

MONGOL TRAINING AS A GRASS-ROOTS ACTIVITY OF JICA

International Affairs Department

Shizuoka Prefecture has provided technical support to Dornogovi Province of Mongolia as a grass-roots activity of JICA. Three JS staff,



including me, joined their training program from May 26 to June 1 in Kano River East WWTP.

I used to have an image that

Mongolia is a country of enormous grass and desert. People are nomads, live in portable, round tent houses named yurt or ger, and keep camels. "Dornogovi" means "East of the desert" in Mongol. When I received a phone call from Shizuoka for help, I was a little confused: why do people in the desert need sewerage systems?

While preparing with the Shizuoka staff in charge of the Dornogovi matter, I learned some situations about wastewater in Dornogovi. Some cities, such as Sainshand and



Water quality lab

Zamyn-Uud, have water pollution problems because they currently have no biological treatment system. In Zamyn-Uud, a new WWTP has been constructed by China Yuen loan, but it causes concern for O&M. Most of all, the enthusiasm of the Shizuoka staff moved me to help their program to be successful.

The programs JS handled are as follows; "Introduction to wastewater treatment facilities,"

"Basic principles of biological treatment,"

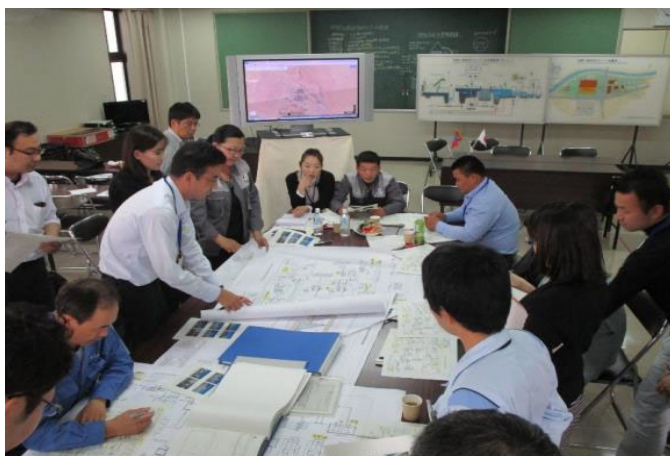
"The status of Japanese sewage works and its administrative and financial system,"

"Basic theory of water quality management"

"Water quality lab course."

I was in charge of the "administrative and financial" class.

Mongol attendances worked very hard, and I was impressed. As a lecturer, it was a great pleasure to see the trainees were all ears to absorb everything I told. Shizuoka staff did all kinds of things to give trainees their motivation. They actively cheered up trainees in the orientation before the program started, and their encouragement could have worked very well.



Discussion for a new WWTP using its drawing sheet

In my class, trainees took notes of everything I talked about through an interpreter. The diligence of all attendance, including trainees and staff, convinced me that the domestic training program was a great success.

Mongol trainees learn about their sewage works in detail, such as organization, systems, etc. In our Q and A session, they explained how they pick a plant location, the current conditions of wastewater-related organizations, including numbers of their staff, and so on. The session provided us with valuable pieces of information about Dornogovi.

Mongol trainees looked very proud of being responsible for future sewage works in Mongolia. The hard-working group spent all their time and energy on the discussion. The time was not enough to ask our questions we prepared for the class, which is preferable.

Shizuoka Prefecture is planning to have another Mongol training in autumn. I am looking forward to joining the program again.