

Signing of Agreement for the Joint Project on Technology Cooperation for Lubricating Oil Production with the Ministry of Oil-Iraq



(From the left) Dr. Kareem A. Alwan, Manager, Petroleum R&D Center, Ministry of Oil-Iraq, and Mr. Morihiro Yoshida, Managing Director of JCCP

Oil Production” in Istanbul, Turkey, with Dr. Kareem A. Alwan, Manager of Petroleum R&D Center, and Mr. Morihiro Yoshida, Managing Director of JCCP, representing the two sides of the project. The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Hajime Okazaki, President of JX Nippon Research Institute Ltd., a company participating in the project on the Japanese side, and other stakeholders on both the Iraqi and Japanese sides.

Lubricating oil that is currently produced in Iraq is low in quality, and has a poor production yield. Thus, with the aims of examining improvement measures for each production unit, enhancing the quality of lubricating oil in the Dawra Refinery in Iraq, and increasing production and productivity, the project will be implemented over a period of two years, from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015.

On October 9, 2013, JCCP and the Ministry of Oil-Iraq held an agreement signing ceremony for the “Joint Project on Technology Cooperation for Lubricating

The project is the third “Special Cooperation Program for Iraq” to be implemented with funding by a subsidy of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)



Members of the signing ceremony:
 Dr. Alwan and Mr. Yoshida (front row, center)
 Mr. Hajime Okazaki, President of JX Nippon Research Institute Ltd. (front row, second from left)
 Mr. Mohammed Jasim Abbas, Ministry of Oil-Iraq (project leader on the Iraqi side) (front row, second from right)

for projects in oil-producing countries. The previous two projects, on “Technical Support of Introduction of Produced Water Treatment for SOC” and “Development of Asphalt Industry and Finding New Applications,” were launched in 2011 and have been highly evaluated and appreciated by the Iraqi side. It is hoped that the third project will also be implemented successfully with the cooperation and efforts of all parties concerned.

Background and Content

Based on information and requests from the Ministry of Oil-Iraq and Iraqi trainees who have participated in a JCCP training course(s) in Japan in the past, the quality and productivity of lubricating oil in Iraq was surveyed in fiscal 2012 as a research cooperation project. Based on the results of that survey, this joint project was formulated and launched in fiscal 2013 with the aim of enhancing the quality of lubricating oil and increasing production and productivity.

As a form of technical cooperation, the project will analyze the actual operating data of the No. 3 lubricating oil unit at the Dawra Refinery, and examine measures for improvement of units that produce base oil and adjust

its properties, as they relate directly to the quality of lubricating oil. More specifically, steps will be taken to analyze the operating data of the vacuum distillation unit, hydrorefining unit and solvent-related units, analyze the quality of lubricating oil that is produced, propose operational improvement measures based on knowledge and experience, and verify the results.

For example, as the result of the analysis of lubricating oil indicated poor separation of base oil in the vacuum distillation column, a proposal was made regarding the repair and maintenance of parts inside the column as a countermeasure. A proposal was also made to increase the temperature in the reactor column of the hydrorefining unit.

In addition, the project aims to contribute to enhancing knowledge of lubricating oil production on the Iraqi side by also providing tips and advice on operational and quality management of lubricating oil.

Ultimately, JCCP hopes the project will also contribute to strengthening the friendly relationship between Iraq and Japan by providing proposals and cooperation based on Japan’s knowledge and experience in retrofitting units to the No. 3 lubricating oil unit at the Dawra Refinery.

<by Hironao Naganuma, Technical Cooperation Dept.>