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A Visit to Hiroshima Central Science Park and JICA Campus

On October 25th, 2013, five students from the Laboratory of Prof. Nobukazu Nakagoshi visited the Hiroshima Central Science Park and JICA office. The group left the IDEC building in Hiroshima University at 2:30 in the afternoon. After a seven-minute drive by car, the team reached the Science Park. Mrs. Nakagoshi, who also arranged the trip, helped the students by translating for them. The students came from three different countries: Mr. Ros Bandos from Cambodia; Mr. Aminov Zarif and Mr. Alikulov Khusniddin Zarifovich from Uzbekistan; and Mr. Nguyen Thanh Quan and Mr. Nguyen Phu Toan from Vietnam.

The visit was organized in order for students, especially those with Science background, to get a broader idea on Japanese Development Technologies. Furthermore, it was also planned for the students to get to know the JICA campus. JICA is considered to be one of the important resources for further studies and researches in the field of science.

The Hiroshima Central Science Park

There were five areas to visit in Hiroshima Central Science Park- robotics, food processing, jewelry making, toy manufacturing and Biomass Refinery Research Center. It was amazing to see the Robot Performance facility. The students agreed that Japanese technology is indeed highly developed upon seeing the robot. It can listen to people's voice and perform as a human being. Seeing it was an amazing and fantastic experience.



At the Robot Performance facility

After that, the group visited the place where mixed dry fishes were displayed. The students were asked to select the edible ones using their own eyes and a provided device. They were also told that the dry small fishes sold in the market came from this mix of dry fish. Japan uses technology to refine and select only those that can be eaten. This was another learning experience for the group.

The third place was related to how to make jewelry with plastic. They were given some materials and taught how to make the jewelry. It was quite interesting to see materials derived from plastic reflected various colors. The fourth place showed how to make toys for young children. Using two paper cups, hard, transparent plastic and tape, the students made a kaleidoscope.



At the Biomass Refinery Research Center

Last on the list was the Biomass Refinery Research Center. The group met a staff who explained the process of refinery. It was a good opportunity to witness theory put applied with technology.

It was a chance to see in person the raw material used for biomass, its facilities for conversion and more importantly a highly qualified technician. He explained a lot of details about the Refinery.

The JICA Campus

Finally, the group went to the campus of JICA. It is a place for the public to enjoy doing sports and other forms of recreation. It houses a library where students can read titles related to the group's field such as Ecology. There were many books inside the library as well as materials for further understanding such as video, internet, DVD, magazines and so on.

To conclude, it was an interesting tour since the students learned more about Japanese technology and education. The group was thankful to Mrs. Nakagoshi for her efforts to accompany and interpret for the students. This kind of visit should be organized more frequently in the future to supplement the theoretical courses at Hiroshima University. Moreover, the group believed that the knowledge and experience from this activity helped advance their research work and keep them abreast with Japanese scientific life.

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