

H.H. Dr. Turki Al-Saud, Vice President of KACST, Visits Japan

In response to an invitation from JCCP, H.H. Dr. Turki Bin Saud Bin Mohammed Al-Saud, Vice President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited Japan from June 21 to 28, under the JCCP VIP Invitation Program.

KACST is a state-run scientific research organization located in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. It promotes research and development not only in oil and gas technologies, but also in various other areas of development, including biotechnology, nanotechnology, and space and aeronautics technology. KACST and Japan have engaged in a number of joint technical cooperation projects over a period of more than a decade, dating back to the beginning of technical cooperation programs implemented in collaboration with the Petroleum Energy Center (PEC).

H.H. Dr. Turki Al-Saud is a specialist in space engineering technology. Prior to his appointment as Vice President of KACST, he has been successful in launching a number of satellites in Saudi Arabia as Director of the Space Research Institute. In addition to his position as Vice President of KACST, Dr. Turki Al-Saud also holds other important positions, including Chairman of the National Science & Technology Planning Council, which governs national science and technology policies and the implementation of programs under those policies. In these capacities, Dr. Turki Al-Saud plays a central role in the development of science and technology in Saudi Arabia.

During his recent visit to Japan, Dr. Turki Al-Saud made courtesy calls on various research institutes, companies, and governmental agencies in Japan, in addition to oil-related research institutions, at his strong request. An overview of those visits is as follows.

1) JCCP Headquarters

Dr. Turki Al-Saud first visited JCCP Headquarters, where he met with Mr. Mikio Kojima, then-Executive Director of JCCP, and Mr. Katsuo Yokoyama, Managing Director of JCCP, and received an overview of JCCP activities.



With Mr. Mikio Kojima, then-Executive Director of JCCP, and others at JCCP Headquarters

2) Japan Energy Corporation, Petroleum Refining Research & Technology Center

At the Petroleum Refining Research & Technology Center, Dr. Turki Al-Saud received a warm welcome from all staff, followed by a welcome speech by Mr. Kenichi Matsuda, Director of the Center, and a presentation of the Center's activities. He then toured the research buildings while listening intently to the details of a wide range of research projects, including a pilot test on desulfurization catalysts, fuel cells, and bio-treatment of spilled crude oil. During the tour, Dr. Turki Al-Saud showed strong interest not only in the research projects, but also in the pilot test equipment

and other research facilities, because the research facilities at KACST are presently undergoing large-scale expansion work.



A warm welcome from Mr. Matsuda, Director of Petroleum Refining Research & Technology Center, and the staff

3) Earth Remote Sensing Data Analysis Center (ERSDAC)

ERSDAC processes and analyzes various earth observation satellite data to extract information on rocks and geological structures that provide indices of oil and natural resource distribution and other related forms of data. It also conducts research and development on the application of such remote sensing data to resource exploration, as well as applied research in the environmental field.



Active discussions at ERSDAC

Dr. Turki Al-Saud first received a warm greeting from Mr. Yoshiro Kamata, Chairman of ERSDAC, followed by an overview of the status of various research and development projects and a tour of the facilities. Having visited ERSDAC before, about 10

years ago, and as a strong supporter of research in satellite-related technologies at KACST, Dr. Turki Al-Saud engaged in active discussions with the ERSDAC staff.

4) Toyota Motor Corporation

Dr. Turki Al-Saud first observed the car assembly line at the Toyota Tsutsumi Plant in Aichi Prefecture, one of the largest automotive plants in Japan. He then received a tour of the Toyota Kaikan Exhibition Hall and a presentation by Mr. Takayuki Kusashima, Chief Manager, and others on "Toyota's Initiatives toward Sustainable Mobility." At the Tsutsumi Plant, Dr. Al-Saud appeared impressed with Toyota's *kaizen* activities and the "*jidoka*" and "just-in-time" concepts, and seemed surprised to learn that new employees are trained to become capable of front-line work on the shop floor in just two months. He also expressed strong interest in Toyota's new initiatives, such as the development of fuel cells.



Presentation on Toyota Motors' latest initiatives

5) National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)

At AIST, Dr. Turki Al-Saud received a greeting by Mr. Akira Ono, Vice President, an overview of the organization, a presentation on the status of research and development in nanotechnology and other projects in progress, and a tour of the facilities.

Through this visit, Dr. Turki Al-Saud and the AIST side identified possibilities for cooperation

in various areas, and agreed to establish mutual contacts for creating a partnership under concrete terms.



Nanotechnology laboratory at AIST

6) Governmental agencies

At their strong request, Dr. Turki Al-Saud and H.E. Mr. Faisal Trad, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Japan, visited a number of governmental agencies in Japan, to exchange views on the development of cooperative exchanges in the fields of science and technologies between Japan and Saudi Arabia. At the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), he met with the Deputy Director-General of the Manufacturing Industries Bureau, the Director of the Aerospace Industry Office in the Manufacturing Industries Bureau, and the Director of the Middle East and Africa Office in the Trade Policy Bureau. They also paid a courtesy call on the Council for Science and Technology Policy in the Cabinet Office, and the Director-General of the Science and Technology Policy Bureau in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

7) Reception at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Japan

In the evening of the last day of visits, H.E. Ambassador Trad kindly hosted a reception at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Japan, inviting ambassadors of other Middle East countries and key figures from companies and organizations which Dr. Turki Al-Saud visited in Japan.

We, JCCP, believe that this invitation program has helped Dr. Turki Al-Saud further his knowledge of JCCP activities, and the opportunities to witness first-hand Japan's latest technologies, in particular, deepened his understanding of trends in oil and energy situations in Japan. That such an important person as Dr. Turki Al-Saud, who plays a central role in promoting science and technology in Saudi Arabia, gained a better understanding of Japan and increased his confidence in Japan, has great meaning to Japan.



With H.E. Ambassador Trad of Saudi Arabia



With the ambassadors of Middle East countries in Japan

We would like to take this opportunity to report the successful completion of the invitation program to everyone at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Japan, METI, MEXT, the Cabinet Office, Japan Energy Corporation, ERSDAC, Toyota Motor Corporation, AIST, and all others who cooperated with the program, and extend our deepest appreciation for their kind support.

<by Shigeru Nanbara, Technical Cooperation Dept.>