

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM

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In booming South-Asia country Vietnam, the sewerage system that is "the last public infrastructure" (in my opinion) is developing. Last month, I had a chance to join a Japan-Vietnam sewerage seminar in Hanoi. I will report the workshop.

Japan-Vietnam sewerage seminar 2015 was held on October 16, 2015. The seminar was a prelude to the "Biannual Meeting of the Technical Cooperation in the field of Sewerage and Wastewater Treatment between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism of Japan and the Ministry of Construction (MOC) of Vietnam," that is "Japan-Vietnam meeting," in short. Its theme is "Good approach to human resource development and innovative technologies." The current significant issues of Vietnam accelerating its sewerage system improvement are "Human resource development for sewage works" and "Sewerage technologies suitable for Vietnam."

The seminar had three sessions: Human resource development, Leading edge technologies, and Administration and Finance. I made a presentation on "Human resources for sustainable development." In my presentation, I reported the operation of the Japan Sewage Works Agency (JS) that had been contributing to developing sewage works in Japan, especially the human resource development program at our training facilities for municipal staff. Each GIZ that is German Corporation for International Cooperation; Vietnam Water and Sewerage

Association; and the Hanoi University of Science and Technology reported the current condition of human resource development in the sewage field in Vietnam. At the end of the session, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Vietnam announced the concept of the "Vietnam Sewage Center" under consideration.

Vietnam Sewage Center will have three primary functions. The first function is "training" to cultivate sewerage engineers from municipalities or private companies. The second is "R&D" to adapt/localize wastewater technologies to Vietnam and develop technical standards. The third is "support" for municipalities with little or no experience planning or running sewage works.

It sounds familiar. Yes, it does. We can say Vietnam Sewage Center is JS of Vietnam version. So participants had many questions about JS's operation, I reported. I talked about JS' history, jointly established by the national government and municipalities, and emphasized that the government's support was indispensable for its initial operation. On the day of the seminar, the MOC of Vietnam and JICA signed agreements on the project planning for Vietnam Sewage Center. The planning will start on January 2016. Before that, representatives of MOC of Vietnam will visit Japan in December. A study tour to the JS training center is scheduled during their stay. I want to draw your attention to Vietnam and its sewerage project.

Japan provided a revised edition of jacking method standards adapted to Vietnam in the Japan-Vietnam meeting. After the introductory seminar, they had an opening ceremony for the

joint venture for jacking pipes manufacturing. "Global Water Business" is progressing steadily in Vietnam.



Photo 1: Japan-Vietnam sewerage seminar



Photo 2: Opening ceremony of a joint venture



Photo 3: WWTP using activated sludge process



Photo 4: Hanoi is famous for motorcycles