

AOTS JOURNAL

2024 SPRING No.22

AOTS Journal —Excerpt Edition of No.22 —

Dear readers,

The *AOTS Journal* is originally published twice a year in Japanese only and is mainly distributed to related companies in Japan and related organizations inside/outside Japan. The articles below are excerpts from AOTS Journal No. 22/2024 (Spring Issue). We hope this content will help you to catch up with the latest activities of AOTS and AOTS Alumni Societies.

Best regards,
Chief Editor
AOTS Journal

AOTS News

[AOTS collaborated with 3 AOTS Alumni Societies in the program entrusted by METI](#)

Since its establishment in 1959, AOTS has trained over 200,000 trainees from approximately 180 countries and regions. These ex-trainees voluntarily formed the "AOTS Alumni Society" after returning to their home countries.

As a non-profit organization of the people representing Pro-Japan and Japan experts in each country and region, the AOTS Alumni Society has been, not only fostering friendship among its members, but also promoting Japanese language and culture, as well as disseminating Japanese management techniques, etc, which they have learnt in Japan.

The AOTS Alumni Societies established currently in in a total of 74 locations in 45 countries and regions have formed the global network of AOTS,

actually working with AOTS as its partner organizations.

In this issue of the AOTS Journal, we report on how some alumni societies are also active as overseas cooperating organizations even in The Program for Improving the Business Environment related to Trade and Investment, which has been entrusted to AOTS by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

In fiscal 2023, as a part of above-mentioned entrusted Program by METI, AOTS conducted a project to support the Japanese SMEs tackling to solve the social issues in India, Thailand and Vietnam through their business in response to the “Japan and Emerging countries CO-creation Project (JECOP), which aims to promote the collaborations between the companies in Japan and overseas. The AOTS Alumni Societies in Vietnam, Thailand, and Chennai (India) cooperated with AOTS as the overseas partner organizations.

The project aims to support the Japanese SMEs contributing to solve the social issues such as Food Loss in the three countries by collaborating with local business partners by training business coordinators in these countries. In this project AOTS conducted training seminars for the potential business coordinators on the subjects such as the way to understand the market conditions, the needs of Japanese companies and their business customs, etc, which is to enhance the participants’ knowledge and skills to serve as a bridge between the two parties. AOTS also facilitated opportunities of business exchanges between Japanese and local companies.

The participants are expected to create business opportunities for Japanese companies and contribute to solve issues in local society and related markets in future.

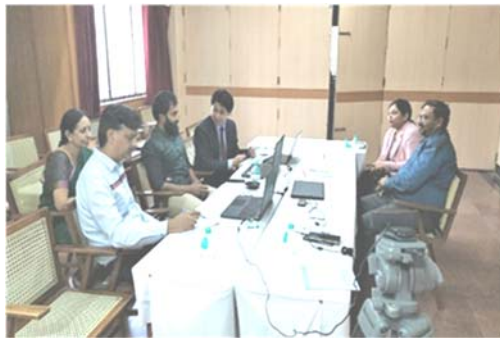
The three alumni societies collaborated and cooperated in various arrangements for the implementation of the training courses; recruitment of appropriate local coordinator candidates, establishment of relationships with local government agencies and industry associations, and introduction of local companies interested in the project.

In case that Japanese companies need to identify their business partners overseas, they can expect the support of Japanese government related organizations and Japanese consulting firms. The AOTS Alumni Societies however, having diverse membership among various fields, may help the Japanese companies find appropriate government offices, organizations and private companies.

In such a way, AOTS has been collaborating with the AOTS Alumni Societies, especially for the projects which requires collaborations with the local government and companies, as well as recruitment of participants of training seminars.

Since the AOTS Alumni Societies by themselves closely cooperate each other in their regions, they have the potentiality to enable a project when it covers the region widely.

We hope to continue and deepen our partnership and cooperation with the AOTS Alumni Societies, which is an important overseas resource for AOTS.



Business matching in Chennai, India



Review meeting in Vietnam

News from AOTS Alumni Societies

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACEDONIAN AOTS ALUMNI SOCIETY

In November 2023, a grand ceremony celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Macedonian AOTS Alumni Society was held in Skopje, North Macedonia and 40 participants attended.

At the ceremony, Mr. Shinya Kuwayama, AOTS President, delivered a speech, followed by the congratulatory remarks from His excellency Kazuya Otsuka, the ambassador of Japan in North Macedonia, and note of gratitude by Mr. Goran Antevski, the President of Macedonian AOTS Alumni Society. His excellency



Photo taken with EFAAS delegates and other participants

Kazuya Otsuka praised, " we are grateful for the contribution of the Macedonian AOTS Alumni Society for their enrollment in activities such as introducing Japanese culture and promote business opportunity for Japanese companies, although the number of Japanese companies are limited. As we learned there is a plan to establish Japanese Chamber of Commerce in North Macedonia, we hope for the continuous cooperation."

An EFAAS Meeting was held on the following day and delegates from Czech, Georgia, Hungary, Romania and Turkey participated in the meeting. After the session of reporting current activities by member societies, the participants have opportunity to discussed topics such as collaboration activities to enhance strong network among EFAAS members, and movement to consider the establishment of new alumni societies in Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Venue of EFAAS Meeting

WNF News

WNF SEMINAR “5S, LEAN MANUFACTURING, TPS & FACTORY AUTOMATION TRAINING PROGRAM & STUDY TOUR IN THAILAND (EXCLUSIVE PROGRAM FOR SRI LANKA)”

The 5S, Lean Manufacturing, TPS, and Factory Automation Study Tour was a huge success, concluding on November 11, 2023. 15 applicants have been recommended by JASTECA succeeded from a demanding pool of applications for the program.

This comprehensive 5-day program, from 6th to 11th November, included a blend of classroom sessions and five factory visits to observe advanced systems for manufacturing tools, 5S, Lean Manufacturing, TPS, and factory automation. The main objective was to create a robust platform for cooperation with Thai companies, simultaneously equipping the participants with practical knowledge.

The participants had the opportunity to visit the following factories

during the tour:

Toyota Motor (Thailand) Co., Ltd

Thai - German Institute (TGI)

Electrical & Electronic Institute (EEI)

BITWISE (Thailand) Co., Ltd

Thai Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd

Based on the feedback from the participants, the tour was informative and insightful. JASTECA members reported in their website as “we are committed to launching exclusive programs aimed at the Sri Lankan corporate sector, with the firm belief that it will encourage their unwavering commitment towards the



betterment of Sri Lanka.” Due to the high number of applications for this program, a similar program with the same content was held in March 2024 in cooperation with both Alumni Societies.

CHENNAI JAPAN EXPO

In November 2023, Japan Expo was held in Chennai, India sponsored by ABK AOTS DOSOKAI along with Consulate General of Japan in Chennai. The event showcased the diversity of Japanese culture through exhibits and demonstrations-not only



Scene of the venue: visitors trying their hand at a game using Japanese chopsticks (shown in the right side)

traditional culture such as Ikebana, tea ceremony, and martial arts, but also cosplay shows, as manga and anime becoming more and more popular as images of Japan in India these days.

In the event, a ceremony was also held to present 10 auto rickshaws donated by the alumni association to support female drivers from low-income families, in the presence of Consul General of Japan in Chennai Mr Taga Masayuki.

'KONNICHIIWA' AOTS Alumni Societies

Since the first issue of the English excerpt edition of the *AOTS Journal* in Autumn 2023, we have started a section highlighting the activities of one from the among 74 alumni societies. In this issue, we are introducing the current topics from one of the members in EFAAS.

The Hungarian AOTS Society was founded by ex-participants of management training program for Central and Eastern Europe that implemented for several years starting in 1990. After the corporate management training courses was conducted as the part of the supporting activity for the establishment of Hungary Productive Center, the number of the members have increased by the enrollment of ex-participants of the corporate management training courses such as HPC staffs and consultants. Presently about 70 members involved in the activities of the Hungarian AOTS Society, including younger members.

In March 2023, The Program on Toyota Production System and Genba Experiences in Japan for Hungary was implemented as a non-subsidized training program, as Hungary is one of the post-ODA recipient countries.

The 18 participants, consisting of small and medium business owners, executives, managers, and management consultants, were highly satisfied with the program and found it very informative.

The contents of this program attracted other Eastern European countries, for example, the same program was organized for the Romanian Alumni Association last year as we introduced in our former issue of *AOTS Journal*.

Besides, the participants have a chance for visiting Japanese elementary school which is well known for the education method that fosters students' independence, and the participants observed student activities such as cleaning and serving school lunches by students themselves. This session was realized by the strong request from the Hungarian Alumni Society which has long been involved in "5S public" activities in cooperation with students, parents, and teachers at elementary and secondary schools in Hungary. In August 2023, when AOTS had an online meeting with the board member of Hungarian Alumni Society, we were impressed with their plans to expand the number of schools involved in public 5S activities in the future.



Latest visiting opportunity of their office by AOTS staff – scenery of alumni society's meeting in November 2023

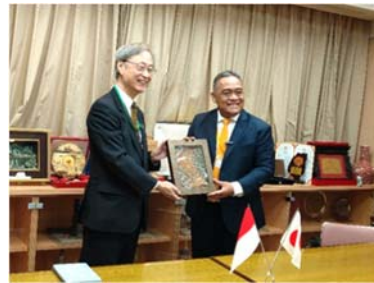


The participants of program in March 2023

AOTS in Motion

OCTOBER 2023

Head of the Indonesian Migrant Worker Protection Agency (BP2MI), Mr. Benny Rhamdani visited TKC to have meeting with the candidates of EPA Nurse and Caregiver who is attending Japanese training program. BP2MI is an organization that provides opportunities to learn about Japan's legal system and economic conditions prior to their dispatch, and they sends out candidates with the awareness that they will play a role in the economic development of their home country and in the promotion of friendly relations between the two countries.



NOVEMBER 2023



Senior Managing Director Mr. Joji Tateishi presented in Global Forum (EdgeTech+2023) held by Japan Embedded Systems Technology Association (JASA).

In his keynote speech, he introduced the Japanese government's supporting measures for the recruitment and promotion of foreign human resources and the project to establish an

Endowed Program, including case studies of the recruitment of foreign human resources.

The volunteer group KSGG, which has been planning events for TKC residents for many years, organized a sightseeing tour in Kamakura. Although the morning was cold and rainy, the participants had a great time listening to the explanations of the tour guide, taking lots of pictures, and interacting with each other. The photograph is the scenery of participants learning the ritual of purification from a volunteer guide.



JANUARY 2024



Dr. Prahoro Nurtjahyo - Head of HRD Agency, The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources(MEMR) of the Republic of Indonesia(second from the right in the photograph) visited TKC. MEMR is the ministry responsible for energy policy in Indonesia. Discussions were held on the possibility of collaboration of AOTS and MEMR related to human resource development for the Indonesian government's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality.