

VIP Invitation Program

H.E. Mr. Abbas Al-Naqi, Secretary General of OAPEC, Visits Japan

JCCP invited H.E. Mr. Abbas Al-Naqi, Secretary General, OAPEC, to Japan, from June 1 to 8, 2013 under the VIP Invitation Program.

During his stay in Japan, Mr. Al-Naqi actively visited and gave presentations at various oil-related institutions and companies in Japan, and also enjoyed the opportunity to exchange views with Mr. Ichiro Takahara, Director-General, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, METI.

1. Background and Significance of the Visit

JCCP's relationship with OAPEC had its beginnings in May 2009, when the OAPEC Secretariat approached JCCP about a possible scheme of mutual cooperation. After a series of working-level discussions, Mr. Al-Naqi and Mr. Morihiro Yoshida, Managing Director of JCCP, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Akihiro Ohata, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and H.E. Mr. Amr Mohammed Moussa, Secretary General, the League of Arab States, signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on December 10, 2010 in Tunis, verifying their intent to establish a cooperative relationship between OAPEC and JCCP. Thereafter in March 2011, the two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize their agreement to enter into a cooperative relationship.

Based on the MOU, OAPEC and JCCP hosted a joint technical seminar in Cairo, Egypt in 2011 and 2012 as a forum for discussion among OAPEC member countries and Japanese experts, and also helped translate Japanese standards for oil refining and stockpiling into Arabic.

The OAPEC Secretariat has direct ties to the cabinet officials (oil ministers) of member countries. Thus, by establishing a close, cooperative relationship with the



(From the left) Mr. Ichiro Takahara, Director-General, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, METI; H.E. Mr. Abbas Al-Naqi, Secretary General, OAPEC; Mr. Masataka Sase, Executive Director of JCCP; Mr. Morihiro Yoshida, Managing Director of JCCP

Secretariat, JCCP hopes to also build new connections with oil-related organizations in OAPEC member countries.

From the above perspective, inviting the leader of the OAPEC, that is an international organization of oil-producing countries and providing deep knowledge of Japan and Japan's oil industry accords with JCCP's mission to strengthen friendly relationships with government institutions in oil-producing countries and contribute to securing stable oil supply to Japan. From the standpoint of OAPEC as well, deepening its relationship with a major oil consumer that can offer excellent oil downstream technologies can contribute to the technological advancement of its member countries.

2. Schedule

Mr. Al-Naqi arrived at JCCP on June 3, and met with Mr. Masataka Sase, Executive Director, and Mr. Morihiro

Yoshida, Managing Director, to exchange information on recent oil situations and the circumstances surrounding the oil industry. He then toured JCCP's training facilities after receiving a brief overview of JCCP's activities and training program.

On June 4, Mr. Al-Naqi visited JX Nippon Oil and Gas Exploration Corporation and JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Technical Services Corporation, and deepened his understanding of the JX Group's crude oil development strategies in a meeting with board members from the head office.

On the same day, Mr. Al-Naqi gave a presentation at JCCP Headquarters on "The role of OAPEC member countries in the global oil and gas market and their relationship with Japan in the energy sector" to an audience of roughly 60 people from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, JCCP member companies, JETRO, Japan Petroleum Institute (JPI), and other relevant organizations. An active Q&A session followed the presentation, which helped to further deepen understanding and exchanges among the audience.

In his presentation, Mr. Al-Naqi stated that OAPEC's role is to promote cooperation among member countries, and particularly to promote efficient utilization of energy and joint ventures among the countries. At present, OAPEC has 10 active members. Together, they account for 30% of the world's crude oil production, 55% of its reserves, 16% of the world's production of natural gas, and 40% of global crude oil exports (all figures as of 2011). Meanwhile, Japan's dependency on oil for energy has dropped from 80% in the 1970s to 42%, and instead, its consumption of natural gas is increasing. Recognizing this trend, OAPEC wishes to continue its cooperative relationship with Japan and JCCP based on

oil and natural gas. As large investments are needed to increase production capacity, there are strong hopes for Japan's cooperation.

On the last day of his visit, Mr. Al-Naqi visited the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, METI and met with Mr. Ichiro Takahara, Director-General. As Mr. Al-Naqi previously held an important post in the Kuwaiti Ministry of Oil, Mr. Takahara thanked him for Kuwait's assistance (donation of crude oil) in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. He also said Japan has increasing expectations of maintaining and strengthening ties with the OAPEC countries, as energy security is a priority issue to Japan. In response, Mr. Al-Naqi described OAPEC's friendly relationship with JCCP, and expressed his wish to also maintain and strengthen this relationship in the future.

On the same day, Mr. Al-Naqi paid a call on H.E. Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Otaibi, Ambassador of Kuwait to Japan, and debriefed the Ambassador about his visit to Japan and the discussions that took place at the various institutions and companies he visited.

3. Observations

Mr. Al-Naqi's visit to Japan and exchanges with various Japanese institutions and companies in the oil industry, including JCCP, provided a highly important step in deepening mutual understanding between OAPEC and Japan and building an even closer relationship based on cooperation. JCCP is pleased that he left Japan with a smile.

<by Hironao Naganuma, Technical Cooperation Dept.>



Mr. Al-Naqi giving a presentation



Mr. Al-Naqi (center)