

CLAIR Singapore Newsletter Volume. 52 March 2011

Japan-India Regional Exchange Promotion Program



• Group photo with Japanese language students in Delhi.

CLAIR implemented a study mission to India entitled "Japan-India Regional Exchange Promotion Program" from 24th November to 4th December 2010 in collaboration with the Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities (JIAM) and the Conference of Recognized Local International Exchange Associations of Japan.



• Cultural exchange session with students from Delhi

With an objective to achieve greater understanding of the current situation and challenges of the politics, economy as well as the cultural exchanges between Japan and India, the mission comprising of Japanese local government officials was organized to India, where visits to governmental organizations, universities and business

firms were conducted in addition to cultural exchange activities that allowed engagements with local participants. Through these visits and exchange of opinions, the program aims to create opportunities for the promotion of future Japan-India regional exchanges and cultivate an international perspective among its participants. The program was carried out in 3 cities namely Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

In Delhi, participants first attended general briefings about India at several Japanese governmental organizations. Next, a visit was arranged to the Delhi Metro, an underground rail system built with the aid of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) and which has now become an essential mode of public transportation in Delhi. The participants were given a chance to travel on the trains and gain a deeper understanding on one of Japan's international cooperation projects.

In an effort to promote mutual understanding, Japanese language students in Delhi were also invited for a day of cultural exchange with the Japanese participants. Both the Japanese and Indian participants gave presentations during the session, and actively exchanged opinions on their respective cultures, customs and lifestyles.

The mission then moved on to Mumbai where an overview of the Indian economy was conducted at an economic think tank, followed by a visit to the Bombay Stock Exchange where a separate briefing on the current situation of the Indian economy and its future outlook was held. The

mission also visited the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, as they explored possibilities of future exchange between Japan and India's local government bodies.

At the last stop, Bangalore, the participants were able to experience the dynamism of India's IT sector through visits to one of India's leading IT companies – Infosys Technologies, as well as an institute of information technology that nurtures outstanding talents for these IT companies. The program ended with a visit to a joint venture between a Japanese and Indian company, Kirloskar Toyoda Textile Machinery Pvt. Ltd., where participants got to learn about the various aspects of venturing into India, including the importance of developing human resources and finding reliable partners for joint ventures.

Program Itinerary

Date	City	Itinerary and places of visit
28th Nov Sunday	Delhi	Study visit to National Museum, New Delhi and other places Orientation
29th Nov Monday	Delhi	Embassy of Japan in India
		Office of JICA India
		Delhi Metro Opinion-exchange session with representatives of Japanese organizations in Delhi
30th Nov Tuesday	Delhi	Cultural exchange with students from Delhi at the Japan Foundation New Delhi Cultural Centre
1st Dec Wednesday	Delhi	Travel to Mumbai
	Mumbai	Economic Think Tank Opinion-exchange session with representatives of Japanese organizations in Mumbai
2nd Dec Thursday	Mumbai	Bombay Stock Exchange
		Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
		Study visit to local retail facilities Travel to Bangalore
3rd Dec Friday	Bangalore	Infosys Technologies
		International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore
		Kirloskar Toyoda Textile Machinery Pvt. Ltd.
		End-of-Program Ceremony
		Departure

*In order to acquire some basic knowledge on India, participants also attended a domestic training session at the Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities (JIAM) from 24th to 26th November.

*The two Saturdays of 27th November and 4th December were travel days.

Specialist Dispatch Project in Brunei



• The specialist, Mr. Asaki (first from right) paying a courtesy visit to Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Hj Halbi bin Hj Awang Md Yussof (second from right), Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Brunei

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. 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.

Last year, a specialist from Oita Prefecture, Mr. Shoichi Asaki, was dispatched to Brunei from 11th to 23rd December 2010, based on a request made by Brunei's Ministry of Home Affairs as part of the Ministry's efforts to promote the Development of Local Specialty Product (One Village One Product) movement in Brunei. Some of the objectives of the dispatch project included the learning of marketing techniques, quality management and hygiene control with regards to some of Brunei's local specialty products.

On the first day of the dispatch project, a brief introduction was given by both the specialist and a representative from Brunei's Ministry of Home Affairs on the various Development of Local Specialty Product (One Village One Product) movements and initiatives that were implemented in Oita Prefecture and Brunei respectively. In the following five days, site visits were made to the respective villages that were involved in the Development of Local Specialty Product (One Village One Product) movement in Brunei's four districts, namely the Brunei and Muara District, Tutong District, Belait District and Temburong District. During these visits, the specialist was given the opportunity to directly interact with the villagers and at the same time, offered his advice and suggestions on various issues that the villagers were facing in areas such as the production of processed mango or marine products, as well as the making of handicraft products.

After the visits, training sessions were conducted and the program concluded with an overall discussion session on the final day of the dispatch period, where the specialist and local villagers exchanged their ideas and opinions. Among the numerous questions asked were those related to marketing techniques and the possible potential of exporting Brunei's local products overseas. To this, the specialist advised that local villagers should not be over-dependent on the government, and that he hopes that "through the experiences from countless failures, Brunei will be able to build up your own brand using your own hands."

The Specialist Dispatch Project also received a considerable amount of media attention in Brunei, with several local newspapers reporting consecutively on the visits and training sessions during the dispatch



• Mr. Asaki (first from right) taking a closer look at one of the local bamboo handicraft products

period, revealing the high-level of awareness by Brunei's government and its people towards their Development of Local Specialty Product (One Village One Product) movement.

Program for Specialist Dispatch Project in Brunei

Date	Summary of Itinerary
12 Dec 2010	Welcoming Dinner
13 Dec 2010	Briefings Session 1: "Initial Development of 'Local Specialty Product' (Handicraft and Farming)" Mr. Shoichi Asaki, Chief Researcher for Food Industry, Oita Industrial Research Institute. Session 2: "One Village One Product" from official of the Department of Local Authorities and Community Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Brunei Darussalam Site Visit (Handicraft Product)
14 Dec 2010	Site Visit (Mango Fruits Product, Marine Product) Training Session
15 Dec 2010	Site Visit (Chili Sauce Product, Worm Farm – Vermi Compose) Training Session
16 Dec 2010	Site Visit (Dry and Wet Yellow Noodle Product, Fruit Product, Poultry Farm, Mushroom Farm, Traditional Snack Food) Training Session
18 Dec 2010	Site Visit (Farming & Virgin Coconut Oil Product, Fruit Product, Handicraft Product) Training Session
20 Dec 2010	Discussion Session Topics: a) Product Durability, Non-Chemical Mixture, Cleanliness, Food Security and Quality – Halal Food b) Product Packaging and Quality Food Branding to attract customers. c) Product Promotion and Marketing Strategy d) Full utilization of natural resources.
21 Dec 2010	Briefing Session Topics: a) 'Development of Local Specialty Product (One Village One Product)' in Oita Prefecture, Japan b) Use of Technology, Human Resource and Production System c) Identifying key factors for the successful implementation of 'Development of Local Specialty Product (One Village One Product)' Question and Answer Session

Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar 2010

Every year, CLAIR Singapore invites executive officials from local governmental organizations in the ASEAN countries and India to take part in a "Local Government Exchange and Cooperation Seminar" that is held in Japan. Through discussing and exchanging information about the current situation and challenges faced by their respective local governments, the seminar provides an opportunity for participants to gain a deeper understanding about the different local government systems while at the same time, allow time for them to establish personal networks of contacts.

From 24th to 31st October 2010, 10 participants from 10 countries gathered in Japan to participate in the aforementioned seminar.



• Study visit to Shizuoka Prefectural Earthquake Preparedness Education Center

Some of the comments and feedback gathered during the farewell reception on 29th October are as follows:

- I was amazed to learn about the existence of voluntary disaster prevention groups and communities for emergency relief.
- The disaster prevention concepts of "Self-help" (activities to protect oneself), "Mutual Assistance" (cooperative activities undertaken by citizens to provide assistance to one another) and "Public Assistance" (assistance provided by the national or local government) have been of great reference.
- I was impressed by the educational function of the Earthquake Preparedness Education Center and will report on what I have learnt when I return to my country.

No. of participants in the Seminar held since 2001

Country	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Cambodia	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Indonesia	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Laos	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malaysia	2	2	0	4	2	1	2	0	1	1
Myanmar	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
Philippines	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thailand	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	1
Vietnam	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	2	1
Brunei	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Singapore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
India	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	1
Total	10	10	8	6	10	10	11	8	10	10

The week-long seminar consists of 2 parts, with the former being a seminar held in Tokyo and the latter, an exchange program at a Japanese local authority. At the Tokyo seminar, lectures on the Japanese local administration system, disaster prevention measures and an overview of CLAIR's programs were conducted, in addition to study visits to the National Diet Building, a Disaster Prevention Park and the Edo-Tokyo Museum. A welcome reception was held for the participants and officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the various Embassies were also invited.

For the exchange program at a local authority, the participants visited Shizuoka Prefecture where they took part in various activities related to the theme of disaster prevention. These included a courtesy visit to the Vice Governor, a lecture on the disaster prevention measures in the prefecture, and visits to related facilities in Numazu City and Shizuoka Prefectural Earthquake Preparedness Education Center.



• 2010 seminar participants

Seminar Itinerary

Date	Itinerary
24 th Oct	Arrival in Japan
25 th Oct	Tokyo Seminar (Presentation on CLAIR activities, courtesy visit to Chairperson of CLAIR's Board of Directors, lectures on Japanese local government system and disaster prevention policies, welcome reception)
26 th Oct	Study Visit in Tokyo (National Diet Building, Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park, Kiba Park, Edo-Tokyo Museum)
27 th Oct	Travel to Shizuoka Prefecture Exchange programs in Shizuoka (Courtesy visit to Vice Governor, briefing on Shizuoka, welcome lunch hosted by Shizuoka Prefecture, home visit)
28 th Oct	Exchange programs in Shizuoka (Lecture on disaster prevention measures in the prefecture, study visits to a facility for prevention of tsunami and the Community Disaster Prevention Center)
29 th Oct	Exchange programs in Shizuoka (Study visits to Shizuoka Prefectural Earthquake Preparedness Education Center, Kunouzan-Toshogu Shrine, farewell dinner and opinion exchange session, accommodation in a traditional Japanese inn)
30 th Oct	Return to Tokyo
31 st Oct	Departure from Japan

International Seminar on Japan-Indonesia Local Administration



• Opening speech by Mr. Kazuo Miwa, Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan

An 'International Seminar on Japan-Indonesia Local Administration' was held on 26th and 27th October 2010 at the Institute of Public Administration (*Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri, IPDN*) in Jatinangor, Indonesia. The seminar was jointly organized by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in collaboration with Indonesia's Ministry of Home Affairs. CLAIR Singapore and IPDN also provided the necessary coordination support for the implementation of the seminar.

Asian region. Therefore, the seminar was very meaningful for both Japan and Indonesia as it enabled both countries to exchange views on the issues of local administration.

During the first day of the seminar, a total of 6 presentations on 3 main themes, namely 'Current Situation and Future Plans of Local Administration and Public Finance System', 'Regional Cooperation and Municipal Mergers', 'Decentralization and Local Revitalization' were delivered by presenters from Japan and Indonesia. Participants were given opportunities to voice their views and questions after each session, and it was evident that there was a strong interest towards Japan's local administration among Indonesian participants.



• Institut Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri (IPDN)

The seminar was conducted with the aim of further enhancing cooperation in the field of local administration between Japan and Indonesia, whereby participants of this seminar are mainly management level officials and civil servants who are related to the local administration in both countries. Since its independence, Indonesia has successfully implemented comprehensive laws on local administration, and has also revised the relevant laws accordingly so as to reflect the current circumstances. It can be said that the local administration system currently existing in Indonesia is one of the most advanced systems in the

The second day of the seminar focused on the exchange of opinions between representatives from Japan and Indonesia, as participants explored the actual possibilities of cooperation between both countries.

The seminar was highly appraised by participants from both countries as it provided an invaluable platform for them to interact and enhance their mutual understandings, especially in the aspect of local administration.

CLAIR welcomed delegations from Thailand and Malaysia

CLAIR Singapore hosted a visit for 20 delegates from The Graduate School of Public Administration, Burapha University of Chonburi Province, Thailand on 22nd November 2010. The delegation was led by Dr. Racha Mahakuntha, a professor from Mahidol University, and consisted of 19 graduate students, amongst which included senior civil servants and members from the military and police force.



• Dr. Racha Mahakuntha (left) presenting CLAIR with a souvenir of Thai artwork.

After a quick welcome to the delegation, the group was given an introduction of CLAIR's activities in the 10 ASEAN countries and India in areas concerning local governments. During the Q&A session, the delegates posed numerous questions and comments such as "Does CLAIR conduct research in politics?" and "We hope CLAIR will consider collaborating with Thailand in the area of environmental pollution caused by chemical industries." At the end of the meeting, copies of CLAIR's publication – "Local Government in Japan 2008" were also handed out to the delegation for their future reference on Japan's local government structure.

On 17th December 2010, CLAIR Singapore received another group of 11 delegates from the Administrative and Diplomatic Service Association Malaysia, led by our main counterpart in Malaysia, Datuk Arpah bt Abdul Razak, Director-General of the Local Government Department, Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

During the visit, a brief introduction of CLAIR Singapore's activities and programs was conducted, followed by a discussion session where both parties conveyed their warm appreciation of the mutual cooperative ties thus far cultivated. In particular, CLAIR's Specialist Dispatch Project conducted in Kuantan, Malaysia in January 2010 was highly acclaimed by some of the delegates who had helped to coordinate the implementation of the project. The discussion ended cordially with both sides expressing hopes of introducing CLAIR's projects to other regions of Malaysia in the future.



• Group photo of CLAIR Singapore staff and delegates from the Administrative and Diplomatic Service Association of Malaysia. (Seated from left to right) Mr. Yutaka Oinuma, Director of CLAIR Singapore and Datuk Arpah bt. Abdul Razak, Director-General of the Local Government Department, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia

About CLAIR

CLAIR is a joint organization 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, please contact CLAIR Singapore office.

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