Intensive Professional Training for
Japanese Municipal Government Managers

Program Report in 2011

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SUMMARY
The Tokyo Foundation and the Center for Public Service (formerly Executive Leadership Institute) at Hatfield School of Government of Portland State University have jointly developed a specialized professional development training program for Japanese municipal government managers. This program is designed to prepare local government managers in Japan for the increased responsibility placed upon them as a result of a major initiative to decentralize governing authority in Japan.

Since 2004, a talented group of municipal managers from around Japan are appointed by their mayor to partake in this educational experience. The goal of this program is to provide Japanese mid-career local government managers with an opportunity to explore innovative approaches in municipal administration and to develop skills for problem solving. CPS (Center for Public Service) takes primary responsibility for curriculum design with on-site visit showcasing innovative approaches by local government agencies and non-profit organizations in Oregon.

Twenty-Nine municipal government managers participated in the third year of Intensive Professional Training for Japanese Municipal Government Managers in 2011 (See the attachment A for the list of the participants). The pre-departure orientation for the Portland sessions was designed and implemented during the last weekend of June 2011. Mr. Dan Vizzini and Mr. Yoichi Sato traveled to Japan to facilitate pre-departure session in Japan.

The participants arrived in Portland, Oregon on July 30th, and participated in the CPS/PSU training program until August 6th. Based on the previous year’s program evaluation, CPS decided to introduce so called case study approach to the training program, and case study experts conducted research and developed four case study. Those cases include (1): Understanding a culture and tradition of neighborhood involvement through Safeway case in southeast Portland compiled by Yoichi Sato, (2): Portland free rail zone case compiled by Xiaomei Wang, (3): The Oregon Solutions community garden case compiled by Satoshi Ishida & Amanda Shannahan, and (4): Oregon’s attempts to ban single-use plastics bag case complied by Marcella Barnes (See the attachment B for case studies).
PROGRAM ELEMENTS

1) Pre-Departure Orientation
This Pre-Departure Orientation session is designed for the program participants to be given an opportunity to build their foundational knowledge for government structures and processes in the United States as well as in city of Portland (See the attachments C for the pre-departure orientation syllabus and schedule).

2) Program at CPS/PSU
During their one-week stay in Portland, Oregon, Japanese municipal government managers attend the professional development program tailored to their interests (See the attachment D for the program schedule). The program is comprised of the following major components:

a. Site Visits and Guest Speaker Presentations
Site visits and presentations of guest speakers are organized in order to provide the participants with opportunities to develop a better understanding of the U.S. local, state, and federal government systems. It provides the participants a chance to learn U.S. best practices related to their interests.

b. Synthesis and Facilitated Discussions
Synthesis sessions and discussions are designed in order to provide opportunities to aid the participants in processing knowledge they gain during the training period. The program director facilitates dialogues to ensure that the participants deepen their understanding of U.S. government structure and value system as well as transferring their knowledge back home context.

c. City Exploration Study
City Exploration Study is designed to provide an opportunity for the program participants to explore the city of Portland on Sunday, July 30th. All the participants were divided into 8 groups, based on their interests, and several program assistants were assigned to each group as a resource person (See the attachment E for the group assignment for city exploration).

d. Evening Site Visits
Evening Site Visits are the opportunities for the program participants to attend public hearing,
open house and so forth in order to experience the atmosphere of citizen participation practices in Portland (See the attachment F for the evening site visit sign-up sheet).

3) Program Hosted Events
   a. Farewell Party at Japanese Garden
      The Japanese Garden generously hosted a farewell party on August 5th, Friday for the program for three years in a row. Attendees include: all the program participants, program staff and student interpreters, site visit guest speakers, PSU faculty and staff, Tokyo Foundation staff, and community members (See the attachment G for the invitation letter of the farewell party).

   b. Luncheon Discussion with Site Visit Guest Speakers
      This luncheon discussion on 8/1, Monday is designed to create a space for dialogues among the program participants, site visit guest speakers, CPS faculty and staff, and so forth in an informal setting.