

The Skills Evaluation System Promotion Program (SESPP) implements seminars and Skills Evaluation Trials (SETs), conducted by Japanese experts, in Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Laos, in order to transfer Japan's skills evaluation know-how to these countries.

JTB Corporation has been entrusted the project, and has established the SESPP Secretariat at the Kasumigaseki Branch.

J-Skills News, published three times a year, covers issues such as approaches taken by the project, in order to promote the utilization of Japanese standards-based skills evaluation.

□ Training Report

■ Collaboration Training Course in Japan – Skills Competitions Seminar (Information Network Cabling)

Collaboration training course was held in Japan from November 14 (Tuesday) - 25 (Saturday), with government officials and instructors, from the countries for which these activities are intended, invited to take part. This time around, a total of six participants from Cambodia attended the course; two government officials from the Department of Standard and Curriculum (DSC), Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), and four instructors from the Preah Koss Omak Polytechnic Institute (PPI), the National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia (NPIC), and the National Technical Training Institute (NTTI). The participants this time were officers of the local supervisory ministry for this project and persons who had experienced the Assessment and Marking Method seminar (Information Network Cabling), which has been implemented since FY2021.

Content of training implemented in Japan

This program is comprised of; ① lectures and explanations covering public vocational training systems, and overviews of skills tests and skills competitions, etc. in Japan, ② visits to training facilities and skills test implementing institutions, ③ visit to the National Skills Competition, and ④ seminars related to skills competition operation methods. During ④, the government officials followed a separate program, with visits to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), the Japan Vocational Ability Development Association (JAVADA), and the Tokyo Vocational Ability Development Association, for lectures and explanations.

● Overview of public vocational training

Mr. Tomohiro Uchino (Deputy Director for Overseas Cooperation Promotion, Overseas Cooperation Office, the MHLW) gave a lecture providing an overview of public vocational training in Japan. Participants asked questions and exchanged opinions regarding popular vocations in Japan.

● Lecture by the SESPP Secretariat

Mr. Fumio Inagawa (Technical Advisor, SESPP Secretariat) provided a lecture on an overview of skills test and skills competitions in Japan, and the marking principles and methods for skills evaluation.

● Country paper presentation

Mr. Bun Heang (Deputy Director, DSC) provided a presentation concerning skills test systems and skills competitions in Cambodia, and shared information on systems and implementation status in Cambodia.

● Visit to the National Skills Competition

Over a two-day period, participants visited the National Skills Competition held at the Aichi Sky Expo, with a focus on information network cabling, as part of the skills competition seminar implemented in the second half of the training. Prior to the visit on the first day, Mr. Sudo of the JAVADA Skills Promotion Division, provided an overview of the competition.

● Visits to vocational training facilities

• Kanagawa Industrial and Technical Junior College

Following explanations covering the intent and history behind the establishment of the college, and the details of projects, participants visited the training facility. The participants showed great interest in the various roles of the college.

• Chiba Human Resources Development Promotion Centers, Training Center (Polytechnic Center Chiba)

Following explanations covering the content of projects at the center, participants visited the training facility. The participants were surprised by the curriculum allowing job-seekers to find employment through short-term training courses. Participants stated that visiting both facilities enabled them to acquire a greater understanding of the differences in the roles of each vocational training facility, and vocational training systems in Japan.

● Skills competition seminar

Over a period of three days, instruction on skills competitions operation was provided in relation to the Information Network Cabling job-trade. The experts for this period were Mr. Yoshitaka Matsumoto (Polytechnic Center Kansai), Mr. Susumu Ito (Kinden Corporation), Mr. Yosuke Maeda (MIRAIT ONE Corp.), and Mr. Yasuhiko Yokoyama (Kandenko Co., Ltd.). Participants engaged with actual Test projects of skills competition up to evaluation work, and endeavoured to learn skills competitions operation know-how. Skills competition in Cambodia are yet to adopt this job-trade as a competition job-trade, and this seminar was implemented with the aim of implementing this as a competition event or mock competition during the skills competition to be held in FY2024.

● Program for government officials

The two government officials visited the MHLW (office of the counsellor in charge of skills assessment), which is responsible for Japan's skills test systems, JAVADA (Skills Test Department), and the Tokyo Vocational Ability Development Association (Skills Test Department), and received lectures and explanations covering the mechanisms of Japan's skills test systems, the roles of each organization, and system operation methods, etc.

● Action Plan Presentation/Closing Ceremony

The participants from Cambodia presented an action plan based on the results of the ten-day training period. Presentations from the instructors related to "Creation and preparation of Test projects", while presentations from the government officials related to the "Schedule for hosting Information Network Cabling in Cambodia". Mr. Uchino (MHLW) gave a comment, stating, "This job-trade involves maintenance and does not end with construction, so there is a need to aim for construction with maintenance in mind. I truly hope that the results of this training session can be adapted to the reality in Cambodia and fully utilized.", etc.



Lecture on public vocational training



Lecture on overview of skills tests and skills competitions



Country paper presentation



Visit to the National Skills Competition



Visit to the Kanagawa Industrial and Technical Junior College



Visit to the Polytechnic Center Chiba



Skills competition seminar implementation



MHLW lecture for government officials



Group photo

■ Skills Evaluation Trial (SET) and Skills Assessor Certification (SAC) for Mechanical Inspection Grade 3 in Vietnam

Mechanical Inspection Grade 3 SET and SAC were held from September 14 (Thu) to 18 (Mon), 2023, at the Saigon Hi-Tech Park Training Center (SHTP-TC) and the Mitsuba Vietnam Co., Ltd. factory. There were twelve SET assessors, five of these were SAC candidates, and four new assessors were certified. This brings the number of Mechanical Inspection Grade 3 certified assessors in southern Vietnam to thirteen, indicating a significant step forward towards the independent operation of tests. Twenty-one examinees participated, and twelve achieved pass grade.

The lecturer, Mr. Fumio Inagawa (SESPP Secretariat, Technical Advisor) gave comments such as, “Regarding SET this time around, extremely well-regulated operation was conducted under the two responsible officers from SHTP-TC (Mr. Khoa, Mr. Chau). I firmly believe they will achieve independent implementation in the future. For the creation and preparation of questions, although the thirty questions were carefully selected from the theoretical test questions bank and organized as the theoretical test questions, appropriate questions were selected for each subject, which shows an understanding of the essentials of test question organization”.

Participants put forward their opinions such as; “I will be overjoyed if I can contribute to the development of companies through this training”, and “I would like an increase in the number of SET”, etc.



Lecture by expert



SET theoretical test



SET practical test

■ Skills Assessor Training (SAT), Skills Evaluation Trial (SET), and Skills Assessor Certification (SAC) for Grade 3 Power Distribution and Control Panel Assembly in Laos

SAT, SET, and SAC for Grade 3 Power Distribution and Control Panel Assembly were held from December 11 (Mon) to 15 (Fri), 2023, at the Skills Development Institute (SDI) in Vientiane. Training in Laos was implemented for the first time in eight years, and this time around, SAC, which mark full completion for the job trade, were implemented. Of the ten assessors, six were SAC candidates, and all six became the first certified assessors from Laos. Of the four examinees participating in SET, one achieved pass grade.

The training for SAT implemented “Explanation of check sheet for assessor certification”, “Explanation on Grade 3 Practical Test Questions”, “Explanation on Grade 3 Practical Test Implementation Guideline”, “Scoring Method Training”, etc. while the SET were implemented with “theoretical test”, “practical test”, and “scoring/summing up”, culminating in SAC with the implementation of direct interviews between expert and participants based on assessor check sheets, to conclude assessor certification.

Mr. Yukio Hagiuda (Kowa Electric Industry Co., Ltd.) gave a comment stating, “Although this was the first time in eight years, it was highly meaningful that we were able to complete assessor certification. On the other hand, while the examinees were quick, they lacked an understanding of the minutiae of standard, and in some cases I noticed insufficient checks after wiring, so I feel that further training is required”.

Participants put forward their opinions such as; “I would like continuous implementation of training”, and “I would like longer training periods”, etc.



Lecture by expert



SET practical test scoring



Assessor Certification

□ Implementation of Local Program Evaluation for FY2023 in Indonesia

With an aim towards the effective and efficient implementation of the SESPP projects, a session of the Public-Private Joint Committee was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, the country for which these activities are intended, with the session held on December 4 (Monday), for the purpose of understanding the needs of skilled workers in the target country, verifying PR techniques and the job-trades/grades involved, and understanding the medium/long-term issues, etc. Committee members were comprised of participants from Badan Nasional Sertifikasi Profesi (Indonesian Professional Certification Authority) (BNSP), Lembaga Sertifikasi Profesi-Logam dan Mesin Indonesia (LSP-LMI), Indonesia Mold & Dies Industry Association (IMDIA), Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, the MHLW, the SESPP Secretariat, and other stakeholders related to the project, and the agendas for the meetings covered implementation status and achievements of this fiscal year's projects, suggestions for the implementation in the next fiscal year, and exchanges of opinions, etc.

■ Indonesia

Date/Time Participants	December 4 (Monday), 2023 09:00 – 12:00 (Indonesian time) (Badan Nasional Sertifikasi Profesi (Indonesian Professional Certification Authority) (BNSP), Lembaga Sertifikasi Profesi-Logam dan Mesin Indonesia (LSP-LMI), Indonesia Mold & Dies Industry Association (IMDIA), Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, local training institutes, the MHLW, the SESPP Secretariat, and other stakeholders)
No. of participants	21
Achievements for job-trades implemented in this fiscal year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Plastic Injection Molding Work Grade 2 Skills Assessor Training (SAT), Skills Evaluation Trials (SET), and Skills Assessor Certification (SAC) (Seven new assessors were certified)
Main discussion related to job-trades for the next fiscal year	<p>«Skills Test»</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Targets: Establishment of skills tests, and improved levels of implemented trades. •Activities: Follow-up of FY2023 program (SET, SAC) •FY2024 project implementation proposals: "Mechanical Drawing CAD Work Grade 2 SAT/SET"
Approaches between the two countries for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •IMDIA was of the opinion that, "While follow-up for Mechanical Drawing CAD Work Grade 2 has been proposed for the next fiscal year, there is a need for the implementation of training that includes 3D CAD that is actually used on-site", to which the SESPP secretariat responded by stating, "For the implementation of Mechanical Drawing CAD Work, the request by IMDIA will be passed on to experts, and implementation content will be determined through further discussion". •Plastic Injection Molding commenced in 2013, and the cumulative totals of persons who have achieved passes for Grades 3, 2, and 1, are 117, 52, and 25 respectively. We have learned that of the persons who have achieved Level 1 passes, three are now assessors.

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