

KITA NEWS

No.22

2017
April

Contents

- P2 A Message from the President
- P4 FY2017 Operational Policy
- P5 Training Courses Digest (First half of FY2016)
- P9 Recent Activities for Overseas Development Cooperation
- P10 News & Topics
 - Speech of thanks at the closing ceremony
 - Opening Ceremony of the National Environmental Research and Training Institute Kitakyushu Office
- P12 International Friendship Program



— Opening ceremony of the national Environmental Research and Training Institute Kitakyushu Office —

The National Environmental Research and Training Institute Kitakyushu Office was set up in KITA and a ceremony to mark its opening was held on October 24, 2016. The opening ceremony was attended by Yoshimi OKUNUSHI, who is Director General of both the Ministry of the Environment's Environmental Policy Bureau and the National Environmental Research and Training Institute, as well as by Akie OOMAGARI, the Vice Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, Deputy Mayor of Kitakyushu Kazuhide UMEMOTO and Hideki FURUNO, President of KITA.

Policy of Management for FY 2017

This year sees the start of a new administration in the US under highly-individualistic President Trump. Various predictions are being made, such as that nationalism might become more widespread around the world, or that there might be a major change to the trend for free trade, however our primary wish is that the harmonious relationship between Japan and the United States will continue.

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

We also formulated the KITA Master Plan covering the decade from FY2015, and the actions in it have picked up speed in FY2016. The Master Plan is based upon our medium and long term policies, and in FY2016 we continued to implement the four business guidelines below, as we had in FY2015. In addition, we have almost completed our plan for FY2016, 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
- e) Greater utilization of networks with former participants overseas

► As a result of our pursuing these themes, we are in the process of realizing KITA's first project utilizing a JICA grassroots project (Vietnam TAC). We have proposed to JICA a method that utilizes their grassroots project system to boost the capabilities of training run for small and medium-sized companies at the Technical Assistance Center (TAC) for small and medium-sized companies in Vietnam, and are waiting to hear whether our proposal has been accepted.

(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



Hideki FURUNO, President

► KITA's first full-scale consulting solution, technical assistance for public organizations overseas in the JICA project to support small and medium-sized companies expanding overseas, was adopted by JICA in January 2016. The contract was concluded in June 2016, and steady progress is now being made with a preliminary study of potential cases, our current theme.

- b) Proactive collaboration to launch activities overseas with related organizations
 - Kitakyushu municipal government
 - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
 - Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)► Collaborations with the Kitakyushu municipal government and JICA are particularly active.
- 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) Final draft of the KITA Master Plan (10-year plan)

- Giving concrete form to the scheme to establish the KITA brand
 - We have explained to the city of Kitakyushu, completed KITA decision-making procedures, and started 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
 - We have started work on the realization of the

KITA brand and this project is picking up speed.

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
 - We are continuing our action on this enduring issue.
- (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 has become an established practice, and we are now in the process of promoting more thorough enforcement.
- (2) Preparation of the relevant documents for external audits by the Cabinet Office and Kitakyushu municipal government
 - We have completed our preparations for the audits required by the rules, including the Cabinet Office audit.

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

FY2016 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 continued to help us to intensify overseas activities, just as they did last year. Also, in FY2016 we were able to get on track with establishing the KITA brand, one of the fruits of our medium and long term policies.

The KITA brand is the core concept of the ten-year KITA Master Plan, and I have set the themes on the right as our FY2017 guidelines, aimed at completing the KITA Master Plan, centered around the establishment of the KITA brand, in FY2024.

FY2017 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) Further enrich the content of our training courses
 - Accurately grasp the participants' needs and provide sound solutions

- Respond to increasing diversification and specialization, and further develop and upgrade training sites
 - b) Create structures aimed at receiving orders for new training courses
 - Improve follow-up on participants after they have completed their training course, and get an accurate grasp of local needs
 - Identify new training needs and continue to promote the education of training issues
 - Create paid-for training courses
 - c) Building a win-win relationship between the countries participated in a training course and the companies collaborated in it
- (2) Technical assistance brand: Continue with projects intended for the public benefit, pioneer the global expansion of small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies, and cultivate profit-making business
 - a) Continue to implement projects intended for the public benefit
 - b) Develop profit-making business by establishing it within the Technical Cooperation Division at the Business Development Center
 - c) Coordinate with the Asian Center for Low Carbon Society
 - d) 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
 - Streamlining administrative work and reducing costs
- (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

In addition to making steady progress with the KITA Master Plan, which came into full swing in FY2016, I intend that we will power forward towards completion of the plan in FY2024 whilst not neglecting to appropriately absorb any changes in our situation.

Training Division

Yuichi TERADA, Director of the Training Division



In the year 2016, both in Japan and overseas, people encountered various things: the earthquake in Kumamoto, Brexit, the best efforts of the Japanese Team in the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games, the triumph of Donald Trump in the US presidential election, etc. Additionally, it is still fresh in our

memory that more typhoons passed through the Japanese Islands than usual.

Meanwhile we, the Training Division, launched ourselves on “the first year of Master Plan” and, though with unsteady steps, we produced various schemes for a transformation from the past position of “a contract training organization of JICA” to “an organization transmitting information”. The schemes include: penetration and adoption of a method for finding solutions by utilizing IAS (Issue Analysis Sheet) into the training course, guidance to prepare Action Plan mostly focused on TASK, research in South American countries (Paraguay and Argentina) for confirming the needs of training in the target countries and improving the follow-up after training, attendance to JICA's three follow-up visits to Mexico,

Central America and Africa, and the creation of JICA grassroots project as a source for establishing paid training courses.

We are going to make much of the following matters to further strengthen the capability to perform training programs and improve the contents of the programs, for “enhancing the KITA brand”. We would be grateful for your continued cooperation.

(1) Further improvement of training programs

*Precise recognition of participants' needs and giving reliable solutions

*Further development and enhancement of training facilities and enterprises which respond to the deepening diversification and specialties

(2) Construction of a system for receiving the order of new training courses

*Improving the follow-up for participants and grasping the needs in the target countries

*Digging up new needs for training courses and extraction of training subjects

*Promoting the preparation for establishing paid training courses

Technical Cooperation Division

Tomoharu ASAHARA, Director of the Technical Cooperation Division



As the first year of executing the Master Plan, the Technical Cooperation Division worked on the reformation of the operational structure and organization in the fiscal year 2016. As a result, we could launch our steady first step such as receiving the first order of a consulting project and

rejoining Kitakyushu Maintenance Engineering Society (KME) to KITA. In the fiscal year 2017, we are intending to advance two pillars of activity: “projects for public interest”, which is the basic role of KITA and “development of new projects” in cooperation with related divisions in good balance.

(1) Promotion of projects for public interest

- ▶ Collecting information, carrying out research and holding lectures, related to City of Kitakyushu
- ▶ Supporting overseas business development of enterprises based in Kitakyushu City
- ▶ Technical assistance and dispatching technical personnel for international environmental cooperation, etc., which City of Kitakyushu is promoting

All the above are to be advanced as before in close cooperation with divisions, organizations, etc. relating to City of Kitakyushu.

(2) Development of new projects

- ▶ Accomplishing the current consulting project and developing new projects to receive orders
- ▶ Developing various training courses (Atmosphere environment improvement training between China and Japan, National Environmental Research and Training Institute, etc.) to receive orders
- ▶ Vitalizing KME's activities, that is, expanding the field of activities

We could obtain a lot of know-how through the execution of the consulting project which we are now working on. However, at the same time, it turned out that highly advanced information-collecting skill and report making-out ability are required in order to carry out a project. In the fiscal year 2017, through the execution of projects, we are going to evaluate whether we can carry out new projects continuously with the current personnel lineup of KITA, as well as considering the cooperation with outside consulting firms.

Highlights of KITA Training Courses

Training Courses Digest (First half of FY2016)

Courses started from
April 1, 2016 to
September 30, 2016

- 1) Training Course
- 2) Training period
- 3) Course Leader



- 1) Capacity Development for Entrepreneurs and MSMEs Activation in African Countries
- 2) May 14, 2016 to June 18, 2016
- 3) Mr. M. KOSUGI

I really appreciate your hard work not only in the lectures but also in the field tours. I enjoyed the time together with you all during the training and I was absolutely impressed by your positive thinking in order to improve your country and your vitality with full of curiosity.

Please aim to vitalize MSMEs in your country by utilizing what you have seen in Japan as a hint. I wish for your future success in your respective countries.



- 1) Water Environment Administration
- 2) May 8, 2016 to June 29, 2016
- 3) Mr. A. KIDO

I appreciate your efforts to complete the long-term training. You might be very tired from tight schedule in an unfamiliar country. But I think you have learned a lot in this training.

I sincerely hope that the outcome of this training will be useful for your future activities after return. I wish for your good health and success.



- 1) Small and Medium Enterprises / Local Industry Promotion for Latin America (B)
- 2) June 7, 2016 to July 8, 2016
- 3) Mr. K. KAWASAKI

I appreciate your efforts to complete the training. You might be very tired from a tight schedule in an unfamiliar country.

I sincerely hope that the result from the training will be useful for your future activities after return.

I wish for your good health and success.

Highlights of KITA Training Courses



- 1) Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy (B)
- 2) June 25, 2016 to July 30, 2016
- 3) Mr. Y. NAKASHIMA

I think you could realize how to integrate practically selling know-how and product manufacturing together during this 1month.

I sincerely hope that you would find out unique and high quality product which is reflected your culture and historical background and nurture it to be an export champion.



- 1) Policy Planning for Efficiency and Conservation (B)
- 2) July 3, 2016 to August 6, 2016
- 3) Mr. K. KAWAGUCHI

How was your stay in Japan during this hot and humid 5 weeks? You had participated in this training with various issues. Have you achieved the goal?

I hope what you have learned and experienced in Japan will be useful to improve energy efficiency of your country and the quality of your work in the future. Please implement your action plan step by step.



- 1) Advancement of Solid Waste Management Technologies (Advance, Technique) (A)
- 2) July 10, 2016 to September 10, 2016
- 3) Mr. T. SASHIWA

Have you kept your interest in this training program until the end? I believe you became quite knowledgeable while staying in Japan, then you will get wider capacity and options to tackle against many difficulties you may face afterward.

I'm always ready if you need some of my advice or consultation. Hope all goes well both for professionally and personally!



- 1) Geothermal Drilling Management
- 2) July 5, 2016 to August 10, 2016
- 3) Mr. Y. TAKASAKI

Congratulations on completing this training program. I am very glad that all of you have been fine and achieved the initial goal of the training.

I hope you could utilize the results acquired through visiting Japanese advanced drilling site and lectures which include new technologies, to enhance implementing system of drilling for the purpose of development of geothermal resources in your country. I wish your continued health and success.

Highlights of KITA Training Courses



- 1) Renewable Energy in Grid-Mainly on Photovoltaic (A)
- 2) July 10, 2016 to August 20, 2016
- 3) Mr. J. KAWASAKI

It was quite tough 6-weeks training schedule with outside practice and site visiting tour of mega solar in the hottest season in Japan.

Your team work was splendid and I really appreciate sharing fruitful time together. You were perfectly punctual in various situations as I asked in the beginning. I hope what you have learned in this training will be useful to resolve your issues and connected to your development in the future.



- 1) Renewable Energy Course for African Countries
- 2) July 24, 2016 to August 10, 2016
- 3) Mr. S. YAZU

I appreciate your efforts to complete the training course. Though it was a short period, I believe you have learned a lot on the renewable energy of Japan.

Please implement improvement activities in order to achieve result to develop your country, utilizing useful knowledge and technologies from the training. I am sure what you have learned and experienced in Japan will be useful for your work. I wish for your future success.



- 1) High Efficient & Clean Thermal Power
- 2) August 21, 2016 to September 10, 2016
- 3) Mr. T. FUJII

It is my best pleasure if all of 8 participants from 5 countries have had enjoyable time and got good experiences and information in this JICA program.

I expect peace and prosperous future of all our nations and also hope the eternal friendship between Japan and every your nation.



- 1) Practical Human Resource Development in Electrical and Electronic Engineering for Africa
- 2) August 20, 2016 to October 15, 2016
- 3) Mr. M. TOMITA

Thank you very much for your hard work for the long-term training. I have implemented this course, Human Resource Development in Electrical and Electronic Engineering for Africa, centering on practical training.

I hope you would plan and implement similar course for the teachers of neighboring countries and the technical level of whole African countries will be improved in the future.

Highlights of KITA Training Courses



- 1) Iran: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- 2) August 28, 2016 to September 17, 2016
- 3) Mr. Y. TERADA

I really appreciate all of your effort to complete this training course. I tried to provide as many on-site training sessions as possible in this short-term training.

Though sometimes there was not enough time to have lunch, it would be great if you could think of this as a result of my effort to provide beneficial training for you. I sincerely hope this training will help you to take a great leap forward after you return to your country.



- 1) Management of Composting Project (B)
- 2) August 21, 2016 to September 22, 2016
- 3) Dr. K. KIDO

How was the training and the life in Kitakyushu for about 4 weeks? I was very impressed by your enthusiastic attitude toward the training. I could understand that your countries and local governments are already actively involved in composting of raw garbage, which accounts for 60% of total waste, for waste reduction.

Please improve waste issues applying training result to your country and make effort to conserve clean environment.



- 1) Kazakhstan: Promotion of Energy Conservation in Industry Sector
- 2) August 21, 2016 to October 1, 2016
- 3) Dr. T. UEYAMA

I designed this training course after I visited and understood the situation of your country 2 years ago. The effort for energy conservation of your country is gradually arranged but it is still insufficient.

Though it is difficult for you all to be satisfied with all the contents of the training, how was it?

I hope this training in Japan will be your lifetime memories and a chance for your future progress.



- 1) Developed Market Oriented Promotion Strategy/ Marketing Strategy (C)
- 2) September 3, 2016 to October 8, 2016
- 3) Mr. Y. IO

Congratulations on completing this training course. I am very glad that all of you have been fine and achieved the initial goal of the training.

I hope that the technique and information you learned and discussed together in this training will be effectively utilized in your job after returning home. Understand the present situation of your country, set your goal and then plan strategy and tactics clearly to achieve the goal and carry out the plans step by step.

Thanks Speech at the Closing Ceremony

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



- Representative : Ms. BUGTONG Anne Aubrey De Guzman from Philippines
- Training course : Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System (B)
- Course period : Jan. 11, 2016 to Mar. 05, 2016

This day marks the 53rd day of our stay here in Japan. And for most of us, if not all, this was the first time to sojourn in this culturally and historically rich country. The generosity of the Japanese people have brought all of us from different parts of the world in this beautiful country not only learn their technical practices in the field of sewerage operation and maintenance but to also experience their unique culture. Our learning was not limited within the confines of the seminar room but we have been given the opportunity to experience it as well. So today, before we return to our respective countries to “pay-forward” allow me to express our profound gratitude in behalf of the 7 governments that we are representing and the nations who will be benefitting from this training.

To the Kitakyushu International Techno-Cooperative Association (KITA) whose technical expertise and time have been devoted to developing minds of technical personnel into becoming specialists and experts in their own field, we would like to say “domo arigato gozaimashita.” In this changing

times where world leaders are focused on achieving super power status, and environmental conservation takes a back seat that international technical cooperation aimed at achieving sustainable development are very much needed.

To all our brilliant lecturers who unselfishly shared their technical expertise in the field of sewerage planning, design, operation and maintenance, as well as all the various technologies which support the sewerage system, we thank you so much for the invaluable knowledge that you have conveyed to us through our lectures and site visits.

From the representatives of Albania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mauritius, Palestine and the Republic of the Philippines, Domo Arigato Gozaimashita, Nihon.

(As in the original speech script)



- Representative : Mr. Sarabjot Singh Saini
Energy Conservation
- Training course : Techniques for India
- Course period : Sep. 24, 2015
to November 5, 2015

I would like to thank Government of Japan and India for organizing this training for “Energy Conservation Techniques for India” through JICA. When we were starting from India for this training, we just expected that this training course would provide us detailed insights of various technologies used in Japanese power plants for energy efficiency through lectures and interactive plant visits. I am very thankful to JICA and KITA that this training course is so well organized and coordinated that it certainly exceeds our expectations. Moreover, travelling across the different cities of Japan really help us to experience the rich Japanese culture and understand the Japanese people perspective towards energy conservation and work culture.

I think all 11 of us must be agreed with the fact that we have observed here in Japan that attitude of people is very positive towards energy conservation and I think, the dedication, hard work and discipline of Japanese people are the major driving force responsible for development of this country.

Therefore, apart from learning technical know how, we are taking back the experience we had here with people as it is so inspirational in itself. Needless to mention the high standards of hospitality we receive in each and every place we visited. Such as plants visits, sightseeing, local market shops, everywhere we can feel warm hospitality.

I believe that the knowledge we gain from here will definitely useful for all of us in our professional as well as personal life. Certainly, we go back to our country and promote energy efficiency and make energy conservation a way of life. Once again I thank you JICA, KITA, our beloved coordinators, JICA KIC Centre staff and lecturers for giving us enriched lifetime experience.

(As in the original speech script)



Recent Activities for Overseas Development Cooperation

Technical Seminar on the Treatment of High Concentration Organic Wastewater in Hai Phong City

Support for overseas business expansion of J-FILS Co., LTD.

Tomoharu ASAHARA, Director of the Technical Cooperation Division
Toshikatsu MIYATA, Executive Technical Advisor

KITA is supporting the overseas business expansion of an enzyme-based high concentration organic wastewater treatment system developed by J-FILS Co., LTD. This project was approved in 2016 as “JICA SMEs Overseas Business Expansion Support Project – Feasibility survey for Project Execution.”

J-FILS took a pilot system in Nam Hai fish market in September 2016 and carried out a demonstration of continuous treatment using actual wastewater, proving the suitability of the technology. Based on the result, they held a technical seminar in Hai Phong City on October 27. There were 90 participants including Son Vice Mayor and representatives of major administrative authorities such as Department of Science and Technology, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Industry and Trade, Department of Foreign Affairs as well as Research Institutes such as Medical University and Ocean University, and enterprises discharging high concentration organic wastewater, making a productive Q & A session. At the end of the seminar, Son Vice Mayor, gave a concluding remark, “This technology is expected to contribute a lot to improve the environment of the

city. We are ready to assist a verification test using actual equipment.”, expressing strong interest and expectation about this technology. We are going to verify its effectiveness using an actual treatment system and hope it will lead to overseas business expansion of J-FILS Co., LTD., also contributing to the improvement of environment of the city.



Son Vice Mayor, giving opening remarks; to the right, Mr. Masuda, Senior Representative of JICA Vietnam Office



Demonstration of the wastewater treatment system with TV crews to report

Support to Kitakyushu / Hai Phong SME Owners' Exchange Meeting

Started as a new activity following JICA grassroots technical cooperation project

Toshikatsu MIYATA, Executive Technical Advisor

City of Kitakyushu invited the owners of small and medium-size enterprises (SME) based in the sister city Hai Phong to have a four-day exchange program, “Kitakyushu / Hai Phong SME Owners' Exchange Meeting” from October 11, 2016; KITA supported the program. This exchange program is an activity following the JICA Partnership Program (JICA grassroots technical cooperation project), which City of Kitakyushu and KITA had continued for five years since 2011. This new activity is planned to be continued for four years in the form of a mutual visit.

For the first time, there were 11 participants from 8 enterprises based in Hai Phong City; they had a really intense program, beginning with the courtesy call on Mayor Kitahashi, followed by lectures on “What is expected of Kitakyushu and Hai Phong enterprises?” and “Vitalization of personnel and organizations”, visits to manufacturing companies, and participation in the main event “owners' exchange meeting”. On the last day, they attended “Eco-Techno 2016 – Global Environment Exhibition / Advanced Energy Technology Exhibition” in session, coming in contact with advanced

technologies.

In the exchange meeting, the main event of the program, 8 Hai Phong enterprises and 9 Kitakyushu enterprises participated; all of them had a very lively discussion including lunchtime.

In the year 2017, enterprises based in Kitakyushu City are going to visit Hai Phong City to have an exchange program.



Courtesy call on Mayor Kitahashi



Interacting in groups at the exchange meeting

Transfer of Some of the Functions of the Ministry of the Environment's National Environmental Research and Training Institute

Naokatsu FUJIWARA, Senior Managing Director, Secretary General

The Office for the Promotion of Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan was established by Cabinet decision in September 2014. A basic policy of transferring government organizations and bodies was settled on March 22, 2016 and accordingly it was decided to transfer some of the functions of the Ministry of the Environment's National Environmental Research and Training Institute to Kitakyushu.

The National Environmental Research and Training Institute Kitakyushu Office was set up in KITA on October 24, 2016 and a ceremony to mark its opening was held from 16:00 that day. The three training courses scheduled to be held this fiscal year have been entrusted to KITA, and I have been appointed course leader with the role of designing and preparing the courses, and ensuring that things proceed smoothly during them.

The opening ceremony took place on the second floor of International Village Center, the building where KITA is located. It was attended by Yoshimi OKUNUSHI, who is Director General of both the Ministry of the Environment's Environmental Policy Bureau and the National Environmental Research and Training Institute, as well as by Akie OOMAGARI, the Vice Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, Deputy Mayor of Kitakyushu Kazuhide UMEMOTO and Hideki FURUNO, President of KITA. Members of the press and other authorized personnel kept their cameras at the ready during the ceremony, which was led by a representative from the Ministry of the Environment and went off without a hitch.

President FURUNO made the following speech on behalf of the local organizations involved: "I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the transfer of some of the functions of the National Environmental Research and Training Institute to Hirano, here in Yahatahigashi-ku. This transfer will further expand the breadth of the domestic and international training activities here, and I firmly believe that it will create a base in Japan for training functions aimed at resolving environmental issues in Japan and overseas. I intend that KITA will make this transfer an opportunity to engage in partnerships with environmental research and training institutes, and to further enhance our training operations. On behalf of local organizations, I would

like to express our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of the Environment for their bold decision to make this transfer, and to the city of Kitakyushu for all the efforts of everyone involved." He also expressed our gratitude as the local organization being entrusted with running these courses, and announced our determination to ensure that the courses will proceed smoothly.

After the opening ceremony had finished according to schedule, there was a ceremony to unveil the National Environmental Research and Training Institute Kitakyushu Office sign in front of the 4F KITA Technical Cooperation Division office, which will be in charge of implementing the courses. The four people who had made speeches at the opening ceremony cheered in unison as the sign was unveiled, and with this the events to mark the transfer of some of the functions of the Ministry of the Environment's National Environmental Research and Training Institute to Kitakyushu came to a successful conclusion.



President FURUNO giving his speech at the opening ceremony



The unveiling of the National Environmental Research and Training Institute Kitakyushu Office sign

A Friendly Stroll around Town with University of Kitakyushu Students

Tatsuhiko TAKAI, Director, General Affairs Section

On September 3, 2016 a cultural exchange was held between members of the University of Kitakyushu's FIVA (*1) and participants in the Practical Human Resource Development in Electrical and Electronic Engineering for Africa course. The event was called "A Stroll around Kokura". 2016 was a year in which several typhoons struck Japan, and it was feared that Typhoon 12 might be close to Kyushu that day and that the event might have to be canceled. However, we were fortunate in that there was no rain and the weather had cooled down slightly on the day.

In the first half of the program the course participants and the students gave a self-introduction in which they also spoke about their respective countries. Most of the students were freshmen and this was their first experience of cultural exchange, so they seemed to feel a little awkward to begin with. However, the course participants interacted warmly with these young people who they could see wanted to familiarize them with the city of Kitakyushu, and the atmosphere gradually became more relaxed.

In the second half, we went for a stroll around the town dressed in yukata. The participants selected a yukata they liked from amongst the selection prepared by the kimono teacher, and they beamed with delight when they saw how they looked after the teacher had helped them to dress properly in yukata.

We walked around Tanga Market and Uomachi Gintengai with the FIVA members. Both places were bustling with weekend shoppers, but the foreigners out for a stroll in yukata really stood out in the crowd. Whenever they dropped by a shop, the staff and customers greeted them warmly, and the participants were clearly relaxed and enjoying the friendly downtown atmosphere.

The program only lasted for half a day, but I think that it will have given the participants lasting memories of Japanese culture and a great Kitakyushu experience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of FIVA and the kimono teacher.

This event was also featured in "Lab. Times", the PR magazine of the University of Kitakyushu Regional Symbiosis Education Center, and made known to students and faculty staff at the university.

**1 FIVA*

Fukuoka International Volunteer Association. An international exchange project at 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.



Dialogue with the students



At Uomachi Gintengai

KITA NEWS

No.22 April, 2017

Kitakyushu
International
Techno-cooperative
Association

All correspondence should be addressed to Secretariat of KITA:
International Village Center, 1-1-1 Hirano, Yahatahigashi-ku, Kitakyushu City, JAPAN, 805-0062

TEL: +81-93-662-7171 FAX: +81-93-662-7177

E-mail: info@kita.or.jp Web site: <http://www.kita.or.jp/english>

● Web site in English includes KITA's outline, recent activities and journals published previously.

TEL & FAX of Other Divisions of KITA are as follows:

Training Division

TEL: +81-93-662-7173 FAX: +81-93-662-7177 E-mail: info@kita.or.jp

Technical Cooperation Division

TEL: +81-93-662-7174 FAX: +81-93-662-7177 E-mail: info@kita.or.jp