

2012 Specialist Dispatch Project in Surabaya, Indonesia

Surabaya, a metropolitan city in the heart of Indonesia's East Java Province has grown from strength to strength, transforming itself from a seaport town to a vital commercial hub that catalyzes economic developments in the region today. The milestones achieved by Surabaya today are results from the city administration's tireless efforts in continuously improving local infrastructures and creating a conducive environment for foreign direct investments. With incredible foresight, the city administration has propelled Surabaya to international status through establishing cooperative ties with foreign cities such as Kochi, Kitakyushu and Kobe in Japan.

Famous for its Clean and Green policy, Surabaya City is one of the most beautiful cities in Indonesia with various public parks and immaculately clean streets. In this regard, Surabaya City Government envisions to create an environmentally friendly city that complements local industrial and commercial developments, so as to achieve sustainable growth for the city in the long run. It is this vision that drives Surabaya City Government to constantly look for urban solutions to its environmental needs.

To realize its vision of creating an eco-city that utilizes recyclable resources such as biomass, Surabaya City Government participated in CLAIR's Specialist Dispatch Project, whereby Mr. HORIBE Takashi, a specialist in the field of environmental conservation from Aichi Prefecture was dispatched to Surabaya from 5 to 9 November 2012 in order to conduct the relevant trainings.

Based on the specific requests from Surabaya City Government, Mr. Horibe conducted 4 lectures throughout the dispatch period, namely, "Biogas Production System and Technique", "Smart City Model of Aichi Prefecture", "Aichi Ecotown Plan" and "Environmental Impact Assessment System in Aichi Prefecture". The lectures were designed in such a manner that the contents were interconnected to provide a seamless understanding for the participants.

Participants of the lectures, who came from related departments such as Environment Department, Cleanliness and Parks Department in addition to other personnel from Surabaya City Government have shown great interest towards the lectures, especially pertaining to the production of biogas and waste management as there exist an abundance of biomass that could be recycled locally.

In addition to delivering lectures, Mr. Horibe also conducted field trips to the various related facilities which included sewerage treatment plant, composting facilities, and an experimental small-scale facility for biogas production. He provided in-depth analysis on the areas that need to be improved for more efficient operation of the facilities.

During the dispatch period, Mr. Horibe also conducted a courtesy call on the Mayor of Surabaya City, Ir. Tri Rismaharini, who was instrumental in the implementation of the Specialist Dispatch Project this time. Under Mayor Tri Rismaharini's able helm and driven by her enthusiasm to bring progress and prosperity to Surabaya City, CLAIR Singapore was able to implement its first Specialist Dispatch Project in Surabaya City. During the meeting, the Mayor expressed her wish to see the cooperation between Surabaya City and CLAIR Singapore to continue to flourish in the future.



Mayor Tri Rismaharini of Surabaya City Government(left) and Mr. Adachi Masahide, Director of CLAIR Singapore(right)



A scene from the lectures

2012 Specialist Dispatch Project in Phitsanulok Municipality, Thailand

CLAIR's Local Authorities International Cooperation Specialist Dispatch Project is a program that dispatches Japanese local government employees (including retirees) with advanced skills and an extensive range of expertise to overseas local government bodies or agencies, based on the requests received from the host countries. Apart from contributing to an improvement in the administrative quality of the host country or institution, the dispatch project also aims to strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and the host country.

Earlier in January this year, based on a request by Thailand's Phitsanulok Municipality, a specialist in the field of public health management and sanitation, Mr. Minoru Suetsugu from the Health Promotion Division of Saga Prefectural Government, was dispatched to the municipality for approximately two weeks to implement the project. During the dispatch period, the specialist discussed several topics, including an introduction on the changes in social conditions and issues faced by Japan in terms of its public sanitation, as well as the various adjustments and transitions that were made over the years to related laws and measures; hand-washing techniques; methods to educate citizens about issues such as prevention of drug abuse; and the concept behind policy formulation.

During the training, the specialist stated that the area of public health and sanitation is often influenced by factors such as the country's economic situation, as well as the living habits and social values of its citizens and thus, some of the current approaches that are being used in Japan might not necessarily be strictly applicable to Phitsanulok Municipality. As such, he explained the importance of information gathering such as building a statistical database, as well as the method used in identifying issues from the gathered data and subsequently coming up with a policy to manage these issues.



The specialist, Mr. Suetsugu, making a visit to the health office in Phitsanulok Municipality

2012 Specialist Dispatch Project in Jakarta, Indonesia

5 rescue-team specialists from Tokyo's Fire Department were dispatched to Jakarta's Fire Department for approximately 3 weeks in February this year, under CLAIR's Local Authorities International Cooperation Specialist Dispatch Project.

Attended by 34 trainees from both Jakarta and neighboring cities, the training took a hands-on approach and touched on an extensive range of topics, from the inspection and maintenance of rescue devices to rescuing victims from a severely wrecked vehicle. Conducted at the Jakarta Fire Training Center, the project was highly evaluated by Indonesian participants who commented that the 3-weeks training have allowed them to acquire the basics in rescue techniques, and that they look forward to having the specialists conduct further specialized trainings in the future. One of the dispatched specialists, Mr. Masatoshi Shimoyama, expressed that he hoped that the rescue methods of Tokyo which tend to put more emphasis on the safety of lives, could serve as a form of reference for the Indonesian cities.

CLAIR helps to dispatch specialists from Japan in over 32 fields of expertise such as agriculture, forestry and environment, to various countries based on their respective requests. To learn more about our Specialist Dispatch Project, please contact CLAIR Singapore office.



The specialist conducting training on techniques to employ when rescuing victims in a car accident