

Electric Power Forum for Asia

From assistance by government to promotion of private-sector cooperation

In recent years, each country of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has shown rapid economic growth. Although a temporary slowdown due to the global recession has been seen, there is no doubt that development will continue in medium- and long-term trends and electric power will of course play a leading role to sustain it.

"To cover rapidly increasing demands for funds resulting from power development, we would like to introduce Japanese private investments actively." Such strong expectations were expressed one after another from Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos after descriptions of the situation of the structural reform of the power industry were given from each country. On the other hand, a visitor who came from a Japanese power company commented at a get-together held after the seminar, "In order to enter the power business, it is indispensable for them to raise credibility of the investment environment. From today's discussion, it has become clear that improvement of legal systems for promoting private investment has been going on rapidly in each country. There is no doubt that these countries will become promising investment markets for Japanese power companies and firms."

It is important to give assistance in accordance with the actual situation of each country and the same can be said of the field of structural reform of electric power supply. JICA implements various country-specific aid projects to each country. But international cooperation is not completed by JICA alone. Whether or not JICA's aid produces fruitful results depends largely upon effective use of energy in the private sector.

Electric power is essential for economic development. But do you know that when an economic growth rate and the growth rate of electric power demand are compared, the latter is higher? This has been known from Japan's past experience. For example, if 5% economic growth is to be attained, demand for electric power is likely to be higher than 5%.

Every ASEAN country which expects economic development is facing in common an urgent issue of how to secure the huge funds that are needed for increasing the power supply, such as for building power plants. No country has any leeway in public finance and none can depend on public funds alone. As a result, how to introduce private funds becomes the key. To this end, first of all, it is necessary to establish the basis for introducing private funds and that means structural reform of electric power sector.

At JICA Tokyo, an open seminar "Electric Power Forum for Asia" was held on March 12, 2009, inviting six high-ranking officials of ministries administering electric power businesses from five ASEAN countries: Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Viet Nam and Laos. At the seminar, a panel discussion was held including Japanese experts on how to solve the above mentioned issue and in what way Japan can cooperate. The venue was packed by nearly a hundred people related to the power business on the Japanese side who listened attentively to their discussion.

From unilateral assistance by government to bilateral cooperation promotion by the private sector by providing a place for information exchange and creation of networks between developing countries and Japanese parties concerned, this open seminar is but the first step towards that goal. A new form of international cooperation has surely begun.

Hiroyuki MATSUDA

Industrial Development and Finance Division,
JICA Tokyo



Mixed, it's waste; separated, it's resources and

The ozone layer is located from ten to fifteen kilometers above the Earth's surface. This layer absorbs most of the harmful ultraviolet radiation emitted from the Sun and protects life on this planet. And it is known that this ozone layer is destroyed by the fluorocarbons which are used for cooling of household electric appliances and as a blowing agent for aerosol sprays. When it is destroyed, the amount of harmful ultraviolet radiation increases and results in adverse effects on human bodies and ecosystems.

For this reason, in an international framework to deal with the environmental issue of depletion of the ozone layer, all countries of the world decided to ban the production and import of fluorocarbons by the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1985 and by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987.



The participants of the "Seminar on Ozone Layer Protection"

The "Seminar on Ozone Layer Protection" has been conducted at JICA Tokyo since 1990 to deal with this issue. It targets administrative officers in developing countries who are in charge of ozone layer protection to learn measures taken in Japan for ozone protection. In the seminar held from January to February 2009, five participants from four countries, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and China took part.

The day when we visited this seminar, the participants were visiting Tokyo Eco Recycle Co., Ltd. in Shin-kiba to see the recycling system for home appliances. Japan



enacted such laws as the "Law Concerning Recovery and Destruction of Fluorocarbons" and the "Home appliance Recycling Law" for recovery and destruction of fluorocarbons used in home appliances and they stipulate implementation of appropriate recovery and destruction of these substances contained in products during their disposal.

Consumers who discard home appliances are obliged to cooperate in appropriately transferring used appliances to retailers in order to ensure recycling, agreeing to pay necessary fees for collection, shipping and recycling of those appliances. Then used appliances are sent to a recycling plant. At the recycling plant they are deconstructed down to a single cable and those parts that can be used again are processed to reusable forms and brought to a manufacturing plant of household appliances to be used again as raw materials.



The recycling plant

serves as measures against global warming.



Computer Screens

The used appliances are separated into each parts



Motherboards

Ms. Maria Graciela Garau participated in this seminar from Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina. Since her country is located near the southern polar region which is susceptible to the influence of ozone layer depletion, damage to the people's health has already arisen.

She said, "I was surprised that consumers bear the cost of disposal when they discard household appliances. And I was very much surprised to see waste products were carefully separated to be used again as resources and measures against environmental problems are established as a business."

Mr. Hideo Nakamizu, lecturer and president of Tokyo Eco Cycle Co., Ltd. said, "In recent years, the term "urban mine" has been in the news. It is the concept of recycling useful materials which exist in home appliances discarded in large amounts as waste in cities. Under such a concept, Japan is a rare country where recycling of household appliances and environmental measures are established as a business."



Participants listen intently to the explanation of Mr. Nakamizu, the president of Tokyo Eco Cycle Co., Ltd.

Although measures against environmental problems are difficult issues that cannot be solved easily, the setup based on the idea "mixed, it's waste; separated, it's resources and serves also as measures against global warming" that the participants learned from this visit must have given them hints for their future activities in tackling ozone layer protection measures in their respective countries.



Earnest discussion between the participants and Ms. Ozawa, the course coordinator

Hiroaki ADACHI
Industrial Development and
Finance Division, JICA Tokyo



Here Comes JICA Long Term Participants!

-Aogashima International Friendship Program-



Aogashima is a small island of 180 residents. One day in February, two of the long term participants, Mr. Jerome from Tanzania and Mr. Mahmud from Syria, visited the only school in the island for international exchange. And now, how was their visit? How was the response of the students?



I was happy to tell them how to make Origami.

I taught them how to make a train by origami.

Grade1



Mr. Jerome and I played with a train.

Grade4 I was pleased to have a precious experience of talking with foreigners.

During the class about Syria, I got to know about the "water pipe". In the class about Tanzania, we learned Tanzanian songs, stories and dance. The dance was easy and my body moved spontaneously.

We also danced the traditional dance in Aogashima and both of them were great at it. I was so glad that they came to our island. It was a great chance to learn some things I never knew.



Grade4 In February, we had an international friendship meeting with JICA participants. Mahmud san from Syria served us some ginger cookies and we ate them. They were delicious. Jerome san gave us a chance to wear the Tanzanian traditional clothes.

I was so happy that Jerome san and Mahmud san came to Aogashima. For two days we played together and studied each other's countries. I enjoyed learning what I didn't know.



Grade4 In the International Friendship Program, Mahmud san from Syria, Jerome san from Tanzania and Nakazawa san who spoke fluent Tanzanian came to our island. I was so surprised when I saw Mahmud san because he was very tall.

In Jerome san's class, we enjoyed listening to interesting stories. The most interesting story was like this;

One day a Rabbit was very hungry and looking for food. Then, he found a bunch of bananas far up on the tree. He tried to jump to reach them but it was not easy. Finally, he gave up and said "I don't like them because they are not ripe". The Rabbit went away. It was a very interesting story.

"The Splendor of Nature and Generous Hospitality"

The trip was one of the most interesting trips I've ever taken; I think it's a chance to enjoy the splendor of nature and experience the Japanese culture.

The life in the island is an amazing mix of simplicity and modernity. In addition, I was stunned by the hospitality and kindness of the people.

The food was various and all delicious, in spite of the difference of tastes compared to what I used to eat in my country and even in Tokyo. They are characterized with diverse flavors of seafood in addition to their remarkable pickles.

I think it is a worthy place to be visited. Everyone will be dazzled when they visit Aogashima!



(Syria)



Mr. Mahmod Muhsen

"Aogashima Community is Waiting for You to Come"

The trip to Aogashima island provided a good opportunity for me and the Aogashima community as we exchanged the understanding of our countries, Tanzania and Japan. The beauty of Aogashima with its magnificent volcanic scenery is among the many things that will always remind me the good times I had in Japan. I suggest that the Aogashima community should be given opportunities to visit other places like JICA centers to meet more foreigners, and also to visit foreign countries, especially those where the participants who have visited Aogashima come from. I hope more participants will join this Aogashima friendship program.



(Tanzania)



Mr. Jerome Mghase

Message from ex JICA Participant

Dr. ABDOULAYE Baissa Mariama (Marie)



(Niger)



Hajimemashite. My name is Marie. I'm a medical doctor from Niger.

My compatriot and myself are here to participate with six other doctors from Benin, Madagascar, and Senegal, in the training for Maternal and Infantile Health targeted for French speaking Africa.

The sanitary situation in our countries is characterized by the high maternal, neonatal, and infantile mortality rates. Therefore, with a view to acquiring the additional necessary capacities to improve maternal and infantile health, all of us came to Japan.

I found that the training program was well designed and animated by very competent and humble lecturers. Also, sharing of experiences with the participants from the other countries including the host country, Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Lao as well as different visits and the study tour in Mie prefecture enabled me to get new knowledge and to acquire useful information.

Before, I thought that cooperation with JICA didn't bring us so much compared with other technical and financial cooperation partners who used to give us so much money to implement activities. But now I have understood that Japanese cooperation policy consists in leading us to become actors for our own development by enhancing our capacity and will to develop ourselves. This is the most important lesson I learned from the 6-week training in Japan.

The training became for me the starting point of positive change in my career. But I'm aware that nothing is more difficult than finding the will to bring a change, because a change can have direct or indirect repercussions on the interests of different persons.

However, I'm confident these difficulties will not change my enthusiasm nor my determination to do better, that is to say, to put into practice the knowledge acquired here.



~ The things you will see at stalls in Japanese Summer Festival ~



Watagashi (Cotton Candy)



A sweet made from spun sugar which looks like a cotton ball. It feels like cotton wool to the touch when dry, but dissolves quickly in the mouth.

What do you do to wind down after intensive training? Karaoke? Here is another entertainment we recommend to you, the "Natsumatsuri" or the Japanese Summer festival. You can enjoy various attractions including the "Mikoshi" (portable shrine) Parade, the "Bon-dance" (Japanese folk dance), and various stalls offering food and games. The followings are examples of things you may find at the stalls. Do you know what these are?



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Ringo-ame (Candy Apple)



It is one of the common treats at a Japanese festival. It is a whole apple covered in a red or green sugar syrup coating with a stick in the middle.

Ramune



It is a carbonated soft drink in a glass bottle sealed with a marble. Push the marble inward and open the bottle. Enjoy its fresh taste while the marble rattles inside the neck of the bottle.

Yoyo-tsuri (Yoyo Fishing)



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This is a game of fishing for a fist-sized balloon yoyo floating on water with a hook tied to a paper string. This game requires speed and concentration since the paper string easily breaks when it gets wet.

Kingyo-tsuri (Goldfish Scooping)



This is a game to scoop and get as many "Kingyo" or goldfish as possible into a small bowl using a "Poi". A "poi" is a scooper with a round plastic frame and paper net, so it can be easily torn when it touches the water. You can get the scooped goldfish as a prize.

Okonomiyaki (Japanese Pizza)



A Japanese style pizza cooked on an iron griddle. The main ingredients are batter and cabbage, but many other toppings and ingredients (meat, seafood, etc.) can be added. This great variability is reflected in its name "Okonomi" or "to one's liking".

Let's speak Japanese at "Natsu-matsuri" !

Just visiting a local event in a foreign country is fun. But the fun can be doubled if you talk with the local people. TIC Japanese teacher, Ms.Yumiko Komaki, teaches you short but useful expressions. Why don't you try them?

1. Sumimasen. (Excuse me.)
2. Ikura desu ka? (How much?)
3. Kaite kudasai. (Please write.)
4. Buta-niku wa haitte imasu ka? (Is there pork in it?)
*buta-niku = pork
5. Toire wa doko desu ka? (Where is the toilet?)
6. Migi (right), Hidari(left)
7. Watashi wa ____kara kimashita. (I come from ____.)
8. Oishii desu ne!? (It's delicious!)
9. Omoshiroi desu ne! (It's interesting!)

Pronunciation advice

Japanese is a language of high and low pitches while English is of strong and weak accents. Only one syllable in a word is high-pitched. Avoid strong and weak accents, and you will sound more natural.

Try even one phrase. A wonderful experience is waiting for you!



Ms. Yumiko Komaki

Last year, Ms.Acharya Adhikari Bijaya (Nepal) visited a Summer Festival at Nishihara Town Street. She also joined the Japanese Festival held in TIC. How did she like them?

It was the evening when I visited Nishihara Town Street. There, I saw many stalls lit by lanterns and it looked like a bazaar. They were selling many things such as grilled meat and vegetables and "Udon"(Japanese noodles), which tasted wonderful.



At the Festival in TIC, I carried a portable shrine with some other JICA training participants and local Japanese people including school kids. It was a lot of fun to wear a headband made from a Japanese towel and shout "Wasshoi! Wasshoi!" (Heave-ho!)

In fact we have similar tradition of carrying a shrine in a few occasions like "Indra jatra," "Machindra nath jatra," Nepali Festivals dedicated to the gods, "Indra" and "Machindra nath." Attending those festivals, I felt as if I were in Nepal because Japan and Nepal have much in common.

I recommend other JICA training participants to visit Japanese festivals. It is a good opportunity to experience Japanese culture and tradition, which is wonderfully preserved in modernized Japan.



Ms.Acharya Adhikari Bijaya



Do you know how to tie an Obi? Let's go to summer festivals wearing Yukata!

When you go to natsu matsuri (Summer Festival) in Japan, you would see many people wearing Yukata, especially girls. It is the typical Japanese way to join natsu matsuri. Why don't you go to natsu matsuri in the Japanese way this summer? Here is how to tie an Obi(the belt of a Yukata).



Before tie your obi...
Bring left overlap over the right one and adjust the length of Yukata.
(Normally the bottom line of Yukata is just above the ankle.)
After that, tie the sash (koshihimo) around the waist.



① Take about 40-50cm from one Obi end (Tesaki) and fold it in half (vertically). Hold this end on your right.



② While holding Tesaki, wrap the Obi around the waist 2 times. Fold the other side of Obi (Taresaki) inward to make a triangle shape.



③ Tie Tesaki and Taresaki together. Bring Tesaki to the upper center and bring Taresaki to the lower center to make a vertical line.



④ Bring Taresaki from the center to the right. Decide the Ribbon length and fold Taresaki to the front.



⑤ Bring down the Tesaki over the folded Taresaki.



⑥ Slide the Tesaki underneath the Taresaki in the center and pull up the Tesaki behind the Taresaki.



⑦ Roll up the Tesaki end towards you. Insert the rolled up Tesaki behind the Obi. Fix the Ribbon shape.



⑧ Turn the Ribbon clockwise towards the back.



⑨ Take a kinchaku (drawstring bag) and wear Geta (wooden clogs). Then, you are ready to go out!!!



If you are interested in buying a Yukata, you can find one at "COMES". They offer Yukata ¥4,000 and Obi ¥1,800~.

What can we buy at "COMES"? Come and check it out!

some of the most popular souvenirs at "COMES".
"COMES" provides the products at prices more reasonable than other shops in Tokyo. Come and take a look. You might find a good bargain!



T-shirt ¥900~



Japanese Doll
¥1,500



Hachimaki ¥300
(Japanese head band)

A message from COMES staff, Mr. Mimori

We, all of COMES staff, are working for your comfort in your stay in Japan.

I think you are very tense in the training course but once you walk out from the lecture room, you should enjoy your stay! We provide the things you may need while you are here, so if you need anything, please drop by our shop casually. We believe you can find most of the things you need here at COMES.

We are very happy if our service is useful for your stay and makes it fruitful! We always welcome you.



CAUTION!!

Beware of the Heat Stress Disorders!

The summer in Japan is quite hot and humid. In Tokyo, every summer marks over 35°C (95F) as the highest temperature and the humidity is about 70%. Under these circumstances, we run the risk of suffering the Heat Stress Disorders! Heat Stress Disorders are caused by abnormally raised internal body temperature due to the high temperature and humid environment. The common symptoms are dizziness, fainting, nausea, and headaches. When it gets more serious, it develops altered mental states like delusion or coma. Besides the elderly and infants, those out of shape, suffering from a lack of sleep, or a deficiency of water are susceptible to these disorders. To prevent these disorders, it's necessary to take adequate hydration (except alcohol and caffeinated drinks) and ample rest. In addition, wearing a hat or using a parasol to avoid direct sunlight is also an effective prevention when you go out. If you don't feel good, don't overexert yourself! Take a rest in a cooler place and rehydrate. (The sports drink is one of the best sources for rehydration. It is possible to get sufficient water intake if you drink as much water as there is sports drink.)



M U S E U M

Precursor of the Inca Empire The Golden Capital of Sicán 特別展 インカ帝国のルーツ 黄金の都シカン

About 500 years before the Inca Empire, there was a civilization in the Batán Grande region on the north coast of Peru. It was named "Sicán" by Professor Shimada who has been investigating Sicán culture over 30 years. "Sicán" had very unique culture in the ancient Andes civilization. They had long irrigation canal, and tremendous embossed metal art.

This exhibition consists of 2 main themes: the lost culture "Sicán", the society and the life of the people who lived there, and the archeology which illuminates lost cultures. In this exhibition, you will see precious metal objects and tools for excavation of an archeological site. If you are interested in our archeological heritage, this is a good opportunity to discover the roots of the Inca Empire.

Place: National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo (Ueno Park)(国立科学博物館)

(5 mins walk from JR Ueno Station. 10 mins walk from Ueno station on Ginza and Hibiya Subway Line or Keisei Ueno Station)

Date: July 14 (Tue.)- Oct 12 (Mon.)

Closed on Sep. 7, 14, 28, and Oct. 5.

Time: 9:00~17:00 (on Friday until 20:00)

* During August 8 (Sat.)-August 16 (Sun.) until 18:00 (August 14 (Fri.) until 20:00)

Last entry 30mins before the closing time

Admission: ¥1,400

* Free tickets are available at the JICA Tokyo Information Desk on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ceremonial gold tumi (part)

Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Antropología e Historia del Perú
early 11 century Photo by Yoshii Yutaka

Sharaku and other hidden Japanese masterworks from the land of NAUSICAA 写楽 幻の肉筆画 ギリシャに眠る日本美術~マノスコレクションより

The Greek ambassador, Gregorios Manos was a collector of Asian Arts. While he was in Vienna and Paris, he bought many masterworks of Japanese and Chinese Art. He donated his collection to the Museum of Asian Art on Corfu Island when he went back to Greece. After his death, his collection was sealed in the museum for about a century. In July 2008, it was found under the academic investigation in the Museum.

In this exhibition, you will see about 120 pieces of the Manos collection which were bought in the late 19th century to the early 20th century. All of the pieces are exhibited for the first time in Japan; moreover, this is the first time in the world to show the original painting of Sharaku. Don't miss this prime opportunity!!!

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: July 4(Sat.)-Sep. 6 (Sun.)

Closed on Mondays (however it opens on July 20 and is closed on July 21)

Time: 9:30~17:30 (until 19:30 on Saturday)

Last entry 30 mins before the closing time

Admission: ¥1,300

* Free Tickets are available at the JICA Tokyo Information Desk on a first-come, first-served basis.

Kitagawa Utamaro
[Love Poems Deeply Hidden Love]
Museum of Asian Art, Corfu