

University of Calgary's Japan Tour

International Affairs Department

On January 16th, 2024, JS signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Calgary regarding future technical development and other areas of cooperation. Two people from Advancing Canadian Wastewater Assets (ACWA) at the University of Calgary visited Japan, where they toured sewage-related facilities and held seminars with JS.

Visit sewage-related facilities in Japan

In a previous newsletter, we reported that small-scale sewage treatment is a significant issue in Canada. For this reason, we visited a POD (prefabricated oxidation ditch), a typical small-scale treatment method in Japan, as well as large-scale septic tanks.

In Japan, these are already considered outdated technologies, but the Canadian side's reaction was, "There is nothing like this simple and compact treatment method in Canada; it's amazing." We were given the stamp of approval that it would become widespread if we could conduct a demonstration in Canada and ensure that the performance was maintained even in low-temperature environments.



Photo 1: POD inspection situation



Photo 2: Large-scale septic tank inspection situation

Courtesy visit to JS

The memorandum was signed at the end of the fiscal year, and we were busy, so we were unable to hold a signing ceremony. During this period, we received a courtesy visit to JS headquarters, and a high-level meeting was held between JS President Kuroda and Director Watanabe, who is responsible for international affairs.



Photo 3: Commemorative photo



Photo 4: Conference scene

Seminar

On the final day, we held a seminar on Canadian sewerage projects in collaboration with the Kawasaki Water Business Network, which is sponsored by Kawasaki City. Approximately 50 people participated in person and online, and a lively Q&A session followed.

In addition, thanks to the kindness of Kawasaki City, we visited the Iriezaki Water Reclamation Center after the seminar. Using augmented reality, we also experienced a virtual tour of the public relations facility, Wakuwaku Aqua. The participants from the University of Calgary were very impressed by these Japanese wastewater facilities and public relations initiatives.



Photo 5: Signage at the entrance hall of Iriezaki Water Reclamation Center



Photo 6: Seminar

Finally

The cherry blossoms bloomed a little later than usual this year, and it was an excellent time to be in Japan when the Calgary University group visited, as the cherry blossoms were in full bloom. This visit enabled participants to observe Japanese wastewater technology and deepen their understanding. It was also an excellent opportunity to deepen the relationship of trust

between the two groups by spending a week together, sharing meals, and engaging in activities together.

JS will continue to focus on developing sewerage projects in Canada.

[1] <https://www.jswa.go.jp/topics/2024pdf/20240207-2kisyu.pdf>