

MOA Signing Ceremony for the Project on Support for the Operation of TAKREER Research Centre (UAE)



Attendants of the MOA signing ceremony

On September 23, 2013, JCCP and Abu Dhabi Refining Company (TAKREER), an affiliate of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), held a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) signing ceremony for the “Project on Support for the Operation of TAKREER Research Centre Phase III” at the head office of TAKREER. The MOA was signed and exchanged between Mr. Jasem Ali Al-Sayegh, CEO of TAKREER, and Mr. Morihiro Yoshida, Managing Director of JCCP.

1. Background and Overview of the Project

The TAKREER Research Centre (TRC) was established with the objectives of enabling TAKREER to solve technical issues related to oil refining on its own, to accumulate national technical expertise, and to train engineers. In support of this initiative, JCCP launched a technical cooperation project with the participation of Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd., and implemented Phase I of the project over a period of four years, from FY2006 to 2009, and Phase II over the following three years.

As a result, the TRC building was completed at the end of April 2009, and outfitted with a pilot plant and

research facilities. Subsequently, new engineers were employed to substantiate the framework of the Centre, and the research facilities came to be utilized effectively.

With the project having arrived at a new stage, TAKREER and JCCP recently agreed to implement Phase III of the project. Phase III will aim to further upgrade and enhance TRC functions with a focus on (1) establishing and increasing proficiency in catalytic evaluation technologies; (2) promoting operational efficiency through technical assistance to TAKREER’s refineries; (3) building a cooperative framework with domestic and foreign research institutions; (4) training domestic engineers and particularly domestic TRC staff; and (5) implementing PR activities for promotion of the TRC at the international level through presentations at scientific meetings.

2. MOA Signing Ceremony

In addition to the two signers of the MOA, the ceremony was carried out with great éclat with the attendance of key figures from both the UAE and Japanese sides. They included Mr. Ali A. Abdelrazaq Al Fahim, SVP, Technical; Mr. Ismail Mohammad Al Mulla, SVP, Administration; and Dr. Mikael Berthod,

TRC Manager, on the TAKREER side, and H.E. Mr. Yoshihiko Kamo, Japanese Ambassador to UAE; Mr. Takashi Matsushita, Director, Managing Executive Officer, and Mr. Yoshikuni Yamakawa, Executive Officer, both from Idemitsu Kosan, on the Japanese side.

The ceremony included speeches by representatives from concerned parties and guests of honor, the signing of the MOA, exchange of commemorative gifts, and a presentation on an overview of the project.

In his speech, Mr. Al-Sayegh thanked JCCP and Idemitsu Kosan for their cooperation in the project, and noted that Phase III would prove to be an important phase for the TRC to manifest its functions and provide technical support to refineries. He mentioned that the ADNOC Group also had high expectations on the further development of the TRC.

Ambassador Kamo stated that the project was highly symbolic of Japan's tangible assistance based on its experience and technologies, and said he hoped that the mutually beneficial project would foster an even stronger friendship between UAE and Japan.

Mr. Yoshida reflected on the TRC inauguration ceremony held last year, and said that it was an extremely impressive event that allowed him to witness the wonderful achievement of the project. He then promised

JCCP's full cooperation to help achieve the project's goals of enhancing the TRC's technical capacities and strengthening cooperation with TAKREER's refineries and domestic research institutions.

Lastly, Mr. Matsushita described Idemitsu Kosan's role in the project so far, and said that he looked forward to further contributing to strengthening the TRC's technical capacities and its cooperation with refineries by making full use of the technologies, experience and expertise Idemitsu Kosan has acquired in addressing oil refinery issues through more than 50 years of refinery operations.

Following the speeches, Dr. Berthod gave a presentation on an overview of Phase III of the project.

3. Summary

The ceremony was a grand and splendid event, which illuminated the fact that the project is viewed by many as a symbolic joint undertaking by UAE and Japan and is raising extremely strong expectations for the further development of the TRC among concerned parties.

JCCP also holds high hopes of playing a continuing role in deepening ties between UAE and Japan through such technical cooperation projects as this TRC project.

<by Toshifumi Amemiya, Technical Cooperation Dept.>



Signing of the MOA



Front entrance of the TRC