

TRAINING FOR WMA IN JAPAN

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**International Affairs Department**

1. Introduction

Saitama Prefecture has been providing technical support to Thailand. The operation, "The Technical Assistance of Sewage Technology in Collaboration with Public and Private Sectors in Thailand," is one of the JPP (JICA\*<sup>1</sup> Partnership Program.) The Three year's project started in February 2016. JS and Saitama Sewage Systems Agency have been supporting the operation and carrying out the two-week training program for employees of the Water Management Authority (WMA) of Thailand at JS Training Center since October 2016.

The schedule of the training is as follows:

October 11	P.M.	Summary of wastewater treatment/ wastewater treatment facilities
October 13	A.M.	Principle and basic knowledge of biological treatment
	P.M.	Practical training using equipment
October 14	A.M.	The basic idea of financial management of sewage works in Japan
	P.M.	Financial management: calculation of wastewater charge
October 20	A.M.	Management of a training center

\*1: JICA (*Japan International Cooperation Agency*)

2. Scenery of training

The program was the fourth time training in Japan for WMA staff. The past three sessions were mainly classroom lectures. This time's course employed practical training in JS training center by request of Saitama Prefecture. Trainees had some laboratory works using equipment for water quality analysis and

conventional classroom lectures. I will report the different practical training.

Another training program had already been arranged on the afternoon of October 13 when the new practical training was scheduled. Trainees from South America were going to have training in water quality analysis. So we planned a joint training of Thailand and South America.

As a result, our attempt was very successful. "Team Thailand" and "Team South America" seemed to inspire each other. In the water quality analysis, two teams calculated oxygen consumption rates of influent and effluent and asked each other. One plus one equaled more than two on that day.

### 3. What a small world! (It's not a story under a microscope)

The practical training in water quality analysis included observation of microorganisms. Each trainee enjoyed discovering microbes through a microscope.

During the inspection, two trainees from Thai and South America spoke to each other very friendly. They looked familiar as they shook hands and put arms around each other's shoulders. I was surprised because they had met in Germany some years ago at a seminar and happened to meet again in Japan. I always feel the world of wastewater business is tiny. Now I know it's not the only regional trend in Japan but also worldwide. I can do nothing wrong.

On the last day of the program, we had a session evaluation by WMA staff. They gave an excellent rating of the helpful program.



Microscope observation of microorganism that made a miracle

#### 4. Conclusion

During the program, Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej died. On the following day of his death, the session was silent. However, I'm pretty sure the two-week training program was very successful despite the significant loss of a beloved King. Thai trainees seemed to enjoy learning, and their willingness made me happy as one of the trainers. The trainee's satisfaction is my best reward.

In the grassroots project of Saitama, visiting Thailand is scheduled for early next year. I will join the on-site inspection tour to see and study what happens. I'm glad if I can be of help in the development of sewage works in Thailand.