

<Training Course on Desalination Technologies and Water Reuse for the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity & Water (MEW)>

Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East held a training course on seawater desalination technologies intended for the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity & Water (MEW) over a period of roughly two weeks, from November 25 to December 6, 2013. Under a training consignment agreement with the Water Reuse Promotion Center, the training course was realized in response to a request for lecturers from a number of Japanese companies operating in the global water business market.

The Center also offered water-related training to MEW previously in 2009, under the theme of “water purification and management.” The result of that training was recognized by MEW, and led to its request for the implementation of the recent training course.

The course was held with the participation of a group of ten participants consisting of frontline operators from a number of desalination facilities in operation in Kuwait and contracting officers who engage in equipment procurement at MEW. They ranged widely in age, from their 20s to 50s, but the majority were in their mid-30s, such that the course in effect received human resources who are precisely poised to take charge of water infrastructures in Kuwait hereafter.

Beginning with a general outline of water issues, the course introduced an overview of desalination technologies (evaporation method, membrane method, etc.), products offered by companies that possess various desalination technologies, and case examples of plant operations and management. Additionally, a regional visit was made to Fukuoka, where the participants studied the design, construction, operations and management of an actual membrane-method seawater desalination facility at Mamizupia, the largest such facility in Japan.

Within a short period of less than two weeks in Japan, the course took up ten days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, and consisted of 21 session frames, which also included regional training and a facility tour (Fukuoka and Osaka). The program may have been hard for the trainees, as it required participants to travel to regional cities using combinations of subway, highway bus, airplane, Shinkansen train, and conventional trains, where they would normally ride a car in Kuwait, as well as required them to engage in learning from morning till night while in Tokyo. Nevertheless, judging by their serious demeanor during the lectures and active Q&A interactions, there is little doubt that their time was highly well spent.

In the evaluation meeting held on the last day of training, evaluation forms, which participants were asked to complete in advance, were collected, reviewed, and their results presented, and some time was reserved for verbal feedback from the participants. Of the ten participants, nine said they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the training, and endorsed its effectiveness. At the same time, however, as there were also comments that desired an even more detailed training content, it is possible that this basic training might generate new requests for in-depth training in the future.

Through continued implementation of similar training courses, JCCME hopes to create occasions to contribute to national development in Kuwait.



