



IATSS Forum Alumni

ON THE BEHALF OF IATSS FORUM & ASEAN IF ALUMNI

(ISSUE 1, APRIL 2016)

We Have Come A Long Way Together....

The annual Sakura blossom in April in Japan has arrived, bringing with it a

learning forged over the 55 days of thinking and learning together. Within the short time, the memories and lifelong comradery continue to grow every year regardless of where we are.

It is also a season of changes for us, renewing ties, remembering good friends, welcoming new faces.

Honda Motor Corporation, Tokyo. Kaneko san is the new manager who has just joined IATSS Forum from April. We warmly welcome him into our IATSS Forum community.

As we chart ahead our direction after 30th IATSS Forum Anniversary 2015, we hope to have more new happenings, synergy and collaboration among our ASEAN and Japan IATSS Forum. With the rapid changing world we live in today, it has become increasingly important to find time reflect on the 'whys' and 'hows' of life. The work we do can no longer be in silo. As IATSS Forum Alumni, we are a new generation of global citizens, in trailblazing common goals in this 21st century.

Find out what's happening in ASEAN and Japan. Read on...Cheers!



season of renewal, of a new spring and beginning. Just like our individual experiences during our time at the IATSS Forum in Suzuka, Japan. We can never forget the friendship and

IATSS Forum Alumni Newsletter, we welcome the inclusion of Japan IATSS Forum Alumni (JIFA). At the same time, we also bid a fond farewell to Kurafuji san, our general manager who has taken up a new appointment at

Latest in Suzuka, Japan

Farewell, Kura san, You will be Missed...

Thank you Kura san, for all the time and effort that you had given us at IATSS Forum. May your Future always shine bright where ever you may go.

Best Wishes from ASEAN
IATSS Forum Alumni

Dear IATSS Forum Alumni Members,

Congratulations on the publication of the first issue of "the ASEAN IATSS Forum Alumni Newsletter". I have always appreciated our alumni members' support of IATSS Forum's activities. We, the Suzuka secretariat, are so glad of this initiative taken by alumni members to produce this new publication. Up to now, I was thinking that apart from the IAM, alumni activities were only taking place within each country but there was actually much collaboration among countries. I sincerely hope this ASEAN IF newsletter will be first of the many sharing coming from all of you.

Last year, we were able to celebrate our 30th Anniversary in both Suzuka, Japan and Yangon, Myanmar with over 400 attendees. During this event, we made a proposal for the IATSS Forum's future policy called "Beyond 2015" and discussed the contents and the roles of country committees and alumni members. This newsletter, which will enable us to share the different alumni activities in each country with all our member countries, fits in well with our action plan and will certainly help us to keep up to date with activities of alumni members.



I trust that this newsletter will act to stimulate more interest in the activities of each alumni group and create a stronger dialogue among countries, as well as improve the number of alumni projects in the future.

It has been a wonderful journey in the past 3 years for me to work with all of you. Continue to raise the flag of IATSS Forum higher. I wish each of you all the best always!

Yours faithfully,

Seiji Kurafuji,

**Out-going General Manager of
IATSS Forum 2013-2016**

Welcome Kaneko san,

IATSS Forum New General Manager



important role in bridging the IATSS Forum alumni members in respective countries and the IATSS Forum, Suzuka. I can imagine the challenges in preparing this first issue while juggling your own work and other priorities.

Once the first step has been completed (in this case, the first issue of the ASEAN newsletter), everyone will expect the second one, and the one after that. The IATSS Forum Secretariat will continue to support this good initiative. At the same time, I would like to ask all IATSS Forum alumni associations in respective countries and individual members for

your continuous contribution to this ASEAN IF Newsletter.

I sincerely wish for the further development and prosperity of the IATSS Forum Alumni Associations and the long lasting continuation of our IATSS Forum ASEAN Newsletter.

Hiroyuki Kaneko

In-coming General Manager of IATSS Forum April 2016-

Dear IATSS Forum Alumni Members,

Hello, everyone. My name is Hiroyuki Kaneko. I have been assigned to this post as the General Manager of the



IATSS Forum since April 1st, 2016. I am honored that my first work at the IATSS Forum since my arrival was to write this for the IATSS Forum ASEAN Newsletter.

First of all, congratulations on the first issue of the IATSS Forum ASEAN Newsletter! To those of you who have taken the initiative to publish this first issue, I highly appreciate your leadership and commitment. I believe that this first issue of the IATSS Forum ASEAN Newsletter means a lot to all of us and it plays an

"I believe that this first issue of the IATSS Forum ASEAN Newsletter means a lot to all of us and it plays an important role bridging IATSS Forum alumni members in respective countries and the IATSS Forum in Suzuka."

Welcome our latest alumni association, JIFA!

Establishment of Japan IATSS Forum Alumni Association, April 2016

JIFA have been active as an unofficial alumni association for the last 3 years. Last year we had an opportunity to establish the JIFA with staff members and committee members of the IATSS forum in Myanmar. We received the official approval to establish JIFA from the IATSS Forum committee in March 2016.

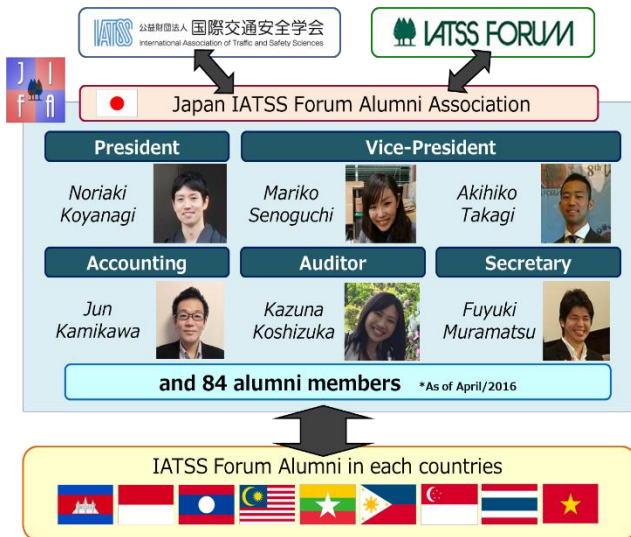
Our JIFA vision is to be a bridge between everyone who are involved in the IATSS Forum. At the same time, we also aim to forge greater friendships and continue to strengthen our ties.

Currently, we have over 90 JIFA members!



As a start, We are targeting 4 areas of effort for JIFA, they are to:

- Provide support to IATSS Forum and promote the program
- Act an inquiry conduit for ASEAN Alumni and work closely with other Alumni associations
- Engage in social contribution activities and promote the understanding of diversity in Japan
- Help to build our JIFA social network and provide support to Japanese participants



Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments and requests or when you visit Japan. We will provide information promptly and be your guide in Japan.



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Happenings in ASEAN

Books Are Bridges Project

By Vietnam IATSS Forum Alumni Association

Joint Stock Company.

January 1st 2016

It was just before the traditional Lunar New Year, which is normally an occasion for family reunion, while young patients had to stay in the hospital for medical treatment and care. We organized the first visit to the hospital to personally present picture/story books, teddy bears and educational toys to children. We hope that our gifts were a source of incentive and encouragement for those children who could not spend the Lunar New Year holiday with their families at home.

beneficiary - Dr. Pham Tuan Duong – Vice Director of the Institute signed an Agreement. The donors committed to handover 03 new bookshelves, 2.239 books, 95 educational toys and 252 learning items. The beneficiary committed to promote reading activities for effective use and sustainable development of the donated resources. We spent time on sharing understanding about blood related diseases, the need for blood donation, educational support for young patients and job opportunities for their parents during spare time in the hospital.

The last two months were busy and meaningful to VIFA. We initiated the Books Are Bridges Project to support 150 young patients who have blood related diseases and undergo long period of medical treatment at the National Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion in Hanoi. It took 2 months to implement the project from plan development, campaign launch, procurement and logistical arrangement to actual implementation onsite. We started with a modest goal to collect 1.000 books, but finally we raised a total of 40.604.000VND and in-kind donations including 03 new bookshelves, 737 old story/picture books, children magazines and nearly 100 educational toys. The donated money was used to purchase new books and learning items. This result was almost more than 4 times of our initial target. We could not achieve this result without trust and support from individuals, groups, organizations, especially co-organizers: the Association of Vietnamese Students and

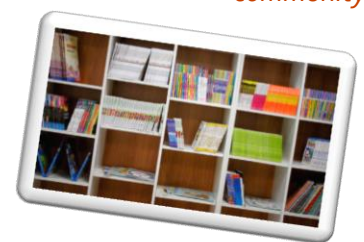
Professionals in the United States, 3DMARCOM Interior Design Company and Alphabooks



March 5th 2016

We transferred all newly purchased books and in-kind donations to the hospital. With support from the local authority and collaborators, we joined hands to arrange books on bookshelves and officially organized a handover ceremony. Representative of the donors – the VIFA President and representative of the

The Books Are Bridges Project is not finished yet as we are planning for the next phase. For the left over project budget (15.000.000VND), we are investigating suitable place to build another bookshelve. VIFA takes this opportunity to sincerely thank individuals and organizations who contributed monetary and in-kind donations, so that the project could partly bring more joyfulness and encouragement for young patients. *We sincerely hope that "Books Are Bridges Project" is a bridge to not only bring disadvantaged children to knowledge, but also connect love and sharing in life, and together we make the better community!*



Our History & Education Charity Event

By Cambodia IATSS Forum Alumni Association

IATSS Forum Alumni Cambodia (IAC)

founded in year 2000 after the 1st batch return back and all participants (46 members) who returned from IATSS forum (From 27th batch onward) become automatically as members of our IAC.

After returning back from Japan and being an IATSS Forum Alumni Cambodia, we are always asking ourselves what we can contribute to our country and how we are going to achieve our goals. There are many issues, in a developing country such as Cambodia, which have to be enhanced for the sake of people welfare, community and the country as a whole. We cannot stay still to see our country falls into a so called unchangeable situation, but to find any solution by all means. More, we want to see our people living healthily and happily as many other do in the developed countries. We never wait until tomorrow for what we can do today.

We started with a lot of activities for our community involving in education, traffic, donation, environment etc. Later on due new leadership in 2015, the IATSS Forum Alumni Cambodia (IAC) was transformed to Cambodia IATSS Alumni Association (CIAA) on 26th

December 2015 under the rule and regulation of Cambodia law



registration local organization and Praka of Ministry of Interior Number: 10263 Pro. Kor. The main objectives and activities of CIAA are to serve as a forum for communicating, sharing and exchanging experiences and progress to each other as well as to contribute to the social development.

Allow us to share one of our several exciting projects on Education related area.



Education Charity Event

With the theme "Learning Knows No Bounds",

we, Cambodia IATSS Alumni clearly understand the importance of education and trying to share and distribute what we have learnt back to our nation. As the result of our commitment, along with some fund donated by Japanese

people during the 49th IATSS Charity Auction in Suzuka city plus the sponsorship from our generous Cambodia IATSS alumni, the IATSS Education Charity Event was fruitfully accomplished on 12th October, 2013 in a small community in Takeo province, Cambodia which is named "Hope for Happiness" being really in need of supplementary study materials such as dictionaries, world general knowledge books, history books and other necessary stuff related to education. Many of the students there do not have enough money to buy enough study materials for their study. Anyway they really love education and want to further their education. We focused not only on study materials distribution, but also on sharing what we have learnt during our IATSS leadership Training in Japan. During this Education Charity Event, some useful games and activities from IATSS Leadership Training were shared to the community students to give them motivation and build up their leadership skills. After giving clear introduction about IATSS Forum and IATSS Education Charity Event, a number of the useful games and activities such as Mouth against Mind, Air Football were introduced.

Our mission is to work to promote rural education for students from poor communities: *Our Objectives are to provide motivation and encouragement to poor students, to share useful experiences from IATSS Leadership Training and to build capacity of the community students through organizing venues and opportunities for them to learn from each other and from other resource persons on necessary skills and ethics to be good resource persons of the future generation.*



My name is Ratchada, also known as Tarn. I am the latest IATSS participant of the 54th batch happening during 20th September to 15th November 2015.

I work as the Program Officer on Social Inclusion and Gender Equity at the Center for People and Forests based in Kasertsart University, Bangkaen Campus in Bangkok.

I currently serve as the Secretary to TIFA's President and the committee member.

Thai 54th IATSS Forum Participant's Reflection

By Thailand IATSS Forum Alumni Association

Hi everyone. My name is Sirapun Yongwattananunth (Nickname:

Good) from the 54th batch.

Currently, I am a TIFA committee and a registrar. I am so glad to be part of TIFA and IATSS family.



My impression of IATSS Forum is grounded on a combination of learning exposures there with the right balance of theme study, general seminars, group discussion and study, field visits, team building and cultural exchange activities.

The training program at IATSS Forum is unique in a way that it employs an experiential and individualistic approach for leadership development in which each participant can progress at his or her own pace and initiative. Also an emphasis on leadership qualities and attitudes that can mobilize and maximize the use of team's efforts and capacities to achieve the common and collaborative goal which is the foundational philosophy of IATSS Forum is highly compatible in dealing with the emerging global challenges.

This leadership program is awesome. It gave me the unique experience of leadership training. I just recognized that the best way to learn something was to do it, not to listen to or remember it. This program let participants decide what they wanted to do in order to deal with situations happening in the program. Participants decided whether to confront problems or not. By letting them make their own decisions, they learned to account for their actions. Then they would improve their decision-making skill. Also, this program taught me another meaning of leadership. After finishing this program, I totally changed my perspective about leadership. I learned that leaders are not always in the front row. Sometimes they need to be anonymous or evil. What they have to keep in their mind is to know what and when to do to maximize their team members' capabilities to reach team's goals.

IATSS Forum Leadership Development Moments

Paradox of Success is Built upon Failures

By Singapore IATSS Forum Alumni Association

promises. Often we will tell ourselves, we are going to try harder, do better, and go further. It may be that we want to change some of our past bad habits. Maybe, we will improve on our leadership development from our learning at Suzuka. So we think we are going to change ourselves, perform better, do well for our alumni associations. Our good intentions are without fault. Yet, more often than not, we frizzy out sooner than we would like. We fail to take off. Sound familiar?

The problem is that very little happens if we tackle our resolutions with the same old mindset. It is often not the goals that we set for ourselves that are flawed but the way we approach them. We may succeed once or even win twice, with a bit of luck on our side. But to succeed consistently requires an important leadership trait- *that is a change in the way we think*.

Take an example from medical history thousands of years ago- Doctors would use to treat patients with leeches as part of bloodletting in order to save lives. Today, we know that this technique will not work. Instead the leeches weaken patients when they were most vulnerable. But the doctors then could not see beyond that, as they believed their intention was good. If the patient recovered, it was proclaimed that bloodletting had saved them. If the patient died, doctors would assume that the patient was too seriously ill to be saved. In short, instead of looking for weakness in their

assumptions, doctors then interpreted everything through a len of absolute trust in their belief at that time. In short, why fix anything when it is not broken?

If we look at this medical example from a leadership development point of view, we may also recognize that in our own lives, we are also stuck in our own personal assumptions and prejudices, rather than to have the boldness and clarity to see where we need to change or where we are heading in life or in our organizations. Often said, that no direction will still get you somewhere. But is this the path we want? This can be true of our work, our professional development, even in our own personal lives. We get stuck in a closed loop because we refuse to acknowledge that we may be wrong.

If we look at great leaders, in sport of work, there is often a consistent trait. This is true of past leaders such as Akio Morita, founder of Sony, Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken Inc. or Henry Ford of Ford Motor Company. All of whom has the same mindset- that is the capacity to learn from mistakes, change or adapt.

Failure itself is a key building block of success. All good leaders in life, would have experienced at some stage in their personal journey. The learning point for us as IATSS Forum Alumni, is not failure itself, but refusing or not able to learn from it.

A Matter of Pride

In the case of Soichiro Honda, as we know him from IATSS Forum. He initially applied for a job at Toyota as an engineer by designing the concept of the Piston Ring, only to be told his concept did not meet the standard. He was further ridiculed by the Toyota engineers and was sadly turned down. Being jobless, he did

For many of us, returning from IATSS Forum regardless of the year's batch we were in, often bring rejuvenations and new personal



not allow his pride to take control. Rather, learning from past mistakes and circumstance, refusing to give up, he started experimenting and producing scooters from home, which he then sold to his neighbours. Later he further wrote to 18 000 bicycles shop owners asking them to help him revitalize Japan after the world war. 5 000 owners responded

trying new things and learning very fast despite countless failures. It is more of a tumor-like thinking that grows on us when we become adults. We begin to fear failures and freeze when we could have change for the better.

As part of leadership development, the question we can learn from

assumptions in making incremental changes.

This is the change we need to have in our organizations, in our alumni, in our individual lives. To strive to keep improving, we need to learn how to accept failures. Ask ourselves honestly what is preventing us from changing or doing better. Analysis

Failure is an incredibly difficult concept for some people to cope with. Often, they associate their own personal worth with the professional success. As such, a lot of people will tend to deny their mistakes or entirely avoid situations where they may fail. But no one ever achieved anything by taking the easy way out. Learn to drop our ego and take risks. See beyond our immediate fears, learn to conquer them. Getting it wrong is actually the first step to getting it right

to him, and with what little money offered, he continued to develop and refine his scooter, the Super Cub, learning and improving from each design flaw. Of course today, we know about Honda Motor Co. which is one of the world's largest reputable motorcycle manufacturer.

This simple illustration of Soichiro Honda, reveals why learning from mistakes or changing our mindset is so vital. Very often young children have no fear of failure as they go about exploring the exciting world around them. They have great fun

children, is how to fail well. We have to be honest about our weaknesses if we are going to improve- to challenge the cherished assumptions that drive our decisions, of having the same old mindset day in day out. Instead of accepting status quo of things around us, we should often ask questions on how we could keep on improving. The biggest barrier to reaching this goal is our own Ego. The idea is not to deflate our own ego but rather how to manage it, so that we are able to see beyond our

and break down into baby steps that we can take, in order to become the ideal leaders we can be, as part of IATSS Forum Alumni. Build the ideals we want, keep working on them. Do not allow failures to be the end all.

Ultimately, that is what personal leadership growth is all about.



Last Words...

Welcome our latest 55th IATSS Forum Batch Participants,
Suzuka Japan May-July 2016

Do your best, learn as much, and grow your leadership strengths





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