
~ A venue that offers our participants many learning opportunities in a form that is easy to understand ~

Tadashi MIYAMOTO, Course Leader

SAO Electric Corporation is a company that has always been engaged in the "Practical production management" training courses. As most of the participants are managers or mid-level executives of small-and-medium-sized enterprises, preference was given to hands-on learning about what is practiced in the medium-sized enterprises. SAO Electric Corporation employs 155 personnel, the majority of whom are part-timers, producing reactors or the like for electrical systems.

The production of general-purpose items has been shifted overseas, narrowing down their domestic production to high-mix, low-volume production or to quick delivery items, resulting in the current manufacturing of a product mix of 2,000 items with 1,500 orders received and 12,000 units produced a month. The business is on a steady footing, including the supply of products to NY Subway. Full disclosure of information is realized through the office LAN and 60 personal computers with regard to the 5Ss, Kaizen Teian (an effective staff suggestion system), QC circle activities, real-time management information and so on.

The day-long participation from the morning meeting at eight twenty a.m. to the close of work at five p.m. and the gathering and exchange of opinions with the employees at

a typical Japanese eatery nearby gave the participants a chance to get to know the whole truth about a small-and-medium-sized enterprise in Japan, leaving them with vivid memories. Some of the snapshots will be displayed in executive offices back in their homelands. We look forward to SAO Electric Corporation's continued cooperation in our training courses.



Visiting a morning meeting



The gathering at an *izakaya* joined by the participants

Human social ties transcending space and time "Environmental Education"

Kiyoshi HARAGUCHI, Course Leader

The "Environmental Education" training course for government officials from various different countries was run in October 2013 and lasted about one month. 16 government officials from 14 countries around the world, from regions like Asia, Africa and Latin America, participated in the course, which was designed so that, in addition to lectures and practical training, the participants could experience for themselves the environmental education given in primary schools and junior high schools and activities at the grass-roots level.

Important points in environmental education are 1) the cultivation of leaders, 2) education programs, 3) educational facilities and 4) networks, and the curriculum was so arranged that an understanding may be promoted about the function of these four items, and about how to use resources that the participants can find close to hand.

Scenes typical of environmental education emphasizing human social ties were seen from time to time, such as the participants being near to tears while listening to the lecture from a victim of Minamata Disease, the elementary

school children keeping near to the participants even after they had finished lunch, and the participants trying to communicate with the citizens by means of gestures.

Since environmental education is as universal as peace education or human-rights education, I sincerely wish that environmental education may spread not only throughout Japan but also transcend national borders and generations.



With the environmental volunteers from the Wakamatsu Cosmos Circle

Exploring Japan's history, culture and resurrection "Industrial Wastewater Treatment Techniques (B)"

Kazuhisa SHINOHARA, Course Leader

The two-month country focused training course of "Industrial Wastewater Treatment Techniques (B)", held exclusively for Vietnam, has just been completed. The participants were administrative officials facing various problems back home and therefore were motivated in searching for tips and solutions to their respective problems during this round of training.

The participants learned earnestly about Japan's environment-related history, measures against pollution, treatment techniques, etc. via lectures, on-site training and case studies designed to enhance their technical capabilities in the field of industrial wastewater treatment, and actively asked questions about anything they were unsure of or needed clarifying.

Inspired by the enthusiastic and sincere talks given by the lecturers and the guides at the companies visited, the participants seem to have achieved excellent results in getting clues to the solution of their respective problems. The subjects arousing their strongest interest included denitrification by the "PEGASUS system", decoloration and deodorization by the "ozone system" and advanced treatment via "septic tanks".

During the course, events were held such as a luncheon party where Vietnamese dishes were served and coverage of the training course by NHK. Opportunities were provided to come into contact with Japan's history and culture at World

Heritage sites and Gion in Kyoto. The tragedy and disaster displayed in the Minamata Disease Museum and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum moved the participants to tears. All these things demonstrate the fruitfulness of this training course.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that what the participants experienced and learned in Japan may serve as the first step toward the solution of the environmental issues assigned to their respective workplaces and that they may participate actively in efforts to achieve environmental preservation in Vietnam.



Vietnamese dishes
(Raw spring rolls and pho: Handmade by the female participants)



Presents to small children:
Making paper bags from waste paper
(At Kitakyushu Environment Museum)



The first on-site training: Lab testing of
organic wastewater treatment
(At NIPPON STEEL & SUMIKIN
Eco-Tech Corporation)

The newly-designed course on energy conservation techniques for general industry in India completed to favorable reviews "Energy Conservation Techniques (2)"

Dr. Takatsugu UYAMA, Shunsuke YAMATO, Course Leaders

Three training courses of "Energy Conservation Techniques for India" have been held each year: two for industry and one for small-and-medium-sized enterprises. Over the past five years, there has been a shift in the participants on the courses for industry from mainly administrators to mainly corporate employees. This has led to requests for the presentation of more specific techniques in the courses. In response to this, the two courses for industry were separated into a course for the electrical power industry and another for general industry in order to realize a more specialized framework.

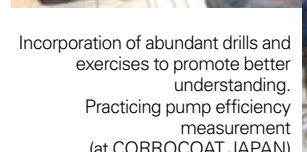
Two rounds of courses for general industry were held during FY2012 and FY2013. However, the FY2012 course was not favorably assessed by the participants. The negative assessment was attributable to the fact that although the participants expected to learn only techniques specific to the industry they worked in, the course provided energy conservation techniques commonly applicable to all industries. Industry-specific techniques should be obtained individually by the industry or the company on a paid-for basis and are not suitable subjects for training attended by random industries.

The participants to the FY213 course were therefore limited to employees in various industries who are in charge of energy conservation or in charge of equipment technology, and the number of highly-specialized classes in the curriculum was increased.

As a result, the level of satisfaction of the participants was dramatically improved and they produced excellent action plans. I intend to devise further innovations for next year's curriculum and to further improve the course as a whole.



Enhancement of more specialized
techniques common to different
industries.
Practicing the laser centering of a rotary
machine (at TAKADA CORPORATION)



Incorporation of abundant drills and
exercises to promote better
understanding.
Practicing pump efficiency
measurement
(at CORROCOAT JAPAN)



Highlights of KITA training courses

Securing food sanitation is everyone's wish "Reinforcement of Administrative Capacity for Food Sanitation"

Koji NAKAHARA, Course Leader

The course was held from the middle of January to the end of February this year, inviting from the three countries of Chile, Cook Islands and Mozambique four participants in total, which is rather a small number of participants for a training course. Each of the three countries is quite different from the others in terms of the population, climate, financial conditions and the food sanitation situations.

This course was designed to deal with the food safety issues confronting the countries and to cover such subjects as basic knowledge about pathogenic microbes that have an impact on food safety, nutritional problems, Japan's system of laws and the roles of the administration, including sanitary supervision and quarantine control, and the measures taken to ensure food safety throughout the processes from production to consumption at food processing factories, wholesale markets, supermarkets and other such places.

In the training course, it was emphasized for the participants to get a real feeling of the field through site visits to study about the food sanitation management implemented at food processing factories, restaurants, supermarkets, etc. besides the study of theory. What was particularly impressive was that the participants earnestly

took notes and raised many questions on their quest to find solutions to the problems in their respective countries.

Encompassing such a wide-ranging perspective, this training course could only be realized with the cooperation of the University of Occupational and Environmental Health, public administrations, food processing companies and the coordinator during the entire period of the course. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation.



Visiting a SPINA's shopping mart in Sakura Street



Food inspection training at Kitakyushu Life Science Center

Tremendously moved by the activities of former participants engaged in regional reform in the multiethnic country of Brazil!! A follow-up of the course "Training to contribute to regional activation (for participants of Japanese descent)"

Yoshio MIKI, Course Leader

Six rounds of the "Education Program for People of Japanese Descent" promoted by JICA have been held since 2007, joined by 29 participants in total. Recently I paid on-site visits to the former participants on a mission to follow up the progress of their action plans. During the eight days of my stay, I visited five areas dotted around the big country of Brazil.

The former participants were found to be making innovations on the basis of the new way of thinking they learned during their training in Japan to reform not only ethnic Japanese communities in their area but also Brazilian ones and Brazilian society.

Examples of their activities include: 1. the worldwide awareness campaign based in Tome-acu, now attracting attention as the birthplace of the agroforestry; 2. innovative action to establish a "Japan Festival" adapted to the regional societies of Cuiaba and other cities.

To enlarge the circle of people involved, seminars were held that included a lecture titled "In Search of the Starting Point for Regional Vitalization (Sub-title: Leading a dynamic and happy life)". The seminars were attended by a total of about 220 people in four different areas, and were a great

success.

All in all, it was "a tour of gratitude and excitement" where I was able to meet the former participants again and see the actual state of their activities.



A seminar at Sao Paulo (attended by 85 people)



A visit to a Tome-acu agroforestry site

Recent activities for overseas development cooperation

JICA's Grass-roots Technical Cooperation Project - A letter of thanks conferred to the Technical Cooperation Division of KITA

Tomoharu ASAHARA, Director of Technical Cooperation Division

Since its launch in 2011, the program titled "A program for improving plant management of manufacturers in Hai Phong", one of JICA's grass-roots technical cooperation projects, has embraced the "human resource development program for enhancement of production management" as one of its central pillars. In the three years of running the program, 11 instructors at the Hai Phong Industrial Vocational College (HPIVC) and three employees at the Bureau of Commerce and Industry were invited to Kitakyushu for training to help establish formal courses in the college and train students to become capable of managing production.

Another central pillar is the "capacity development program for factory management in the manufacturing industries", where guidance has been given to 45 enterprises concerning the 5Ss and other subjects.

Although the above-stated activities, collectively termed as the first phase activities, were highly appreciated, it cannot really be said that a sufficient level has been achieved after only three years, and it was therefore decided to continue the project for another three years as its second phase to firmly consolidate what has been achieved so far.

On May 22, 2014, I visited Hai Phong to attend the briefing session on the completion of the first phase of the project and the signing ceremony for its second phase, convened at HPIVC. On this occasion, I was unexpectedly presented by the chief of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry with a letter of thanks and memento in recognition of our Phase I activities. I made a fresh vow to tackle the second phase of the project with all my might and produce good results.



Conferment of the letter of thanks for the Phase I activities

Assistance started for business interaction with enterprises in the Ho Chi Minh region, the southern part of Vietnam

Toshikatsu MIYATA, Michinobu SAITO, Technical Advisors

KITA has been engaged in assistance for business interaction between enterprises in the Hanoi and Haiphong regions, in the northern part of Vietnam, and enterprises in Kitakyushu area in cooperation with the City of Kitakyushu and JETRO Kitakyushu for three years, during which time many technical and economical interactions have been created and expanded, which is greatly appreciated by many enterprises in Kitakyushu.

In response to firm requests from enterprises in Kitakyushu to expand such action to the southern part of Vietnam, a project has finally been launched to provide assistance for business interaction with enterprises in the region surrounding Ho Chi Minh City in the southern part of Vietnam.

As the start of the project, a survey was conducted to find candidates for business interaction in Ho Chi Minh City and its suburbs from March 3 to 7, 2014, visiting 18 enterprises from various industries including founding, mechanical part manufacturing, machine and plant manufacturing, plate processing, rubber processing and the processing of plastic packing bags and containers. The mission was very warmly welcomed and we could feel the enthusiasm for technical

interaction or transactions with Japanese enterprises. Valuable information could be obtained from the enterprises visited, such as particulars about each enterprise and its products, and the technologies and equipment it possesses, and we could sense great potential for business interactions.

Business talks are planned in the second half of this year in the southern part of Vietnam.



The company mottoes in Japanese (At a plate processing company)



The president and the employees seated in a row with a Japanese-speaking employee among them. (At a rubber processing company)

KITA was Introduced at the East Asia Knowledge Platform for Low Carbon Growth Luncheon Meeting

Naokatsu FUJIWARA, Secretary General

Delegates to the East Asia Knowledge Platform for Low Carbon Growth from the 14 countries of Australia, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam were invited to Japan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from March 2 to 8, and during their stay they gathered at the Kitakyushu Yahata Royal Hotel for a luncheon meeting on Thursday March 6.

KITA was invited to this luncheon meeting, which was also attended by 11 people from other Japanese organizations, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office for International Environmental Strategies of Kitakyushu Environment Bureau and the IGES (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies) Kitakyushu Urban Centre. Vice-President Ueno and Mr. Fujiwara, the secretary general, represented KITA at the meeting.

Vice-President Ueno was asked by all the participants to explain about KITA in the short time available at the luncheon meeting. He gave an introduction to KITA in English, and our international technological cooperation activities based on a spirit of volunteerism were strongly endorsed by all those present.



Vice-President Ueno explains about KITA to the delegates from the various countries

Speech of thanks at the closing ceremony from a representative of all the participants who completed JICA/KITA training course



- Representative : DACON Ellsworth St Clair (Mr.) from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Training course : Alternative Power Generation Technology for Low Carbon Society(C)
- Course period : Feb. 2, 2014 to Mar. 7, 2014

The course "Alternative Power Generation Technology for Low Carbon Society(C)" brought together a small group of six participants, four of which came from the African continent, while the other two came from two very small islands in the Caribbean. But although my brothers from Zambia, Cape Verde and my neighbour from Antigua and Barbuda all shared different backgrounds, we had two things in common. (1) We all came from Paradise in our own way, and (2) we all left our paradise and spent the last 5 weeks together in this course.

For us all, the course was a definite success. The training obtained here in Kitakyushu based on accumulated expertise and skills related to energy issues will certainly contribute to a sustainable development in our countries. The understanding of why we should work towards a low carbon society could not be explained any better, than by the Kitakyushu model.

We live in a country of beautiful sunshine all year around, cool winds from the ocean seas, beautiful beaches and lush

vegetation and where most live in relaxed lifestyle. We all live in what we call paradise. But we have learnt by our visit here to Japan, that paradise is not only the physical components of a country, nor the climate, nor the food, or even the beauty of the faces of people. It's all of 'the above' PLUS...the hospitality, respect, humility, and togetherness of a people working as a collective nation. Japan was indeed a Paradise in every sense of the word, and our experience here in Kitakyushu will be memorable.



I wish to thank the staff of JICA, KITA, the companies that allowed us to visit and learn, all the lecturers who took time out of their busy schedule and, of course, our course leader and coordinator for a hectic but enjoyable 5 weeks in Japan.

WE LOVE YOU ALL...and WE LOVE JAPAN.
Domo Arigatogozaimashita!

【 KITA International Friendship Programs 】

～ Conveying the Spirit of Japan via the Tea Ceremony ～

An Interview with Ms. Souga DATE, Professor of the Urasenke Tradition of Tea

Interviewed by **Megumi TOYOTA**, Director of Secretariat

For this issue I interviewed Ms. Souga DATE, Professor of the Urasenke Tradition of Tea (hereinafter referred to as the Urasenke), who for many years has, as a volunteer, instructed overseas participants about the tea ceremony in KITA's International Friendship Program, and has made a huge contribution to participants' experience of Japanese culture.

— **Why did you first start teaching the tea ceremony to the overseas participants of KITA?**

"It all started around 28 years ago when I was invited to participate by a member of the Junior Chamber International Kitakyushu, one of KITA's parent organizations, in the spirit of "offering some tea" in a relaxed atmosphere. I practice the Urasenke style of tea ceremony, and in a lecture the head of the Urasenke used the slogan "peacefulness through a bowl of tea". Those words impressed me as exemplifying the attitude of a practitioner, namely the wish to open up our hearts by the sharing of a bowl of tea, and to become a bridge to world peace as well as to Japanese culture, and I too wanted to be of service in some way."

— **What do you take particular care over when you instruct overseas participants in the tea ceremony?**

*"The mindset of 'ichi-go ichi-e' (*1). I would like the dinner party at the Industry Club of West Japan of the KITA International Friendship Program to be a memorable moment for participants in the midst of their training in an unfamiliar country, and also for it to serve as a lull in which they find peace of mind. The number of utensils used is limited, but I try to incorporate in them things that connect them with that day, such as the balance of the ceremony as a whole, seasonal elements or major news stories. The culture of tea became established by the natural and spiritual features of Japan, which is something important that I want to convey. Each time we host a tea ceremony we aim to realize the significance and mindset of 'harmony, respect, purity and tranquility' (the four most important elements of the tea ceremony) and at the same time, make it our learning opportunity. After the tea ceremony, even if it is late in the evening, I always hold a meeting with the volunteer members to exchange ideas. The interaction varies depending on the season and on the number of participants, and I consult with the staff of the KITA Secretariat about this. I believe that doing so creates a conscious bond between the KITA Secretariat staff and tea ceremony instructors, which enables us to provide a better moment of respite for the participants."*

(*1) 'Ichi-go ichi-e'

'Ichi-go' means one lifetime and 'ichi-e' means one single encounter. This phrase teaches that, even if the same members meet many times in the tea room, the tea ceremony held that day is always a one-off, so the host and the guests should make a joint effort in a spirit of mutual consideration.

— **What are the good points about Japanese culture that you want to convey via the tea ceremony?**

*"I want to convey 'ichiza-konryu' (*2). It doesn't apply only to in the tea room. When everyone involved in welcoming the participants treats them in this spirit, right from the preparatory period before they leave for Japan, the participants will have enjoyed themselves when they*

depart for their homelands, and we can expect them to use the knowledge gained in Japan for their countries. I want to convey that Japanese people, especially those who are involved in their training course including the staff of KITA, always share this feeling ('ichiza-konryu'), which goes beyond the context of the tea."

(*2) 'Ichiza-konryu'

In the tea ceremony, creativity and originality are employed to do as much for the guest as possible. Doing so creates understanding between the host and the guests, producing a pleasant situation. This is what is known as 'ichiza-konryu' and is a very important part of the tea ceremony.

— **Is there anything you would like to tackle next with regard to international exchanges, and what are your objectives for the near future?**

"I believe that playing a minor role jointly with KITA connects me with the participants and with the world. I can't do anything very dramatic, but I would like in some form or another to serve as a bridge between the participants and Japanese culture, and to provide opportunities for the Japanese staff of KITA to rediscover and reaffirm the good things about Japan as they interact with the participants."

— **I'd like to finish by asking you for a message to the participants.**

"I am truly grateful that something which started out with a bowl of tea has continued for so long. I have learned many things from the experiences I have accumulated almost without realizing. Thank you for partaking of a bowl of tea infused with our hopes as the heirs to Japanese culture. I will be perfectly content if, after your return to your homeland, you sometimes recall the words 'tea ceremony' and 'maccha' as memories of Japan."

Ms. DATE replied carefully and courteously to each of my questions in this interview, and her sincerity towards everything shone through clearly. Ms. DATE, thank you for sparing me some of your precious time. On behalf of KITA, I hope that for many years to come you will continue to collaborate with us in opportunities for overseas participants to experience Japanese culture.



(Ms. DATE is the second from the right in the front row)

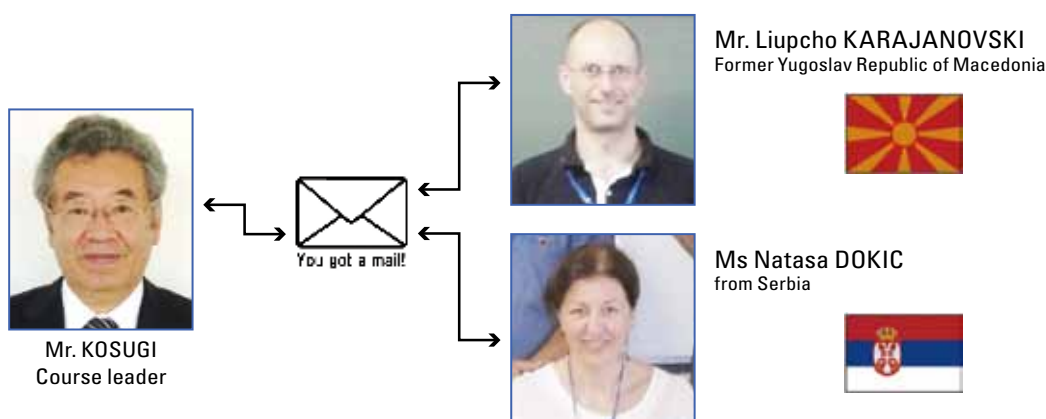


Serving tea to KITA's overseas participants

~ Action by Former Participants Aiming to Promote Cleaner Production in South eastern Europe ~

Makoto KOSUGI, Course leader

This course was established with the aim of providing support for cleaner production (CP) for Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, countries that are trying to recover from disastrous strife and have prioritized EU affiliation as their top national goal. Their economic development is lagging behind and they all face major issues in terms of production, the environment and infrastructure. The course was held for the second time in October 2012, and in it I introduced actual CP initiatives in Japan and the experiences of leaders of small to medium sized companies, and I made the participants aware of the need for steady efforts to popularize CP. Various projects have been run since the participants returned home but, since space is limited, I will only introduce two of them. Participants other than Ms DOKIC and Mr. KARAJANOVSKI have also made good use of the large amount of information and knowledge gleaned from the training in their plans. I really admire the way in which the participants are working steadily to leverage the things that they learned in order to develop their homelands.



Action Taken by Mr. KARAJANOVSKI

Mr. KARAJANOVSKI is a specialist at the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia National Cleaner Production Center. He was very interested in the ideal form for training to popularize CP. After returning home he consulted with the organization he works for and swiftly held workshops to promote CP. He is strongly aware of the need to provide guidance on the CP concept, particularly for the young students and industrialists who will be of vital importance to the country from now on. He also showed a keen interest in Japanese culture and enjoyed interchanges with young Japanese people on his days off. I expect him to play an active role at the CP Center and to pass on his Japanese experiences.

Action Taken by Ms DOKIC

Ms DOKIC is the manager in charge of Belgrade's environmental project plans. From the action plan stage, she made trial calculations for environmental protection aiming to popularize CP and prepared a written proposal for the city. Immediately upon returning to her homeland she submitted her action plan and financial plan to the organization she works for, and she is now deftly preparing projects while awaiting approval from the city council. I am particularly impressed by the project aiming for educational results.

She possesses excellent leadership abilities, for example by acting as a mediator amongst the trainees. She told me, "My attempts are accompanied with endless difficulties but I will do my best, just as you taught me". I expect her to continue to play an active role.

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Kitakyushu
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