

ISO/TC275 IN VIENNA

International Affairs Department

What do you think when you hear "international standard"?

Most of you might be familiar with ISO 9000 (Quality management standards) or ISO 14000 (Environmental management standards). We have some standards in the field of sewage works such as ISO/TC 224 (Service activities relating to drinking water supply, wastewater, and stormwater systems), ISO/TC 251 (Asset management system standards), ISO/TC 275 (Sludge recovery, recycling, treatment, and disposal) and ISO/TC 282 (Water re-use).

ISO/TC 275 started in February 2013. TC, which stands for Technical Committee, aims to develop standards. TC 275 has seven working groups (WGs) as platforms for discussions. Each WG holds a series of conferences to prepare proposals for standards. In the Vienna meeting, TC 275 established the eighth WG of Communication and public perception management.

Japan is actively involved in WG 5 of Thermal processes and WG 7 of Inorganics and nutrients recovery, which are specialized genres of Japanese technology. We fix our eyes on other WGs, not to evolve standards creating disadvantages for Japan.

Japan Sewage Works Agency (JS) serves as a national mirror committee of TC 275 along with Japan Sewage Treatment Plant Constructors Association (JSCA.) The committee functions as a contact to summarize various domestic opinions to propose to WGs. We expect our contribution could help Japan's global presence of sludge treatment technology.

On September 5, we had the sixth national mirror committee prepare a Japanese proposal for the Vienna meeting in October.

Six committee members, including me, visited Vienna for the meeting. TC 275 had its sessions in Paris in 2013, Tronto in 2014, Sydney in 2015, Dublin in 2016, and Yokohama in 2017.

In 2018, Vienna of Austria hosted the ISO meeting for three days from October 23.

Each day had two sessions in the morning and afternoon, and Japanese members attended all WGs. Since the Vienna meeting is the sixth, every WG has nearly completed its preparation. Participants worked to reflect comments and revisions on their drafts with active discussions.

