

# CLAIR Singapore Newsletter

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• Mr. Usui taking test samples from restaurants

## Specialist Dispatch Project in Kuantan, Malaysia

Under CLAIR's Specialist Dispatch Project Scheme, a training on health and sanitation was conducted to restaurant owners in Kuantan, which is situated in the state of Pahang in Malaysia for about 2 weeks from 11th to 24th January 2010. The training was conducted by Mr. Usui Chikara, a specialist from Kagoshima Prefecture in Japan.

During the dispatch, the specialist and officials from Kuantan Municipal Council conducted on-site inspection on restaurants that were randomly selected, whereby the specialist conducted activities such as checking the current local conditions of sanitation management, gathering test samples for microbiological examination 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.

Apart from the above activities, a health and sanitation seminar targeted at staff from Kuantan Municipal Council, restaurant owners and food handlers was also conducted. There were a total of 123 participants for the seminar, out of which 75 were staff from Kuantan Municipal Council, and the remaining 48 were restaurant owners and food handlers. In the seminar, participants were given an opportunity to practice the hygienic methods of hand washing, and they were also able to learn about the importance of sanitation management through group work activities such as the "risk communication game".

*(Comment from Kuantan Municipal Council)*

"The program was very useful as it improves the food hygiene standards in Kuantan. We gained knowledge and technical skills particularly in microbiological examination, various scientific examinations on food product and bacteriological investigations. In order to promote hygiene and health awareness among food handlers and manufacturers, we also exchanged knowledge on subject matter and how to conduct seminar. Furthermore, the comparisons on laws and regulations between Kuantan Municipal Council and Kagoshima Prefecture gave us broader views on how to improve our enforcement mechanisms. Currently, we have been strategizing improvement plans for food hygiene, setting goals and will implement the plans accordingly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Usui Chikara for his full commitment and delivery of valuable knowledge for this program as well as our gratitude to CLAIR for the full support and advice to make the program a success. We hope that this kind of program can be continued to strengthen the cooperation between CLAIR and Kuantan Municipal Council".

*(Mrs. Suhaliah Ali, Administration Officer, Corporate Division, Kuantan Municipal Council)*

### *Program for Specialist Dispatch Project in Kuantan Municipal Council (KMC), Malaysia*

Date	Summary of Itinerary
11 Jan 2010 Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival in Kuantan</li> </ul>
12 Jan 2010 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courtesy Call on Mayor</li> <li>• Briefing</li> <li>• Discussion with related departments</li> <li>• Food examination facility visit at POLISAS (Lab test preparation)</li> <li>• Welcome dinner</li> </ul>
13 Jan 2010 Wednesday ~ 15 Jan 2010 Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local food premises visit: Restaurants inspection, bacterial sampling, measure chlorine residual in water</li> <li>• Lab test and demonstration</li> <li>• Microbiological analysis and data compilation</li> </ul>
16 Jan 2010 Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab test and demonstration</li> <li>• Microbiological analysis and data compilation</li> <li>• Food factory visit and report preparation</li> </ul>
17 Jan 2010 Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Tour</li> </ul>
18 Jan 2010 Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local food premises visit: Restaurants inspection, bacterial sampling, measure chlorine residual in water</li> <li>• Prepare lecture materials and equipments for demonstration</li> </ul>
19 Jan 2010 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture / Seminar for KMC's staff and food handlers</li> </ul>
20 Jan 2010 Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare lecture materials and equipment for demonstration</li> </ul>
21 Jan 2010 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture / Seminar for KMC's staff and food handlers</li> </ul>
22 Jan 2010 Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debriefing session / farewell dinner</li> </ul>
23 Jan 2010 Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study visits in Kuala Lumpur</li> <li>• Departure from Kuala Lumpur</li> </ul>
24 Jan 2010 Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to Japan</li> </ul>

## Specialist Dispatch Project in Phitsanulok, Thailand

Phitsanulok Municipality, which is located around 380 km north of Bangkok and with a population of around 80,000 people, has participated in CLAIR's Specialist Dispatch Project in year 2010. In order to further improve the local firefighters' skills pertaining to rescue activities at high-rise buildings, and also firefighting techniques for hazardous materials, Phitsanulok Municipality has requested a specialist in the field of fire and disaster prevention from Japan.

Mr. Yoshida Hitoshi, an expert in the field of hyper rescue from Kitakyushu Fire Department in Japan, was dispatched to Phitsanulok Municipality for 2 weeks from 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The training program on each day was made up of 2 sessions: (1) The morning session which consisted of lectures on firefighting and rescue techniques, (2) The afternoon session which consisted of practical trainings on the relevant skills and techniques. Around 50 local firefighters in the region participated in the two-week training program.

The training program ended with an integrated exercise conducted by the trainees, who were divided into 5 groups of 10 persons per group. They performed the various skill sets on putting out fire caused by hazardous materials, and hyper rescue techniques that they have learnt from the training program.

*(Comment from Phitsanulok Municipality)*

"The 2009 Fire and Disaster Prevention Training Program in Phitsanulok Municipality was implemented with the kind cooperation from CLAIR. We wish to take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to the specialist, Mr. Yoshida, who was fully committed to the program and has imparted the best of his knowledge to the trainees during the dispatch period. Through the program, we have gained not only advanced knowledge on the

various skills and techniques, but we were also given a chance to experience the Japanese systems of fire and disaster management. In addition, we were also able to further leverage the capabilities of local firefighters, and build a local network of fire and disaster management. The most important lesson that we've learnt from this programme is that 'saving lives is more important than anything'".

*(Ms. Nuangnit Chaiyaphum, Head of Administrative, Technical and Planning Division, Phitsanulok Municipality)*

### Program for Specialist Dispatch Project in Phitsanulok Municipality, Thailand

Date	Summary of Itinerary
14 Feb 2010 Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival in Phitsanulok Municipality, Thailand</li> </ul>
15 Feb 2010 Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courtesy call on Mayor</li> <li>• Visit to facilities with hazardous materials, high-rise building</li> </ul>
16 Feb 2010 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation</li> <li>• Observe fire engines and fire fighting equipment</li> </ul>
17 Feb 2010 Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Lecture) Characteristics of fire caused by hazardous materials</li> <li>• (Lecture) Methods of putting out fire caused by hazardous materials</li> </ul>
19 Feb 2010 Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Lecture) Characteristics of fire at high-rise buildings</li> <li>• Training on putting out fire caused by hazardous materials</li> <li>• Training on putting out fire at high-rise buildings</li> </ul>
22 Feb 2010 Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Lecture) Methods of putting out fire at high-rise buildings</li> <li>• (Lecture) Methods on searching and moving casualties</li> <li>• (Lecture) Methods on rescue activities at high-rise buildings</li> </ul>
25 Feb 2010 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on putting out fire at high-rise buildings</li> <li>• Training on searching and moving casualties</li> <li>• Training on rescue activities at high-rise buildings</li> </ul>
26 Feb 2010 Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated exercise</li> <li>• Questions and Answers</li> </ul>
27 Feb 2010 Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depart to Bangkok</li> </ul>
28 Feb 2010 Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depart to Japan</li> </ul>



• Integrated exercise



• Mr. Yoshida (centre) with trainees

## Chingay Parade Singapore 2010

"Chingay Parade Singapore", the largest international street parade in Singapore was held on 19<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 20<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) of February 2010.

Organized by the People's Association of Singapore, Chingay Parade is traditionally held during the Lunar New Year period, and this year marks the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chingay Parade. Over the years, Chingay Parade has evolved from a traditional local event to an international event participated by renowned performance groups from overseas. This year's Chingay Parade attracted over 60,000 visitors.

"Wonder Namie", a Yosakoi dance group from Namie Town in Fukushima Prefecture participated in this year's parade. The group performed the traditional Japanese Yosakoi dance, and they were given opportunities to interact with Singapore and foreign performance groups.

As a part of its efforts in promoting international exchange and cooperation between Japan and Singapore, CLAIR Singapore provides assistance to the People's Association in Singapore with regards to recruiting performance groups from Japan, and also providing the relevant supports to the Japanese performance groups during their stay in Singapore.



• "Wonder Namie" performing Yosakoi Dance at Chingay Parade Singapore 2010

## CLAIR Singapore's In-house Training Program in March 2010

CLAIR Singapore conducts an in-house training program for its staff on an annual basis, with the objective of further enhancing their knowledge pertaining to the various local administration systems existing in the ASEAN region as well as India. For the purpose of the in-house training program, CLAIR Singapore invites government officials or prominent university professors who are well-versed with the local administration systems in the ASEAN region and India to conduct the relevant lectures. So far, CLAIR Singapore has invited speakers from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand to impart their knowledge and expertise to the staff in CLAIR Singapore.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010, CLAIR Singapore conducted its annual in-house program entitled "Local Administration Reform in Laos". In this regard, CLAIR Singapore invited 2 speakers from Lao PDR's Public Administration and Civil Service Authority (PACSA), namely Ms. Athiphone Bounnaphol (Deputy Director General of Local Administration Department, PACSA), and also Ms. Vilaythone Sounthone Xaymongkounh (Director of Public Relation and International Cooperation Division, PACSA) to conduct the lecture in CLAIR Singapore.

In her lecture, Ms. Athiphone Bounnaphol had provided invaluable insights to the local administration in Lao PDR, as well as the issues and future challenges with regards to the reform in the framework of local administration system in Lao PDR. During the lecture, there was an active exchange of ideas between the speakers and participants, thereby allowing CLAIR Singapore staff to gain new perspectives which will benefit them in their works, especially with regards to CLAIR Singapore's research activities.



• Third from right: Ms. Athiphone Bounnaphol  
Second from right: Ms. Vilaythone Sounthone Xaymongkounh

# “The 3rd UCLG ASPAC Congress 2010, Hamamatsu”



3rd UCLG ASPAC  
Congress 2010, Hamamatsu

The “3rd UCLG ASPAC Congress” to be held in Hamamatsu will be an opportunity for representatives of member organizations of the Asia Pacific Regional Section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG ASPAC) and Japanese local governments to meet; discuss key global issues; and contribute to building effective partnerships of local governments in the region. (For more details about UCLG, please refer to: [www.clair.or.jp/e/other/iula.html](http://www.clair.or.jp/e/other/iula.html))

It is the first time that the Congress will be held in Japan. The first and second editions were held in April 2005 in Daegu City (South Korea) and in July 2008 in Pattaya City (Thailand), respectively.

**Dates** 19 - 22 October, 2010  
**Venue** ACT CITY Hamamatsu  
**Hosted by** 3rd UCLG ASPAC Congress 2010, Hamamatsu Executive Committee; City of Hamamatsu; UCLG ASPAC.  
**Contact** Secretariat of the Executive Committee (c/o International Affairs Division, Hamamatsu City)

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## New Staff

### Takuyo Katanoda

Hello! I'm Takuyo Katanoda, dispatched from Kagoshima Prefectural Government. I have just started to work here in Singapore since April.

Kagoshima is located in the south of Japan, and has deepened exchanges with Southeast Asian countries with the geographical advantage of its location.

Spanning 600 kilometres from North to South, Kagoshima also has a lot of fascinating sites to visit, such as Yakushima (one of the world heritage sites), Sakurajima (one of the most active volcanoes in the world), and countless hot springs.

This is my first time living or even visiting an ASEAN country, so I've been really excited about being here since the moment the plane landed at Changi Airport.

Though I will only be working here for 2 years, I believe it's going to be a great experience for me.

### Machiko Nakamura

Hello. I'm Machiko Nakamura, dispatched from Miyazaki prefecture. I've been to Singapore on a school trip about 10 years ago, so I'm glad to be able to visit here again and really appreciate the opportunity to work in Singapore.

Miyazaki is located in the southeast of Kyusyu island and is similar to Singapore in several aspects, such as the warm climate in summer and the beautiful sea view or the sunny landscapes. I'm sure you will like Miyazaki once you visit there!

During my 2-year tenure here in Singapore, I will try to expand my knowledge about ASEAN countries especially in terms of their culture and relations with Japan. And finally, I would like to enjoy Singapore life!

### Yuuka Kojima

It is my pleasure to come to Singapore, an energetic city which is gathering much attention in the world. I come from Sendai City, situated in the centre of the northern part of Japan known as the Tohoku area. It takes 1 hour 40 minutes to travel from Tokyo to Sendai by the Shinkansen (bullet train). You can enjoy the beauty of the four seasons such as sakura (cherry



• From left to right: Mr. Takuyo Katanoda, Ms. Machiko Nakamura, and Ms. Yuuka Kojima

blossoms), maple leaves and snow in Sendai City.

When I visited Singapore for leisure about 2 years ago, never had I expected to be able to work here. Once I start to live here, I realise Singapore is a very nice place to live in and the local food is delicious too.

I hope that through the life in Singapore, the attractiveness and diversity of Singapore and ASEAN countries as well as India will stimulate and improve my knowledge and experience which I would bring back and share with Sendai City.



## About CLAIR

CLAIR is a joint organisation founded in 1988 by 47 prefectures and 19 major cities in Japan in order to assist Japanese local authorities with the implementation of their international exchange policies. With its headquarters in Tokyo, CLAIR has seven overseas offices in New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney, and Beijing.

CLAIR SINGAPORE office was set up in October 1990. It supports and promotes international activities and friendly relations between local authorities in Japan and their counterparts in Singapore and the ASEAN countries as well as India.

For further information on our activities of Japanese Local Authorities, please contact CLAIR Singapore office.

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