

## **Specialist Dispatch Project in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia has been a crucial growth engine driving the nation's economic as well as social developments, strengthening Malaysia's overall competitive advantage in the ASEAN region. A highly urbanized metropolitan city with an area of 243 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 1.7 million people, Kuala Lumpur sees a high density of local residents with diversifying needs in terms of public services. Mandated with the administration and management of the city, Kuala Lumpur City Hall has continuously strived to leverage the quality of public services it provides, so as to better address the actual needs of local residents. As a result of this tireless effort, Kuala Lumpur City Hall has been able to implement a wide range of successful best practices in the fields of urban design, economic planning, transport management, environmental conservation and also public health management.

Public health and sanitation has always been a key focus area for Kuala Lumpur City Hall in delivering its daily administrations, as this aspect concerns the wellbeing of local residents living in the city. With the aim to further improve the level of public health and sanitation in the city, in addition to leverage the food sampling techniques used by its Food Laboratory, the Health and Environment Department of Kuala Lumpur City Hall made a request to CLAIR Singapore for a Japanese specialist to be dispatched to Kuala Lumpur. As a result, Mr. Mitsuru Higashiseto, a Health Officer from the Aira Public Health Center in Kagoshima Prefecture was dispatched as a specialist to Kuala Lumpur from 3 to 13 December 2013 so as to provide the necessary trainings.

During the first half of the project, the specialist and officials from Kuala Lumpur City Hall conducted on-site inspection on restaurants that were randomly selected, whereby the specialist has conducted activities such as checking the current local conditions of sanitation management, gathering test samples for the quantitative analysis of coliform bacterium and interviewing local restaurant owners. In addition, the specialist also inspected the sanitation conditions in local restaurants and provided the relevant advice to restaurant owners on sanitation management. In addition, the specialist also conducted relevant trainings on different food sampling techniques to the staff of Kuala Lumpur City Hall's Food Laboratory.

In the second half of the program, a series of health and sanitation seminar targeted at staff from Kuala Lumpur City Hall, restaurant owners and food handlers was conducted. During a seminar attended by staff from the Health and Environment Department, the specialist

conducted a briefing on several case studies of food poisoning incidents in Japan that have brought about positive changes in the local authority's delivery of sanitation management. During this seminar, the specialist also showcased the ATP bioluminescence method, which is a rapid and reliable test method used to monitor surface contamination in food processing, as well as to detect contaminants in food products. The introduction of ATP bioluminescence method was well-received by staff from the Health and Environment Department as it is relatively new in the local context and has the potential to revolutionize the current swab method adopted locally.

In another seminar targeted at restaurant owners and food handlers, participants were briefed on the necessary steps that should be taken to improve the sanitation management of restaurants and eateries. Participants were also given an opportunity to practice the hygienic methods of hand washing using the "Hand Wash Checker", whereby participants learnt the proper way of cleaning their hands to prevent food contamination during the course of food preparation.

Through the Specialist Dispatch Project, CLAIR aspires to promote a higher level of knowledge transfer between local governments in Japan and the ASEAN region as well as India. Kindly contact CLAIR Singapore for further information on the project.



Site inspection at a local restaurant



A scene from the seminar

### **Specialist Dispatch Project in Surabaya, Indonesia**

Renowned for its “Green and Clean” initiatives, Indonesia’s Surabaya City has successfully transformed itself into an eco-city that is widely recognized in the country. In line with the city administration’s vision of materializing an intelligent eco-city in Surabaya, various infrastructures in the city is currently being upgraded, including its sewerage systems. Sewerage management, in particular management of drainage networks throughout the city has been a key issue to the city administration. In order to learn from Japan’s experience in drainage management, Surabaya City Government has participated in CLAIR’s “2013 Specialist Dispatch project”.

Mr. Koki Senba, a specialist in drainage management from the Naka Land Development Office of Japan’s Fukuoka Prefectural Government was dispatched to Surabaya from 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 so as to provide the necessary training to the employees of Surabaya City Government. The training focused on the latest technologies and machinery that could be incorporated to effectively clear and prevent blockages caused by wastes as well as sediments in box culverts along the local drainage networks.

Around 30 employees from the various departments of Surabaya City Government, for example Department of Public Works, Department of Spatial Planning and Department of Environment participated in the training program. During the lectures, the specialist introduced the techniques and machinery used in Japan for clearing clogged box culverts. At the same time, Mr. Senba recommended methods and machinery that could be used by Surabaya City Government in accordance to the local context.

The specialist also had the opportunity to visit the actual sites of box culverts and rivers clogged with wastes as well as sediments. During the visits, Mr. Senba provided advice to the participants on the methods of clearing blockages and also ways to prevent further accumulation of wastes as well as sediments at these places. The specialist commented on the importance of creating awareness among the local residents to prevent illegal dumping of wastes at public places. In addition, he also stated that it is imperative for the city administration to ensure that the local infrastructures are well-maintained so as to prolong the lifespan of these infrastructures.

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A scene from the local site visit



A scene from the lecture

### Specialist Dispatch Project in Brunei Darussalam

Risk management and disaster preparedness are two key themes underlying the core competencies of The Fire and Rescue Department in Brunei Darussalam, which proactively implements programs to train its personnel and the public on the preponderance of emergency measures. With the mission to further enhance the capability of its personnel, the Department requested the dispatch of a specialist from Japan in the field of firefighting and disaster management. With the coordination from CLAIR Singapore, Mr. Masashi Nemoto, a specialist from Japan's Chiba City was dispatched to Brunei from 9 to 21 of February 2014 so as to implement the relevant trainings.

Around 20 personnel from Brunei's Fire and Rescue Department attended the training program, which focused on the area of disaster and emergency preparedness. During the training program, the specialist from Japan showcased the latest innovations in Japan's disaster management systems, including the concept of volunteer fire corps and proposed methods to incorporate such systems in Brunei's local context. In addition, the specialist also observed the Department's implementation of its in-house fire marshal training course, and provided feedbacks on ways to improve the course's delivery. During the dispatch period, the specialist also conducted hands-on training on fire drills and the proper usage of fire extinguishers.

Participants from Brunei's Fire and Rescue Department shown great interest and were highly motivated to learn from Japan's expertise and experience pertaining to disaster preparedness and risk management. The training program resulted in a meaningful exchange of knowledge and ideas between the participants and the specialist.

Under the Specialist Dispatch Project, CLAIR Singapore dispatches Japanese specialists to the 10 ASEAN countries as well as India in more than 30 expertise fields ranging from fire prevention, agriculture, environmental conversation to urban planning. Please contact CLAIR Singapore for further information on the program.



Practical training on fire equipment



Group photo of the specialist and program participants