

AJCE Activity 2009

Young Professionals Exchange Programme (YPEP) 2009

-A bridge of friendship connecting Australia and Japan-

Keiichi KANAI

Chair, Professional Development Promotion Sub-Committee
CTI Engineering Co., Ltd.



In October last year, AJCE welcomed four young Australian professionals who spent 3 weeks at selected AJCE member firms as they were participating Young Professionals Exchange Programme (YPEP), established in 1996 to promote good relationship and friendship between Japanese and Australian young consulting engineers.

proved to be one of the key elements of the programme.

The schedule of YPEP2009 was as follows;

- January Host firms recruited and selected
- February Selection of visiting young professionals
- April Pre-visit dialogue started
- October 13 Orientation & Welcome Party
- October 24-25 Trip to Kyoto & Nara
- October 30 Young Summit Meeting & Farewell Party



Signing Ceremony of MOU in 1995



Due to the global economic depression, there were not as many visiting engineers this time as in the past years. However, well-prepared training programs and warm hospitality of the host firms made this year's YPEP even more productive and fruitful. "Pre-visit Dialogue", introduced for the first time in 2007 to make the training more effective and efficient, was carried out smoothly and it

In the "Pre-visit Dialogue" period, the Australian engineers communicated by e-mails with the mentors or other people at the host firms on the wide range of topics from technical issues in their business area to practical information and tips for staying in Japan.

During 3 weeks of visit, four Australian engineers worked with their mentors at each host company, location of which dispersed all over Japan from Sapporo to Sendai, Tokyo and Fukuoka. The programs varied by host company, but mostly included presentations, seminars, discussions, site visits and, of course, many social events.

Trainees of YPEP

NO.	Company	Name	Host Company in Australia	Office
1	GHD	Jamie Chapman	Oriental Consultants Co.,Ltd.,	Tokyo
2	GHD	Nobu Ito	Oriental Consultants Co.,Ltd.,	Tokyo
3	Arup	Hilary Pocock	CTI Engineering Co., Ltd.	Sendai, Fukuoka
4	Kellogg, Brown and Root	David Dixon	Chodai Co.,Ltd.	Sapporo, Tokyo



Welcome Party



Young Summit Table discussion

The weekend trip to Kyoto and Nara, former capital cities of Japan and famous for their old shrines and temples, offered to the visitors a good opportunity to explore the rich history of Japan.

On the last day the Young Summit Meeting was held in Tokyo, in which all the participants from both countries got together to report and listen to the outcome of their 3 weeks of training, and to exchange their views and opinions on some interesting issues such as the difference of work environment and systems in two countries. After the Australian engineers' report presentation, we had roundtable discussions, topics of which were (1) What "Consulting Engineer" means for your career and life, and (2) What you expect your firm to do for your "Capacity Building". In the discussion for topic (1), they exchanged various experiences and views; the reasons why they had chosen this profession, the gap between their original expectation for the job and the reality they are facing, the huge social responsibility and challenge of the profession, and so on. For topic (2), they talked about their own firms' policies of human resources development, how they want their superiors to guide or educate them in the daily work, and what they would do to your subordinates in the future. It was a valuable and meaningful meeting for all participants, and one of the highlights of the entire program.

While YPEP's primary purpose is to provide young engineers with opportunities to touch different cultures, to learn new engineering skills, and to create an extensive network of young professionals, we hope that in the future this will be growing into close business relationship



Farewell Party

between the participating firms in two countries. We have already started preparing for this year's YPEP, in which AJCE will be sending Japanese young professionals selected from its member firms to Australia, and we believe that it will be another success in YPEP's outstanding history.



Trainees and their hosts in YPEP2009

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Summary of YPEP 2009 Experience



Jamie Chapman
YPEP2009 Trainee
GHD

Introduction

During the 2009 YPEP to Japan, I was given the opportunity work with Oriental Consultants in their Tokyo office where we exchanged knowledge through discussions and site visits. While in Japan I stayed with two different families and was also able to travel to various parts of Japan to experience the culture.

Work Experience

Each day I travelled to Nishi-Shinjuku Gochome station using the high frequency train system which was an interesting experience. My work with Oriental Consultants involved many discussions with employees with topics ranging from YP Issues to pavement design differences between Japan and Australia.

I was also able to visit a number of project sites, some completed and some under construction. These visits were very valuable and informative as design and construction constraints vary between Japan and Australia.

Cultural Experience

During the weekends I was able to visit many different places throughout Japan. A tour was organised by AJCE through the historic cities of Kyoto and Nara. Through the guided tour, I learnt much about the history of Japan.

I was also able to experience much of the night life in the city of Tokyo and the more weekend atmosphere in places like Yoyogi Park and Akihabara.

Summary

The exchange program to Japan has been very rewarding and valuable. I have made a lot of friends while here in Tokyo working with Oriental consultants and I hope to continue these following my return to Australia. I was able to experience the wonderful hospitality that the Japanese are famous for. This was a great experience and I recommend it highly to all young professionals and I thank ACEA and AJCE for their effort to make this possible.



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YP Exchange Program 2009 Report



Nobu Ito
YPEP2009 Trainee
GHD

1. Introduction

As an YPEP trainee, I have been served with Oriental Consultants (OC), Railway Group within the Global Consulting (GC) Division. Although it was a short stay, I have been given some opportunities to expose myself to general discussion with YPs, railway grade separation construction site (non-OC project).



2. Discussion with OC's YPs

Discussion session was held for the purpose of exchanging opinions on differences between Australian and Japanese consultancies including



- Working Hours and Environment
- Dress Code (introduction of casual Friday)
- Drug and Alcohol Policy

3. Major Grade Separation in Metropolitan Area

The traffic congestion caused by railway level crossing has been a large issue in metropolitan area and occasionally, the maximum wait at the level crossing goes over 30mins so that often two solutions are suggested for mitigation: underground and continuous bridge grade separation

Shield and cut and cover tunneling:

Keio Railways is performing the total length of 3.7km underground grade separation between Chofu and Kuniryu station for the purpose of easing the traffic congestion at level crossing, reducing the level crossing accident and urban renewal. The following factors



are the advantages of using the tunneling method

- Future urban renewal planning
- Community friendly
- Construction time reduction
- Not affecting the Existing operation
- No traffic control required.

Continuous bridge grade Separation:

The continuous bridge grade separation project at one of the busiest level crossing for Keikyu line Kamata station where two major roads cross, are carried out by Keikyu Railways. It is constructed for the purpose of improving the current traffic situation and followings are other advantages.



- Construction time reduction
- Improvement of noise and vibration
- Future urban renewal planning
- Car and bike parking space under the continuous bridge

4. Conclusion and Acknowledgement

Through this program, I have had a tremendous time staying with Oriental Consultants and other trainees to experience Japanese culture, working environment, unique construction techniques and build a valuable relationship for future networking. Thereby, I thank AJCE and ACEA for organizing the amazing opportunity for young professionals who are aspiring and developing the knowledge and experiences, Oriental Consultants Railway Group, road group and Safety and QM staffs for creating comfortable work environment as well as sharing their knowledge and experiences and special thanks to Mr. Kamiyama for his consistent assistance and organizing the training programs at OC.

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YPEP2009 Report - My experience in Japan -



Hilary Pocock
YPEP2009 Trainee
Arup

1. A Week in Sendai with CTI Engineering

My first few days in Sendai were spent visiting local rivers, sights and impressive engineering feats. I was able to see a flood retarding basin, levee bank and flow control infrastructure as well as enjoy a cruise along the picturesque Mogami River in the Yamagata Prefecture. Also in this prefecture, I saw Nagai Dam and was taken to the elevated construction site of Ogawa Bridge. Site visits always included lunch that reflected the quality of the local produce, namely very delicious Soba Noodles.



Through the kindness of the Sendai people I was able to experience very unique cultural experiences through the many meals shared at traditional Japanese restaurants. After dinner parties were also great fun and afforded me the pleasure to understand what Japanese karaoke is really all about! I was also lucky enough to have a home stay with Koichi Saito and his family, play softball and attend an Imoni party with the entire office.

2. A Week in Fukuoka with CTI Engineering

During my week learning about water resource management in Fukuoka I quickly came to realize that not all water engineering issues in Japan are focused on flood control and river planning. Similarly to my home city Adelaide, Fukuoka experiences water shortages which have meant the establishment of a



desalination plant and many other water saving measures. I was able to draw many similarities and differences between the way water is managed in each respective city, and came away with some ideas for improvement of some water systems in Australia. A well informed site visit to their desalination plant and also to the highly esteemed research Professor Jinno from Kyushu University was valuable.

During my time in Kyushu I was also able to visit the very active Mt Aso volcano and again experience local food delights such as raw chicken, lots of ramen, beef intestines and one of the most confronting, pig foot from a local Yatai.



3. Lasting Impressions

My time in Japan exceeded all expectations I had previously held. The kindness of the people, the charm of the Japanese culture as well as the technical exposure to the state of play of water in Japan has meant my experiences here have been entirely unique. I congratulate the AJCE for hosting such a successful program and would like to thank the people of CTI Engineering for making my time in Japan so valuable and enjoyable. Special thanks go to Yohei Takita, Koichi Saito, Asuka Ukese and Toshiaki Ishimoto who were exceptional hosts. I feel very grateful to have been part of this program and look forward to visiting again in the near future.



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My Time in Japan with Chodai Consulting

David Dixon
 YPEP2009 Trainee
 Kellogg, Brown and Root



During my three week exchange with Chodai I was fortunate enough to experience working life in Japan. The first week I spent in Hokkaido at the Sapporo office; here I was introduced to their GPS Information System. This system allows users to utilize the features found on their mobile phones, such as the camera, GPS and internet to provide immediate information to the office. I was also taken to a bridge inspection approximately 110km north of Kushiro. While in Sapporo I visited the Sapporo Bier Garten to enjoy some tasty Japanese beers and food. A weekend trip to Otaru and further west for sight seeing allowed me to witness some of the traditional and more natural areas of Hokkaido.



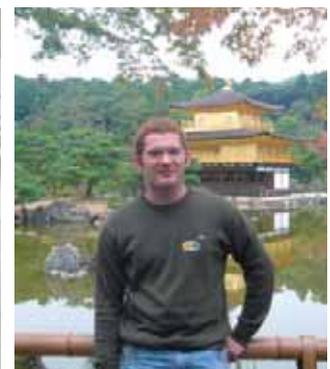
Sashimi in Sapporo

I returned to Tokyo for the following two weeks. During my first week in Tokyo I was able to witness construction of 10km of new railway that would provide a second rail link to Narita airport. While here I had the opportunity to visit the Tekken Corporation training facility. The training facility is impressive; the start involved a short briefing about the facility and following this briefing I was shown their training site. This site is 150m long and is a working reconstruction of a station platform and level crossing with various construction works on display.

I was able to visit the Metropolitan Expressway control room and the NEXCO traffic control centre for the Kanto area. From a large

monitoring room all the expressways can be monitored for congestion. This was great to see, as I have never visited the control centre in Brisbane. In order to witness Tokyo congestion first hand, I was taken on a trip to the Odaiba area across Rainbow Bridge. On the way I was able to travel at speeds, that on occasion, exceeded 5km/h.

For two days I was able to ride the Shinkansen to Kyoto with the other YPEP members. Here I visited a couple of temples and shines in Kyoto. The following day I made the trip to Nara to see some more equally impressive shines and temples. For the night we stayed in a rather traditional room with tatami mats; with the 6am wakeup earthquake included at no extra cost.



Kimonos at Kiyomizu-dera, and Kinkakuji (Golden Temple) in Kyoto

Everyone at AJCE, Chodai and the other host firms were exceedingly welcoming. I would like to thank all of those involved in this program as I believe it has increased my engineering experience; as well as given me the opportunity to experience Japanese culture.