

JICA Group Training Course on Information Management for Maritime Activity and Disaster Prevention for 2009

JICA Group Training Course on Information Management for Maritime Activity and Disaster Prevention for 2009 (Internationally Accredited Category B) started at the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of Japan (JHOD), Tokyo on 9 June, and it will be conducted till 4 December 2009.

Arrangements for conducting the course are financially supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and cooperated by Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA). Six participants from five countries, who were selected among many applicants, are now participating in the training course conducted at JHOD.

Through this course, participants will study many subjects including Hydrographic Survey for preparing Nautical Charts, concept of GIS, use of hydrographic information for maritime activities, and Maritime Disaster Prevention such as Earthquake and Tsunami.



Participants on the roof of the JHOD building

Reported by JHOD, Japan

**The participants (from left of the picture on the previous page)
and
Their voices**

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My Impression During 2 Months in Japan

On June 9th 2009 I arrived at Narita Airport, as there is in developed countries the Narita Airport is truly incredible. This is my second visit in Japan, my first visit to Japan as the ship crew so I only know of life around the port that I visited, not knowing the details of Japanese urban community.

Interesting impression the first time in this visit when I take the train line where the queue culture is very strong and train punctuality is very impressive and well-organized train station. In the field trip to Yokohama all participant Marine Surveyor Hydrographic visited the Exhibition Geo Information Forum Japan, after there we continued to JICA center Yokohama for lunch time, but at the Exhibition I forget bring my umbrella and I told to coordinator to take my umbrella in Exhibition place, but coordinator said we will take after visiting the anniversary Yokohama Port.

After two hours we visit Yokohama port anniversary I hasten to return to the Exhibition Geo Information Japan for take my umbrella, I find the umbrella that was behind at the place and the same position at the time I first put that umbrella.

That is experience not forgotten for me to the community in this country appreciate the goods that do not own to be taken.

Created
Leonard Natal Siahaan
Indonesia

MY STAY IN JAPAN

1. Before coming to Japan, I was worried about the living, study, food and other. But when I arrived in Japan (Tokyo International Center), everything was opposite to my ideas because of the kind welcoming of the training team and JICA staff. Participants from 5 other countries joined me in the CAT-B course and their behavior is also exemplary.
2. I was expecting to have a big problem in finding halal food in Japan but to the contrary, I was provided with halal food in the TIC. This was a big relief for me. Though I am unable to eat the things which Japanese generally eat but still I am really impressed by the way they use the chop sticks. Eating food, specially rice with only two sticks held by fingers of one hand is really amazing for me. Japanese eating everything with chop sticks with out using spoon is really interesting for me. I would like to mention another interesting thing I observed here i.e. the way they bow when they meet each other. The more you bend the more is the respect you are giving to the other. I even saw people bending to their knee for show respect.
3. Besides attending classes at Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department building in Tokyo, I got the opportunity to go to other cities as well. Roaming around different cities of Japan (Yokohama, Atami, Kyushu, Kobe, Hiroshima etc) was really great for me. I might never forget the stay in different JICA centers in different cities of Japan.
4. Finally I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to all the JICA and JHOD staff for doing all the arrangements for my comfortable stay at Japan. I'll never forget all the efforts done by you. May you all have a prosperous and happy life ahead.

Tanveer Shams
Survey Officer
Hydrographic Department of Pakistan

MY JAPAN EXPERIENCE

This is my second month since I came to Japan. My study here has been very interesting and quite exciting. My image of Japan before I came was quite different to what I have so far experience. I thought before I came that it would be difficult to stay in Japan but has not been the case because Japanese are very interesting people.

I am quite impressed by how Japan people are very courteous and very helpful. During my lectures and moving around has not been a problem. Our coordinator has been very helpful and at hand to explain for us about Japanese culture and their ways.

Language has been a small problem while communicating because my knowledge of Japanese language is very limited. However I am quite happy that my hosts are kind and try a lot to assist despite this language barrier.

I am also happy about efficient transport and good infrastructure in this country. Traveling around has been quite easy and interesting. Trains are very reliable and timely.

My lecturers have been very good. I am interested by the lecturers and their presentation. Their knowledge of the subjects is quite okay and from them I have learned a lot.

The cost of living is quite high especially the foodstuff but I thank Japan International Cooperation Agency for their support hence living here is fine.

Very impressing also is the way Japanese People greet one another. Greeting by bowing is new to me and when I see people greeting one another here I find it very amusing

Generally I am quite happy being here in Japan.

Simon Kipkemboi Ngisirei
Kenya

MY EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN

I never imagine in my whole life I can ever come to Japan. I always heard about Japan, how modern and hectic life here but when the first time I got the letters said that I was accepted for the 6 months course in Tokyo, I feel so happy and lucky but of course I feel sad as I have to leave my newlywed wife in Malaysia.

On 8th of June I arrived here with one of my course mate, Ahmad Zawawi from the Marine Department of Malaysia. At the very first time I was surprised to see the culture of bowing to each other among Japanese. In this modern era of Japan it is very good to see the culture is still well preserved in every heart of Japanese. I am also astonished with the working culture of Japanese where they are still working until late night and come to work again the early in the morning. It is very exhausting and that is the reason why I can see Japanese people always sleep in the trains and subways. And this is one of the important explanations why Japan can build up and develop very fast, because of the energetic working routines of Japanese.

In Japan, I can see Japanese people are very polite among each other. It is fascinating to see the way they greet the customers, and how helpful they are which I can never get in my own country. They also very kind and friendly to a '*gaijin*' like me as they are willing to help even though they are unable to speak in English. I can never feel this kind of very secure feeling in other country and I never get afraid if I'm lost in the middle of the city, there always somebody will help me. That is the beauty of Japanese.

I'm also grateful to have such a first class and kind coordinator, Yasuda-san from JICE and Nakayama-san from the Japan Coast Guard. They always feel free to assist me for better stay in Japan. They also brought us for '*kampai*' in Atami City after sailing from Tokyo by SV Meiyō, for us to feel how the Japanese enjoy their life after the long working hour in the office. I also planned to enjoy Japanese cuisines like *sushi* and *sashimi* together with them if we have time.

In Tokyo, I've visited Shibuya City, Ginza and went for shopping at Shinjuku. My friends and I also enjoyed very much at Tokyo Disneyland and planning to go to Tokyo Disneysea after sometime. I also have a plan to go to Mt Fuji to enjoy the great view of mountain and Hakone Lake as well. I've visited KANMON MARTIS in Kyushu, Japan Coast Guard Air Base in Fukuoka Airport and Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Museum during our study tour.

However I think that 6 months is not enough for me to explore and learn about Japan and Japanese culture. I hope I can stay here for longer time and work here if I have chance. Lastly, I want to express my deep gratitude to my coordinators for providing me and my friends a very good time while in Japan. One thing for sure, I will come again to Tokyo. *Sayonara* and *Dozo Yoroshiku*.

MOHD FARHAN MOHD NORDIN
NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC CENTRE
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My stay in Japan

My stay in Japan is very fascinating. Japan is a beautiful country blessed with a very good people. The people are very polite and very hardworking in every way.

Move around Tokyo is very easy. Public transport is very useful and convenient. It usually arrives at exactly time and it's very important to make sure anything is running according to the plan.

In the classes, I find it very good and related. The lectures are very helpful and try their best to make our learning process better and attractive. The field trip is very enjoyable and important to refresh our self after a long hectic schedule.

I find the autumn season that is coming is very pleasant. The temperature is not so hot yet not so cold. I've been told that this summer, Tokyo endures not so hot summer compared to the years before. Maybe we will be lucky enough to see snowfall in Tokyo this year. It will be a very exciting experience if it happens because it will be my first time to see snow in a real life.

But above all that, living in Japan is very costly. Plus with the currency exchange that is not in our side. Fortunately, allowances that we receive from Jica are more than enough to support our lives here. But if it's more, it will be better. Maybe, it'll be good also to Japanese to not be so serious in their lives and enjoy the moment that they have. Then life will not be stressful.

Lastly, I feel very lucky to get this opportunity to stay for 6 months in Japan. Although, Japan has so many mother nature phenomena like earthquake, tsunami and volcano eruption, I think that's what makes Japanese people become stronger and brilliant.

By Ahmad Zawawi bin Saharuddin
Malaysia.