

Voice of the Participants

JICA Group Training Course in Hydrographic Survey for 2002



Mr. Kumarage Ajith Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka)

It is a great chance for me to follow the group training course in hydrography for the year 2002, because the field of hydrographic surveying is new for me. When I was coming to Japan, I was afraid because I am going to live more than 7 months in an unknown country with unknown people. However, TIC and JICA staff has offered so much support that my fears has progressively disappeared and feeling less homesick.

The training course started on the 15th May at the hydrographic and oceanographic department, Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo. Though the training course was very long, I was able to cope with easily. The participants from this group training course were the busiest persons during the period of training, due to the high load of knowledge delivered everyday from morning to evening. In general our course was well organized with some study and observation tours in between which apart from the study, also gave a better view of Japan. Okinawa, Kyushu, Tateyama, Yokohama, Gamagori, and Sendai are among the cities we visited and Kyoto, Kobe, and



Nagoya will be visited during the last 3 weeks. In each of these places I could visit many exciting historical and cultural sites around Japan, like shrines,

Temples, which are always kept and surrounded by beautiful gardens. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the personnel attached in the office of international affairs division, my course leader Mr. Sachio Ozawa, and Coordinator Mr. Sadahiro Abe for their kind collaboration and friendly attitude, which always made us, feel free. Unfortunately I didn't have chance to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which I wanted to visit.

Actually when I was coming here my knowledge in hydrography was very limited. But, especially after undergoing one month of intensive field work in harbour and coastal surveying followed by data acquisition and processing I could get sound knowledge in hydrography. Following 5 months lectures given in the lecture

EAHC Newsletter No.40/41 – January 2003



room, I have gathered lot of practical experience in particular during the one month practical training in Kyushu. It was very interesting to understand the conventional and modern methods of surveying. I strongly believe I can successfully face the challenge in my country. I would like to thank all the lecturers, who were

involved in this training course for their good delivery of information and new ideas on the various new techniques and methods applied in the hydrographic survey field.

During my 7 months stay in Japan I understood one thing that the Japanese are very humble and always ready to assist others, but the communication sometimes is a barrier. During my training I didn't have the opportunity to mix freely with the Japanese in their real life, only one night stay in a selected Japanese family, according to the Home stay programme. Also Japanese are very calm and cool. I have never seen a Japanese in angry mood during my training period.

So to get an exact idea about Japan I think 7 months is not enough. But I must say, my course has given me a chance to identify the Japan and also it has given me a chance to get acquainted with most modern survey equipments. I will return to my country with lot of sweet memories, and with knowledge and skills, which would definitely help me to serve my motherland better.



Mr. Prasan Thantalachol (Thailand)

It is the first time for me came to Japan so I feel little excited. At first night I stayed in Japan, It made me to be surprised when I woke up around 3:30 am and saw the sky is bright. This makes me better understanding why Thai call Japan as "Land of Sunrise".

It is a great chance for me to take the Group Training in Hydrographic Survey (Internationally Accredited Category B Course) II in Japan during May 7, 2002 to December 15, 2002. In Thailand I work at Harbour

Department in Hydrographic Survey Field so this training course is consistent with my job and

great useful for me to take all of knowledge in theory and practical which I got it from training in this course applied with Hydrographic Survey Works in Thailand. Because this training course in Hydrographic Survey is an Internationally Accredited Category B Course which almost content of subjects follow to the IHO Standard for Hydrographic Survey so that I hope at most to get techniques, methods, process and knowledge for developing the standard



EAHC Newsletter No.40/41 – January 2003

consistently to IHO standard.

The content of this course is very concentrated with many subjects that are important for applied to the hydrographic survey so that every participant in this course has to study very hard. When studying of each subject is finished everybody has to be examined for evaluation and everybody has to get at least 60 percent for pass and get the certificate. At the first period around the first 4 months I have to study very hard because the contents of training program are almost lecture subjects and many subjects are difficult so that I have to read first before the lecture is began on next day. But several studios and observant tours at governmental and private offices around the Japan help me feel relaxation from hard study. It is very good. Before I came to Japan I heard that Japan is known as the country of modern, high technology and the center of economy which Tokyo City prove it is reality. But studios and observant tours outside Tokyo City gave me see the another side of Japan such as the beautiful nature, colorful of season, varied vegetation, customs and traditions, arts and culture include the way of Japanese life around the Japan. I am very glad for having a chance to be demonstrated a



lot of modern hydrographic instruments on several surveying vessels such as Shoyo, Kaiyo, Isoshio, Iseshio and Misaki. Every time I have studious and observant tour and I have to stay outside TIC I usually thought to TIC. It is like TIC is my home in Japan because I have many friend at TIC and also have many activities which I can enjoy with it such as sport, Japan culture demonstration so these make me feel warm and safety when I stay at TIC.

I have more knowledge in hydrographic survey after the course is already continued more than 6 months, especially when I already finished practical field survey at Hososhima Port and practiced processing data. I have more understanding how to applied the techniques, theories, methods and instruments with hydrographic survey. The practice of hydrographic survey proceeds both the conventional and modern method so it makes me better understanding of the various applications.

I have to thank all the lecturers who gave me the good knowledge and new ideas on the various techniques applied in the hydrographic survey. Everybody is kind and informal so if any participant has any question or doubt they are ready to willingly reply and this makes me has the good feel.

I very impress the Mr. Sakato's teaching on Map Projection lectures because in generally this subject is involved many complex mathematical formulas and very difficult. But the supplementary equipment such as Japan umbrella for explanation on conical projection or global model which is used with light and 3D geometry shape paper for explanation about each type of map projection gave me easy and better understanding.

I very admire the knowledge and ability of the course leader Mr. Sachio Ozawa. He proves to me that although he already superannuated but the energy, ability, intelligence and commonsense are still in him not vanish by his age. So he is the worth man. He also has good disposition and kindness so every participant can talk with him without awkwardness. He is informally and not haughty when talk with everybody and always ready and willing to assist and encourage when participants ask him. On



hydrographic survey field practice at Hososhima Port, Mr. Sachio Ozawa did not mutter even if he faced hardship and difficult survey area. He threw all of his physical and soul power to work for this hydrographic survey field practice. He worked so hard without tired. Although he is old but still is very strong, agile and has good health. He could climb the high mountain to set the GPS receiver or walk along the rocky and stony coast to build whitewash point very brisk and nimble without tired like young man. These are clear proof that why Mr. Sachio Ozawa still is suitable to be Course Leader of Group Training in Hydrographic Survey even if he already retired.

I have to thank very much to Mr. Sadahiro Abe, coordinator of Group Training in Hydrographic Survey for his assistance and coordinating to make the training are well proceeded. Especially he had to work so hard during studious and observant tours and also during translated content of lectures from Japanese to English and English to Japanese. In some lectures, the lecturers could not speak English so Mr.

Sadahiro Abe had to translate the content of lectures which in Japanese to English, also translate the questions which participants asked from English to Japanese and then translate the answers which lecturers answered to participants from Japanese to English. It is very hard to translate all of the contents in Japanese to English and English to Japanese in a short time to make all participants understand if do not prepare first because some vocabularies are technical and not familiar. I remember when I



went to Okinawa for studios and observant tour, I sat near Mr. Sadahiro Abe and saw him brought the Textbook of Tide lectures to discuss with Mr. Kenichi Noguchi for preparing the Tide lecture after came back from Okinawa. This is proof that Mr. Sadahiro Abe had preparing and made homework before the lectures are begun so that by this way participants could get better understanding the knowledge and information from the lectures.

First time I met Mr. Kenichi Noguchi, I feel impressively to him when he talked Thai with me. I have to thank him instead of Thai people for his friendship that he brings to Thai people pass through Thai language, visited

EAHC Newsletter No.40/41 – January 2003

around Thailand and has good memories of Thailand. Even if he can not fluently speak Thai cause he never talk Thai more than 10 years but he can understand Thai speech when he hears. I have to thank all staff members of Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Coast Guard for the kindness, efforts, assistance and encouragement throughout the term of course. The government of Japan gave me the chance to live in Japan, gave me the knowledge and technologies in hydrographic survey to take it back to Thailand for developing the my hydrographic survey work. It like all Japanese gave this chance to me so I have to thank all Japanese.



Mr. Le Van Chuong (Viet Nam)

According to the invitation of the Government of Japan, the Government of Viet Nam has decided to make me attend the Group Training Course in Hydrographic Survey (Internationally Accredited Category B Course II) to be held in Japan from 7 May 2002 to 15 December 2002 under the program of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This was a great chance for me to go to Japan (This was the first time).

Before coming to Japan, I knew Japan as the country of cherry flower. Japan is an island country in the Pacific Ocean of the Coast of East Asia with more than 6,800 islands making up the nation of Japan. The natural environment of Japan is very beautiful, with many landscapes, famous mountains. Especially I shall keep in mind forever the picture of Mount Fuji being the Japan's highest mountain snowed all year at the top of Fuji. Japan is a developed country with enormous

economic power, high technology, new invention, amicable people and the wide-ranging high quality products of car manufacturing industry. They are the identity of Japan.

The plane landed safely at Narita Airport and after I arrived at Tokyo International Center (TIC), JICA staff received me warmly. New places and new work started from here.



After the general Orientation period about history, economy, culture, education, etc of Japan and presentation of country report, the Group Training Course started on the 16 May at Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department in Tokyo.

When I looked at the contents of the training at first, I really worried, because the books which I received here were bulky and as thick as telephone directories. I was always thinking of how to find the way to knuckle down a load of training program. Few days after all things considered, I was decided to study, study and study hard and thought this was the best way. No wonder all of participants had the same purpose and did the same way, all of them knew that: the course is designed to upgrade knowledge of modern theory and technique of hydrographic survey for personnel who are currently engaged in the field of nautical cartography and coastal zone management at Category B Level of the International Standards of Competence for hydrographic survey.

EAHC Newsletter No.40/41 – January 2003

And the course is also aimed at promoting friendly and cooperative relationship among participants as well as the members of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of Japan Coast Guard, which will contribute to the future international cooperative oceanographic activities.

The patience was sine qua non for all of participants in my course. We are completely successful in the training course. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the lecturers who were involved in working out problems we were facing, and providing us with a lot of information and new ideas on various techniques applied to the hydrographic field. Also I must add that I would like to thank personnel within the office not only for their kind cooperation helpful to us, but also for friendly attitude which always made us feel at home. It would be difficult for me to put simply the feeling I experienced.

I came here with limited knowledge of hydrographic survey, but after seven months. Specially the one-month field training on harbour and coastal survey in Hososhima port was successfully completed. All the knowledge attained during the lecture was fulfilled for the good execution of the survey and data processing work. The vague questions I had are now clear.

Here I would like to thank all the instructors from Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of Japan Coast Guard and the 11th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters Kagoshima for their cooperation during the whole field training period. My sincere thanks to all the staff members of the International Cooperation office of the Hydrographic Department of Japan Coast Guard for the good planning of the training course.

A special thanks to Mr. Sadahiro Abe, the training coordinator, a very charismatic person, whose presence in this training course was invaluable. And finally I would like to express my sincerity with all due deference to our course leader, Mr. Sachio Ozawa for sharing his knowledge and experience with us. His deep professional theory and patience has led us till the end of the course.

I will go back to my country with the knowledge and skills which I have received in the training course. I hope this will be great of benefit to me in my future work. Thank you all very much.

