

FY2013 JICA Group Training Course

—Using international standards to improve ICT policy planning skills—

International Cooperation Department
The ITU Association of Japan

For about two weeks from 23 January to 7 February 2014, the ITU Association of Japan held a group training course at the request of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This training course was aimed at cultivating the ability to investigate optimal ICT strategies for resolving social issues such as setting up an ICT infrastructure in member countries through the use of international standards, and included theoretical and practical training on how to provide communication infrastructures that are more effective and efficient based on international standards.

This course has been held by the ITU Association of Japan with the support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) since the previous phase (FY2012), and it was decided that from this year's training course, as a new phase 1 lasting three years, the course would be run with updates to last year's contents.

This year there were fourteen trainees from ten different countries: Brazil (2), Cambodia (1), Iraq (2), Jordan (1), Laos (2), Myanmar (1), Malaysia (2), Pakistan (1),

Tonga (1) and Vietnam (1).

Taking the Japanese government's policies relating to telecommunications as a starting point, the course encompassed a range of lectures and reports including ITU standardization trends, the activities of standards organizations in Japan, inception report publication, problem analysis techniques, standardization activities of related businesses and organizations, and the publication of individual reports. It also included visits to related facilities.

There were two lectures on Japan's policies regarding communications and standardization: *Telecommunications Policy in Japan and Standardization in the ICT Field*. ITU standardization trends were covered in the lecture *Standardization trends in ITU-T*, and the activities of Japan's standardization organizations and the like were covered in the lectures *Towards global standardization in TTC*, *Certification System for Telecommunications Equipment in Japan and Standardization of Radio Systems*.

On completing the lectures on Japan's policies regarding communications and

standardization, and the standardization efforts of the ITU and Japan, the trainees moved on to a lecture on the analysis method called Project Cycle Management (PCM) where they extracted the issues relating to standardization in their own countries and took part in group discussions to share the level of knowledge between trainees. This PCM lecture was once again implemented just before the individual report presentations at the end of the training, and meetings were held where — based on group discussions — each trainee was able to sort out policies for problem-solving methods relating to the standardization of ICT in their own countries and deploy their own standardization plans.

Regarding the standardization activities of related companies and organizations in Japan, there were lectures on *KDDI's Strategy for Development of ICT Services & Technology*, *The Current Status on Standardization of Future Networks*, *Standardization of Mobile Communication Systems*, *Research and Development on ICT*

■ Photo 1: At the MIC



■ Photo 2: Lecture 1



■ Photo 3: Lecture 2



■ Photo 4: Participants attending a lecture at the NICT



and standardization activities in NICT, Smart City, The Setup of Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Networks, The Roles and Convergence of Broadcasting and Communications and Hybridcast: An Integrated Broadcast Broadband System.

The facility tour consisted of visits to the NTT DOCOMO Show Room (Future Station), the NTT DOCOMO Network Operation Center, NEC Innovation World, and the Panasonic Tokyo Center. The trainees were able to see the development and standardization of new technologies at each company/organization, and gained a deep understanding of the latest technologies and standardization efforts at each company.

At the NTT DOCOMO “Future Station” show room, the trainees saw the shape that mobile communications will take in the near future, and observed the operation of mobile communications at DOCOMO’s Network Operation Center. At the NEC Innovation World, the trainees saw NEC’s latest technology and were given a lecture on *Wireless Broadband Access*. At the Panasonic Tokyo Center, the trainees saw the ICT of the near future being put to use, and were given lectures on *Panasonic’s Approach to Global Standardization, The Global Standardization of Broadband PLC Technology and Standardization Activities for LTE — A Global Standard for High-Speed Mobile Communication*. Furthermore, at the

■ Photo 5: Closing ceremony



NICT (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology), the trainees were given a lecture on the NICT’s standardization activities.

On the final day of training, the trainees presented their individual reports. The individual reports discussed the use of PCM methods to tackle the topics of this training course, such as the current state and future development of standardization in each trainee’s country, and were followed by active discussions on the prospects of ICT standardization activities in each country.

This training course received generally

good ratings from the trainees, but in order to further improve the satisfaction of trainees, the ITU Association of Japan will listen to any issues that arise during the course by evaluating the content and text of lectures delivered by trainees at the end of the course, and listening to their appraisals, opinions and requests regarding site visits and field trips. By analyzing and investigating these evaluation results, we will shed light on any practical problems with the course and reflect them in subsequent versions of the program.