

# Joint TRC Workshop Held in UAE

The Fifth Annual Joint TRC-JCCP/Idemitsu Workshop was held at TAKREER Research Centre (TRC) in Abu Dhabi, UAE on February 11 and 12, 2015. The research center functions as the R&D department of Abu Dhabi Refining Company (TAKREER), a refining subsidiary of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

## 1. Background and Overview of the Project

Seeking to develop capabilities of resolving technical issues related to oil refining, as well as to accumulate technical expertise and to develop engineers in UAE, TAKREER embarked on a project to establish a research center, and implemented Phase I of the project over the four years from FY2006 to FY2009 and Phase II over the

following three years, with the participation of Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.

The TAKREER Research Centre (TRC) building was completed at the end of April 2009, and was subsequently outfitted with a pilot plant and other research facilities. The framework of the center has been augmented by employing new engineers, and the center's research facilities have come to be utilized effectively. Further on this foundation, TAKREER and JCCP have agreed to launch a new stage of the project this fiscal year as the "Joint Project for Advancement of TAKREER Research Centre, Phase III."

Phase III will support the advancement of TRC by placing emphasis on the following five areas: 1) establishment and further acquisition of catalyst evaluation technology; 2) promotion of efficient operations through technical assistance to TAKREER's

refineries; 3) establishment of a cooperative framework with research institutions inside and outside of UAE; 4) development of UAE engineers with a focus on TRC staff; and 5) international-level TRC publicity activities through academic presentations and other such forums.

## 2. The Fifth Workshop

On the first day, the workshop opened with a grand ceremony attended by Mr. Jasem Ali Al-Sayegh, CEO, and 20 other executives from TAKREER; Mr. Sultan Al Mehairi, Director, Marketing & Refining, and others from ADNOC; H.E. Mr. Yoshihiko Kamo, Ambassador of Japan to the UAE; and Mr. Itaru Matsuhiko, Executive Officer, and others from Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. It featured speeches by representatives of each organization and the guests of honor, an exchange of commemorative gifts, and a keynote presentation.

In his speech as a guest of honor, Mr. Al-Sayegh first thanked JCCP and Idemitsu Kosan for their cooperation in the TRC project over the past several years. He then spoke about TRC's contribution to improving the efficiency of TAKREER's refining business, which is strategically important and is on a path toward expansion, and the importance of collaboration among industries, as symbolized by the workshop.

Ambassador Kamo said the TRC project's long years of achievement and the awareness that it represents a best practice in the cooperative relationship between UAE

and Japan has led to the strengthening of the friendly relationship between the two countries, and expressed his expectations of seeing further development of the project in the future.

Mr. Hiraoka introduced JCCP activities that have been implemented to date, and promised JCCP's continued support for the TRC project, which is also important in the fact that it gives concrete shape to the fundamental value of developing friendship through technical exchanges.

The keynote speech that followed also introduced a case in which cooperation across the borders of industry, academia and government is the driving force behind the introduction of the latest technologies and the promotion of innovation.

The workshop thereafter segued into 33 sessions on seven themes, with a total attendance of roughly 200 people over the two-day event.

## 3. Summary

In its fifth year, the workshop saw not only a further increase in turnout over the previous year, but also a regional expansion of participating countries, and provided a strong awareness of the widespread promotion of collaboration based on the cooperative relationship between TRC, JCCP and Idemitsu Kosan.

JCCP hopes that Japan's relationship with UAE will further develop through technical cooperation programs.

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Group photo