

Report on the Cooperation with Training Center Program in Russia and Azerbaijan



At the LUKOIL Head Office

From September 20–26, 2008, a JCCP delegation visited Russia and Azerbaijan under the Cooperation with Training Center Program scheme. The delegation consisted of Mr. Takashi Hori, Manager of the Operations Department, Messrs. Shinichi Satake and Kazuyoshi Kamijyo, lecturers from the Training Department, and Kazuko Takayama, Manager of the Training Department.

In recent years, JCCP has begun making active approaches to strengthening relations with Russia and the countries of Central Asia, which are poised to become major suppliers of oil and energy in the future. With Russia's crude oil production having reached a level comparable to that of Saudi Arabia, it is high time for Japan to further deepen its relations with Russia.

Meanwhile, in Azerbaijan, where abundant oil resources can be found in Baku and other oil fields, 2006 saw the opening of the BTC crude oil pipeline, connecting Baku, Tbilisi in Georgia, and Ceyhan in Turkey. There are increasing expectations that the pipeline would counter Russia's control over oil in the region.

The recent visits to Russia and Azerbaijan were made with hopes of building a strong foundation of friendship between Japan and the two countries, and thereby secure stable oil supplies.

I. Russia

1. LUKOIL Oil Company, Head Office

In the morning of September 22 (Mon.), the JCCP delegation visited the Head Office of LUKOIL Oil Company. LUKOIL, the largest vertically integrated oil company in Russia, has a long-standing relationship with JCCP, and has sent 115 participants to JCCP regular courses, as of the end of 2007. However, this was the first time that a JCCP delegation has visited its Head Office. To strengthen relations between LUKOIL and JCCP on the occasion of this auspicious visit, the members of the delegation gave a well-prepared presentation on JCCP activities and programs planned for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Natalya N. Logina, Head of Department



Exchange of views with LUKOIL

for Development and Appraisal of Personnel, Main Human Resources Department, warmly welcomed the delegation, along with the director of training and members of the Refining Department. Ms. Logina expressed strong interest in JCCP programs, and had a number of specific questions regarding regular courses, to which the delegation promptly provided detailed answers. As exemplified by a member from the Refining Department who voiced his interest in participating in an energy-saving course himself, the meeting turned out to be extremely productive and fruitful to all.

2. ROSNEFT Oil Company, Head Office

Following the visit to LUKOIL, the JCCP delegation spent the afternoon visiting the state-

run ROSNEFT Oil Company. As JCCP has never received participants from ROSNEFT and had never visited the company before, the JCCP delegation took the opportunity of this first visit to promote a general understanding of JCCP activities.

The meeting was attended by Ms. Tamara G. Solovykh, Head of Division, Division for Personnel Development, HR Department, in addition to the director of education, and other members of ROSNEFT. They all listened attentively to the detailed introduction of JCCP programs, and as they showed particular interest in courses related to personnel affairs, the JCCP side proposed ROSNEFT's participation in JCCP regular courses. JCCP hopes that this visit will lead to creating a positive and productive relationship with ROSNEFT.

II. Azerbaijan

3. SOCAR, Head Office

JCCP has received a number of participants from Azerbaijan since its founding, but none during the past several years. In order to request a recommencement of its participation and to promote further understanding of JCCP activities, the JCCP delegation paid a visit to the Ecological Department in the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), and met with Mr. Azer Aliyev, Chief, and engineers of the department.



At the ROSNEFT Head Office



Meeting with the Ecological Department in SOCAR



With Mr. Asif Bakirli, Director of the SOCAR Training Center

To operate its two large refineries, SOCAR places primary importance on the development of engineers through training. Therefore, the SOCAR side listened with strong interest to the JCCP delegation's presentation of JCCP programs, and invited the delegation to elaborate on the details of the programs, and particularly of environment-related courses. At the end of a long and productive meeting, Mr. Aliyev personally contacted an executive officer of the Training Center, which has previously served as JCCP's counterpart, and arranged for the JCCP delegation to visit the Training Center in the afternoon of that day.

At the SOCAR Training Center, the delegation met with Mr. Asif Bakirli, Director, Training Educational and Certification Department. As the Training Center is responsible for training and overseeing the development of all human resources at SOCAR, Mr. Bakirli showed strong interest in JCCP programs, and in Customized Program-Overseas (CPO) in particular, and made specific requests regarding CPO programs for the next fiscal year and after.

Before wrapping up the meeting, Mr. Bakirli thanked the JCCP delegation for visiting, and expressed his expectations of JCCP activities,

emphasizing his wish to continue international cooperation with Japan and actively promote technical exchanges between the two countries. The delegation members feel that the opportunity to directly introduce JCCP programs to an executive personnel of JCCP's counterpart department in SOCAR has paved the way toward building mutually friendly bonds between JCCP and SOCAR, and is pleased with the outcome of their visit.

III. Impressions

The visits to Russia and Azerbaijan by the JCCP delegation proved extremely fruitful, in that meaningful exchanges of views were held with executive personnel and JCCP counterpart personnel in various key departments, and that specific needs in the two countries were identified. Seventeen years have passed since the two countries gained their independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, and they have begun to display their own characteristic policies and strategies toward a market economy. As they play an extremely important geopolitical role in the global oil market, JCCP intends to make continuing efforts to further strengthen its ties with both countries.

<by Kazuko Takayama, Training Dept.>