

Attending the 1980 Physical Oceanographic Survey Course in Japan  
by U Tun Aung (Burma)

As one of the participants, I reached from Rangoon to Tokyo on 6th November 1980, to attend the Physical Oceanographic Survey Course. The group training started with the general orientation by JICA, which included the subjects on natural, social, historical, cultural and economic aspects of Japan given by lecturers and professors of renowned institutes and universities. I was really impressed with these lectures and achieved a fair knowledge about modern Japan.

Then, we started our training programme at the Hydrographic Department of Maritime Safety Agency. The lecturers who were all the members of the Department gave us not only theoretical but also practical knowledge on physics and chemistry of the ocean. In each and every subject, the theory, computation and practical assignments were included supported by experiences and well established technical know-how. We also joined field training programmes on the oceanographic observation and tidal and current observation on board the Survey Ships SHOYO and KAIYO, respectively. During the field training, we received close and full cooperation from the personnel of the survey ships and other authorities concerned. The lecturers and instructors tried their utmost to teach the participants very willingly and exhaustively during our training period. Visiting programmes followed after respective subjects, and all these technical visits were very important because the visits were related to our subjects through which we could update our existing knowledge. These were not only informative but also useful for future application in our respective countries.

In my opinion this course has been intended not only to raise the standard of the technical knowledge of the participants but also for fostering mutual understanding and technical cooperation among the donor and the recipient countries. Such an attempt by the Government of Japan is highly appreciated especially when the global crisis is persistently increasing day by day.

Today when the training course is about to be completed, I find myself very proudy and happy, Moreover, I cannot express the extent of my happiness noticing that Japan is trying to exploit the ocean towards the benefit of mankind. In my conclusion I extend my thanks and gratitude to the Japanese Government, JICA authorities and members of the Hydrographic Department for making our training and stay easy and comfortable.