

Event Report

**Project to Create Research and Educational Hubs for Innovative Manufacturing in Asia
— Online CIS Activity Report (Vietnam)—**

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The first online Coupling Internship (CIS) was held by connecting Japan and Vietnam (Hanoi and Haiphong) from Dec. 14th to 21st, 2020. Since it was hard to travel overseas due to the effect of the new coronavirus this fiscal year, the CIS was changed to carry out online. The purpose and learning effect of its program was set similar to those of traditional on-site training as much as possible. In this Vietnam CIS, a total of seven students participated: two from School of Foreign Studies and one from Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka Univ. (OU); two from Faculty of Economics and Management and two from Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Hanoi Univ. of Science and Technology (HUST).

The students from OU had prepared for the event by learning such matters as business organization, culture, CIS issues in the pre-training program held eight times from June. In the preliminary training that was conducted for two days since the beginning of the online CIS, the student attendees took the initiative in such activities as communication training for ice breaking, introduction of their own nations, learning of the strength of Japanese manufacturing enterprises based on their own principles such as 5S and Three Practicalities, learning of basic welding knowledge, and examination of CIS practice theme.

From Dec. 16th, the students attended online to join the employees of IHI Infrastructure Asia (IIA) in Haiphong (Vietnam), listened to introduction of the company, engaged in interviews three times with the employees, and conducted questionnaires to them. The students prepared many questions for the corporate executives, staff, and workers regarding the training theme, “Issues and Countermeasures in Work

Motivation,” and attended the interviews to listen eagerly to them for a limited period of time.

On the final day of Dec. 21st, the final reporting session was held online. It was carried out with a total of 21 attendees that included President Sasaki and Plant Manager Yamamoto from IIA, Dr. Cuong (School of Economics and Management, Head) and Prof. Hanh (School of Welding Engineering and Metal Technology, Head) from HUST, Prof. Shimizu (Graduate School of Language and Culture), Assoc. Prof. Katsumata (Joining and Welding Research Institute) from OU, together with OU’s ordinary students who did not attend the CIS. Both A and B teams of the student participants provided proposals about the practice theme from various viewpoints such as communication, work environment, education, evaluation system, and recruiting method. President Sasaki gave a polite comment on the feasibility of participant’s each proposal, and then he summarized, “Even though the working time and environment were limited, the students have provided many unique proposals,” “I would like to examine such proposals in our company in the future.”

Though there were several uncertainties over the online CIS due to the first initiative taken from this fiscal year, the students were engaged online in good cross-cultural exchanges and ingenious team discussions; as a result, they were successful to learn a lot about the difficulty and enjoyment of global teamwork and the activities of and problems for a global company. I am confident that the experiences the students obtained this time will bring great significance to their future practical activities. This online CIS has been a big step as a new form of initiative.

