

TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR IN THAILAND

International Affairs Department

As I mentioned in my previous newsletters, Japan Sewage Works Agency (JS) supports the "JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project" that Saitama prefecture carries out. In November, we visited Thailand to hold a technical seminar.

November 16: the day was a fundamental stage of a technical seminar that the Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) of Thailand and Team Saitama, including JS, had spent six months preparing for.

I got up at 5:30 in time to have a breakfast buffet. When I rushed into the restaurant, it was still in preparation. Restaurant staff said breakfast would start at 6:00 while the sign says, "Breakfast buffet from 5:30."

I went back to my room tentatively and turned on the TV. Though I tuned NHK (Japanese public broadcasting), it was Al Jazeera. It looks that "It does not always exactly what it say" in this country.

Before 7:00, people began to come to the seminar venue for preparation. Compared to the previous night, with a temperature of 31°C, the air-conditioned seminar site was far more comfortable. We had finished setting up until 8:30, when the registration would start.

At 8:30, a started coming in. Just after entering, many showed interest in displayed manhole covers. Some people seemed to begin their business talks already.

Because of a traffic jam, the seminar started behind. The list of presenters and their contents are as follows:



Photo 1: Attendee interested in a manhole cover

1. Welcome speech by Mr. Virat, Deputy director general of WMA

- The memorandum relating the wastewater treatment technology between Saitama Prefecture and Thailand has greatly benefited Thailand, bringing Japanese technology and know-how.
- A key to the success of sewage works is the cooperation of concerned parties.

2. Project framework by Mr. Honda, Saitama Prefecture

- Saitama Prefecture and Thailand have been collaborating since 2012.



Photo 2: Mr. Honda making his presentation

Saitama has learned a lot about the condition of sewage works in Thailand.

- Introduction of Saitama Prefecture and its wastewater service. The rapid economic growth in Japan and the contribution of sewage works. The frameworks and achievements of the grassroots technical cooperation project.
- Introduction of private companies as the presenters in the seminar

3. Mr. Chira, Deputy director general of WMA

- The current condition of sewage works in Thailand: the central region of Thailand has a problem with the low adoption rate of sewage services.
- Even suitable hardware and infrastructure always require good human software. WMA has constructed a Si Racha training center stuffed with the technical know-how of Saitama Prefecture. The training center that offers the curriculum or textbooks focused on safety management has excellent facilities for practical safety drills.
- The need for wastewater reuse in Thailand: may be used as industrial water

4. Mr. Tokutake, Maezawa Industries, Inc.
(Photo 3)

- The overview of Maezawa Industries
- Water/Wastewater reuse in Japan
- The achievement of Maezawa Industry: successful case example of water reuse at Naha Purification Center in Okinawa Prefecture
- The proposal for wastewater reuse



Photo 3: Mr. Tokutake making his presentation

5. Mr. Tsuchiya, Shinnihon-exa
(construction consultant) (Photo 4)

- The condition of sewerage facilities in Saitama Prefecture: the total length of the sewer is 199 thousand kilometers.
- The function, shape, and issues of manhole covers: Share the video of the manhole lid floating experiment.
- The future discussion: cost reduction by 1.5 times longer-lived manhole cover, the antitheft technology of manhole cover, manhole cover design, etc.
- Maintenance technology: introduction of Parabola system using video



Photo 4: Mr. Tsuchiya making his presentation

Participants were highly interested in this first technical seminar in Thailand held by the Saitama Project. I'm sure people's diligence and passion promise a future development of sewage works in Thailand.