## 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.



Photo 1: The appearance of a plenary meeting. A man with a blue shirt on your right is a chair of TC 275.

I joined an ISO meeting for the first time. I feel I will be more comfortable with email communications with foreign members than before.

On the last day's afternoon, each WG reported its conclusion at a plenary session(Photo 1). Each chair of WGs delivered their outcomes with a big screen showing memos they created.

Vienna had cooler weather than Japan when I visited, and it was still delightful. The hotel we stayed at was a five minutes walk from the meeting venue. The next train station to the hotel has the famous Vienna State Opera (photo 2).

The meeting of three days finished without incident. The next meeting is scheduled from September 16 to 20, 2019, in Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia, in the north of the People's Republic of China. China seemed to have been preparing to host the next ISO meeting since the last meeting in Yokohama.

JS will continue to contribute to the global presence of Japanese technology and try not to create unfavorable standards for Japan.

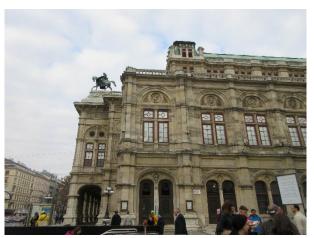


Photo 2: Vienna State Opera



Photo 3: A manhole