

# JCCP Alumni Meeting Held in Saudi Arabia

## 1. Purpose of the Meeting

In March 2014, JCCP organized and held the Second JCCP Alumni Meeting in Saudi Arabia. (The first meeting was held in UAE in November 2012.) Through such alumni meetings, JCCP aims to verify the effects and evaluations of JCCP activities that are implemented in oil-producing countries, obtain hints for an even more effective implementation of future activities, and strengthen personnel exchanges between these countries and Japan. JCCP also aims to promote deeper relations between counterpart oil-producing countries and Japan by requesting their continued support and cooperation in JCCP activities and building a network of cooperation in each country for these JCCP activities. Furthermore, as many JCCP alumni have become executive officers and managers in state-run oil companies in their respective countries, JCCP hopes the alumni meetings will ultimately contribute to the stable import of crude oil supplies to Japan.

## 2. Reason for Holding the Meeting in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia was selected as the venue of the alumni meeting primarily because it is the largest and most important supplier of crude oil to Japan. Another reason is because there are as many as 911 JCCP alumni in Saudi Arabia as of March 2014, who presently hold important



*Mr. Abdulaziz F. Al Khayyal, Senior Vice President, Saudi Aramco, giving a speech as the guest of honor*

posts in national oil companies and related companies at a higher rate compared to other countries.

## 3. Overview of the Alumni Meeting

The alumni meeting was held on March 6, 2014 at Le Meridien Al Khobar, a hotel centrally located in Al Khobar. In response to a broad invitation to JCCP alumni in Saudi Arabia, 121 people from Saudi Arabia attended the meeting. Together with 109 local Japanese participants, the meeting was attended by some 230 people.

(1) Participants on the Saudi Arabian side included many important figures particularly from Saudi Aramco, such as Mr. Abdulaziz F. Al Khayyal, Senior Vice



*Commemorative VIP photo:*

*H.E. Mr. Jiro Kodera, Japanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (left);  
Mr. Abdulaziz F. Al Khayyal, Senior Vice President, Saudi Aramco (third from left);  
Ms. Huda M. Al Ghoson, Executive Director, Employee Relations & Training, Saudi Aramco (center)*



Mr. Abdullah I. Al Jof, Manager, Technical Training Unit, Eastern Province Branch, MPMR, giving a speech on behalf of JCCP alumni in Saudi Arabia



Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Subaie, Manager, Riyadh Refinery, giving a speech on behalf of JCCP alumni in Saudi Arabia

President; Ms. Huda M. Al Ghoson, Executive Director, Employee Relations & Training; and Mr. Nasser A. Al-Nafisee, General Manager, Training & Development. Also among the Saudi Arabian participants were Mr. Abdullah I. Al Jof, Manager, Technical Training Unit, Eastern Province Branch, MPMR; and Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Subaie, Manager, Riyadh Refinery, representing JCCP regular course alumni.

(2) Participants on the Japanese side included H.E. Mr. Jiro Kodera, Japanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, his staff from the Japanese Embassy in Saudi Arabia, members from representation offices of Japanese oil wholesalers engaging in business in the GCC countries, and members from other Japanese companies in Saudi Arabia. From JCCP, the meeting was attended by the Executive Director, Managing Director, and other relevant officers.

(3) The meeting opened with welcome speeches by representatives on both the Japanese and Saudi Arabian sides, followed by a keynote presentation



Article on the meeting printed in The Arabian Sun (Sunday, March 20, 2014 issue): Ambassador Jiro Kodera (left) and Mr. Abdulaziz F. Al Khayyal (right)



Meeting venue



JCCP alumni

by Ambassador Kodera, and speeches by Mr. Al Jof and Mr. Al-Subaie on behalf of JCCP alumni in Saudi Arabia. It also featured a showcase of Japanese culture, which included a kabuki lion dance performance and Japanese foods, including Japanese crafted candies, sushi and tempura.

- (4) In a questionnaire completed by all alumni members attending the meeting, 80% said the JCCP training they received has been extremely helpful to them in their current operations. Among the activities that have been helpful, offsite training (head offices, refineries, etc.) ranked highest at 70%, followed by exposure to Japanese history and culture at 44%, and lectures at JCCP Headquarters at 42%. With regard to technical cooperation, the questionnaire strongly showed that alumni members have particular interest in such areas as efficiency improvement and enhancement of equipment operations, renewable energies, energy conservation, and wastewater treatment.

## 4. Summary

The alumni meeting achieved the following two results.

First, the large turnout of JCCP alumni in Saudi Arabia indicated JCCP's strong presence in Saudi Arabia. At the same time, owing to an article on the meeting (attached) that was printed in Saudi Aramco's in-house newsletter, recognition of JCCP increased especially within Saudi Aramco.

Second, responses to a questionnaire completed by members from Saudi Aramco and other Saudi Arabian participants allowed JCCP to gain an accurate grasp of needs in Saudi Arabia, and their many requests of JCCP provided hints on the direction of training and technical cooperation programs that would be required in the future.

As a result, we believe the alumni meeting contributed anew to building a network in Saudi Arabia, as well as to strengthening relations between Saudi Arabia and Japan.

*<by Takaaki Yuasa, Training Dept.>*

