

OUR TOP THREE TOPICS IN 2017-18

International Affairs Department

We are near the end of the year 2017-18.

It's been seven years since International Affairs Office started in 2011. I'm happy to tell you that our operation comes to get on track. I will reflect on the year 2017-18 by reporting our top three topics for the year's last newsletter.

1. SUPPORT FOR WMA: JICA GRASSROOTS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT BY SAITAMA PREFECTURE

JS has been supporting JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project executed by Saitama prefecture since 2012. The project is now in its seventh year through Phase 1 from April 2012 to March 2015 and Phase 2 from February 2016 to January 2019. We work in both Thailand and Japan, and it is a back-and-forth operation between the two countries.

Phase 1 focused on O&M support. Phase 2 has added public-private partnership support in addition to O&M. The new support menu includes establishing a WMA training center, hosting a technical seminar to promote technologies developed by Saitama local companies, and educational operation for Thai people. The first technical seminar that attracted peoples' interests had great success and was immensely promising.



Photo 1: Skype live view

Recently, information and communication technology has facilitated our support operation. For example, "Skype" provides video chat or voice calls allows us to know the latest information about our achievements. Sometimes

WMA inspires us with its surprising ideas. I'm happy to report that WMA and Team Japan have built a favorable relationship over the seven years.

Reference: Newsletters of July, August, November 2017, and January 2018

2. INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES: ISO/TC275 MEETING IN YOKOHAMA

ISO/TC275 for sludge recovery, recycling, treatment, and disposal was established in February 2013, according to the French proposal. Japan joins the TC as one of Participating (P) Members who actively participate by voting on the standard at various stages of its development. JS and Japan Sewage Treatment Plant Constructors Association (JSCA) have been working as members of the national mirror committee.

In 2017, ISO/TC275 had its meeting in Japan for the first time, and Japan began to have two missions joining the discussion and hosting the meeting.



Photo 2: Participants with a big smile under the blue sky of Yokohama after the meeting

We started preparing while having stress and pressure. Hosting an international conference was the first experience, but we wanted to do our best.

The fifth ISO/TC275 meeting made a great success. The logistics were challenging, but it was much fun with a precious experience.

Reference: Newsletter of December 2017

3. SUPPORT FOR JICA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR ENHANCING MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF SEWAGE WORKS FOR VIETNAM

JICA provides technical cooperation to Vietnam to establish Vietnam Sewerage Center (VSC.) VSC is expected to have three functions of ①Training ② Project execution support, and ③R&D. JS has provided support through its JICA expert

Reference: Newsletters, Vietnam Journal of June 2017 to March 2018

That is my final report for 2017- 2018. In addition to the above, JS executes "Technology verification for global use" and "Training program for foreign engineers" and joins the first operation of WOW TO JAPAN (Wonder Of Wastewater Technology of Japan) Program the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation, and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan started in 2017.

I appreciate all your help in the year 2017-18. JS will continue to work toward its steady global presence. Your continuous support and assistance for international activities are always essential. Thank you very much.