
JCCP Alumni Meeting in UAE

1. Holding the Alumni Meeting in the Presence of METI Minister Yoichi Miyazawa

On January 18, 2015, a JCCP Alumni Meeting was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Abu Dhabi. Held in UAE for the second time since 2012, the meeting invited the broad participation of JCCP alumni in UAE, and was attended by a total of 78 members, including 65 alumni from UAE and 13 local Japanese personnel.

H.E. Mr. Yoichi Miyazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, lent his presence to the Japanese side, and H.E. Dr. Maitha Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State, and other important figures graced the event on the UAE side. As part of the agenda, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Suwaidi, Director General, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and Mr. Tsuyoshi Nakai, CEO of JCCP, exchanged letters regarding the strengthening of future cooperation between the two organizations.

(1) Speech by Minister Miyazawa as a guest of honor

In addition to METI Minister Yoichi Miyazawa, representing the Japanese side were Mr. Takayuki Ueda, Commissioner, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy; Mr. Hideo Suzuki, Director-General, Trade Policy Bureau, and relevant governmental personnel;



H.E. Mr. Yoichi Miyazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, giving a speech as a guest of honor

H.E. Mr. Yoshihiko Kamo, Ambassador of Japan to UAE, and other members of the Japanese Embassy; and members from Japanese oil companies operating in UAE.

In his speech, Minister Miyazawa spoke about JCCP's long years of contribution since its establishment to human resource development and technical cooperation in the oil-refining sector in oil-producing countries. With specific reference to UAE, he noted that a total of more than 800 people from UAE have participated in training in Japan, and that a large majority of them now assume important positions in the UAE government and ADNOC and are instrumental in shaping a strong relationship of trust with Japan. In response to their efforts, Minister Miyazawa announced that the Japanese government will commence the JCCP-JOGMEC personnel exchange program for ADNOC employees this fiscal year as an addition to the conventional training activities of JCCP, as specified in the Joint UAE-Japan Statement issued in 2013 in a conference held between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of UAE, and H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. Minister Miyazawa also expressed the Japanese government's strong wish to strengthen relations between the two countries.

(2) Speeches by H.E. Dr. Maitha Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State, and H.E. Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Suwaidi, Director General, ADNOC

The event was attended by many important UAE figures, including H.E. Dr. Maitha Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State; H.E. Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Suwaidi, Director General, ADNOC; Mr. Ali Khalifa Al Shamsi, Director, C.P.&C.; Mr. Mubarak S. Al Ketbi, Deputy Director-M&R; Mr. Ismail M. Al Mulla, Offsite & Refinery Utilities Dept., Ruwais Refinery Division, Abu Dhabi Oil Refining Company (TAKREER); and JCCP alumni who are presently active in major departments in UAE.

In her speech, Dr. Al Shamsi expressed her appreciation for JCCP's contribution to human resource development in UAE, saying that JCCP is an important element in human resource development in UAE, and that she herself takes pride in JCCP as a friend who



H.E. Dr. Maitha Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State, giving a speech as a guest of honor



H.E. Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Suwaidi, Director General, ADNOC, giving a speech as a guest of honor

has worked with JCCP since 2001 when she was Vice Chancellor of UAE University. Mr. Al Suwaidi also gave words of appreciation for JCCP’s contribution to human resource development and technical cooperation to date, and expressed his future expectations of maintaining and strengthening the friendly relationship that the two organizations have fostered.

(3) Exchange of letters regarding the future relationship of cooperation between ADNOC and JCCP

Following the above-mentioned speeches by Minister Miyazawa, Dr. Al Shamsi, and Mr. Al Suwaidi, Mr. Al Suwaidi and Mr. Tsuyoshi Nakai exchanged letters regarding the strengthening of future cooperation between the two organizations. Through this exchange, the two leaders verified their mutual intent to cooperate

even more closely in implementing business activities with the aim of further strengthening the friendly relationship they have fostered through their long years of partnership.

Following the exchange of letters, Mr. Sultan Mohamed Al Mulla, ADNOC (graduate of a marketing course), and Ms. Hyatt Al Shihri, Bunduq (graduate of a human affairs and CSR course), spoke briefly about their JCCP experience and proposed a toast on behalf of all JCCP alumni in attendance. The event also featured an introduction of Japanese culture, namely a demonstration by a traditional Japanese candy craftsman and mochi pounding, which has already become well known in UAE. These performances livened up the venue and captured everyone’s curiosity and attention. JCCP alumni who participated in the event reminisced fondly about their experiences in Japan, as the circle of



*Exchange of letters between ADNOC and JCCP:
 (from the left) H.E. Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Suwaidi, Director General, ADNOC;
 H.E. Mr. Yoshihiko Kamo, Ambassador of Japan to UAE;
 H.E. Mr. Yoichi Miyazawa, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry;
 H.E. Dr. Maitha Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State; and
 Mr. Tsuyoshi Nakai, CEO of JCCP*

pleasant chatter expanded at each table.

2. Summary of the Meeting

The alumni meeting yielded two positive results.

One is Minister Miyazawa's attendance. At JCCP's request, the minister kindly agreed to take time from his busy schedule to lend his presence to the alumni meeting during his visit to UAE from January 16 to attend the Fifth Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). His participation undoubtedly promoted greater recognition of JCCP's important role in strengthening friendly relations between UAE and Japan as an effective means for securing a stable supply of oil resources for Japan.

The other is the realization of the importance of building and maintaining human networks. With only two weeks of preparation time until the meeting, the JCCP side was foremost concerned about liaising with the UAE side and verifying attendance. However, as mentioned earlier, the meeting enjoyed a large turnout on the UAE side, which included not only JCCP alumni, but also a large number of important figures in the industry. This is certainly testament to the contribution JCCP has made to date. More specifically, it is the product of steady, daily efforts that have been made to maintain contact through JCCP's local office, and the strong relationship of trust that has developed between JCCP course lecturers and participants and remains strong enough that alumni will respond to sudden calls even months after returning to their country. This achievement



Group of JCCP alumni



Members who gathered at the meeting

reaffirms the importance of strengthening, maintaining and handing down the networking capacity of all JCCP participants and alumni in oil and gas-producing countries and each one of us JCCP personnel. It is by doing so that we can build the foundation of a friendship that can withstand the test of time when it most matters.

About the JCCP Alumni Meeting

The JCCP Alumni Meeting is held to verify the effects and evaluations of JCCP personnel exchange activities and technical cooperation projects in oil-producing countries, obtain hints for an even more effective implementation of future activities, and strengthen personnel exchanges with Japan. It 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, the alumni meeting is held with the hope that it will ultimately contribute to the stable import of crude oil supplies to Japan. The first meeting was held in UAE in November 2012, and the second in Saudi Arabia in March 2014. This was the third meeting held so far.

<by Tadashi Sugawara, Councilor>