

JAPAN

The Affiliate found itself missing an event when a passing typhoon “blew out” the Kanto Regional Meeting scheduled for October 8 in Tokyo! This was a disappointment for those signed up, but transportation to and from the venue would have been challenging.

Weather was no such concern for the Affiliate’s yearly US Plant Tour organized November 2-6 on the West Coast, where near perfect conditions prevailed. The Tour was organized and led by its team of five from the Board and membership, who had solicited the good will of several potential host companies in the months leading up to departure from Japan.

The 19 participants from pharmaceutical manufacturers, engineering companies and vendors arrived in Seattle to visit Amgen and transferred the next day for tours of Genentech and Bayer in the San Francisco area. The group was also invited to join the “Commuter Conference” organized by the San Francisco Chapter which included a tour arranged by host Amgen of its facilities in Fremont, for all attendees. The plant tour part of the trip to the US concluded with a visit to Baxter in Los Angeles, before the entire group transferred to San Diego for the Annual Meeting.

Of course, the evenings were fully committed to a range of cuisine at each city, as well as a late afternoon excursion in mid-week to the Napa Valley for some members to purchase their early souvenirs!

The Affiliate’s 2009 US Plant Tour Organizing Committee is deeply grateful to the responsible persons at each of the plants for the courtesies and consideration received, permitting a memorable week of visits and discussions.

In Japan, under the title of “Pharmaceutical Facilities/Equipment Project Management Seminar” an Engineering Management (EM) seminar was held on November 13 at Tower Hall Funabori in the Tokyo area. Organized by the EM COP unique to the Japan Affiliate, led by Takashi Hoshino, the event attracted the maximum of 100 registrants, while space limitations meant that further applications had to be turned down. After dividing themselves into 14 groups, participants reviewed and discussed the EM COP deliverables. The popularity of the event and the fact it was oversubscribed to suggests that a second such seminar will be organized in 2010.

Since its founding in 2006, the EM COP has conducted intensive studies aimed at establishing suitable contract forms and associated technical/commercial specifications for the Japanese market. Its aim is to present interim output for the purchaser side and the contractor side.

Meanwhile, the Maintenance COP has busied itself by starting the translation of the “ISPE Good Practice Guide: Maintenance” into the Japanese language, as part of the Affiliate’s continuing tradition of technical documents translation for distribution in Japan.

For more information on the Japan Affiliate and its activities, please visit www.ispe.org or contact Natsumi Sahara, Office Manager, at ispe-japan@iris.ocn.ne.jp or tel: 81-3-3818-6737. Alternatively, contact Shigeru Nakamura, Head of Secretariat, at shigeru.nakamura@shimz.co.jp.