

JAPAN

The frequency of events organized by the Affiliate picked up considerably in the autumn season, calling for a special level of efforts for those directly involved and long hours for the Affiliate Office staff supporting the planning and execution.

The 5th Chubu Regional Networking Meeting on October 15th and 16th was hosted by Fujiyakuhin Co., Ltd. at the company's OSD and parenteral facilities in Toyama Prefecture, as well as by Nitto Medic Co., Ltd. at its brand new (August 2008) OTC eye drops facility in the same locality. The Meeting was formatted to include lectures by three specialists, plant tours and an evening networking reception. A total of 60 persons participated, with an overnight stay arranged in a nearby hotel.

The popular 2008 US Plant Tour by Affiliate members began in Boston on October 22nd with visits to Lonza Biologics in the morning and Abbott Laboratories/Abbott Bioresearch Center in the afternoon. This was followed by dinner, with Steve Kennedy of PARSONS in attendance as coordinator of the Boston-located plant tours.

The Tour continued the following day with visits to 2008 Facility of the Year category-winning Bristol-Myers Squibb in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and on October 24th to Schering-Plough at Kenilworth, in New Jersey, through to the lunch provided, before transferring to Frazer, Pennsylvania, to Cephalon's CSC facility.

The evening of the same day was distinguished by a delightful Welcome Party hosted by the Delaware Valley Chapter (DVC) at the Sheraton Great Valley Hotel. All praise must go to DVC's Shannah Schodle, as organizer of the event, and to John Holton, Jack Chu, Bob Walter et al for their efforts made to ensure that the visitors from Japan felt perfectly at home yet culturally aware—especially in regard to the ongoing World Series in Philadelphia!

Following entire participation at the Annual Meeting in Boca Raton, Florida, the Tour moved on October 30th to Paul Mueller Company, in Missouri, where the schedule was concluded. The 2008 US Plant Tour had been a great success and provided opportunities for a high level of interaction, information-wise and socially, between US and Japanese ISPE members.

Turning back to Japan, the 18th SAM & GMP Meeting was held on November 7th at Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.'s Fujieda Plant, in Shizuoka Prefecture. The chosen theme was containment, with the event arranged around three speakers, a plant tour and a networking party for its 60 registrants.

A seminar in Tokyo on November 25th marked the release of the API Baseline Guide Japanese translation. The finished document was the fruit of strenuous efforts by the API COP members.

For more information on the Japan Affiliate and events/activities, please visit www.ispe.org or contact Ms. 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.