

Iraqi Ambassador to Japan Visits JCCP

On December 15, 2010, H.E. Mr. Lukman Faily, Ambassador, and Mr. Obay N. Al-Taii, Second Secretary, of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq, visited JCCP and spent close to an hour in pleasant conversation with JCCP officers and executive members and on a tour of the training facilities at JCCP Headquarters.

Ambassador Faily was recently appointed to the Iraqi Embassy in Tokyo in June 2010. He is a businessman who, after studying mathematics and computer science in university, worked for 20 years at a multinational IT company based in the United Kingdom, including several years as its executive officer. In his present post in Japan, Ambassador Faily actively visits Japanese government offices, companies, and educational institutions in an effort to strengthen relations between Iraq and Japan. He said he wanted to pay a visit to JCCP because, after reading *JCCP NEWS* and learning that JCCP and the Iraqi Ministry of Oil are jointly developing human resources and industrial technologies for Iraqi refineries, he wished to know more about JCCP activities and projects.

Having experienced prolonged war, Iraq has gone through extremely difficult times in its aftermath, but is now gradually regaining its stability. For the full recovery of its economy, however, the country must restore its domestic refineries and physical distribution networks and establish a framework for the stable supply of oil products to all corners of the country as quickly as possible. The country's refineries have suffered so much damage in the war that they cannot satisfy domestic demand alone, but must compensate for the lack of supplies by importing oil products. In the years ahead, Iraq must not only focus on restoring the country's three major refineries, but it must also direct its efforts to increasing gasoline production capacity by introducing heavy oil cracking units and to executing its plans to construct four large-scale refineries in response to increasing domestic demand.

Also due to the prolonged period of war, Iraq has lost opportunities to keep up with the waves of innovation in oil refining technologies. The country must therefore introduce the latest technologies to its refineries, and at the same time provide training in those technologies to both senior refinery staff and young engineers, with awareness of the impending generational change in refinery staff members. In December 2009, JCCP began accepting engineers from the Iraqi Ministry of Oil to regular courses

and has implemented customized programs in Japan for groups of participants from Iraq. As part of the technical cooperation program, JCCP has also provided continuous technical cooperation for the improvement of asphalt quality and treatment of oilfield-associated water.

Ambassador Faily said he understands that JCCP has maintained good relations with Iraq's Ministry of Oil and wishes the relationship will continue to evolve, as Japan and Iraq are valued friends to each other. In fact, he said that many Japanese engineers resided in Iraq before the war to provide technical cooperation, and there was much that Iraq learned from these Japanese people who worked hard and valued personal ties. The Ambassador repeated his wish to deepen relationships with JCCP by sharing issues for reconstruction of the oil industry in Iraq, and stressed that the Iraqi embassy is willing to help JCCP in any way possible toward this end should JCCP so require.

After his visit to JCCP, Ambassador Faily displayed his support of JCCP activities by participating in three JCCP events: attending the press conference held by H.E. Mr. Ahmed A.A. Al-Shamma, Deputy Minister for Refining and Gas Processing, Ministry of Oil-Iraq (January 25); delivering a brief address at the JCCP International Symposium reception (January 26); and presiding over a completion ceremony for a JCCP customized program held in Japan for a group of Iraqi participants (February 4). Taking the opportunity of this article, we wish to once again thank the Ambassador for his generous cooperation.

<by Hisayoshi Tanda, Administration Dept.>



H.E. Mr. Lukman Faily, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq (front row, left); Mr. Masataka Sase, Executive Director of JCCP (front row, right)