

I LOOK "DOWN" WHEN I WALK #1: NO MORE "SUKIYAKI"

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**International Affairs Department**

Members of the International Affairs Department have some opportunities to go abroad. I, a person of sewage works, instinctively look for a manhole in town and automatically take a picture when I find it. In this newsletter, I will introduce the manhole covers of the cities I visited.

1. BANGKOK, THAILAND

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I took this photo when I visited Wastewater Management Authority (WMA), where Saitama Prefecture provides technical support. The cover has an abbreviation for Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). People use the acronym for it because, in Thai, BMA spells กรุงเทพมหานคร, which is a little like a cigarette end sticking in it.



A manhole in Bangkok,

2. HANOI, VIETNAM

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A manhole of Hanoi

This cover is from Hanoi, Vietnam. It has a description of 1985. In Vietnam, hydrogen sulfide corrosion is becoming a problem, and the country needs the introduction of Japanese technology for hydrogen sulfide control.

In Hanoi, people cook using coal briquettes on the street. Because people throw coal cinders into street gutters, they flow into sewers. Education for public health might be required.

### 3. DONG THAP PROVINCE, VIETNAM

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Dong Thap Province is in Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam, and I took this photo in Cao lanh, the capital city of Dong Thap. Their sewerage is under construction, and the manhole cover is the latest model with an arrow describing the direction of wastewater. The letter "DOWASEN" on the manhole cover stands for Arsenic Removal and Waste Water Treatment.



A manhole in Dong Thap Province

### 4. KYIV, UKRAINE

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JS is entrusted with a support operation for the design of sewage works project by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA.) I took these photos when I visited Kyiv for a field study.

The sewerage of Kyiv is a separate system. Two different patterns of manhole covers below seem to represent wastewater and rainwater, respectively.



A manhole of Kyiv #1



A manhole of Kyiv #2

## 5. ERBIL, IRAQ

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JS is also entrusted with Iraq Project from JICA. These photos were taken during another field survey in Erbil, Iraq. While the new construction of sewerage has just started in Erbil, the manhole covers on the left already have a letter of "sewerage" on them.

I also found a manhole in the Citadel of World Heritage, constructed six thousand years ago. I'm wondering if the manhole is six thousand years old.



A manhole of Erbil



A manhole of Citadel of Erbil

It is the end of my manhole cover collection, version one. Recently in Japan, many municipalities issued "Manhole Card," which is becoming very popular. The manhole card collection seems to contribute to public education about sewage works.

I hope the boom in "Manhole Card" will spread all over the world. It must be fun if people became familiar with sewage works by knowing a manhole cover has thousands of patterns, and the knowledge about a manhole cover became one of the standards of global public education.