

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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It's been seven years since JS established the "International Affairs Department" in April 2011 for its global presence. In this first newsletter of the fiscal year, the International Affairs Department expresses our determination for 2018-19.

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 the planning, designing, and constructing of municipalities' sewage works and implemented R&D, and offered 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 operations

### 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

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

## 2. SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

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The trend of International Standardization accelerates in the field of wastewater. International Affairs Department 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 Department 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 hosted the Plenary Meeting of TC 275 in Yokohama.

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.

## 3. SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL PRESENCE OF THE WATER BUSINESS

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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



Photo 1: Japanese Covered Bridge in Hoi An

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 "Pre-treated Trickling Filter (PTF) System" for its municipal WWTP as a result 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" (Photo 1.)

#### 4. SUPPORT FOR "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR ENHANCING MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF SEWAGE WORKS"

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JS supports the above project that JICA implements. The project aims to promote sewage works in Vietnam by cultivating three functions "training," "R&D," and "project implementation support."

#### 5. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN ENGINEERS

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Photo 2: Training in WMA, Thailand

JS sends experts to the "Training Program in Japan" that JICA hosts for foreign engineers as one of the supporting activities for the global water business. The need for lecturer dispatch is increasing yearly, and JS sent its experts to 9 training programs in 2017-18.

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. Seventeen trainees from thirteen countries/regions joined the course last year. I again ran into a participant I met some years ago at a different training program. It's a small world!

The programs include training that municipalities host. Saitama Prefecture conducts a training program in Japan and Thailand for the Wastewater Management Authority (WMA) of Thailand. Besides, each wastewater project that JICA works on or funds includes a program inviting engineers from supported countries for human resource development. JS sent experts as lecturers to the training programs for Odisha state of India in 2017-18.

Dispatching experts to the training programs benefit JS a lot. Pitching in the domestic training program is an excellent opportunity 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 program lecture fee as a resource for English language training for young staff.

## 6. AT THE CONCLUSION

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The eighth 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. We will challenge the "WOW TO JAPAN Program" or "Wonder of Wastewater Technology of Japan" that reaches fruition.

JS will continue to encourage global water business. We always appreciate your kind cooperation. Thank you.