

Voice of the Participants JICA Group Training Course on Hydrographic Survey for 2003

Just got better

Written By: Mr. Sajid Rahim (Pakistan)



Hydrography is one of the most important subject for the developing world not only for the safe navigation but also for expansion of important information regarding the utilization of sea bed for human development i.e. communication, off shore construction, exploration of marine and natural resources in sea/ocean. Moreover hydrographic products can be potential source of diagnoses for dynamic motion of the seabed in the context of crustal deformation monitoring and disaster prevention. Due to increase in coastal and maritime activities day by day, nautical charts are becoming basic need. To produce nautical charts according to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) standard, skilled and qualified Hydrographers are required. This course aids to fulfill the above requirement and is a pre requisite for the fulfillment of the award "Category 'B' certificate" recognized by IHO. About responsibilities of Hydrographers I must say that all type of mariner rely heavily on the chart's accuracy to avoid dangers hence therefore during the survey, surveyor must check and conform or disprove every feature previously charted and the bathymetric sheet should be acceptable as the definitive authority, entirely superseding all earlier surveys. First of all I am very grateful to my God for giving me such a marvelous opportunity to visit Japan and quench my thrust of knowledge in my profession of hydrography. And secondly, on the behalf of my country, I want to submit my gratitude to the Government of Japan & Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), for keeping my country name on their inventory to enhance the standard of life in every field.



I am also thankful to the Government of Pakistan and Department of Hydrography for making efforts to get this course for me. Before coming to Japan, I was having great estimation about Japan & its wonderful nation and I am privileged to submit that the greatness is for beyond my imagination & expectations. After arriving in Japan, I was supposed to inform my office about my whereabouts, so I sent an e-mail. I kept thinking for hours what I should write about Japan & its great nation. Same time my mind was occupied with great impression of Japan



railway system, subway system, booming economy, friendly/healthy environment, nature loving nation and great city of Tokyo. It was simply overwhelming to write some thing. In the end I was able to write few sentences that sir, I think the difference is the Japanese people. Japanese are beautiful inside. And this beauty finds its way out through their hands, eyes, their speaking manners, their working style, their ideas and every single act which they perform.

Our Group Training Course In Hydrographic Survey was consists of class studies, different visits to the hydrographic related organizations and 40 days field training in Toguchi port Okinawa. And every day contributed a lot to understand the concept & theory of Hydrographic Survey. Although I was already having experience of 4 years as a hydrographic surveyor but now at the end of this course, I must say that I just got better. I feel myself confident in the field of survey skills, planning and execution. I have better understanding about the basic principles of Hydrography, which will comprehend me in the role as a hydrographic surveyor. I have definitely realized the tasks & problems to be improved in our daily work and I shall work to solve them



applying the methods learnt through this course program. It was also great opportunity for me to learn & share the knowledge of different culture & societies from the students participating from different parts of the world. And most of all, I will convey the message of peace and cooperation to all the people in my contact to improve the standard of human kind as Government of Japan wanted to convey to all the international communities through its organ, JICA.

Successful completion of this course has been made possible by number of people and bodies, first is the International Cooperation Office in Hydrographic & Oceanographic Department (JHOD), Japan Coast Guard Tokyo, with whom I spent most of my time and interacted in number of issues especially the course leader Mr. Sachio Ozawa; to you all I say, thank you very much for taking me from grass roots to the level of producing a smooth sheet according to IHO standards. To my colleagues Mr. Alfaz, Mr. Faruq, Mr. Nursugi, Mr. Muthama, Mr. Yusof, Mr. Suaidi, Mr. Anil & Mr. Jose, I owe you a lot. Without your assistance, constructive criticisms, company and encouragement, life would have been unbearable. Lastly but no means least, my gratitude goes to the coordinator Mr. Sadahiro Abe, who almost assumed a role of parent to us. May almighty God bless you all and make your good wishes come very true.

SAJID RAHIM
Hydrographic Surveyor
Hydrographic Department
Pakistan



Yearly, Philippines was one of the fortunate countries to be invited by Japan Government thru International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to nominate a participant and sent to attend training for Hydrographic Survey (Internationally Accredited Category B Course II). Not minding of these great opportunity, I was chosen to represent our country thru my Agency DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and NEDA (National Economic and Development Agency) JICA's counterpart to the Philippines to such endeavor (May 6 to December 14, 2003). With the opportunity awarded to me, I prepared myself of all the good possibilities and



opportunities that I would encounter, and planned to make the most of everything that I would experience. These blessing from God was so great for me because I had to spent my 41st Birthday (7th day May) here in Japan. The first week of our stay was spent more on trainings briefing, the topics discussed was about the overview of Japan as a country, the course and Yokohama International Center (YIC). We were also introduced to the wonderful Japanese people that we would meet all through the extent of the training. We were told that the lectures for the training was to be held at the seminar room of the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD) building at Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo. The Observation and Field Tour around Japan not to mention the places were the likes of Sendai, Tsukuba, Kita Kyushu, Hiroshima, Miura and on the last week of our stay here would be at Kobe, Kyoto and Maizuru. The most important part of the training was the practical training that was held at Motobu City, Okinawa that lasted for 39 days from September 16 to October 24. In between these activities, during weekends and holidays, I was given the opportunity to visit Japan's famous national parks such as Kamakura Shrine, Mt. Fuji, Ground Zero in Hiroshima; etc. I also visited other places around Tokyo, Yokohama and Saitama. Shopping was also a very good experience at the likes of World's most expensive shopping district Ginza, Shinjuku, Roppongi, Shibuya, Harajuku, Akihabara in Tokyo; Yokohama Minato Mirai and Isezaki in Yokohama; Naha, Nago and Motobu in Okinawa other places around the cities mentioned above. I had also the opportunity to visit some of my relatives in Tokyo and Saitama. Shopping at free markets was a lot of enjoyment and surprises because prices of all items are almost given free to buyers. Also during our free time during regular days, we still have time to play indoor sports (volleyball, badminton, karate, etc.). We were also given a chance to try other activities on Japanese way such as Tea Ceremony, Kimono Dressing, Origami, Calligraphy, Flower arrangement and Nihongo Lesson. Food was never a problem for me because I do eat everything that is potable. I was amazed by the accommodation that was provided to us. First, we are billed for two months to the newest and most modern center of JICA that lies at the center of Minato Mirai Area in Yokohama, the YIC. It lies on splendid scenery and strategic location for Tourism, then we are transferred to Tokyo International Center (TIC) in Shibuya were in we met more JICA Participants. We also slept one night at Tsukuba International Center (TBIC) in Ibaragi Prefecture. With our study tours, we are billed in hotels were we enjoy our stay like the



Sunset Hotel in Sendai, Hotel YRP at Miura, Bellevue Hotel in Motobu City, Hotel Sunsea in Naha City and Hotel Yugafuin and Hotel Yamada-So in Nago City. I had noticed that the staff of all the hotels that we have stayed maintains a high standard of service to their clients. The lectures for our training were held everyday at JHOD which lies at the heart of Tokyo in Tsukiji,

Chuo-ku. Detailed information for special equipments and technology that we used during our practical training were discussed in the place were they are produced or monitored such as; Prediction of Earthquake and Volcanic Eruptions Research Center in Tohoku University and makers of Surveying Equipments that have used

in this training, the Zao Nikon at Miyagi Prefecture; Underwater Acoustics in Kyowa Shoko at Tokorozawa City, Geological Studies in National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) and Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) in Ibaragi Prefecture, Side Scan Sonar Equipment at Toyo Corporation in Yaesu, Tokyo. We had our survey practice on board SV Meiyo at Miura, Traffic Control on water passage at Kanmon Strait conducted by the 7th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters (RCGH) and visited the 6th RCGH at Hiroshima, and looking forward to the visit at Kobe, Kyoto and Maizuru, and most specially the application of the things that we learn from the lectures, the survey practice for 39 days on the coast and nearshore of Motobu Port, Toguchi Port and Sesoko Island were in we are guided by the expert of the 11th RCGH. We started the processing of the data gathered from the practical survey in Bellevue Hotel in Motobu City were in we had to make our own station sheet, coastlining sheet and sounding sheet was plotted on a very basic way of plotting by the use of pencil, triangles and other engineering tools. The smooth sheet and the computer processing of the data of the Motobu survey was done in JHOD Tokyo, as usual on the very basic way, all the data now are just transferred directly to the smooth sheet and results of the processed data are to be added to it. It was a great sense of fulfillment when I saw the initial result of our work, as we transferring the data of the survey practice to the smooth sheet. The hard times that we had experience in Motobu had already good results, that we among ourselves the participants had bear a good product, and I can tell myself that the opportunity given to me by the Japanese Government thru JICA with the help and the experts of the JHOD staff had been so much rewarding and fulfilling. I heart fully thank the Japanese Government thru JICA for these fulfilling endeavor, JHOD and its RCGH staff for their all out support and courteousness that guided us to our practice. The lecturers who have really share their field of expertise to us, to Mr. Niimura who help us in our daily needs at JHOD, to Mr. Abe who was always there to give us the easiest way to feel at home in Japan and always there to update us on our schedules from start to finish and holds his patience hope to the rest of the training, and most especially to our ever young sen-se Mr. Ozawa who really doesn't mind of the time just to teach us the very purpose of these training and reminds me that I still have more rice and nori to eat to become a real expert Hydrographic Surveyor like him (not to mention his age at 72). With my stay here in Japan (no wonder why this is a very developed country), I have learned that the Japanese people are really NATIONALIST, you strictly observed the preservation of their ENVIRONMENT, you to have always RESPECT to your country, fellowmen, rights and to yourselves, you have to live in HONESTY, DISCIPLINE and HONOR and die for it and most especially you do believe that there is one thing in this world that you consider the most important and care much more than the purity of gold and brilliance of diamond and that is most precious TIME. Lastly, I want to thank God for these answered prayer, wonderful blessing and golden opportunity.

BANZAI NIPPON!!! DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASHITA.

Jose Angeles Ocampo (Philippines)



Konnichiwa, My name is Anil K. Sembhoo. I am a Land Surveyor in the Ministry of Housing and Lands of Mauritius (an island situated in the South West Indian Ocean approximately 2400 km

off the South East coast of Africa).

So you may be wondering what a Land Surveyor is doing in a hydrographic survey course. Development in my country in the later half century had been focused mainly on terrestrial activities, even though the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone extends over an area of about 1.9 million square kilometres. The Mauritian government has set up this year a hydrographic unit within my ministry to be responsible for the production of up-to-date hydrographic data and the dissemination of hydrographic and nautical information to the international maritime community for safe navigation. We are grateful to the Japanese Government for the assistance provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the setting up of the hydrographic unit by putting at our disposal the services of two JICA experts for administrative advice and overseas training in Japan. I am the fifth participant from Mauritius doing the hydrographic Survey course in Japan. I was very keen to come to Japan, as it was my first visit to Japan and hydrographic survey was a new subject for me, the more that the hydrographic survey course is an internationally accredited (category B) course. The course itself extends over nearly seven and a half months from May 06 2003 to December 12 2003. It seems to be a long period, but the course content is quite tough and justifies such duration. The lectures are of a good standard and are conducted in English. On certain occasions, the lectures were in Japanese language and our training coordinator, Abe San, translated them. He seemed very at ease in the translations and never takes the credit for all the good and hard work he does. This sense of humility is remarkably striking in him.

The Japanese are very well organised and devoted to their work. I have read about Japanese culture in management books and my stay in Japan enabled me to experience it. They seem almost infallible and if ever something goes wrong, they apologise. There is a marked difference between the western culture and the Japanese one. My country is heavily influenced by western trends. The observation/study tours to the different regions of Japan, such as Sendai, Tsukuba, Kita Kyushu and Hiroshima, are not only relevant to the



subjects being studied, but also enabled me to discover more of Japan. One last visit to Kobe port, Coast Guard School and Kyoto is scheduled for the 8th December. This year, the field-training program of harbour and coastal surveys was held in Toguchi Port, Okinawa. Okinawa was fantastic; some good beaches and magnificent scenery reminded me of Mauritius. The field training enabled me to practice what I had learnt during the lectures and also to understand them better.

Both conventional and modern methods of surveying were used: coastlining and positioning at sea by sextant and by GPS as well. It was a very enriching experience. The field training further gave me the opportunity to discover more of the very capable course leader, Ozawa San, or rather Ozawa Sensee as we call him. He is 72



years old and yet the most active, even when compared to the participants who are much younger. Unlike my fellow participants, I am processing Okinawa field data alone and it gives me a better opportunity to understand the making of control point, coastlining, sounding lines tracking and fair sheets. Each participant is required to



make his own fair sheet.

On our arrival in Japan, we were accommodated in Yokohama International Centre for the first two and a half months prior to being shifted to Tokyo International Centre where we stayed until our departure for Okinawa in mid September for 39 days. Thereafter, we returned to YIC. I had the opportunity to meet a lot of new friends and have an idea of the extent of JICA activities as regards training facilities. It was fun to participate in the activities/ programs organised by the Yokohama

Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE): Tea Ceremony, Kimono wearing, Japanese Calligraphy... As I like nature I appreciated very much the visit to Fuji San and its surroundings, particularly Shiraito falls. In this respect the beauty of Sendai is still fresh in my mind. At the time I am writing this article, it is autumn in Japan and I could see the “momiji”, the changing of maple leaves from green to red. I regret not having seen the cherry blossom in early spring. It is most probably with mixed feelings that I’ll leave Japan, happy to meet my family friends but sad to leave so many new friends I met here. When I came to Japan, I knew absolutely nothing about hydrographic surveying and I will go back with much knowledge, gathered through hard study, which will help me to serve my ministry, my country. Thank you very much Japan and greetings to all the lecturers, instructors and supporting staff.



Japan holds a very precious place in my heart. I am an Indonesian Hydrographic Officer that had the very fortunate opportunity to live in Japan for period of eight months for JICA Group Training Course in Hydrographic Survey 2003. This course is very useful



because I can actually find out what my weaknesses are. The course helped me to find a 'clear target' in improving hydrographic survey skills. Also gave me a totally understanding on principal Hydrographic survey because of learning both the conventional and modern method. The materials have proved challenging, motivating with a very wide range of relevant disciplines including geodesy and oceanographic. In Japan I



stayed both in the Yokohama International Center (YIC) and Tokyo International Center (TIC). These places were very clean, people were friendly and room was very comfortable, and also with the full facility (gymnasium, internet, restaurant, library, etc). Since I started my stayed in TIC and YIC I have made friends with more than 100 participants from around the world. I hope that our shared memories will always remind us of the value and pleasure of meeting and getting to understand people of different cultures. And also I could learn a great deal about many aspects of Japan and of the many other countries involved. It was TIC and YIC great favor that led my first step into Japan, an interesting country developed between typical eastern culture and western-oriented reformation. I gained lots of understanding in many aspects of Japanese society. It was the 38 days of eight

wonderful months that I remember the most about Japan. I lived in the Western part Okinawa near Naha, a small City called Motobu, to carry out the intensive fieldwork. I was so happy to be in this City and I awoke very early every day to watch the wonder of the rising sun. Accompanying the sun rising was the work hard for practicing our knowledge for hydrographic survey.

Okinawa Island is a beautiful island chain that has some of the most pristine reefs, the cleanest beaches. It was a wonderful experience for me to get more knowledge in hydrographic survey within fieldwork survey at Motobu and practiced processing data. I have more understanding how to applied both conventional and modern method to carry out the hydrographic survey. "I woke up every day to the challenge of an entirely new experience." Too many experience that I have in Japan, and too many people that very nice, kind, helpful and honest so I could not say one by one. I just want to say with simple word. "My life has always been wrapped around the wonderful people and the amazing culture of The Land Of The Rising Sun".

