

## JICA Group Training Course on Information Management for Maritime Activity and Disaster Prevention for 2010

JICA Group Training Course on Information Management for Maritime Activity and Disaster Prevention for 2010 (Internationally Accredited Category B) started at the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of Japan (JHOD), Tokyo on 9 June, and it will be conducted till 25 November 2010.

Arrangements for conducting the course are financially supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and cooperated by Japan Hydrographic Association (JHA). Seven participants from seven 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 photo at Shizuoka Earthquake Disaster Prevention Center**

*Reported by JHOD, Japan*

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

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Kenya*

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*Mr. RIAZ Mudassar*

*Survey Officer/ Hydrographic Department of Pakistan  
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*Mr. KOUAME Kouadio Felix*

*Chief of maritime hydrographic bureau/General Directorate of Port and Maritime affairs  
Cote d'Ivoire*

*Mr. AHMAD TAQI UDDIN Hadi*

*Survey Officer/ National Hydrographic Centre  
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*Meteorologist/ Thai Meteorological Department  
Thailand*

*Mr. Edo Bimawardhana*

*Staff/ Directorate General of Sea Transportation  
Indonesia*

## My Ever Alive Memory Of Japan

Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen, I beg for your attention. I want you to do something right now. I want you to clear your mind of all thoughts about everything and we get together through this self-confessed written article.

Now, I want you to picture yourself, this time not in your usual paradise, whatever or wherever that may be, but picture yourself moving away from your land of birth to a land or a country far away where no friends, family, nor relatives live there; picture how strange and confusing you are likely to be subjected to. Think about it for a minute.

Ok, my long journey to Japan started on 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 from Nairobi-Kenya, through Dubai airport to Osaka airport then finally to Narita airport-Tokyo, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2010.

My feeling of thankfulness, appreciation and gratitude was first felt when I landed Osaka airport. Before my self-esteem and confidence withered, someone from JICA office-a beautiful, cheerful and a self-worthy lady was there to welcome me to Japan. She fully assisted me in all necessary steps to connect the next flight to Tokyo. I felt her presence was much more than just being there. Same kind of efficient treatment happened in Narita airport and I found myself comfortably in TIC-Tokyo International Centre, where I met other participants and we got general orientation to what goes on in concern to our stay and training course on "Information Management For Maritime And Disaster Prevention".

My stay in TIC and JHOD-Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, where our studies were conducted in conjunction with other different organizations (e.g. Sonic Company, On-Boat Training Meiyo, GSI Tsukuba, Toyo Corp, JAZA, Hiroshima, Kobe etc.) can only be described as extremely wonderful. The majesty of style of both curriculum and co-curriculum activities I have experienced here in this training can be taken as a legal foundation of development to me as a person and my country. I can truly confess that Japan through JICA has clearly shown a true extreme devotion, fanatical in nature, and not shown by any other country in the world, that its ready and committed to share its technical advancement with the rest of the world.

Besides my academic tours, my Hiroshima tour has taught me the need of peace in this world. Mankind should re-think analytically deep about his awakened concern in technical advancement in terms of nuclear powers and atomic bombs.

I do take this honourable moment to express my sincere gratitude to JICA for offering me this opportunity to be in Japan for a particular important purpose and for the revolutionisation it has done to me.

Secondly, JHOD, both teaching and non-teaching staff, I appreciate your kind support. TIC technical staffs are people characterised with humour and are well hearted. They make our life easy and enjoyable, not forgetting even the auxiliary staff.

Before getting close to wind up, I wish to express my altitude of profound respect to

one special person who has been with me all through almost every minute, every hour, every day, every week and every month, in all my stay in japan, none other than my co-ordinator Mr.Yasuda-san. Thank you very much for your utmost support you have accorded to all of us to in order we achieve the best.

Generally speaking I have learnt a very different and diverse culture from the Japanese people and japan as a country. I have learnt the essence of time keeping, the convenience of well organised transport network, the altitude of accepting one another, the flourishing companion in interests and the need to help the needful. Thank you very much Japanese people, you are special people.

My fellow participants (Kouame-san, Edo-san, Ahmad-san, Bruno-san, Mido-san and Oe-san) I do appreciate your time and company and do look forward for another opportunity like this. I would like to share with you this last comment; Brains and beauty are Gods gifts, but character is your own personal achievement; your life changes when you change, you are the only person who can fully revolutionise your life, influence your happiness, your realisation of your goals and your SUCCESS.

Readers of this article, I say thank you for your time.

Author.

NDIVO L.F.M.

KENYA.

## *My impression about Japan*

It's hard to give my first impression about Japan because I have been here before. My first visit to Japan was three years ago at the same period and I was attending a training course at the Geographical Survey Institute of Tsukuba for three months. This was one of the most beautiful moments of my life. I was really impressed by Japan at this time as regards the modernity, the cleanliness, security and the hospitality of Japanese people amongst others.

Now I am in Japan again and my impression has not changed a bit. When I was informed that I have been selected to attend a course in Japan, I promised myself that I would enjoy every second of my stay here. Tokyo is an impressive city with an intriguing mix of tradition and modernity. While walking down a street during the weekend, I often passed by the glare and glitter of a pachinko parlor (a pinball gambling game) to be confronted by a quiet traditional temple. Small traditional pubs nestle against modern high rise buildings.

The Japanese people are very polite. Giving their best respect to other people this is what I really admire about the Japanese culture, especially the culture to give respect to those who are older and higher position. Although Japanese take work seriously, life is not all work! They put their heart and soul into a multitude of festivals and public holidays. At festivals, many people, including children, wear traditional dress and join in the dances enthusiastically.

Now I am in Tokyo for three months and three things have impressed very much: firstly the transportation system in Tokyo is so well organized. Travelling by train in Japan is so easy and affordable especially using the subway lines. Secondly Japanese people are putting a lot of effort, money and expertise in safeguarding the environment around them and over the world also and thirdly one thing that impressed me most is that the Japanese people abide to some codes of conduct and that make the beauty of Japan

To summarize, the best word to describe Japan is "fascinant". I have the chance to come here for the second time and hope to come again once more. As we say in my language "Jamais deux sans trois".

## JAPAN EXPERIENCE

1. On June 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 I arrived at Narita Airport , but before coming to Japan , I was little worried about how it will going to be, as I belong to a totally different culture , and my religion obligations these were my concerns. My mind was wondering with lot of questions.

2. But when I arrived at Tokyo International Center (TIC), everything was opposite to that what all I had in my mind. A really warm welcoming was given by the training team and JICA staff. Also at TIC everything was administrated so well that I feel as they know me since long time, and I am resident of Japan. JICA staff and specially our coordinator briefed everything so well that I didn't find any sort of problem regarding daily routine.

3. I was expecting to have a big problem in finding halal food in Japan, but again contrary to that I was provided with halal food in TIC. Initially I felt strange in eating spice less food, but just after a week I started loving and enjoying that food. Though I was unable to eat all Japanese food, but I really liked some foods like Tempura .Susi, Wasabi, baked fish with rice. Eating food with chop stick was really amazing for me, so I decided to learn it, and now I can eat all sort of food using chop sticks, which give me lot of joy.

3. Here I would like to mention another interesting that I observed in Japan, is the way they bow when they meet each other. This is how they give mark of respect to one another. This depicts how humble Japanese people are, and hold high values for mankind.

4. Beside attending classes at Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department building in Tokyo, I got the opportunity to go to other cities as well. Visiting different cites of Japan was really great for me. I stayed in different JICA centers in different cities of Japan. Our stay was really great and unforgettable one due warm generosity of staffs at each center.

5. I think these 6 months are not enough for me, I want to learn more about Japan, Japanese people and there way of living. I really admire the peaceful environment of Japan. Here I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to all the JICA and JHOD staff, for all their efforts in making our stay a comfortable and memorable one. God bless Pak Japan friendship.

Mudassar Riaz  
Survey Officer  
Hydrographic Department of  
Pakistan

## MY FEELING IN JAPAN

I summarize in three times my impression after two months living in Japan:

- ✓ First, before the voyage;
- ✓ Second, during the voyage;
- ✓ Third, since 8th Jun to now.

I was very happy when I was informed by JICA's Local Administration that I was selected to participate in the course "Information Management for Maritime Activity and Disaster Prevention". In the same time, I had some questions concerning my English level, the climate and the weather in Japan. I'm afraid of very low temperature. For meal, it's not a matter because I can find rice everywhere in the world. I know that we import rice from Asia continent. Also, fish, meat and potato can be found here.

During the voyage, I met the participant from Kenya in Dubai Air Port. At this moment, it was English test for me, because in Kenya, English is official language and also to have a friend from Africa. I was reassured. I was surprised by the differences of formalities between Dubai Air Port and Japanese Air Port (Osaka and Nareta). In Dubai passengers take off jacket, watch, shoes and all kind of metal objects before entering the scan room. When I got to Osaka airport, it was different from Dubai style and human friendly. I realized that I was now in a developed country with high technology.

Since 8<sup>th</sup> Jun to now, I notice the kindness of people from Tokyo International Centre to all over in Japan. The greetings in this country are done in a special manner different from my experience. I think it's special way of the Japanese culture. A country can be developed with polite, discipline and hard-working society. I will never forget to have been to Hiroshima. I had years before learned the history of Japan and more about Hiroshima at my academic levels of schooling. It really taught me a good lesson why the whole world should preach peace.

Japan has very high technology in transport systems; train station, bridges and Tokyo streets/roads at night are really wonderful.

I have achieved the best knowledge from a well experienced lecturers who are kind and willing to teach, very good co-operation from JHOD teaching and non-teaching staff. TIC has been of much help to me and good support, and has as well made me learn a lot from friends of many different countries.

At last, I would like to thank JICA and its dynamic staff. I express my

personal gratitude and on behalf of my Organization to JICA Tokyo, to Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department and to Mr. Yasuda the coordinator. I hope that I will come again in Japan for further studies and learn more on Japanese language and culture.

**By KOUAME Kouadio Felix, COTE D'IVOIRE**



## **MY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN**

Japan was one of my dream countries to visit since I was at high school. In my hometown, most of my people admired Japan for certain reason. It was because development achieve by Japan even this country was lost in World War 2 and suffered from war. One more things fascinating here is about the good culture and spirit which is still been maintain among Japanese people. I was very surprised and excited after knowing that I am selected for this course. It is like very lucky opportunity for me because not everybody got this chance for the rest of their life.

From June 8<sup>th</sup> I started living in Japan and learn the environment here. Many things here really impressed me such as development of cities, culture and many more.

It is really hard to find a rural area in Japan which is almost everywhere we can find a 24 hour convenient store, restaurant, and most probably everywhere have electricity here. We also can reach anywhere we want to go by train especially around Tokyo. Most impressing things here, is Japanese people really serious and hardworking on their job. It is become normal thing we can see people sleep in train and look very tired cause of their work. One more things interesting here was the attitude of Japanese people which is in my opinion was very good such as follow the road rule, stand in line at everywhere and bowing culture. The way of speaking also is consider very polite and friendly.

In term of my courses, honestly I think it was perfect and wonderful class. Our coordinator, Yasuda san was doing very good job to assist us in everything here. These also include all of our sensei which trying very hard to deliver the knowledge to us. I also think Yamao san from IAO office was a good friend too especially after trip to Shizuoka and Meiyo ship which was make all of us become more close and know each other. The crew onboard Meiyo ship also was very friendly and I enjoyed the way they delivered knowledge to us.

I already have visited Kyushu, Tsukuba, Shizuoka, Hiroshima, and Kobe during our study trip. This study trip was very good trip for us rather than staying in classroom at Tokyo only. We also have chance to go sightseeing and visited some memorable history place such as Hiroshima Museum. Our stay was very comfortable and unforgettable one due to good administration by JICA and JHOD staff at each place. Other than that, I also have opportunity to join tour to the Kamakura and Mount Fuji which is organized by JICA. This tour was really fun and i really enjoyed the beautiful scene of that place.

I only can think two major problems when staying here which is the living expense and communication. I really feel the cost of living here is very high because it seems everything is expensive. Sometimes communication become problem because not so many people here can speak English and luckily we also have opportunity to attend basic Japanese class at the first month we arrived. Staying here 6 months is really not enough for all of us to explore and learning about Japan. Finally, i want to express my gratitude and thankful for all of people who help me having good time here. Aligator Gozaimas and Sayonara.

**Author:**

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## MY JAPAN EXPERIENCE

I reached at Narita Airport after a flight of 5 hours from Bangkok, but during the whole flight I thought about living in Tokyo and studying a different field for a long period of 6 months. Although it was my second visit to Japan, but I was still worried about the big city Tokyo and its fast life style.

I was very happy for getting the opportunity of coming back here again. I started going out by myself just after 2 days, on my arrival here. First place I visited was Shibuya where I enjoyed shopping, eating and looking at amazing new fashion styles. Time passed quickly and I was trying to find my way back, but I was lost. So thanks to transport administration who made these facilities very user friendly I manage to find my way back. Also here I would like to mention that, the management of the transport facilities of Japan are perfectly comfortable and one of the best in the world.

There are so many interesting places other than sight seeing in Japan. I love to go to Harajuku every weekend although I have nothing to buy moreover I like to shop a lot especially beautiful clothes, cosmetics and lots of other stuff. Japan is one of the best places for shopping. Whenever I go to the shops, their way of customer relation management extremely impress me a lot. At cosmetics shop, beauty advisors always give me a lot of samples to try before buying, they are very nice and they deal fairly with customers. It is therefore not surprising that Japan has the economic prosperity and advances in modern technology.

Japanese people are nice, friendly and very polite. Japanese girls are very cute and they look so young. I enjoyed everything here such as Japanese culture, food and beautiful places among many others. In short, Japan is a fascinating place. I would like to express my sincere and utmost gratitude to JICA and JHOD staff for giving me the opportunity to participate in this course. Lastly, I would like to thank our coordinator, Yasuda-san for helping us in all matter. Every passing day is unforgettable one, and I wish to come again to Japan surely will.

Ekamong Kientong  
Thailand

## JAPAN EXPERIENCE

On June 8 2010, I arrived at Narita airport. I still felt like an outsider because of this the first time i came to Japan.

I just know from some friends who had live in Japan that this country is very beautifull and has a community of people who are qualified and always keep the cleanliness of the environment. I never imagined that i could live in Japan before, although 6 months prior to follow course in Hydrographic Survey.

New experiences and interesting for me as like going to class or walk around with on the train as public transport, so the transportation here is very efficient and should be emulated by other countries.

In Tokyo, I did stay at JICA Tokyo International Center (TIC). In TIC, I live with my classmate and participants in other training. we can use all the facilities already provided by JICA TIC (sports, music, computer room, communication plaza, etc.), even we were also taught about the introduction of Japanese language.

I went to the office of Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD) at Higashi Ginza-Tokyo every day with friends to attend a class held lessons. We have important lessons about hydrographic surveys there, ranging from basic lesson to lesson skilled. Besides, we also have the opportunity for field training and study tour in another city (Shizuoka, Kita-Kyushu, Kobe and Himeji) as well as visiting companies engaged in the Hydrographic Survey. During training, we have a very good coordinator to guide, assist and show us about how this training procedure. Even to the extent we can talk about anything with him, all the problems that are difficult or as easy and pleasant or unpleasant. Once while on holiday, I went to climb Mount Fuji, but unfortunately at that time the top of Mount Fuji was not covered with snow because it was summer. Way to go to the top of the mountain is very hard even on a certain altitude the oxygen levels go down so it can make the climber becomes faster tired and weak. But I am still happy because there was beautiful scenery and this experience which I don't want to forget.

Here's some of my new experiences during their stay in Japan and I will never forget.

I am very grateful to JICA and JHOD has been conducting training Hydrographic Survey and do not forget to also let me thank you so much to the JICA and JHOD staff who have helped me and my friends in learning in this training. Especially to my coordinator who has guided me and my friends very well.

By EDO BIMAWARDHANA  
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