

1. INTRODUCTION

JS established the "International Affairs Department" in April 2011 for its global presence, and it has been six years. In this first newsletter of the year, we will show the commitment of the International Affairs Department for 2017-18.

JS calls itself a group of engineers having rich knowledge and advanced technology in the field of sewage works. For over forty years, JS has been entrusted with planning, designing, and constructing municipalities' sewage works, implementing R&D, and offering training programs. We are proud to say JS has valuable intellectual properties. Besides, as one of the global cooperation activities, JS has been sending its people to developing countries as Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) experts. International Affairs Department aims to facilitate the utilization of "technical and human resources" and support for "Global water business" that the Japanese government promotes.

Since we are a "Japan" Sewage Works Agency, we will bring the fruits of global operations

back to our domestic activities.

Technologies that bloomed through our global presence will apply to various cases of municipal sewage works in Japan.

JS will conduct various activities

supporting private companies in their global business endeavors and bring the achievement home. That is JS' global strategy.

JS announced "The Fifth Midterm Management Plan 2017-21" on March 14, 2017. The Plan describes "JS' international contribution and support

Japan Sewage Works Agency The Fifth Midterm Management Plan 2017-21: excerpt

4. Project Promotion Plan

2. Function as a Sewerage National Center

④ International Contribution and Support for Global Water Business

- Support global wastewater business for developing countries with training in Japan or dispatch of experts through JICA operation.
- Help management of Vietnam Sewage Center (VSC) with software support including legislation. VSC, or Vietnamese JS, will start its full-scale operation in 2017.
- Carry out various research of JICA, etc. and activity for National Mirror Committee of ISO.
- Support Japanese companies for their global water business along with technologies developed by JS.
- Enhance information publishing on the internet

operations for the global water business.” The Plan shall encourage more activities of the International Affairs Department than ever.

2. SUPPORT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE VIETNAM SEWAGE CENTER (VSC)

Today in Vietnam, rapid economic growth causes problems in the water environment. The Vietnamese sewerage system requires urgent improvement to protect the water environment.

In 2016, JICA started Vietnam Sewage Center Project, which aims to promote sewage works in Vietnam and cultivate human resources that improve localized wastewater facilities in Vietnam. The three-year project has finished its first preparatory year. In 2017, the project will kick into gear by accepting long-term experts, and JS will continue supporting the project using its knowledge and experience in Vietnam.

3. SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

The trend of International Standardization accelerates in the field of sewage works. International Affairs Office is working for ISO/TC 275 as a member of the national mirror committee, cooperating with Japan Sewage Treatment Plant Constructors Association (JSCA). ISO/TC 275 handles “Sludge recovery, recycling, treatment, and disposal.” JS attempts to include Japanese specialties such as “energy-saving sludge incinerator” or “phosphorus recovery from sewage sludge” into TC 275. International Affairs Office joins in creating ISO proposals, summarizes domestic opinions, and attends meetings, including TV conferences. Every year since 2013, we have flown around the world, including Paris, Toronto, Sydney, and Dublin, trying to insert advantageous standards for Japanese companies. Japan will host the Plenary Meeting of TC 275 this autumn.

Besides, International Affairs Department will join ISO/TC 224 and TC 282 as a member of national mirror committees. TC 224 and TC 282 deal with “Service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems - Quality criteria of the service and performance indicators” and “Water reuse,” respectively.

4. SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL PRESENCE OF THE WATER BUSINESS

As a third party having the technical capability and rich experiences, JS conducts a “Technology Verification Program for International

Opportunities” for technologies that private companies developed. The verification program aims to assure reliability and improve the quality of Japanese technologies used abroad. As the first example, JS verified the “Advanced Energy Saving Wastewater Treatment Process” that Metawater Co., Ltd. developed and demonstrated at the pilot plant of WWTP in Da Nang City in Vietnam.

Metawater developed the “Pre-treated Trickling Filter (PTF) System” as wastewater treatment technology applicable to municipal WWTP in developing countries, including Vietnam. The system adopts a Floating Sponge Filter and High-rate Trickling Filter instead of a settling tank and a reactor. JS verified the stable treatment performance, energy saving, space-saving, and maintainability of the PTF process that Metawater demonstrated in Da Nang. JS issues certificates for verified technologies to expect assurance of their reliability.

By the way, Metawater demonstrated “New Wastewater Treatment Technology Using Circulation and No-aeration” in Kochi City as one of the B-DASH Projects 2014-15. The system is an improved model of the “Pre-treated Trickling Filter (PTF) System.” The adoption is an excellent example of bringing back “fruit,” actually. After that, the City of Hoi An, Quảng Nam Province in Vietnam, decided to adopt the



Photo 1: Japanese Covered Bridge in Hoi An

“Pre-treated Trickling Filter (PTF) System” for its municipal WWTP because of the public-private promotion. The adoption is a part of “The Project for Water Quality Improvement for Japanese Bridge Area in Hoi An City.” The project is a grant aid of official development assistance (ODA) by the Japanese government, and a construction contract was made in December 2016. The new WWTP is expected to contribute to preserving Hoi An Ancient Town's water environment, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage list, and improve the water quality of the famous “Japanese Bridge Area.”

5. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN ENGINEERS

JS sends experts to the “Training Program in Japan” that JICA hosts for invited foreign engineers as one of the supporting activities for the global water business. As the request for lecturer dispatch is increasing every year, JS sent its experts to 16 training programs in 2016-17.

Training Program in Japan has many courses, including "Group Training" for trainees from various countries/regions and "Region-focused Training" for trainees from a country/region. The group training program has a "Sewerage/Urban Drainage Management" course, to which JS has been sending its experts for over thirty years. Thirteen trainees from ten countries/regions joined the program in 2016-17.



Photo 3: A training program for WMA

JS also supports the training programs that municipalities host. Saitama Prefecture conducts a training program in Japan and Thailand for the Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) of Thailand. Shizuoka prefecture invites trainees from Dornogovi Province of Mongolia to its training program. JS sent experts to these programs, too.

Besides, each wastewater project that JICA conducts or funds includes human resources development program. JS sent experts as lecturers to training programs in Japan for Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Ukraine in 2016-17.

Dispatching experts to the training programs benefit JS a lot. The participation is an excellent opportunity for human resources cultivation for our promising young staff. The young experts mostly join the "Sewerage/Urban Drainage Management" course of the Group Training Program as substitute lecturers. While some Region-focused Training Programs have translators for the local language, many Group Training is carried out in English because of the various backgrounds of participants. JS provides training programs in English from the viewpoint of global human resource management. JS uses the lecture fee from the training programs as a resource for English language training for young staff.

6. AT THE CONCLUSION

The seventh year of the International Affairs Department has just started. Recently, I realized the effect of seeding. We are pleased to report that we made a significant achievement due to various activities. JS will continue encouraging international operations to support the "Global water business." We always appreciate your kind cooperation. Thank you.