

JICA Participants' Experience with the Earthquake and Tsunami in Tohoku Region

Six months after the unprecedented natural disaster in eastern Japan, the countermeasures taken in response to the calamity is attracting global attention, as it provides valuable lessons in development and disaster prevention. Likewise, increasing numbers of JICA Training and Dialogue Programs have incorporated site visits to disaster-stricken areas and lectures concerning the post-disaster activities and recovery efforts.



A scene of tsunami devastation at a residential district

While some of the existing courses have already introduced lectures concerning the disaster, on-site observation of the devastation and the attempts to overcome it should be the main focus of the participants of disaster-related training. For instance, the participants of the “Disaster Risk Management Technology on Volcanic Eruption, Debris Flow and Landslide” course (training period: July 13th to December 17th), had an opportunity to visit the city of Ishinomaki in the Miyagi Prefecture, which suffered the heaviest toll among disaster areas with 4,006 dead and missing at present. The study trip was taken on August 20th to observe the sites of destruction and reconstruction.



Participants at Ishinomaki Port



Port of Ishinomaki with ground subsidence

All of the participants were overwhelmed by the magnitude of the tsunami while on the road to Ishinomaki, as a professor from Tohoku University told them that the highway they were traveling on, which is some five kilometers away from the ocean, had served as a breakwater against the tsunami. The participants asked the



Participants listening to the explanation of the damages to the port

professor why the earthquake could not be predicted even though there were some indications, and why the Tohoku (northeast) Region had suffered three large tsunamis in the last 115 years. The discussions went on and on.

After their arrival in Ishinomaki, the participants vigorously investigated the landslide sites and the broken wharf of Ishinomaki Harbor, asking questions and taking photos. A Venezuelan participant said that he had previously gained attention for his report on his visit to Sakurajima, an active volcano in southern Japan, but that his next report on Ishinomaki would surely astonish his colleagues.

It seemed that full-scale reconstruction of ports and housing was yet to begin, but the participants witnessed road construction and other preparations for the reconstruction efforts. After the visit, the participants encouraged the people of Japan, saying that “Although a great deal of energy is needed for a full recovery, Japan will be all right.”



Toru SHIMODA, Director of Economic Infrastructure Development and Environment Division, JICA TOKYO

Toward Realizing Universal Service: Training in “Telecommunications Policy and Regulations”

“My family told me not to go to Japan, but I’ve always had a longing for it, and I wanted to come to Japan more than ever at this moment when the country is working toward recovery from the natural disaster.” These are the words of Mr. Nacif from Brazil, who participated in the “Telecommunications Policy and Regulations” course.



Participants observing TV program production

Coping with the “digital divide” issue, JICA Tokyo implements this Training and Dialogue Program aimed at the realization of “universal service” that will bring information to all people equally. With many foreigners leaving Japan due to fear of radioactivity, five participants from Brazil and Indonesia took part in this year’s course from June 21st to July 9th. Below I describe the program’s study trip to Hyogo Prefecture.

The first visit was to Asago, a city in mountains where antennas will only allow radio waves to reach 40% of the population of 33,000. Accordingly, CATV (cable television) is in common use, with 97% of the households subscribing to CATV, that not only provides TV programs but also disaster warning and internet services. The participants engaged in a lively exchange of views with the CATV personnel, asking questions on such points as where the finances come from, whether there have been cases in which internet-via-CATV has stimulated local economy. They also expressed their interest saying “It’s a good method you have – providing just the services that users need at low price, even though the transmission speed is slow.”



A course participant in a CATV studio

Next, the course participants went on to the city of Kobe, where they visited the Prefectural Government and NTT (Nippon Telegraph and Telephone) West Corporation, learning about the prefecture’s initiatives and its collaborations with the private sector. One of the prefecture’s notable initiatives is its Hyogo

Information Highway Network, that enables information sharing between the Prefectural Government and various cities in the prefecture. Though it is basically utilized by local governments, the surplus portion of the network capacity is loaned out free of charge to private enterprises, but limited to particular cases as the use should “be of help in reducing the local digital divide.” Some participants gave big nods of approval when told that the Asago CATV was connected to this network.

In addition to the efforts to eliminate the digital divide, the Hyogo Information Highway reflects the lessons of the Great Hanshin Earthquake by functioning as a mechanism that can provide stable services in any situation, including natural disasters. The measures against the disasters include building an operating center that is in a state of readiness 24 hours a day all year round, using buildings that can withstand large quakes, laying network cables that pass underground so as not to be cut by an earthquake, and installing uninterruptable power supply equipment and power generators.

Before visiting the Prefectural Government, the participants visited Hokudan Earthquake Memorial Park, where they obtained information on the huge extent of the quake damage, and it was impressive to see the earnest look in their eyes when it was explained to them at the prefectural offices that the prefecture was attempting to provide “Universal Services” equally to all people both in normal times and in times of emergency. Their sincerity gave me an idea that the day may not be far away when people of all kinds will be equally able to obtain information in the same way in the Amazonian forests of Brazil and in the islands of Indonesia, in Tokyo, in Asago, and elsewhere.

Yuko SOMEYA, Economic Infrastructure Development and Environment Division, JICA TOKYO



A participant observing exhibits of Great Hanshin Earthquake



Participants and a fault caused by the earthquake in 2005

A Gift from Ex-participants and their pupils to the people of Japan



Rajanukul Institute in Bangkok

After the Great East Japan Earthquake and the tsunami hit the northern Honshu Island of Japan, the entire world was worried about the Japanese people. The participants of JICA's Training and Dialogue Programs who had returned to their home countries were among the most concerned about the situation in Japan. The ex-participants of the "Intellectual Disability in Community Activity" course, for example, quickly responded to the post-crisis situation through internet communication, mainly via their mailing list. The mailing list was originally prepared as part of a follow-up cooperation for the course, and was used as an instrument to check on the safety of the ex-participants' instructors and fellows. After confirming the safety of the concerned people, the ex-participants discussed on the mailing list what they could do to give relief to the Japanese people.

Consulting with the implementing organization of the "Intellectual Disability in Community Activity" course, Japan League on Development Disabilities (JLDD), they got a suggestion that through Rajanukul Institute, a governmental institution in Bangkok, Thailand that provides assistance and treatment for children



A pupil of Rajanukul Institute drawing a big heart

with intellectual disabilities under twenty years of age, they should send to the Japanese people some messages and pictures by the children with disabilities, along with some donation they collect. Endorced by Dr. Panpimol Wipulakorn, Director of Rajanukul Institute and Dr. Raunkaew Kanokpongsakdi, the vice-director, this idea of donation was carried out by the ex-participants working at the Institute, together with other staff members such as art therapists, administration staff and parents of the children. They helped the pu-



Pupils showing their works

pils of the Institute draw ornamental pictures, wrote encouraging messages and managed to send them to Japan.

The ex-participants of Rajanukul Institute sent JICA Tokyo the pictures that were subsequently transferred to the JLDD, along with the donation of 54 thousand yens. Selection of the organization to donate the pictures was left to JLDD staff, who chose Minori-en, a facility that houses about ninety persons with intellectual disabilities and provides life support services as well as assistance for finding jobs. Minori-en in the city of



Pictures sent to JICA from Thailand

Natori in Miyagi Prefecture, suffered the complete loss of its building by the tsunami, but fortunately, all the people at Minori-en were safe.

On September 4th, the pictures were handed to the representative of Minori-en at a summer festival organized by JLDD and other welfare organizations for tsunami victims that include persons with disabilities. Upon receiving the pictures, the representative of Minori-en thanked the people of Thailand for their support and told that they were encouraged by the gift, thinking of Thai children with disabilities having sympathy to them. It was such a wonderful opportunity to feel clearly the bond between those who suffered in the disaster and the people around the world who support them.



The other side of the pictures



Scene of presentation of the gift

JICA Tokyo extends its deepest appreciation to the ex-participants at Rajanukul Institute, the JLDD staff members and the people of Thailand. Thank you so much!

JICA Tokyo's Training and Dialogue

Disaster Nursing and Rehabilitation Course in Asia



Over recent years, natural disasters have occurred in many countries – not only in Japan, but also in Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Hence, it is now an urgent task for medical institutions, whose aim is to save as many lives as possible, to establish first-response systems for disasters (comprising triage, emergency medical care, acute-phase treatment, acute-phase infection prevention measures, preparation of supplies, emergency notification systems, and so forth).

The occurrence of the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995 was the occasion for a strengthening of Japan's disaster-preparedness into an organized system linking hospitals and public administration agencies. In the countries in Asia and Middle East concerned in the training, namely China, Iran, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam however, there are many regions where such a system has not yet been established. Also, where disasters cause large-scale damage, support over the long term will be required for rehabilitation of victims (rehabilitation for disease and disability, mental care) and recovery of regions. But in developing countries, disaster aid will likely be limited to the acute phase, and in many regions there is no provision of support measures or healthcare services for rehabilitation leading from the hospital in the acute phase to regions and homes in the recovery phase. This will be a factor that increases the numbers of persons with disabilities failing to reintegrate into society, and bedridden patients, in those regions.



Against such background, this course will place emphasis on rehabilitation activities from the perspective of establishing a first-response system of core hospitals and transitioning from the acute phase to mid- and long-term regional healthcare, and will use lectures, observation visits, and exercises. For example, the course will include instruction on collaboration systems for hospitals and regional public administration, on rehabilitation for families, and on how to popularize these; human relations and team management in organizations; hospital observation visits, and disaster drill exercises.

Through these, the course will aim to provide the participants with basic orientations for the methods of implementing continuous disaster medical care, nursing and rehabilitation services in the period from disaster occurrence through the recovery phase at their hospitals.

Hosting this course this year from October 4th to November 5th is the International Nursing Foundation of Japan (INFJ). Founded in 1971, INFJ has the purpose of conducting health/medical care/nursing regional cooperation and technological cooperation activities, particularly with regard to developing nations. Since 1973, it has implemented nursing training as one of its core operations.



With its long years of experience in implementing training for nursing personnel in developing nations and implementing emergency assistance for hospitals in major earthquake-stricken areas, as well as expertise in disaster nursing management, INFJ will be providing the knowledge and technological expertise necessary for this course.

Kumiko TAKEMORI, Human Development Division, JICA TOKYO

Programs October-December 2011

Bond Market Development in ASEAN Countries



The global financial crisis of 2008 has attracted the world's attention onto the financial market to an unprecedented degree. Fluctuations in financial markets have had huge impact not only on securities but also on the real economy. Until now, the world economy has not fully recovered from the shock brought by the crisis; credibility of government bonds vis-à-vis economic fundamentals and fiscal management has come under close scrutiny as in Europe and the United States. All these show that a sound and stable financial system is a crucial factor in economic growth.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has a successful record of providing Asian countries with technical assistance in capital market development. For Japan, though, capital market development assistance has been limited to certain countries. As such, we have collaborated with ADB to carry out the seminar on "Bond Market Development in ASEAN Countries" from November 13th to 26th." This seminar aims to help ASEAN countries in developing their respective markets through the lessons learned from Japan's experience.

Since the Asian financial crisis in 1997, importance has been placed on development of bond markets to diversify the sources of funds and in effect reduce dependence on bank loans and mitigate funding risks in face of financial stress. In addition, a well developed bond market is conducive to management of government funds in emergency situations. The Japanese government, for instance, recently is in need of financial resources for recovery from the Great East Japan Earth Quake. The country's bond market is able to facilitate the swift procurement of funds via new government bond issuances.

In this sense, the seminar will touch upon the function of bond financing for infrastructure projects and reconstruction after natural disaster. It may provide participants from ASEAN countries with an insight of its role in supporting disaster management—among the selection of lessons. The seminar will also include discussions about the "Lessons from Europe Sovereign Debt Crisis: Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA)"; "Methodologies applied in developing action plans for bond market development: coaching experience"; and "Improving the liquidity of the secondary market: an investment banker's perspectives".

Keiji EHARA, Industrial Development and Finance Division, JICA TOKYO



Course Leader and the Participants of 2010 course

Message from Asian Development Bank

ADB and JICA jointly conduct the seminar on Bond Market Development in ASEAN Countries since 2007. This seminar offers "hands-on" learning experience that concentrates on equipping the participants with knowledge and skills in international standards and good practices for developing the bond market. Participants take part in group discussions and are expected to deliberate feasible and tailor-made action plans for the progress of their individual bond markets—especially for countries where bond markets have yet to be constructed. Participating institutions are encouraged to take advantage of the training event to improve their capacities in this area.



ADB Headquarters in Metro Manila

Mr. Jen-Chun Hsieh, Financial Sector Specialist, Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI), Asian Development Bank

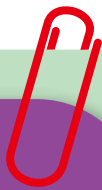
Ms. Julaenie Lachele Go, Project Coordinator, Office of Regional Economic Integration (OREI), Asian Development Bank

Asian Development Bank and its Development Cooperation

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is an international development financing institution founded in 1966 to help economic growth and cooperation and to contribute to the economic development of the Asia-Pacific Region. Having its headquarters in Metro Manila, Philippines, ADB constitutes of 67 member countries, among which 48 are from Asia and the Pacific and 19 are from outside the region.



In addition to investments in building economic infrastructures, ADB engages in funding of loans, grants and technical assistance for social development, education, environmental protection, health-care and other sectors to fight poverty in Asia and the Pacific. ADB and JICA have been working together for the development of the region not only through co-financing, but also in coordination of technical assistance such as this Training and Dialogue Program.



The Highlight of Upcoming Cultural and Recreational Events **October-December 2011**

● Home Stay Program

**October
22(SAT)-23(SUN)**



A Participant with her host family

Have you ever wondered how ordinary Japanese families live? Maybe it's like your family, or maybe it's much different. Why don't you find it out for yourself? JICA Tokyo offers you a chance to stay with a Japanese family over one night in collaboration with the Hippo Family Club. Your host family might not speak English or your mother language very well but they will welcome you as if you are a member of the family! All the participants who joined this program enjoyed sharing language and culture as well as making a new family in Japan. Curiosity and a little bravery will lead you to a wonderful experience with a Japanese family!!!



Another host family arranged by Hippo Family Club

● Tea Ceremony with Koto Music

**October 28(FRI)
18:45~20:30**



The *koto* master playing at the Tea Ceremony

Enjoy the flavor of tea while listening to the sound of *koto*. A luxurious way to experience Japanese culture. *Koto* is a traditional Japanese 13-stringed instrument. For the first 15 minutes, we will listen to *koto* music. Then we will have a tea ceremony with a tea master and her students, who will prepare fine Japanese tea served with seasonal Japanese sweets until the end of the event. In case you miss the first 15 minutes, no worries! The *koto* musician will continue to play during the Tea Ceremony. Both those who want to taste Japanese tea and those who only want to listen to *koto* music are welcome to participate.



Participants receiving tea

● IKEBANA – Japanese Flower Arrangement –

**December 9(FRI)
19:00~20:30**



An *Ikebana* master teaching a participant

Do you think that *ikebana* is an activity only for the ladies? If so, you are wrong! In ancient times, *ikebana* culture was developed by *Samurai* warriors and until the beginning of the Meiji era (1870s), men were the main actors in forming this culture. After that period, it became more popular among ladies. Although it's held once a year and only 20 participants can join this class, JICA Tokyo's *Ikebana* class is open to every participant who is interested in Japanese Flower Arrangement. We invited the *ikebana* master from the Sogetsu school, one of the largest *ikebana* schools, so that you can learn the techniques and ideas of *ikebana* culture. Let's learn about Japanese flower arrangement!!



Tomomi NISHIGAKI, Administration Division, JICA TOKYO



Would Soaking in a Hot Spring Help You Understand the Japanese?



Dogo Onsen in Ehime Prefecture, one of the oldest hot springs in Japan

Since olden times, the Japanese have been known for their fondness for hot springs, or *onsen* in Japanese. Japan has lots of volcanoes, and so hot springs all over the country. The earliest Japanese history books, written some 1300 years ago, tell of the emperors of ancient times visiting hot springs and of the illnesses of the deities being healed by hot springs. The people of the distant past considered the phenomenon of hot water welling up from underground to be the work of gods, and came to worship them.

In the middle ages, the medicinal effects of hot springs became popularly recognized, and from about 17th century on, the common people too began to soak in hot springs for the purpose of healing their illnesses or injuries. Accordingly, spas were set up at various places across Japan, creating valuable opportunities for travel even for the common people. Opportunities for ordinary citizens to travel increased enormously as a result of the economic development from the latter half of the 19th century, and in many cases the destinations were hot springs. As excavating techniques advanced, springs were struck in places where they had not been known before, enabling hot spring resorts to be created which met the growing demand. Subsequently the purpose of going to hot springs changed from health enhancement to mainly amusement and tourism. Nowadays a vast number of tourism spots throughout Japan have hot springs, which bustle with people on family trips, school trips, and of course, foreign tourists. There are also many modern hot spas in cities, with the hot water being drawn up from deep under them.



Oedo Onsen Monogatari (Story of Hot Spring in Great Edo)



Beppu in Oita Prefecture is a hot spring resort city with largest number of hot springs in Japan

The Kanto Plain, in which Tokyo lies, is outside the volcanic zone and so there are no hot springs of long

standing in Tokyo. To visit a spa with a traditional *onsen* atmosphere, you have to go on a day trip out to a spa town. Places that you can get to from JICA Tokyo within two hours include the Hakone, Atami and Isawa Hot Springs. However, there are also some places in Tokyo where you can savor the hot spring experience. Let us introduce one. It's the "Oedo Onsen Monogatari", located in Tokyo's highly fashionable Odaiba area. This is not simply a facility for bathing –instead, it is a theme park recreating a town in Edo, or Tokyo of olden times, where you can spend a whole day's activities with an entrance fee of 2900 yens, enjoying hot spa, meals and shopping, so it should be a good place to enjoy a memorable time. For more details, visit the following website:

<http://www.oedoonsen.jp/higaeri/english/index.html>



Inside Oedo Onsen Monogatari

There is in fact a hot spring close to JICA Tokyo, in the Sasazuka Shopping Street. But having said that, it is called "Sakae-yu" and the "hot spring" inside it is almost like an ordinary public bathhouse. For anyone who wants to experience the atmosphere of a Japanese public bath, it may be worth a look. But as foreigners are not very usual in such places, we advise caution to anyone who goes. You go into the bath just holding a towel, and soak in the hot water after first washing yourself in a washing area. It's against the rules to soak your towel in the hot water, or soaking yourself into it before rinsing soap off your body.



Ashiyu, or foot bath at Oedo Onsen Monogatari

Besides the above, there are other hot springs that you can reach on a day trip from Hatagaya station without changing trains – Chofu for example. For those of you who are curious, why not go to one and see how it is? There is a phrase in Japanese, *Hadaka no tsukiai*, literally a naked relationship, that means soaking in a hot bath together having an intimate relation with nothing to hide between each other. It may be true that soaking in a hot spring with Japanese people will help you to understand Japan well.

Tatsuaki INOUE,
Administration Division, JICA TOKYO

JICA TOKYO's Continuous Efforts in Energy Saving



Green Curtain of bitter melon at JICA Tokyo

During this summer, all major organizations, public and private, were required to cut electricity use by at least 15%, due to the electricity shortage caused by the nuclear plant failure in Fukushima. One of JICA Tokyo's attempts to meet this requirement, was to grow "green curtains," or creeper plants, namely cucumber, bitter melon, and morning glory on the windows of the lobby, lounge, connecting corridor between the dormitory building and the main hall. The purpose of the curtains was to utilize the cooling effect of the plants, as well as the shade they create to reduce the electricity use of air conditioning.

One of JICA Tokyo's participants, Mr. Moucka Mulumba, was impressed to see how fast the cucumber grew and asked the JICA Tokyo staff what the secret of its growth was. The secret is ... the staff's loving care of plants and the environment!



Mr. Moucka Mulumba from Democratic Republic of the Congo

If you checked in at JICA Tokyo before the end of September, you must have seen the green curtains as a good reminder of the necessity to save energy.

Even if you don't ever see them, please keep in mind that we are still in a difficult situation, and that you must cooperate in saving energy by frequently switching off the lights, and using stairs instead of elevators.

Thank you for your cooperation!

MUSEUMS

VENEZIA —Ritratto di Venezia—Mille Anni di Storia

Though now one of the cities of Italy, Venice (Venezia) formerly enjoyed freedom and independence up until falling to Napoleon's invasion in 1797. Dubbed the "Queen of the Adriatic" for its beauty, it has enchanted great numbers of people. A city that is itself a work of art, Venice has been a home to large numbers of artists, who have brought forth countless artworks. In the 16th century the city was one of the major arenas of the Renaissance, attracting artists and leisured people from all over Europe. In 1897, Venice was inscribed as a World Heritage site. Currently it is a tourist spot visited by twenty million people a year. Besides artworks including paintings of the Venetian school, this exhibition presents 140 varied exhibits which explicate the city's governance, republicanism and other aspects of its political system in former times, evoke the lifestyle of its aristocracy, and throw other light on things Venetian.



サン・マルコのライオン(ヴィットーレ・カルパッチョ)
1516年 ドゥカレレ宮殿 © ヴェネツィア市立美術館群財団

Place: Edo-Tokyo Museum (江戸東京博物館)
1 Floor Exhibition Room
● 3 mins walk from West Exit of Ryogoku Station on JR Sobu Line,
● 1 min walk from A4 Exit of Ryogoku Station on Toei Oedo Subway Line
Date: Sep. 23 (Fri)-Dec. 11 (Sun)
Time: 9:30~17:30 Saturdays until 19:30 (Last entry until 30 minutes before closing)
Admission: ¥1,400

Ukiyo-e War Picture Scroll

~ Castles and Military Commanders

Ukiyo-e is a form of woodblock prints which became established in the Edo Era (1603 to 1868). Famous *ukiyo-e* prints deal with actors, beautiful women, and scenery as their subject matter. But there are also quite a few which depict the war-torn era, the period preceding Edo Era, which lasted from the 15th century into the 16th century.

This period of the Warring States was one when the authority of the central government weakened until there was no longer anyone who obeyed it, and the powerful *daimyo* territorial lords vied with one another for mastery, each trying to unify Japan under his own rule. The warlords who lived in this period, and the innumerable battles it witnessed, retain their popularity even today, being depicted in TV dramas, historical novels and other forms. Likewise the *ukiyo-e* artists of the Edo Era spurred their imaginations to create portraits of these people of former times and compelling pictures of battles that they had never seen. These were works which enjoyed wide popularity.

This exhibition features famous castles and Warring States warlords as depicted in *ukiyo-e*, enabling the visitors to understand how *Ukiyo-e* artists used their imagination to depict the historic figures and events.



本朝名将鑑
武田太膳大夫信玄
(歌川芳員)

Place: Ota Memorial Museum of Art (太田記念美術館)
● 3 mins walk from Exit 5 of Meiji Jingumae (Harajuku) Station on Subway Chiyoda Line
● 5 min walk from Omotesando Exit of Harajuku Station on JR Yamanote Line
Date: Oct. 1(Sat)-Nov. 27(Sun), Closed between Oct. 27-31
Time: 10:30~17:30 (Saturdays until 19:30)
Admission: ¥1,000