

Entrusted by Mie Prefectural Government

Environmental Conservation Support Program in São Paulo, Brazil

Outline

In FY2013, Mie Prefecture marked the 40th anniversary of its friendship with the State of São Paulo, Brazil. As part of the exchange programs, ICETT carried out an environmental conservation training course, as entrusted by Mie Prefecture, for three invited officials engaged in environmental administration from the State of São Paulo in FY2016. It focused on "Medical waste treatment and recycling (use of waste heat after incineration)".

Background and purpose

The State of São Paulo has just started recycling and sorting waste before collection. The establishment of a legal system for environmental conservation and fostering of technical experts, etc. has become an important issue. As Mie Prefecture has accumulated a great deal of knowledge, experience and technology involving waste treatment, etc., it was decided that officials and technical experts engaged in environmental administration, management and protection in State of São Paulo should be invited to take part in an environmental conservation course.

Details

The course was held at ICETT for 13 days from October 17 - 29, 2016.

1) First half of the course

It began with an introduction to the geography, economy and culture of Mie Prefecture and went on to include explanations about making the distinction between industrial and general waste and also the Japanese legal system applying to waste treatment. There was also a visit to a local government recycling center to experience garbage sorting, resource recovery and listen to accounts of cases of soil and ground water purification. In these cases pollution had occurred due to improper waste treatment, etc.

2) Latter half of the course

This focused on infectious waste and included lectures on the legal position and management system for it, explanation of corporate philosophy for appropriate treatment by an industry waste disposal contractor and a visit to a treatment facility. There was also a lecture on pollution control in Yokkaichi, a visit to a sewerage treatment facility, as well as some introduction to Japanese culture, and the course finished with a report presentation by the participants.

Results and prospects

The participants told us that they had learned the importance

of removing the labor health risk, especially in infectious waste disposal, by directly bringing waste in sturdy boxes to the incinerator. They also laid stress on the appropriate balance of energy recycling and resource recycling, how to use autoclaves, the establishment of a system to store garbage and waste formalin, etc. in hospitals. They were also impressed by the manifesto system for other waste, the funding after ceasing operation of disposal facilities, etc., as well as how children make efforts for environmental sustainability through recycling. They also told us that they want to share the knowledge acquired through the course, without limiting it to waste issues, and collaborate with other divisions to enhance establishment of a legal system.

The State of São Paulo is the largest state in Brazil with a population of 44,000,000 and São Paulo City is the country's economic center. It is very significant for the friendship of Mie Prefecture and State of São Paulo that the environmental administration officials from such a state use Mie's environmental efforts as a reference for their state. ICETT has a fervent desire that learning about Japan's legal system and mechanism aiming for a Sound Material-Cycle Society and the proper management of infectious waste with the broad awareness of hospitals, etc. could become a major contributing factor for appropriate activity and solutions to various waste-related environmental issues in the future of São Paulo.

(Akira Maeda)



Participants (at ICETT)

Column

Achievement reporting meeting held in State of São Paulo



Seminar in State of São Paulo

In May 16, 2017, São Paulo State Health Bureau held a seminar entitled "Cooperation of São Paulo State and Mie Prefecture : Health and Environment" in State of São Paulo and the three participants reported on the achievements of the course. A video was shown of greetings from Director of Department of Environmental and Social Affairs of Mie Prefectural Government and ICETT Executive Director as well as the Japanese industry waste disposal system with explanations by Mie government staff. Approximately 120 attendees related to the administration and Mie Prefectural Association, etc. attentively listened to the participants' reports and had active discussions.

ICETT is very happy that what the participants learned in Japan has been widely shared. Thank you very much for holding the reporting meeting.