

# Executive Meetings in Saudi Arabia and Oman

Mr. Masataka Sase, Executive Director of JCCP, visited JCCP counterpart organizations in Saudi Arabia and Oman from May 17 to 23, 2013 to propose requests for presentations at the 32nd JCCP International Symposium and to hold policy dialogues regarding JCCP activities. He was accompanied by Akio Yamanaka, Executive Councilor at JCCP; Junichi Kasuya, General Manager of the JCCP Riyadh Office; and Jun Nishimura, General Manager of the JCCP Middle East Office.

## 1. Saudi Arabia

### (1) International Energy Forum (IEF) Headquarters (May 18)

The JCCP delegation visited IEF Headquarters in Riyadh and met with Dr. Aldo Flores-Quiroga, Secretary General, to give a broad outline of next year's JCCP International Symposium and to request a keynote speech from him at the symposium. Dr. Flores-Quiroga said he takes keen interest in Japan, and wishes to accept the offer if his schedule could be accordingly arranged. In turn, he requested JCCP's participation in IEF activities, such as by implementing workshops and training programs at IEF Headquarters based on JCCP's vast experience in providing training. The delegation thus agreed to examine potential schemes for cooperation with IEF in the future.



*At IEF: Dr. Aldo Flores-Quiroga, Secretary General  
(second from right)*

### (2) Petro Rabigh (May 19)

JCCP receives Saudi Arabian participants to its training courses not only from Saudi Aramco, but also from Petro Rabigh, albeit in small numbers, but this was JCCP's first visit to the company. The delegation met with Mr. Salem A. Al Baddad, Assistant Supervisor and received requests for the acceptance of larger numbers of participants from Petro Rabigh and for the implementation of an expert dispatch program or special course on corrosion and corrosion prevention. The delegation gave word that they will take these requests back to JCCP for consideration.



*At Petro Rabigh*

### (3) King Abdulla University of Science and Technology (KAUST) (May 19)

The JCCP delegation next visited KAUST as a potential counterpart for technical cooperation projects. Dr. Kazuhiro Takanabe, Associate Professor at the university, provided a general overview of the present state of the university and took the delegation on a tour of the campus. KAUST is a graduate university that opened in 2009. It is the first co-ed university in Saudi Arabia, and currently has approximately 700 students. Tuition is free. With plans to increase enrolment to the 2,000 level in the future, the university is outfitted with a core laboratory and the world's leading-edge laboratory equipment for use by all departments. The faculty is presently composed of around 100 members, but is

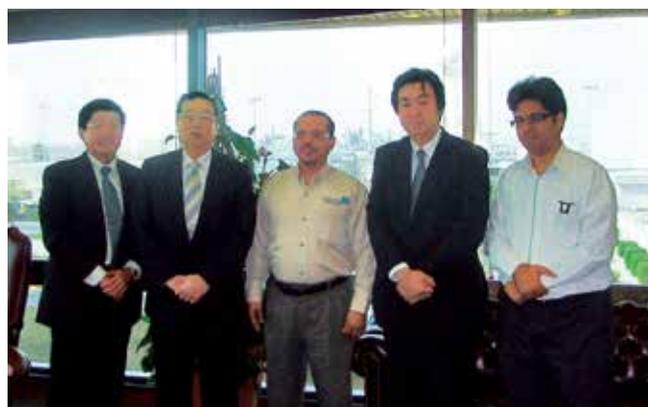
planned to be augmented in the future to 200. Students come from around the world, with Asian students comprising the largest majority of 33%. Most are from China and India, with none from Japan (one student is scheduled to enroll in September). Saudi Arabian students make up 20% of the total student population, but measures are being taken to increase that percentage to around 50% in the future. The campus and residential community face the Red Sea, and boast an impressive environment complete with welfare and recreation facilities (medical fees are free).

Saudi Aramco contributed funding for establishment of the university, and is strengthening its relationship with the university as one of its largest sponsors. JCCP should perhaps also explore specific means for cooperation with the university.

#### **(4) Jeddah Refinery, Saudi Aramco (May 20)**

At the Jeddah Refinery, the JCCP delegation met with Mr. Abdullah A. Al-Deraibi, Manager, and Mr. Ahmed A. Rajab, Superintendent, and exchanged views on training needs and other issues regarding training. Mr. Al-Deraibi participated in a JCCP course in 1989, and gives high marks to JCCP's training program, compared to Western training programs. He noted that his strongest concern is to address the urgent issue of preventing and minimizing human error in the operation departments, so the delegation offered to consider a special course on the issue.

During the delegation's meeting with Mr. Al-Deraibi, Mr. Omar S. Bazuhair, Executive Director, Refining & NGL Fractionation, who happened to be visiting the refinery from the head office of Saudi Aramco, dropped by. He thanked JCCP for its assistance in the area of human resource development, and asked for its continued support.



*At Jeddah Refinery:  
Mr. Ahmed A. Rajab, Superintendent (center)*

#### **(5) Japanese Embassy in Saudi Arabia (May 18)**

The JCCP delegation paid a call on H.E. Mr. Jiro Kodera, Ambassador, to explain JCCP's plan to hold a JCCP alumni meeting in Saudi Arabia as an overseas network project for this fiscal year, and to request the Ambassador's attendance if the plan is realized. Ambassador Kodera, in turn, provided suggestions and invaluable advice for holding such a meeting in Saudi Arabia.

## **2. Oman**

#### **(1) Omani Ministry of Oil and Gas (May 21)**

The JCCP delegation paid a courtesy call on Dr. Mohammed Hamed Saif Al Rumhy, Minister of Oil and Gas. It was the first time in five years for the minister and Mr. Sase to meet with each other. Dr. Al Rumhy expressed strong interest in recent affairs in Japan, and asked about the political and economic situations in Japan under the Abe administration. He also talked about his life at Waseda University back when he studied in Japan and contributed to the friendly atmosphere of the meeting, but had firm policies in regard to student exchange programs.



*At the Omani Ministry of Oil and Gas:  
Dr. Mohammed Hamed Saif Al Rumhy, Minister (center)*

#### **(2) Oman Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (ORPIC) (May 21)**

The JCCP delegation next visited ORPIC's Mina Al Fahal Refinery and met with Mr. Musab Al Muhrqi, CEO. Mr. Al Muhrqi demonstrated good knowledge about JCCP, and expressed his appreciation of JCCP training programs and technical cooperation projects. He also discussed training needs in the petrochemical sector. The delegation requested Mr. Al Muhrqi's participation



*At ORPIC: Mr. Musab Al Muhraqi, CEO (center)*

in next year's JCCP International Symposium as a panelist, and Mr. Al Muhraqi said he would like to accept the offer if his schedule permits, as it would be his first visit to Japan.

### **(3) Japanese Embassy in Oman (May 21)**

At the Japanese Embassy in Oman, the delegation

met with H.E. Mr. George Hisaeda, Ambassador, and reported on the status of JCCP activities in Oman, as well as on Minister Al Rumhy's request for an exchange study program, among other matters. The Ambassador, for his part, provided enlightening information about Oman, such as the status of education and training that is sought in Oman to help the younger generation find employment.

### **3. Summary**

The visits to the two countries yielded positive results concerning the participation of key figures in next year's JCCP International Symposium. Moreover, through policy dialogues, JCCP received a strong request for uniquely Japanese training from the manager of Jeddah Refinery himself, and a request for training on new subjects from the CEO of ORPIC. Given the dynamic changes taking place throughout the oil industry, the delegation keenly felt the need to hold executive meetings on a regular basis, and to reflect the invaluable opinions obtained through such meetings to actual operations and activities.

*<by Akio Yamanaka, Councilor, Administration Dept.>*

