What’s New KitaQ?

• Clean Water Project
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• Letter from Kitakyushu
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100th Anniversary of Kitakyushu Waterworks Bureau

Waterworks – History

The first waterworks bureau within Kitakyushu was established in the former Moji City, now Moji-ku, which started as a thriving port-town. Due to busy traffic of trade, there was a need to maintain health, prevent diseases from unsanitary water, and provide safe clean water.

Kitakyushu City was formed in February 1963, from five cities coming together; each had their own waterworks department, but agreed to work together to create one waterworks for the new city. Progress quickly followed as they incorporated and developed new efficient technologies. The reason Kitakyushu ranks in the top cleanest and delicious tap water of Japan.

In June 2011, a 100th anniversary faucet was placed in the central Mojiko Retro open area, so as to not forget our ideology and technical know-how regarding waterworks and to honor the first establishment of waterworks in Kitakyushu. If you twist the nozzle during the day, clean cool water would flow.

International Contribution

Since the 1990’s, Kitakyushu has conducted many waterworks related international technical cooperation and contribution projects. Total of 91 staff were dispatched overseas and 1,328 trainees from 121 countries were invited to study in Kitakyushu. The staffers from Kitakyushu can also gain experiences, skills, and how to raise the international waterworks standards of the world from an establishment level. For example, a developing country needs things to be built and learn how, while Kitakyushu staffers need experience in building things, therefore both are able to learn and improve in this situation.

Currently, Kitakyushu is putting a lot more energy into Water Business, which is a step-up from the contribution projects, because like “business” it is a much faster process, allowing for results that help developing countries and regions gain new technologies, know-how, and human training of waterworks staff. This adds extra momentum for cities to develop and stabilize.

Despite the word “business”, this is closer to a form of international contribution (volunteer), because it is not about gaining revenue, so contracts come-out just over even. Probably a more accurate description of the type of work done by the Water Business staffer is water project coordinators and consultants.

Perhaps 20 – 30 years in the future, the international water contributions and water business Kitakyushu has done may actually lead to a steady form of business revenue.

Clean & Delicious Tap Water

KitaQ ranks in Japan’s top delicious tap water, using an original patented technology incorporated into the BCF method. Hence the water is clear, odorless, and has a refreshingly soft and gentle flavor.

KitaQ’s clean water sources can grow wasabi (Japanese horseradish), which require very clean water and even in ideal conditions it is difficult to cultivate large quantities.

Special bottled tap water in commemoration of the 100th anniversary has been on sale since May 2011. The name, “Kitakyushu sui doh” reflects the “tradition”, “skill”, and “spirit” (ethos) of waterworks to be passed to the next generation. Similar to tea ceremony (sadoh) and flower arrangement (kadoh), where doh means “way” or “path of”.

The aluminum bottle allows for a long product life of 5 years, which is much more environmentally friendly and lasts longer than plastic bottles. These traits make it great for storing in an emergency disaster pack.
**International Water Cooperation**

**Cambodia – The Miracle of Phnom Penh**

The situation was grave, isolation and the 20-year long civil war (ended in 1991) took the lives of technical specialists, so knowledge, technology, and equipment was lacking. In 1999, Kitakyushu accepted a request from Cambodia via the Japanese Government to dispatch waterworks experts to develop and train Cambodian staffers. Kitakyushu also provided the knowledge and specialists for the installment of their block system of gridded and separated distribution pipes to efficiently detect water leakages, with international financial support.

Today, the miracle of Phnom Penh is praised around the world, especially in Asia and has attracted the interest of many areas in requesting for Kitakyushu’s waterworks expertise. The outstanding results compared to 1993 just after the war were unreliable water services limited to a 10-hour day shift to 24-hour stable water services, brownish in color to bottled water level of purification, only 25% revenue water paid to 99%, and 72% leakages caused from old pipes and illegally attached pipes to steal water were dramatically decreased to 6.2% (Kitakyushu is 8%). To top-it-off, price was the same!

November 11, 2011 – Cambodia dedicated 10 Royal Order of SAHAMETREI medals, given to foreigners who especially contributed to Cambodia, representing 12-years of waterworks support. 9 Kitakyushu officials were given the Knight rank, for their over 1-year dispatch to establish efficient water services and modern chemical purification in Phnom Penh. The highest rank, Grand Cross medal was dedicated to citizens of Kitakyushu, with Mayor Kitahashi as the representative.

Currently, Kitakyushu is working on a new contract to create a waterworks master plan for 9 cities, with hopes for this to lead to more stability, comfort, and development of both waterworks staff.

**Haiphong, Vietnam – Cooperation Projects**

In 2009, Kitakyushu and Haiphong signed a 5-year memorandum on technical cooperation. Kitakyushu’s original patented technology built into the biological contact filter (BCF) purification is specialized for its location; high levels of micro organisms at the end of a river.

In June 2011, a small pilot facility was set-up in Haiphong to see how well the patented BCF would work with the difference of climate and organic substances in the water because Haiphong’s needs are similar to Kitakyushu’s situation. The reported results so far show the ammonia-nitrogen is doing very well. The next step is to fix water leakages and regulate stolen water problems.

October 25, 2011 a new 5-year contract on water supply and sewerage systems was signed in Kitakyushu. The 5 main topics are to introduce the block system, technical consultation from Kitakyushu, conduct a cost inspection estimate for installing a block system, and to send staff as JICA trainees to Kitakyushu to learn about block system technology to teach what they learned.

Haiphong wants to lower its current leakages from 15% by half and hopes the BCF method will lower purification chemical costs by 30% to keep clean water prices at affordable rates.

**Dalian, China – Training Projects**

Kitakyushu and Dalian have been friendship cities since 1979, conducting many exchange activities as well as environmental and economic cooperation. Kitakyushu did a huge environmental project in Dalian to overcome pollution problems with amazing results that lead to worldwide recognition and awards to both cities.

Since 2000, Dalian is working to improve their waterworks with Kitakyushu’s support. The project’s first phase was the development of human specialists and trainees in managing water leakages and using new technologies. The second phase was maintaining water quality, and currently the third phase is to install proper waterworks and purification methods to areas around the city.
Q1. What were your first work conditions in Cambodia?
A1. It was difficult gaining trust as a foreign consultant and to have officials voluntarily confront me for consultation or advice in English, which is our non-native language. The first month, only a few came to me, however, I started to spend time with the head of Cambodia after work. Seeing this, many officials felt more comfortable coming to me for consultation on various things such as project advice, opinions, and to learn about Kitakyushu's waterworks. Things really started to move after that.

Q2. What did you put the most amount of strength in?
A2. First, there was no data or records, since it was just after the civil war. Not much was left, so we had to start from scratch and piece together what we found and try to quickly gather current data to begin the installment process. One of the hardest jobs was to tackle problems of stolen unpaid water. Equipments can be used to detect water leakages, but you have to dig-up to the pipes to see if it has been tampered with. This was the most costly and time consuming part, but as the only foreigner in the investigation team, I felt a fear for my life as the reason water stealers would be caught.

Q3. What was a water related culture shock you had?
A3. Despite staying at a hotel, the tap water was distinctively not a drinkable color, from the standard of a highly developed country. However, when I said that the water quality needs to be cleaner, the city's top scolded me, “Idiot!” It struck me that many families still did not have access to water, and I realized how vital it was for water of any quality to be available for the people in less efficient areas.

Q4. What is a wonderful trait you noticed in the people?
A4. One thing that is really remarkable is how English is like a second language in many places, such as hotels, restaurants, malls, and taxis. Many Cambodians working in higher positions know English, because they need it to contact, communicate, and respond to various foreign officials since 1992 regarding support and aid for the country to reestablish after the long war. For example, when I joined a conference they would switch from their Khmer to English, even if the topics and questions were not directed at me. They did this to allow me to access a fuller understanding of what was being discussed. My experience in going to other countries, most often only the relevant question or comment is interpreted or spoken in a language I understand.

Another is their will to share knowledge and to work together for the betterment of everyone else, which will lead to the improvement of the society. For example, if one person learns of new methods and technologies, he will teach his coworkers and subordinates how to do it as well. Even if the people he taught surpass him, he knows it will lead to the improvement of the nation, city, and community. This is something rare, because most countries are driven by competition to gain skills that will lead to the reflection of his/her worth in a globalizing world.

Q5. How did you feel about receiving a medal from Cambodia?
A5. It was a great honor to receive the Knight medal, but this truly belongs to all the various officials who were dispatched to on this waterworks technical cooperation project to Cambodia.
In June 2011, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) added Kitakyushu City among Chicago, Paris, and Stockholm as a “Green Growth Model City” of the world that is maintaining both economic growth and environmental sustainability. Kitakyushu is the only city selected from Asia and received the National Government Award in 2008 as the leading Environmental Model City of Japan.

The “Green Growth Model City” program was launched in May 2011 under the Green Cities Programme to provide assessed data of how eco policies can increase job growth, economic attractiveness, and the environmental quality of cities.

Kitakyushu was selected as a “Green Growth Model City” in part for its reputation as a leading Environmental Model City of Japan. Mayor Kitahashi of Kitakyushu was invited as a panelist and representative city of Japan at the OECD International Conference on “Competitive Cities and Climate Change,” held in Milan, Italy in October 2008. The Mayor spoke of the various eco policies, industries, and activities of Kitakyushu and was highly regarded by many participants, including OECD members, leading to its reputation.

Kitakyushu has formed a local team to manage and arrange things for this project, including arrangements for the OECD inspection team. The Kitakyushu team includes specialists who will help to organize information and data for this project. The OECD visited Kitakyushu from Feb. 6 - 10th and on the OECD Green City Symposium was held on the 8th with approximately 150 attendees.

On February 10, the OECD inspection team visited various environmental related facilities, where Kitakyushu’s leading environmental endeavors and technologies were introduced. The visited sites were Eco-Town Center, Kyushu Human Media Center, the Environmental Museum, and TOTO’s showroom. In particular, there was a high interest towards the Kitakyushu Eco-Town project and their approaches to spread environmental information to the citizens.

Kitakyushu hopes to be able to put together an OECD paper that includes the results of the case study reports from the OECD inspectors by spring 2014.
Nihao. My name is Jing Shibo. I arrived to Kitakyushu in June 2011 from Dalian, China. I work at the City Hall as a Coordinator for International Relations on the JET Programme. In university, I majored in Japanese and studied for 1 year at the University of Kitakyushu. In Dalian, part of my work included the friendship exchange with Kitakyushu, so I felt a very strong connection to this city.

Today, the world faces serious environmental problems and Kitakyushu is putting a lot of effort in overcoming them, not just for themselves, but I believe they can contribute to solving these environmental problems. I love Japanese hot springs, and greatly enjoyed going to an outside hot spring bath that had a very detailed facility. During my first hot spring experience, after I came out of the bath I was surprised to see an elderly lady who was a cleaning staff in the men’s changing room. I felt a time slip and was embarrassed that I might have gone into the wrong bath, so I changed and left quickly.

I also love Japanese beer and often go out to drink with friends. Interestingly they can drink a lot and I admire that they do not just go to one, but to a second party, and third party. I drink a lot if the first place is an all-you-can-drink, so when I go to the second party I get drunk easily. This should be a culture shock, but I am trying to understand and enjoying this Japanese cultural custom.

I want to continue working to deepen the friendship relation between Dalian and Kitakyushu.
Wasshoi Summer Festival
(in Kokura)
August 4 – 5, 2012

Every year, on the first Saturday and Sunday of August, many summer festivals in Kitakyushu City are combined into the massive Wasshoi Summer Festival! Major festivals and floats from various wards of Kitakyushu create a spectacular parade show, along with other types of day and night parades. Over 1.5 million people from all-around Japan, including tourists, and locals gather in Kokurakita-ku and the area around the Kokura Castle to enjoy this combined festival!

One famous parade event is the “1 Million People Dance” with approximately 10,000 participants. The citizens and foreign residents participate in a wide-range of groups, from workplace to activity clubs. Some decide to suddenly join on the day in a group or the jump-in participant section, while others register in a participating group.

This year, the City’s symbiosis promoting section of the International Policy Division worked with a group that promotes international understanding and exchanges, and entered the dance evening parade. There were 6 countries represented by 25 foreigners who were mixed with the local participants in the group. During the parade, the foreigners started to dance more freely which spread within the group. Soon, everyone was smiling and laughing till the end.

If you are ever in Kitakyushu in early August, come and experience this energetically vibrant festival and join us in the dance in the jump-in participant section of the parade!

New Flight! KitaQ ↔ Busan

Scheduled Opening: July, 2012
Kitakyushu Airport: Kitakyushu ↔ Busan, Korea
http://www.starflyer.jp/

STARFLYER, Inc. will start a new International flight service from Kitakyushu Airport to Busan, Korea! The flights are scheduled to be put into service from July 2012, providing 2 round-trip flights per day.

This new service will enhance the customer convenience in the Northern region of Kyushu. Establishing this foothold, STARFLYER is taking a positive plan for further expansion from Kyushu to Asian countries.

In last December, travel agencies in Kitakyushu visited Gyeongsangnam-do, Southern region of Korea to inspect attractive sightseeing places.

We are looking forward to meeting you at Kitakyushu Airport!

Please enjoy your precious flight with STARFLYER!

Elephants That Lead to an Award

Bridging Japan and Sri Lanka

June 22, 2011 Japan awarded “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette” to Mr. Mohamed Isfahani Sameen, the former world president of the Junior Chamber International, for his highly regarded continual efforts in promoting Japan–Sri Lanka relations. Notable efforts include giving 2 elephants to the Kitakyushu zoo for children in 1979. Kitakyushu returned his generous cooperation by sending school materials to children in Sri Lanka from a fund-raiser when the elephants came.

Mr. Sameen came to Kitakyushu to report the award to Mayor Kitahashi on August 10, 2011. Today, you can see and feed the elephants at the Itozunomori Zoological Park.

( Foreigners and Japanese squeeze for a team photo)
Kitakyushu and Norfolk (U.S.A.) Sister-City

In 2008, Kitakyushu started a 1 million tree planting project that will span over 15 years. The project aims to have one tree for every citizen by 2022 to lower CO₂ equivalent to 700 households (3,700 tons a year). One of the programs gives citizens who apply, a free sapling that they can choose out of a selection of 10 local species. These are passed out every year in commemoration of a special event that is not a yearly event, such as birth, entering school, and house renovations. Another is the collective planting of trees by the City with citizens and students in public areas, such as along highway roads and parks.

252,669 trees have been planted as of July 2011

Mayor Fraim of Norfolk, Virginia was greatly impressed with the 1 million tree project while visiting Kitakyushu to celebrate the 50th anniversary of sister-city relations (summer of 2009). Deciding it would be a great environmental project that both cities can work on with their communities, he rooted a similar project, Celebrate Trees, aiming to increase Norfolk’s tree canopy from 33% to 40% which also helps preserve wildlife habitat. The project is even received by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

On May 25, 2010 the first Living Legacy Grove (under Celebrate Trees) dedication in Lakewood Park incorporated children with hopes for them to learn how to care for their environment. The fifth grove planting is scheduled on March 10, 2012 at Campostella.

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**Kitakyushu in a FLASH!**

**Designated as Japan’s Environmental Model City**

**POPULATION**
- 1 million
- 12th largest city in Japan
- Registered Foreigners: 11,754

**SISTER-FRIENDSHIP CITIES**
- Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A.
- Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A.
- Dalian, China
- Incheon, Korea

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS**
- Waterworks: Haiphong (Vietnam), Dalian (China), and Cambodia
- Environmental clean-up: Surabaya (Indonesia)

**INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION**
- Environmental Model City National Government Award 2008
- Earth Summit 2002 Sustainable Development Award
- UNCED Local Government Governmental Honors
- UN Global 500 Award for Environmental Cleanup

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
- Export: 1,039,000,000,000 yen
  ($13.5 billion USD (XRT $1 = 77 yen))
- Top 5 exports: steal materials, machines, shipping containers, electrical equipment, rubber objects such as tires and tubes.
- Top 5 exports accounts for 74.4% of exported goods.
- Top 5 exporting to: China, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the U.S.A.
- Top 5 imports: coal, natural & manufactured gas, electrical equipment, steal materials, machines.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**
- Total Universities: 11
- Total University Students: 22,344
- Total Int’l Students: 1,628

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**Tree Planting Project Crosses Boarders**

Kitakyushu and Norfolk (U.S.A.) Sister-City

KitaQ http://www.machinomori.com/
Norfolk http://celebratetrees.norfolk.gov/

(Mayor Fraim and children water the first Living Legacy Grove)

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**Access to Kitakyushu**

**From Dalian**
- 1 hour 50 minutes
  - Dalian International Airport → Kitakyushu Airport

**From Incheon**
- 1 hour 25 minutes
  - Incheon International Airport → Kitakyushu Airport

**From Shanghai**
- 1 hour 30 minutes
  - Shanghai International Airport → Kitakyushu Airport

**From Tokyo**
- 1 hr. 30 min.
  - Haneda Airport → Kitakyushu Airport
  - JR Tokyo Sta. → JR Kokura Sta.

**From Fukuoka**
- 1 hr. 19 min.
  - Fukuoka Airport → JR Kokura Sta.
  - JR Hakata Sta. → JR Kokura Sta.

**KITAKYUSHU AIRPORT**

Current Participating Airlines
- **STARFLYER** (Kitakyushu-Tokyo)
- **JAPAN AIRLINES** (Kitakyushu-Tokyo)
- **JEJU AIR** (Kitakyushu-Incheon)
- **SKY MARK** (Kitakyushu-Tokyo)

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Please feel free to e-mail if you would like to receive an online PDF link (or switch from paper to data or vice versa).

★ Previous editions of the KITAKYUSHU BRIDGES in PDF can be viewed from the following link ★
http://www.city.kitakyushu.lg.jp/english/e20100007.html