

WMA TRAINING IN JAPAN

International Affairs Department

Saitama Prefecture, Saitama Sewage Systems Agency, and JS invited five Water Management Authority (WMA) members of Thailand for a training program in Japan from July 24 to August 4.

JS provided the following four classes.

- ① The management of JS Training Center
- ② Wastewater treatment and treatment facilities in Japan
- ③ Wastewater finance vision in Japan
- ④ Collection of wastewater charges

I was impressed that participants were very interested in the JS Training Center. WMA established its training facility in Si Racha WWTP and will start its municipality training program next January. WMA



Photo 1: A scene of a class (lecturer is me)



Photo 2: A trainee making sure the safety and security of a manhole cover

staff are due to work as lecturers in the session, and they look prepared enough for it. In the Q&A session, participants asked many specific and practical questions, and I felt their passion for their training sessions.

I joined a tour to study water reclamation technology of Saitama New Urban Center WWTP and manhole-related technology of G&U R&D Center. I especially enjoyed my first visit to G&U R&D Center. As you know, wastewater treatment is

comprehensive technology of collecting, discharging, and sometimes reclaiming, and all technologies are required to function rightly. I suppose participants must have recognized and experienced the function of wastewater treatment precisely as I did.

They also visited the "Sewage Works Exhibition 2017" and the JS booth. It was an excellent opportunity to study an example of public relations activities that are increasingly important in

Thailand. Public relations activities to residents or beneficiaries of sewerage service are indispensable to inform its role and importance. Correct recognition, such as not throwing garbage or oil in the sewer, facilitates efficient O&M. Educational is more effective for youngsters. While participants discuss the educational operation in the training



Photo 3: Trainees visiting JS booth in Sewage Works Exhibition



Photo 4: A participant making a presentation about his achievement

program, I'd like to say, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

They must have felt something to see many families with children hopping around the booths.

On the last day of the training program, participants joined an appraisal meeting held by JICA. Every five participants made a presentation about their achievements in Japan.

JICA staff who attended the meeting praised their beautiful jobs, and he encouraged them to feed their experience to the training program scheduled for next year in Thailand.

Feedback from participants is as follows;

- "The program covers everything we want to know."
- "I was impressed with Japanese policy of "safety first" as much as Japanese technology that I have learned a lot."
- "Japanese is disciplined, and their planning is strict, which is wonderful."

Their opinions showed their satisfaction with the training program in Japan, which made us happy.

Currently, in Thailand, multiple organizations, or ministries and agencies, including WMA, separately administer various phases of sewage works such as construction and O&M, making things complicated. They say that WMA's jurisdictional Ministry will be the Ministry of Interior (MOI) from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment very soon. Because MOI shall affiliate municipalities and WMA, the reorganization is expected to facilitate good relationships between cities and WMA, expand the role of WMA and encourage its presence.

If their knowledge and experience in Japan contributed to the development of sewage works in Thailand, I would be happy as a lecturer.