

Oita OVOP International Exchange Promotion Committee, JAPAN

November

***Visitors* Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay (Oct. 31-Nov. 1)**

Minister Alfred Molinas of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, and five other members came to Oita to see the actual situation of the “One Village, One Product” Movement. President Hiramatsu first briefed them on the movement and discussed with them the promotion of the movement and agricultural policies. The party visited ‘Milk Village’ in Tsukahara Community and ‘Mushroom Center’ in Yufuin Town, both in Yufu City, and several other places in Oita.



Minister Molinas(right end ,1st r.)

An Agricultural Study Group from Jeonrabuk-do, Korea (Nov. 6-7)

A group of 20 people consisting of farmers and government officials took a lecture on OVOP with this committee. They also enjoyed a farm stay in Ajimu Town, Usa City.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Mongolia (Nov. 10-11)

Deputy Minister Yangug Sodbaatar of the Industry and Trade Ministry and two other government officials visited Oita. The “OVOP National Summit” held in Mongolia during October 11-13 ended in great success. The visiting group and President Hiramatsu exchanged views on the future development of OVOP in Mongolia.

Thai TV Channel 9 (Nov. 12-16)

Eleven staff members of Channel 9, a government-controlled broadcasting network, came to Oita to cover stories and take pictures of OVOP examples. They interviewed President Hiramatsu, Chairperson Miyata of Ajimu Town Green Tourism Study Group, President Mizoguchi of Tamanoyu Ryokan (a well-known Japanese style inn) in Yufuin Town, and Supervising Director Yahata of Oita Oyama Agricultural Coop. Assoc., Hita City, while touring around Oita to take pictures.

JICA’s Regional Development and Planning Program for Vietnam (Nov. 13-15)

Through the above program, Vice Director NGUYEN Van Chua of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Dienbien Province and four other government officials involved in agricultural projects came to Oita to learn about OVOP and the role of government in supporting farmers.

An OVOP Study Tour from Shǎnxī Province, China (Nov. 14-17)

Led by Mr. Zhang Jianhua, Vice Mayor of Weinan City, a delegation of seven members visited Oita. They took lectures on OVOP from President Hiramatsu, and also on the mechanism and role of agricultural cooperatives from Vice President Ando with this committee. They also made an observation trip to JA Foods Oita, Co. Ltd., and Kyushunyugyo Co. Ltd., a dairy products manufacturer.

Director of the State Bureau of Foreign Experts, China (Nov. 15-16)

Director Ji Yunshi and four other members of the said bureau came to Oita to meet President Hiramatsu. They discussed the future development of the OVOP Movement in China, as well as the personnel exchanges between the Bureau and this committee.

A Delegation of King Prajadhipok’ Institute, Thailand (Nov. 15-16)

Headed by Assistant Professor Orathai Kokpol of the above institute, a big group of 65 people visited this committee to learn about OVOP. Most of them are local officers studying local government management at the institute.

A Delegation of Wuhan Town Mayors, Hubei Province, China (Nov. 19)

Wuhan City and Oita City have a sister city affiliation. Wuhan has planned to send study groups on the “Environment-Friendly and Sustainable Agriculture” to Oita, which was carried out based on the Sister City Agreement. This time, the third group of 14 members led by Vice Director Yang Pushe visited this committee to meet President Hiramatsu.

JICA Technological Coop. & Human Resources Development Program for China (Nov. 20)

Mr. Wu, Hong-Da, Chief of Harbin Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, and fourteen other members took a lecture with this committee, and observed several OVOP examples in Oita.

Foreign Exchange Students of Ritsumeikan University, Japan (Nov. 20-21)

Students from Cambodia, Philippines and Myanmar visited Oita to attend the 1st Annual Conference of International OVOP Policy Association which was held on the 22nd. On the day before the conference, they took a lecture with this committee, stayed with a farmer in Ajimu Town, and visited Amagase Town to see 'Karinto Factory' being run by 'Azemichi Group,' a women entrepreneurs' group.

Hubei Satellite Broadcasting Station, China (Nov. 21-23)

In relation to the "Hubei Japan Week" to be held under the co-sponsorship of the Provincial Government of Hubei and the embassy of Japan in China, Hubei Satellite Broadcasting Station is making a program to introduce Fukushima Prefecture and Oita Prefecture, Japan, which will be broadcasted sometime during December 8-16. They came to Oita to interview President Hiramastu, and visited various places to take pictures.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (Nov. 27-30)

Mr. Seiji Oshima, Head of UNIDO Tokyo Office, and President Yuichi Tanaka and Mr. Tomoo Igaue of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Paraguay took a lecture with this committee.

A Group of Female Farmers from Gangwon-do, Korea (Nov. 28)

A group of 16 members representing various villages in Gangwon-do took a lecture with this committee.

***External Activities* A Lecture at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Nov. 15)**

President Hiramatsu gave a lecture on the Movement to an audience of about 150 students at APU.

China-Japan-ROK Exchange Meeting on Rural Development, Dalian, China (Nov. 22)

Dalian City in Liaoning Province held the "China-Japan-ROK Exchange Meeting on Rural Development" to study the present situation of their new socialist village establishment program and also its various entailing issues. During the conference, Dalian City gave a presentation on their OVOP Study Tour to Oita last year, as well as on how they have applied the outcomes of the tour to both their administration and the development of agricultural products. Vice President Ando of this committee made a presentation on the role that agricultural cooperatives should play in revitalizing rural areas, giving the example of Oita Oyama Agricultural Coop. Assoc.

**International OVOP Policy Association 1st Annual Conference (Nov. 22)**

IOPA established in December last year (President: Prof. Hiroshi Murayama at Ritsumeikan Uni.) held its first annual conference at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in Beppu City, Japan. Many elaborate presentations were made, and approximately 120 participants including professors and researchers from various countries engaged in heated discussions on OVOP which has been adopted in many countries in Asia and Africa as a scheme to solve economic disparity between urban and rural areas, as well as to eradicate poverty.

First OTOP Summit Philippines (Nov. 28-29)

The first OTOP Summit was held by the Department of Trade and Industry at the Philippines Trade and Training Center in Manila, attended by approximately 800 participants including congressmen, governors or mayors of each province, government officials and many other people related to trade and industry. President Hiramatsu made a speech, and the DTI officially launched the projects of OTOP (One Town One Product) which has been implemented nationwide since 2004. The event was successfully held in grand style with award ceremonies of excellent OTOP products and entrepreneurs of each region, and also with performances of the OTOP song and dance.



Carissa OTOP Program Manager (2nd from the right)

Int'l Advisory Council for People's Municipal Government of Wuhan, China (Nov. 29-30)

President Hiramatsu is an advisor for this council that consists of six session groups on urban planning, education, financial services and three other policies and the members exchange views on the whole field of the city development. This time, the 5th meeting was held, attended by many advisors including the vice president of this committee on behalf of Dr. Hiramatsu and the Mayors of Cheongju-si in Korea and Oita City, Japan, sister cities of Wuhan. Both the mayors made speeches as well. After observing an experimental farm of modern urban agriculture and also a farm stay program, they discussed in depth the future direction of development of Wuhan City.

*** INFORMATION *****OVOP International Seminar in Africa**

The above seminar will take place in Malawi during January 22-24, 2008. For further information, please visit JICA's website to see the Announcements; <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/resources/announce/2007/dec03.html>

International OVOP Policy Association Membership Application

Those who hope to become members, please email or apply through the below website.

E-mail: office@iovoppa.org Website: http://www.iovoppa.org/application_form-en.doc