

CLAIR Singapore Newsletter *Volume. 56* June 2012

Japan-India Regional Exchange Promotion Program

CLAIR Singapore successfully implemented a study mission to India entitled "Japan-India Regional Exchange Promotion Program" from 25 January to 4 February 2012.

Organized for Japanese local government officials, the mission aimed to create more opportunities for the promotion of future Japan-India regional exchanges through conducting visits to governmental organizations and business enterprises, as well as conducting cultural exchange activities with local participants. Implemented in India for the second consecutive year, the mission took the participants to the 3 cities of Mumbai, Pune and Chennai this year.

2012 marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. Both countries share a long history of inter-regional exchange since the establishment of sister city ties between Mumbai and Yokohama City in 1965. Thus far, 5 sister city affiliations and friendship city agreements have been concluded between the two countries. In recent years, economic exchange has become one of the core focuses in the two countries' collaboration as evidenced by the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2010 between Hiroshima Prefecture and Tamil Nadu Government which envisages closer economic cooperation. As of October 2011, over 800 Japanese companies have ventured into India and this trend is expected to further increase against a backdrop of positive and stable political relations between the two countries.

In this study mission, the participants paid a courtesy visit to the Municipal Commissioner of Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) where they were given briefings on its administrative system. They also visited a public elementary school and a sewerage treatment plant in the city, both of which are managed by PMC.

In the state of Tamil Nadu where the most number of Japanese companies can be found in India today, participants visited the state's guidance bureau in Chennai and were given an informative account of the state's infrastructural advantages, opportunities for foreign investments and pro-investment policies. In addition, to allow participants to experience the dynamism of India's thriving IT sector and learn more about the reasons behind this main driver of the country's rapid economic growth, a visit was

Program Itinerary

Date	City	Time	Itinerary and places of visit
29th Jan Sunday	Mumbai	All day	Visits to cultural sites, Japanese F&B outlets etc
		Evening	Orientation
30th Jan Monday	Mumbai	Morning	Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai
		Afternoon	All India Institute of Local Self Government
31st Jan Tuesday	Pune	Morning	Pune-Okayama Friendship Garden Pune Municipal Corporation
		Afternoon	Site visits to PMC's civic facilities
		Evening	Opinion exchange session with Association of Friends of Japan, Pune
1st Feb Wednesday	Pune	All day	Cultural exchange program with students of the University of Pune, Department of Foreign Languages
2nd Feb Thursday	Chennai	Morning	JETRO Chennai Government of Tamil Nadu, Guidance Bureau
		Afternoon	BBL Daido Private Ltd.
		Evening	Opinion exchange session with representatives of Japanese organizations
3rd Feb Friday	Chennai	Morning	Ajinomoto India Private Ltd.
		Afternoon	Infosys Ltd.
		Evening	End-of-Program and departure

* In order to acquire some basic knowledge on India, participants attended a domestic training session at the Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities (JIAM) from 25 to 27 January.

* The two Saturdays of 28 January and 4 February were spent on travelling.

organized to Infosys, one of the world's leading IT companies. The visit not only afforded the participants a glimpse into India's advanced corporate environment, but also let them recognize the growing global presence of India.

In an effort to promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding, a cultural exchange program was organized with students learning Japanese language at the University of Pune. Both the Japanese and Indian participants gave presentations and actively exchanged opinions on their respective cultures, customs and lifestyles, turning the program into a rare opportunity for the Japanese delegates, in particular, to interact closely with young aspiring talents who will be the future bridges for both countries. It is hoped that this mission will be beneficial in paving a path for further regional exchange between the two countries.



Group photo with Japanese language students of the University of Pune



Courtesy visit to Pune Municipal Corporation

EROPA's 57th Executive Council Meeting, 23rd General Assembly and Conference in Bangkok

As a member of the Executive Council of The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA), CLAIR attended the organization's 57th Executive Council Meeting as well as 23rd General Assembly and Conference held in Bangkok from 19 to 23 February 2012.

Established in December 1960, EROPA is an organization consisting of states, groups and individuals in Asia and the Pacific. EROPA was founded in response to a common desire among developing countries to promote regional cooperation in improving knowledge, systems and practices of government administration so as to help accelerate economic and social development in the region. In fact, EROPA was the first organization in the region devoted to the development of public administration so as to catalyze the economic and social advancement of countries in Asia and the Pacific.

During the 57th Executive Council Meeting on 19 February, a report on EROPA's activities in year 2011 was made and discussions on the organization's operational policies were also held. In addition, Executive Council members also exchanged their views on matters relating to the organization's efforts in enhancing its presence through increased publicity and in strengthening its human resource development.

EROPA's 23rd General Assembly was held subsequently on 20 February, and it was followed by a series of conference which was held from 20 to 22 February. The conference was organized into 3 sub-themes, namely "Fiscal Retrenchment: Challenges, Opportunities, and Innovation in Public Administration", "The Role of the State in Managing New Challenges: Opportunities and Innovation", and "Innovations in Public Service Delivery". During the conference, academics and practitioners of public administration presented their papers on various issues of common interests to governmental organizations in the region, and the conference provided an effective platform for the participants to exchange their views with the speakers.

Held annually, the EROPA meetings will be conducted in Indonesia for year 2012 and in Japan for year 2013.



The 57th Executive Council Meeting of EROPA



Performance by Young Odoriren Team Kajyotan at Chingay Parade Singapore 2012

Chingay Parade Singapore 2012

CLAIR Singapore provided assistance in coordinating a dance group from Kagoshima Prefecture to perform in the Chingay Parade Singapore 2012, which was held on 3 and 4 February. Being one of the highlight events during the Chinese New Year period in Singapore, the Chingay Parade is the country's grandest street parade that hosts both local and overseas groups in a festival of vibrant cultural performances.

Under the theme of "We Are One", the two-night parade held on 3 and 4 February 2012 attracted around 1 billion viewers who watched the program either onsite or through media such as TV, print and internet. To commemorate the parade's 40th anniversary, a unique waterway was constructed for the performers at the Singapore Formula One Pit Building area, which is the main venue for the event.



Young Odoriren Team Kajyotan, which comprises of students from the Kagoshima Women's Junior College represented Japan in this year's Chingay Parade, and the group performed dynamic numbers that included the Ohara Bushi and Hanya Bushi which originated from Kagoshima.

Group members with Singapore's Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong

Through the Singapore-Kagoshima Conference, Kagoshima Prefecture has established friendly and cooperative bilateral ties with Singapore for 30 years now. In January 2012, the 16th Singapore-Kagoshima Conference was held in Singapore, and Young Odoriren Team Kajyotan's participation in the Chingay Parade Singapore 2012 signifies the mutual cultural exchange between Singapore and Kagoshima Prefecture.

Specialist Dispatch Project in Phitsanulok Municipality, Thailand



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

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.

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

New Staff

Hisashi Nagahama

Hello, my name is Hisashi Nagahama, and I am dispatched from Saitama Prefectural Government. This is my second time to Singapore. I was here almost 12 years ago with my family just for a short stay. Comparing the time when I last visited and the present, I would say that Singapore has grown tremendously and the change is just amazing.

I look forward to doing my best in promoting mutual exchange between Japanese local governments and various countries in the ASEAN region, as well as India. Thank you.

Osamu Norimatsu

Hello, I am Osamu Norimatsu, and I am dispatched from Kitakyushu City Government which is situated in the north of Japan's Kyushu island. In 2011, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) named Kitakyushu City a "Green Growth Model City" of the world, for its efforts in maintaining both economic growth and environmental sustainability. I highly look forward to sharing our experiences with ASEAN countries and India for future development in this region, and I will strive to do my best as a bridge for greater mutual understanding between this region and Japan.

Chikanori Yoshida

Hello, I am Chikanori Yoshida and I am dispatched to CLAIR Singapore from Iwate Prefectural Government.

Iwate, my homeland, was badly devastated by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Thanks to your warm encouragement and all the help we received from all over the world after the disaster, we have started to recover.

During my stay in Singapore, I would like to share our disaster countermeasures with the people in this region, as well as build and develop business links between Southeast Asian countries and Japan.

Kumiko Niiyama

I am very pleased to be able to work in Singapore. I am from Ota City which is situated within Tokyo. Ota City is well known for its concentration of the manufacturing industry and highly-skilled specialists. Haneda Airport is also located in Ota City, which makes it easy for visitors from many countries to access both Ota City and Tokyo.

During my stay in Singapore, I would like to learn about Singapore and Southeast Asian countries and support further exchanges between Japanese local organizations and these countries.

Koki Tanaka

Hello, I am Koki Tanaka, dispatched from Nagasaki City.

Ever since our city's recovery from the tragedy of the atomic bombing in 1945, it has continued to actively campaign for the realization of world peace.

Having always been interested in the diverse cultures of the ASEAN region, I am very glad to have the opportunity to work in CLAIR Singapore. During my 2 years here, I look forward to expanding my knowledge on ASEAN region and India, and especially about the region's relations with Japan.

Kei Yoshimoto

Hello, I am Kei Yoshimoto, dispatched from Kagoshima Prefectural Government. Located in the south of Japan, Kagoshima has extensive exchanges with Southeast Asian countries due to its geographical location.

As I am interested in international cultural and economic exchanges, it is a pleasure for me to be able to work for CLAIR Singapore. I hope to have a wide variety of opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Japanese local governments and countries in ASEAN region as well as India.

Kazuma Saito [Director, Nagano Division]

Hello, I am Kazuma Saito. I am the representative of Nagano Prefectural Government in Singapore. Nagano Prefecture is located in the center of Honshu, the main island of Japan. It has a lot of beautiful landscapes and is surrounded by 3000-meter high mountain ranges, nicknamed the "Japan Alps".

There are three things that I would like to do during my stay in Singapore; namely, helping Nagano-based companies to invest in Southeast Asian countries and India, promoting trade between Nagano and these countries, and attracting tourists from these countries to Nagano. I will do my best to develop the economic relations between these countries and Nagano.



From left to right: Mr. Yoshida, Mr. Nagahama, Ms. Niiyama, Ms. Yoshimoto, Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Saito and Mr. Norimatsu

About CLAIR

CLAIR is a joint organization founded in 1988 by 47 prefectures and 20 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.

CLAIR TOKYO HEADQUARTERS

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations
Sogo Hanzomon building (1st, 6th, 7th floors)
1-7 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0083, Japan
General Affairs Department
Tel: 81-3-5213-1730 Fax: 81-3-5213-1741
<http://www.clair.or.jp/e/index.html>

CLAIR SINGAPORE OFFICE

The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, Singapore
6 Battery Road, #31-02 Singapore 049909
Tel: 65-6224-7927 Fax: 65-6224-8376
E-mail: info@clair.org.sg
<http://www.clair.org.sg>