

JAMA Hosts Vietnamese Government Traffic Safety Mission ~ To Help Address Motorcycle Traffic Safety Countermeasures ~

JAMA recently hosted the Japan visit by a government mission chaired by Mr. Vu Sy Doanh, a member of the Vietnam National Traffic Safety Committee and Director of General Police Department, Ministry of Police. The eight-member mission was in Japan for a full week from May 31 to June 6, during which members heard lectures by a university professor and traffic accident expert, participated in opinion exchanges, toured traffic safety facilities and otherwise familiarized themselves with the motorcycle traffic safety conditions and countermeasures in Japan.

The invitation to visit Japan was issued as one phase of the “Vietnamese Government-JAMA and JAPIA Meeting” established through an agreement by the then JAMA Vice-Chairman Takao Suzuki and Vietnamese Minister of Planning and Investment Vo Hong Phuc. The first meeting was convened in August of last year, with “Policy Working Group” and “Industrial Cooperation Working Group” set up to discuss specific issues. As its initial theme, the Industrial Cooperation WG is addressing the issue of motorcycle traffic safety countermeasures, with specific activities being advanced through close collaboration with the Vietnam National Traffic Safety Committee.



General Police Department Director Doanh delivers a greeting



The then JAMA Vice-Chairman Suzuki (left) and General Police Department Director Doanh (right)

The purpose of the invitation was to assist Vietnamese efforts to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving motorcycles (which are believed to account for around 70 percent of all traffic accidents in that country). In working toward this goal, of the three key elements comprising the motoring society (people, vehicles and roads/environment), the focus was placed on people. More specifically, this refers to public relations, education and enlightenment for motorcycle users and other members of the public, with the experience and knowledge compiled in Japan used as a key reference by the Vietnamese in studying appropriate measures.

[Expert Lectures]

Dr. Hiroyasu Nagae, Professor Emeritus in Engineering of Nihon University, delivered a lecture under the theme of “Road Traffic Conditions and Policy in Japan,” and then offered proposals for the traffic issues being faced by Vietnam. Next up was Masahiro Ito, Chief Researcher at the Japan Automobile Research Institute, who spoke on the studies and analysis of traffic accidents. This was followed by a brisk exchange of views on the information presented up to that point. The third lecture was given by Keiji Koga, Safety General Manager of the Japan Motorcycle Safety Association, who detailed the motorcycle safety promotion activities underway in Japan, as well as the stance on safety adopted by the Japanese motorcycle industry.



JARI Chief Researcher Ito speaks to the mission members.



From the right, Chief Researcher Ito and Professor Emeritus Nagae receiving commemorative gifts.

[Traffic Safety Facility Tours]

The Vietnamese mission’s program included a tour of the Central Training Academy for Safe Driving, a vast 100-hectare facility engineered to allow drivers to safely experience the dangerous conditions they will encounter on the road, and thereby master the safe driving skills and knowledge needed to respond to actual road traffic.

Scheduled the same day was a separate tour of a Rainbow Motor School “Wako,” a drivers’ school designated by Japan’s Public Safety Commission. This provided the mission members an opportunity to observe actual driver training in action, while listening enthusiastically to an explanation of the driving school designation system and other information.



Central Training Academy for Safe Driving.



At Rainbow Motor School "Wako".

The mission also visited a preschool, where members viewed a young children's traffic safety program arranged through the support of a motorcycle manufacturer. Such efforts are based on the perspective of protecting children from traffic accidents, and helping nurture them into responsible and contributing members of the motoring society in the future. The members reported being highly impressed at how young children learned the importance of traffic safety in such a fun and playful environment.



A scene of a young children's traffic safety program.

Finally, the mission met with the Japan Traffic Safety Association, where they heard explanations of the social conditions surrounding Japan's traffic environment, the status of traffic accidents, traffic safety countermeasures and other key areas. This was followed by yet another enthusiastic question and answer session.

Thanks to this program, the mission members came to understand how Japan's motorcycle manufacturers collaborate with affiliated organizations in energetically promoting traffic safety activities, while grasping the importance of advancing education and enlightenment for the public, and particularly motorcycle riders, as core traffic safety countermeasure in Vietnam. Basic approval was also reached on support for a motorcycle traffic safety project, an effort focused on educating and enlightening the public and currently being promoted by JAMA and the National Traffic Safety Committee of Vietnam.

Plans call for continuing deliberations by JAMA and the National Traffic Safety Committee on a project implementation schedule and framework, in working to promote the specific points of the undertaking.