

KITA

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Tour of ZEH (Net Zero Energy House)



Daiana-san giving a speech at the closing ceremony

“Energy Efficiency and Conservation Technology in Commercial and Residential Sector (A)” Course

This is a training course for transferring energy conservation technology utilized for residences, office buildings and commercial facilities to South American countries. In Latin America, there are some countries where industry is developed to some degree. However, energy conservation activities are not yet on track and are used only for the energy conservation of government and municipal buildings, but is being used as a model case for promoting the activities. Under such circumstances, the need for technical training on energy conservation (for buildings and commercial facilities) in commercial and residential sector is becoming strong. Please see page 5 for details.



A Message from the President

Policy of Management for FY 2018

Hideki FURUNO, President



President Trump, with his declared policy of “America First” has announced that he will pull out of the Paris Agreement, the international framework for measures to cope with global warming, and reports in the mass media worry about the effect this and other such actions will have on international cooperation. In addition, there are an increasing number of reports that foretell a change in the global balance of power, with China and its growing trend towards power politics starting to play a larger role in the international community while America seems to have started to turn inwards on itself. This is likely to have an effect on cooperation in the Asian region, where Japan is located.

Furthermore, the threat from North Korea’s nuclear missiles shows absolutely no sign of abating. As part of the international community, Japan too is starting to feel the effects of the current international situation, including troubles such as those. However, the domestic situation remains calm as the October 22 elections last year did not lead to any major changes in the Japanese political system.

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

KITA’s Medium and Long Term Policies

1. Accumulation of KITA’s assets
2. Investigation of “what is typical of KITA” and the advantages of being based in Kitakyushu

Based on these policies, we started to promote the three new guidelines below in FY2017 and plan to get results from them during the two-year period ending in FY2018. In addition, with the exception of some themes, we have almost achieved the aims in our plan for FY2017, 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

- (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

These two themes (a. and b.) have been steadily put into practice in our everyday activities.

(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

We are moving forward with this theme in tandem with theme (1) of further enriching our training courses.

- b. Identify new training needs and continue to

promote the diagnosis of training issues

Last year we received orders for two new courses: Integrated Water Resources Management, and On-site Wastewater Treatment System.

c. Create fee-paying training courses

Changes occurred in relation to this theme after later events in Vietnam. It has been decided to carry over this theme to next year and beyond, including challenges shared with JICA headquarters.

2) Technical assistance brand: Continuing projects intended for the public benefit, pioneering the global expansion of small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies, and cultivating profit-making business

(1) Continue to implement projects intended for the public benefit

We continue to make smooth progress.

(2) Pioneer the global expansion of small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies and study profit-making business

We are expanding our consulting business for small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies and increasing the number of technical assistance projects. However, there are issues in the development of profit-making business that need to be settled legally. It is clear that more time is required so I have decided to carry over this theme to next year and beyond.

(3) Coordinate with the Asian Center for Low Carbon Society

Our coordination action has become more dynamic and both the Asian Center for Low Carbon Society and KITA are seeing results from it.

(4) Enhance our maintenance training projects:

utilize the Kitakyushu Maintenance Engineering Society (KME)
KITA took over its running from the second half of FY2016. No problems have arisen and things are going well.

2. Further promote the streamlining of project management

- 1) Clarifying the respective roles of organizations and operations, and boosting coordination between organizations
 - Streamline administrative work and reduce costs
This is an eternal challenge, but we are making steady progress in our daily activities.
- 2) Promoting effective use of the IT infrastructure and improving its functions
We are making efforts for improvement on a daily basis, and are in the process of implementing what can be done within our investment limitations.

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

- 1) Scrupulously protecting information and providing full disclosure
We are promoting thorough internal and external controls that adhere strictly to Japan's Personal Information Protection Act.
- 2) Preparation of the relevant documents for external

audits by the Cabinet Office and Kitakyushu municipal government

We have prepared these whenever necessary and, as a result, have successfully prepared a substantial collection of documents.

- 3) Securing daily manners as a public interest incorporated foundation
We are making every effort to do so, referring in detail to Cabinet Office directives and so on.

As indicated above, we are getting results almost exactly as scheduled. FY2017 was a year in which we collaborated even more closely with partners such as the Kitakyushu municipal government and JICA Kyushu, and we also focused on intensifying related overseas activities. We have been pushing forward for nearly seven years now with the medium and long term policies I constantly advocate for KITA, and our efforts since FY2015 to establish the 'KITA brand' as one of the fruits of our medium and long term policies, a step to give added clarity to their image, have now continued for three years. We are approaching the phase where we will reap the benefits of the Master Plan. We will further increase our efforts and push forward undaunted.

The KITA brand is the core concept of the ten-year KITA Master Plan launched in FY2015. We will steadily implement the guidelines below, which have the establishment of the KITA brand as their central focus, in the second half of the two-year period of FY2017-18.

FY2018 Policy

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 assistance brand: Continuing projects intended for the public benefit, pioneering the global expansion of small to medium-sized Kitakyushu companies, and cultivating profit-making business
 - (1) Continue to implement projects intended for the public benefit
 - (2) Develop profit-making business by establishing it within the Technical Cooperation Division at the Business Development Center

- (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
 - Streamline administrative work and reduce 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

Training Division

Yuichi TERADA, Vice President, Director of the Training Division



We, the Training Division, have been producing various schemes for a transformation from the past position of “a contract training organization of JICA” to “an organization transmitting information” for these two years, under the theme of promoting the “Master Plan.” In particular, the term of each training course was largely reduced

from 70 days or longer in the years up to FY 2012 to 27 days in FY 2016 and FY 2017. In the course of reducing the term, from the viewpoint of enabling the participants to master the results of training surely, we have been promoting the penetration of methods for finding solutions to issues by utilizing IAS (Issue Analysis Sheet) and putting it into the training and sustaining the methods there.

Also we have been giving guidance to prepare the Action Plan mostly focused on “task”, and have introduced and utilized the Useful Information Sheet. Though not being enough, the direction of operational reform is becoming clear. Part of these KITA's efforts in the training activity was introduced in JICA's public relations magazine “Mundi”, July 2017, with a theme of “Utilizing the heritage of modern Japan for global energy conservation.” Furthermore, the training course for people of Japanese descent, “Promotion of Japanese food business” won the “Good Approach Prize” of JICA.

This fiscal year, we are going to make much of the following matters in order to further strengthen the capability of performing the training courses toward the “enhancement of the KITA brand.”

- (1) Further improvement of training programs
 - * Providing sound solutions to the participants even under a situation where the term of the training course is largely reduced
 - * Further development and upgrading of training sites, responding to the increasing diversification and specialization
 - * Reduction of disparity among participants' countries and improvement of training efficiency (Some solutions should be thought of especially for the countries which haven't shown the effects of training, instead of sending participants many times.)
- (2) Construction of structures aimed at receiving orders for new training courses
 - * Improving the follow-up on participants after they have completed their training course, and getting an accurate grasp of local needs
 - * Identifying new training needs and extraction of training subjects

Technical Cooperation Division

Tomoharu ASAHARA, Director of the Technical Cooperation Division



In the fiscal year 2017, the second year of executing the Master Plan, the Technical Cooperation Division worked on the reformation of operational structure by positively enhancing human resources, that is, inviting people to be key persons. As a result, we successfully completed the consulting project (a survey for the implementation

of JICA's Support for SMEs Overseas Business Development) which we adopted last year for the first time. Subsequently to this success, we also succeeded to be adopted a new project. These consecutive two successes are thought to be the fruit of human resource enhancement and lots of know-how indispensable for carrying out the consulting services, acquired through the execution of that project. We also deepened the cooperation with Kitakyushu Asian Center for Low Carbon Society, through which we newly adopted JICA's grassroots technical cooperation project. We really feel that our activities have been expanded in various fields.

In the fiscal year 2018, we are intending to make further efforts in expanding our activities in cooperation with related divisions, regarding the “projects for public benefit” and

“development of new projects” as the pillars of our activities.

- (1) Promotion of projects for public benefit
 - Collecting information, carrying out research and holding lectures, related to the Kitakyushu municipal government
 - Supporting overseas business development of enterprises based in Kitakyushu City
 - Technical assistance and dispatching technical personnel for international environmental cooperation, etc., which the Kitakyushu municipal government is promoting
 - * All the above are to be advanced as before in close cooperation with related departments in the Kitakyushu municipal government.
- (2) Development of new projects
 - Accomplishing the entrusted consulting project, advancing to the next step, and developing new projects
 - Developing various training courses (training entrusted by National Environmental Research and Training Institute, Ministry of the Environment, study tour in Japan by VJCC or CJCC, etc.)
 - Vitalizing and expanding the KME's activities

Highlights of KITA Training Courses

Strong need still remains for the energy conservation course focused on buildings in developing countries.
“Energy Efficiency and Conservation Technology in Commercial and Residential Sector (A)”

Dr. Takatsugu UEYAMA, Course Leader

This is a training course for transferring energy conservation technology utilized for residences, office buildings and commercial facilities to South American countries. In the developing countries where industry is not yet developed, energy conservation in the private sector is regarded as an important challenge. In Latin America, there are some countries where industry is developed to some degree. However, energy conservation activities are not yet on track and are used only for the energy conservation of government and municipal buildings, but is being used as a model case for promoting the activities. Under such circumstances, the need for technical training on energy conservation (for buildings and commercial facilities) in commercial and residential sector is becoming strong.

This course covers Japan's system for promoting energy



Actual practice on energy conservation by using an inverter

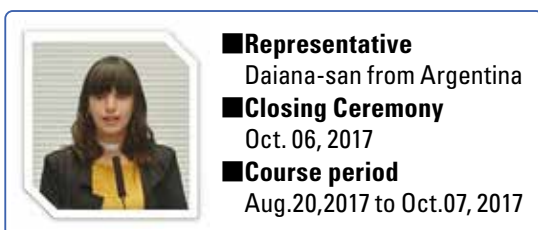
conservation, energy conservation diagnosis and energy conservation technology as much as possible in a limited period of seven weeks. Because the energy conservation activities involve miscellaneous matters, the constitution of subjects for the participants at some degree of advanced level must be so prepared as to enable them to grasp the whole picture systematically. As a result, the curriculum came to include a variety of topics.

In addition, I kept in mind to provide a course to give satisfaction to participants by incorporating actual practice, practical exercise, visit to enterprises and site observation abundantly into important subjects. The course was successfully completed on October 6 and, according to a questionnaire to the participants, evaluated as a course of more satisfaction than ever, scoring 94 points out of 100.



Tour of ZEH (Net Zero Energy House)

＝Speech of thanks at the closing ceremony＝



The time has come to say “good-bye.” In this opportunity, I looked back at the days of the training course. Now I have a mix of various feelings including loneliness, happiness and spirit of motivation. The loneliness is that I am leaving Kitakyushu where I spent about fifty days and to which I feel attached. On the other hand, the happiness is that I am returning to my country and can see my beloved family, friends and colleagues again. Furthermore, the spirit of motivation, as if inspired, is that I go back to my regular duties and wish to promptly utilize all of the knowledge I have acquired in this training.

I am unable to return to my country without saying thank you to each of the people at JICA and KITA. Wonderful lecturers, particularly, Dt. Ueyama the Course Leader, guided

our study and were constantly beside us.

Lastly, I must not forget saying thank you to my colleagues who became my second family members for about two months. They interacted me with a smile, and we exchanged views to a deeper level and also went for a trip together, sharing the same time. I believe that the completion of this training owes to high ambitions and a lot of efforts of all the people concerned. We are returning to our countries happily and with a feeling of tremendous thanks.

Arigato gozaimashita!
Sayonara!!



The closing ceremony

Highlights of KITA Training Courses

Change Knowledge into Intelligence.

“Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy (B)”

Yasunori NAKASHIMA, Course Leader

This B course is one of the five JICA training courses given the same title, intended for five countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Sudan and Tanzania) in the East Africa region, made up of nine participants and held for a period of five weeks.

The participants were mainly administrative officials and people in chambers of commerce and industry and, therefore, many of them had knowledge of this field but had somewhat a weakness in how to use the knowledge. Consequently, this course was designed to aim at a practical training just fitting the actual state, give a hint for a new merchandise or a new application, and show a path for embodying such merchandise or application based on the concept of this training, that is, merchandise quality and market-in approach.

I believe that the course was operated basically as aimed and could be linked to the Action Plan to embody the potential merchandise of participants' countries.

In Africa, there are lots of merchandise having a potential to be the champion merchandise rooted in the

cultures and histories there. I strongly hope that the participants utilize the intelligence acquired through the training and actualize that the wonderful merchandise of African countries can be seen not only in Japan but anywhere around the world as well.



Market research
(Tanga Market)



Workshop for developing
African souvenir

Let's increase the exports to Japan and advanced western countries.

“Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy / Marketing Strategy (C)”

Yukito IO, Course Leader

With an aim of researching and developing original and high-quality merchandise reflecting the culture and history of each country as well as increasing the exports of such merchandise to advanced countries, this training course has been held since FY 2015 for the officials engaged in export promotion in each country. This training course is intended to contribute to the improvement of export promotion measures of each country through lectures on the shift from “Product-out” to “Market-in” – the fundamental techniques. And the study of cases that succeeded in Japan.

This time, the training course was held from September to October with ten participants from seven countries in Latin America. First, we welcomed them and provided an introduction study. Then, during the training course, the participants studied the recent marketing theories and export promotion strategies, etc., as well as visiting companies such as KYOKUTO FADIE CORP. and TSUJIRI CORP., and observed the actual state of sales promotion activities for coffee and powdered green tea. They also observed “World Specialty Coffee EXPO” just being held in Tokyo and learned about the reality of international trade fairs.

The participants of this training course were so vigorous and active as to hold group discussions positively. Completing the training course, they seemed to have a conviction that they could increase exports to advanced countries. I look forward to hearing about the implementation of their Action Plans after they return to their countries.



In front of the original store
of TSUJIRI CORP.



In the middle of
group discussion at workshop.

I look forward to your success.

“Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System (B)”

Hajime SUETA, Course Leader

This training course is titled as "Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System", but the contents of the training covers whole sewerage system. The participants this time were seven people from India, Vietnam, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Morocco and Liberia. However the actual state of sewerage system in their countries differs from each other.

The participants having different backgrounds of sewerage systems together challenged the acquisition of extensive knowledge in the field of sewerage systems for about two months. The participants took part in the training really earnestly, seeming to think of the future of their own countries. They were lively, active in raising lots of questions in the lectures and at the sites of enterprise/factory visits, and there were also some participants who never missed taking notes even at the sites. In addition, their team work was excellent.

However, the knowledge acquired through the hard work may not immediately be useful in their home countries. So, it is necessary for each of the participants to modify and apply the acquired knowledge, according to the situation of their own country. In the two-month training, what the participants

studied is merely the fundamentals of sewerage systems, in other words, the surface layer. So, it is important for the participants to make further efforts from now on.

I would be more than happy if the participants deepen the knowledge acquired through this course and heighten it to be useful for practical activities in their own countries.



Commemorative photo after the end of a lecture



Demonstration of an oil separation tank

Realization of high necessity for small-scale sewage treatment plants in developing countries

“Water Environment Administration”

Azuma KIDO, Course Leader

Started in FY 2015, the "Water Environment Administration" course marked the 3rd year this time and received seven participants from six countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Uganda.

This course is intended to make the participants acquire the comprehensive knowledge about planning and implementation of administrative policy related to water environment preservation.

In this training course of water environment administration, the participants were provided with a lecture on Basic Environment Act and Water Pollution Prevention Act, observation of actual state in the implementation of water environment administration in Kitakyushu City, and a visit to Minamata Disease Municipal Museum. Furthermore, for the water quality monitoring, all the participants visited enterprises and had observation and actual practice on site.

In addition, for the water pollution prevention technology, they observed and studied city water treatment technology, sewage treatment technology, industrial wastewater treatment technology, principle and manufacture process of septic tanks, and small-scale sewage treatment method utilizing soil remediation process.

In the countries to which the participants belong, there are

urgent issues such as assurance of drinking water source, sewage water treatment, and industrial wastewater treatment. However, I found it most necessary to introduce relatively low-cost sewage treatment technology such as small-scale sewage treatment using a septic tank or soil remediation process because it is difficult to secure the construction cost for a large-scale sewage treatment plant.



Visit to Sewage Treatment Plant



Visit to Minamata Disease Municipal Museum

Highlights of KITA Training Courses

Utilizing the results of follow-up survey for the following training course

“Management of Composting Project (B)”

Dr. Kozo KIDO, Course Leader

This training course is intended for Latin American countries, having reached the 5th session this time. I visited Costa Rica and El Salvador for the follow-up survey of this course in December, 2016. The number of target participants was five, and they were the members of 3rd and 4th training courses. Those related to the environmental education according to their Action Plan were working on the spread of composting to the children at schools based on the reference materials prepared there.

They were making compost from school lunch leftovers and using it for a small farm, aiming at the creation of a recycling-oriented society. Others were making efforts for the establishment and operation of a compost center by applying Takakura-type composting method utilizing leftovers from the City Hall restaurant in cooperation with JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers).

There were large-scale composting facilities (60 t x 4 units) constructed by the national government, which were intended to produce early-matured and good-quality compost by applying the Takakura-type composting

method. All the activities were examples to be a model for Latin American countries. In this training course, I discussed with participants and gave instructions, referring to these results.



Compost made from pruned tree branch



Compost made from household and restaurant refuse

A pleasant training course was completed with excellent team work of participants.

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

Katsuhiko KAWASAKI, Course Leader

The objective of this course is to enhance the capability of administrative officials in the Latin America region, who have been supervising SMEs in their own countries for the purpose of vitalizing those enterprises. In FY 2017, thirteen participants attended this course from nine countries including Argentina, Columbia and Ecuador.

Through the training course, the participants learned about the policies and measures for supporting SMEs of national government, municipal governments and chambers of commerce and industry, and the actual activities of SMEs for independently enhancing themselves. In the session at enterprises and factories they visited, the participants seemed to find the basics of management particularly in 5S activities and Kaizen activities. All of the participants were earnest and enjoyed training with an excellent team work.

One of the important tasks in supervising SMEs in their own countries is to make an improvement plan. During the training course, the participants made a plan (Action Plan) to improve their theme. After many times of repeated modification, they completed their own Action Plan: not a mere idea but a plan along logical QC lines. This seemed to be the greatest sense of accomplishment to every participant.

The work habits and cultures in the Latin America region differ from those in Japan. So the Japan-style method may not be applied as it is, but I hope that the participants will arrange their Action Plan according to manner of their own countries or organizations, and develop their own activities for supporting SMEs.



After a factory visit



Lecture in front of numerous bulletin board objects for company improvement

Introduction of Lively Activity of a Former Participant

■ Kazakhstan

Dr. Takatsugu UEYAMA, Course Leader

Former Participant **Mr. USHAKOV Vadim**

Training Course **Promotion of Energy Conservation in Industrial Sector**

Course Period Aug.08, 2015 to Sep.19, 2015

The “Promotion of Energy Conservation in Industrial Sector” course for Kazakhstan was held twice in 2015 and 2016.

Mr. Vadim was a participant in the 2015 training course and carried out an actual practice at Asia Auto Corp., which is an automobile assembly factory of knockdown production system. He was the most serious among the 12 participants and got the highest score in the examination to measure the training effect.

At that time, I gave him a special tribute to express my respect. After Mr. Vadim returned to his country, he seemed to achieve various plans under a superior who understood his work. I expect him to utilize the results of JICA training and achieve satisfactory results continuously in his country. Mr. Vadim, thank you for your letter. I expect great things of him in the future, looking forward to receiving the next report.



Example of improvement: 112V-fluorescent lamps were replaced with 72V-LED lamps.

■ Peru

Dr. Kozo KIDO, Course Leader

Former Participant **Mr. HUAYANAY E. Edgar Moises**

Training Course **Management of Composting Project (B)**

Course Period Aug.21, 2016 to Sep.22, 2016

The “JICA Management of Compost Project (B)” is a course intended for civil servants in Latin American countries. This course marked the 5th year in 2017. Mr. Edgar from Peru was the participant in FY2016. When we read the activity report after he returned to his country, we understood that he was expanding the experiences obtained through the JICA training course to other cities, such as positive promotion of environmental education and composting activities.

As for the introduction of livestock waste composting technology newly adopted in the Action Plan, I was glad as a course leader to hear that the results of training were useful for him in practicing this technology in cooperation with a university. I visited five participants in Costa Rica and El Salvador to follow up this course in December, 2016. The result of the composting course was really excellent, and all the participants were practicing their Action Plan positively by applying Takakura-type composting method. I felt the significance of the training course for Latin American countries.



Vegetables cultivated by use of compost produced in the Environment Preservation Center

Recent Activities for Overseas Development Cooperation

Support for Kitakyushu study tour of VJCC Haiphong Management Seminar

Toshikatsu MIYATA, Executive Technical Advisor

VJCC (Vietnam-Japan Institute for Human Resources Development) has actively been providing support to cultivate human resources capable of leading Vietnam's industrial sector. Subsequently to the management seminar in Hanoi City and Ho Chi Minh City and, in 2016, another management seminar started in Haiphong City, a sister city of Kitakyushu City.

The Haiphong Management Seminar provides a study tour in Japan for observing the actual state of management in Japan after nine months of classroom lectures. This time, the study tour mission visited Kitakyushu City, and KITA supported the study tour together with related divisions of the Kitakyushu Municipal Government.

The study tour in Kitakyushu City was held for the period from May 22 to 26, 2017, with twenty-five participants including entrepreneurs from Haiphong. The contents of the study included: (1) policies and measures of the Kitakyushu Municipal Government, (2) management strategies of enterprises, and (3) interaction with people of enterprises. In particular, during the visit to enterprises and the interaction with people there, active Q&A sessions and exchange of views were observed. In addition, because Haiphong City and Kitakyushu City are

sister cities, a courtesy call on Kenji KITAHASHI, the mayor of Kitakyushu City was realized, and all members of the mission looked so delighted.

The second study tour in Kitakyushu City in May 2018 is on schedule. We would like to support the study tour to make it more fulfilling, providing also the experiences specific to Kitakyushu City.



Visit to an enterprise
(Shabondama Soap Co., LTD.)



Courtesy call on the mayor of
Kitakyushu City
(Mayor Kitahashi to the leftmost,
with souvenirs
from Haiphong City)

Composting of food waste and establishment of recycle loop in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Shinsuke TAKEUCHI, Executive Technical Advisor

The Cameron Highlands of Malaysia is a region at an altitude of over 1,500m with rich nature. This region is famous for sightseeing and also a place of actively growing vegetables and fruits by utilizing the cool climate. However, vegetable or fruit residue (to be called food waste hereunder) has a lot of water content and cannot be treated in the local incineration plant. Therefore, the food waste needs to be transported to the final disposal site away about 200km from this region, causing serious environmental problems.

In this situation and under JICA's Support for SMEs Overseas Business Development = Project Formation Survey = the Merry Corporation conducted a survey in the Cameron Highlands for one year from November 2017 in order to establish a recycle loop for the organic growing of vegetables and fruits by composting the food waste and utilizing the compost produced.

The following shows the major items of survey.

(1) Survey on the establishment of separated food waste collection system

- (2) Survey on the compost production using separately collected food waste
- (3) Survey on the organic growing of vegetables using the produced composts
- (4) Survey on the sale and distribution of grown organic vegetables



Waste containing a lot
of vegetable garbage



Waste carrier vehicle
(Loading capacity: 20 tons)

A Trip to See Tobata Gion Yamagasa

Tatsuhiko TAKAI, Director, General Affairs Section

Members of FIVA (*1) organized a trip to see Tobata Gion Yamagasa for participants in the Water Environment Administration course on July 22, 2017.

The students from FIVA borrowed a Japanese-style room at JICA Kyushu on July 22 where they changed into yukata (summer kimono) before meeting up with the course participants in the seminar room.

The event began with everyone introducing themselves before being split into groups. However, when the course participants saw the kimono-clad students they clearly could not wait to have the opportunity to be dressed up in yukata themselves.

With the assistance of specialists in teaching people how to wear kimono properly, the participants were dressed in the yukata. They seemed to take great pride in their appearance and set off happily for Tobata, too delighted by the experience to be bothered by how the unfamiliar attire impeded their stride.

It was the first time that the festival had been held since being registered by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage and Tobata was very crowded despite the intense heat. The course participants and students were divided into several groups in which they took a closer look at the stalls lining the pathway to the shrine that took their fancy. In some groups the participants and students looked like friends and in others they seemed just like parents and children, but they all enjoyed the Japanese festival atmosphere.

As dusk falls, the noboriyama (floats decorated with flags) are transformed into chochin-yama (floats decorated with paper lanterns) and the timed race which is the main event begins. The course participants thoroughly enjoyed the stirring sight as the pyramids of light paraded past them.

Despite the intense heat and the crowded venue, and having to deal with packed trains on both legs of their journey, none of the participants displayed any signs of fatigue and they all told me how wonderful the festival was and what a great time they had. Although the program did not last long, I think that it was a very memorable day for everyone concerned.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the students, who not only took such good care of the participants but also prepared carefully for the trip by checking out the festival site earlier in the day.

*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.



Looking round the stalls



During the timed race

Thank You for All You Did for the KITA Training Course!

Experience of How Tough Hygiene Management Is in the Food Industry



SHINKO Co., Ltd.



Yasunori NAKASHIMA, Course Leader

We paid a visit to SHINKO Co., Ltd. as part of the training in the Capacity Development for Entrepreneurs and MSMEs Activation in African Countries course. SHINKO Co., Ltd. is a confectionery manufacturer in Kitakyushu.

Agriculture is the main industry in most regions of Africa, and how to provide added value in order to stimulate (local) industries is a huge challenge. Possible ways to do so would be to brand the raw materials themselves to add extra value, and to develop other uses for them by processing crops.

Our visit to SHINKO Co., Ltd. was to get hints that could be applied in such initiatives to add value to the agricultural commodities of the participants' countries, and also to learn about hygiene management in the food industry.

Food safety is a vital issue, particularly for developed countries, not just for Japan. It is an issue that will be increasingly important, not just for the participants' own countries but also if they consider expanding their sights overseas.

We were told that the basic principles of hygiene management are "not to bring any contaminants in", "not to allow contaminants to spread", and "to eliminate any contaminants". However, this was the first time for the participants to tour a factory where these principles are specifically implemented, and they were all amazed by the strictness of the series of procedures (described below) that were followed before entering the factory.

- (1) Undergo a health check via a questionnaire issued in advance → (2) Remove watches and bracelets prior to the guided tour → (3) Wear clean work clothes, hat, mask and sterilized footwear → (4) Use an adhesive roller to remove any hair or dust from the clothes → (5) Wash and dry hands → (6) Use an alcohol-based disinfectant on the fingers → (7) Pass through an air shower

There were lots of things to learn, such as how the procedures had been put into a manual in easy-to-understand diagrams, and the many ways to foolproof the process, such as the door of the air shower booth not opening until the previous person had finished and exited.

Usually food industry hygiene management means that

visitors observe the food processing from outside, but SHINKO Co., Ltd. allows us inside to get a close look at the actual work process and its management. Thanks to this tour of the production line, the participants were able to review what they had learned at their desks by seeing actual examples of such things as the active implementation of the 5S, which are the cornerstone of hygienic processing work, and of important management points being put into visual form.

SHINKO Co., Ltd. has helped us with our training several times in the past, and it is a very valuable place for field trips as participants always make new discoveries during their visit. I hope that SHINKO Co., Ltd. will continue to offer us their invaluable help, though I will make sure that we do not inconvenience them by asking for too many visits or on too large a scale.



Observing Production Line



Lecture by President KOSHINO



Group Photo after Training

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