

Something for Everyone

*Environment, Firefighting, Law,
Piracy, Nursing, Agriculture*



Combating Piracy

JICA cooperates with the Japan Coast Guard to provide training for officials from Asia, India, the Middle East and Africa in the latest crime fighting techniques to prevent piracy on the high seas, review international legal systems and view the latest ships, aircraft and other equipment employed by the Coast Guard.

If There Is a Problem, There's a Program to Fix It



Natal care and new engineering techniques

IT IS A QUIET AND BUCOLIC PART OF JAPAN with rolling mountains and deep forests. Rocky islands are dotted around the jagged bays and holiday hotels and seaside homes cling to their sides.

As Japan rapidly rebuilt itself in the wake of World War II, the region suffered an industrial and social catastrophe. Babies were born deformed. Locals complained of an array of illnesses from loss of smell to headaches.

After a lengthy investigation it was discovered that a local chemical company had been leaching mercury waste into the once pristine bay around Minamata City. The prized centuries-old shellfish and fish diet of the region had turned deadly, the fish becoming a carrier of what subsequently became known as Minamata disease. More than 12,000 persons were victims, 1,246 of them died. Minamata itself may have suffered a similar fate after such a disaster.

Instead, the city has reinvented itself. It became the first Japanese city to encompass environmental management into its planning and today is one of 13 urban centers certified by the government as an Eco Model City.

A Global Message

AND AS COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WORLD, particularly in developing countries, are becoming increasingly urbanized and industrialized and face potentially similar hazards, Minamata City has trans-

Continued on page 10



It is reputedly the world's largest training program of its kind.



Money laundering: Liaising with Japanese law officials

Who is Winning the Global Battle Against Corruption?

Corruption is everywhere.

In so-called failed states such as Somalia it is endemic to every aspect of daily life—bribes to remain safe, buy food, visit a clinic or even to be buried in peace and dignity.

Conflicts breed breathtaking scandals and even in developed countries there is sophisticated racketeering or money laundering.

Those hazards are well known and documented but Transparency International, a civil society formed in 1993 to both track and suggest remedies to corruption, in regular annual reports has highlighted corrupt practices in areas such as water management, hospital administration and pharmaceuticals.

The global financial crisis was fertile territory for further massive corruption and in its recently released 2010 annual report, Transparency International said corruption has even involved itself in the battle to alleviate climate change, an area it describes as “perhaps the most complex global governance challenge the world has ever faced.”

The bill is staggering. Price-fixing cartels between 1990-2005 caused direct economic losses to consumers through overcharging an estimated \$300 billion, according to Transparency International's 2009 report.

In developing countries, it said, corrupt politicians and government officials receive between \$20-40 billion in bribes annually.

Officials in highly developed countries such as Japan admit even there it is a constant, and often losing battle where thieves can often deploy both the latest technology and some of the savviest brains to challenge law authorities.

In developing countries, the situation is often much worse with legal and law enforcement departments often understaffed and lacking modern technology.

A group of some 23 officials including judges, auditors, and public prosecutors from countries in Africa, Latin and Central America, Asia and the Pacific as well as Japan attended a three-month program aimed at sharing experiences, gaining knowledge in specific areas and examining concrete measures which they might employ in their home countries through a series of lectures, discussion sessions, workshops and observation visits.

Operated by JICA in conjunction with the U.N. Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, specific topics examined including the bribery of national, foreign and international organizations, embezzlement, bribery in the private sector, money laundering, concealment and obstruction of justice.

Participants, mainly middle and high ranking officials, said in addition to being exposed to the most sophisticated crime fighting technology, one of the most important as-

pects of the course was simply exchanging information and ideas.

Brazilian state attorney Douglas Moreno said he was surprised to learn that countries such as Thailand imposed the death penalty for some forms of corruption. He had learned from experts from Hong Kong and Singapore the necessity of close cooperation between all law enforcement departments, but in a country as vast as Brazil, this must first be implemented at the local level before being transferred to the national stage.

“How can we fight corruption if everybody is doing it?” asked Philippine state prosecutor Marmarie Satin-Vivas. “It's getting harder and harder to detect corruption and we have been too reactive.”

She added, “We must institute a change of attitude and work ethic. We need the political will to change the system” and she said the training program was particularly timely because her country was pursuing the adoption of a far-reaching Freedom of Information act which would help combat corruption.

Samarage Jaysundara, a senior state counsel from Sri Lanka, said the concept of protecting so-called ‘whistle-blowers’—people who inform on colleagues involved in corruption—was a totally new concept in her country and well worth pursuing.

All participants were expected to share their newly acquired expertise and even train other colleagues when they return home.

Eight Million Fires a Year. HELP!



Firefighters learn the ropes

Men in smart blue dungarees and white helmets move briskly across the parade ground in small squads. Others stand at attention in smart ranks as instructors bark a series of commands in a language unintelligible to a casual observer.

Some absail from the roofs of buildings, climb precariously high ladders or administer to 'casualties' on stretchers.

The recent scene in Kitakyushu City had all the hallmarks of a military boot camp, but the participants were in fact firemen—instructors from the local fire department and a group of 'pupils' from Myanmar, Armenia, Jamaica and the island of St. Christopher-Nevis in the Caribbean.

This was the latest training course in firefighting techniques, first established by JICA in 1988 and one of its oldest programs. **Firemen from nearly 80 countries have undergone instruction** in that time.

It may not fit easily into the generally accepted views of development such as infrastructure construction or education, but firefighting is playing an increasingly central role in helping to maintain viable and sustainable communities, enhancing the concept of 'human security.'

For the first time in human history, more people now live in urban areas than in rural communities and megacities are springing up across the globe—particularly in the developing world.

In such often crowded and chaotic social conditions, fires are both more prevalent and

more complex to control.

Recent statistics from the International Center for Fire Statistics estimated that there are between 7-8 million fires annually, some 70,000-80,000 fire related deaths and nearly one million injuries.

Efficient fire services are indispensable to a cohesive community, the most spectacular example being the role played by firemen in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York when firemen helped rescue untold numbers of terrified office workers and paid a terrible price in the number of deaths and injuries they themselves suffered.

Less well known perhaps and at the other end of the scale, the fire service department is the only government organization responsible for any disaster in Myanmar, a country notoriously susceptible to natural calamities and where in 2009 a single cyclone, Nargis, killed tens of thousands of persons and wrecked large segments of the economy within a few short hours.

Japan is another country prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes and has developed one of the world's most sophisticated firefighting networks, making it an ideal 'teacher' in firefighting techniques.

The participants to the latest course were duly impressed with the most sophisticated equipment available, but were equally absorbed by other aspects of the three-month program.

"In Myanmar we have very little of the lat-

est equipment," said Myo Aung Myint, a platoon commander in that country's Fire Services Department. "But here we can learn a lot of techniques which don't need a lot of money."

Following the intense training, participants were expected to develop individual action plans which they could develop once they returned home. The various submissions reflected both the diversity of the course itself and the different needs in individual countries.

Firefighters from both St. Kitts and Nevis and Myanmar hope to introduce new rope techniques and indoor search and rescue techniques to their respective organizations.

Recognizing increased urbanization in Jamaica, fire station assistant superintendent Rudolph Wayne Seaton highlighted the need for more training to combat fires in medium and high-rise buildings.

Khachik Shmavonyan from the Armenian Rescue Service said he would concentrate on improving first-aid capabilities and other participants stressed the needs for better safety control and theory of command, improved fire investigation procedures, safety controls and fire prevention systems.

One area all of the participants were impressed with was perhaps the most basic aspect of the training. **"The discipline and the organization here is awesome,"** said fire officer Rommel Renford Williams from St. Christopher-Nevis. "We all need to learn from that."

There are some 70,000-80,000 fire related deaths annually, and nearly one million injuries.