



## The 40th IATSS Forum

### 40th IATSS Forum Logo



On the 18th of September 2006, everyone's enthusiasm may have driven the typhoon away. IATSS Forum welcomed 16 participants from 9 ASEAN countries to Suzuka. Regretfully, we had 2 participants from Indonesia and Vietnam cancel for this 40th IATSS Forum.

The Forum started from "Gasshuku," 3-day, 4-night team building training in Ise city. After the Opening Ceremony, participants have been actively participating in field study, seminars, Group Study, and other exchange activities. They have already gotten used to life in Suzuka. Now, the lecturers, the Japanese volunteers and we, the IATSS Forum secretariat, are supporting their stay in Japan for it to be as meaningful and fruitful as possible by the day of the 13th of November when they all will return to their home countries.

## Participants' Messages before Leaving for Japan



**Jerry**

Passing the selection test to participate in the IATSS Forum was one of my significant achievements that I have made. I know from reading the information booklet and being told from the ex-

participants that this forum will offer plenty of memorable and unforgettable experiences which can rarely be found elsewhere. I am determined to make the best use of my time during the program. I can't wait to see, get to know, learn and share things with other fellow participants from my neighboring countries and Japan. I strongly believe that this forum can serve as a platform which will breed unity, solidarity, creativity, understanding, and an enduring relationship among the participants. I'm ready to embark on this fascinating journey with you guys. See you in Japan!



**CAMBODIA**

Japan is a country I have always admired and talked about to everybody as the examples of technology advancement, education, and values, etc. It is one of the most developed. It has always contributed its experience as well as technical and financial support to other less developed nations.

These days, I admit to myself that my objective is to get to know other ASEAN nations; and Japan, is coming up soon. In joining IATSS Forum, I am interested in the thought of learning and sharing together with Japanese and other nations. Characteristic, commitment in achieving the goal, and its cultural preservations are what I would like to get to know well about Japanese people. In general, I expect that my new, short-life experience in Japan is to share information about Cambodians in their working environment, in living, and in the educational field, and to learn about multi-nation experiences: working, communicating, dealing and protecting through IATSS activities and program when returning to my home country.



**Bonida**



**Susi**

It was in the middle of the night when I read about IATSS Forum through its website. I felt so stimulated to get into it. Although I realized that I didn't have much time to write an essay and get the references, however I tried to do my best effort to apply for it. Afterward I came back from the United States for the interview because of my strong desire to experience an economically and technologically advanced society in Japan. I am so pleased and grateful that I have been selected. Japan was the first non-western country to achieve wealth and to be able to succeed considerably, it's really amazing. The integrated package in IATSS Forum will enhance my knowledge and give me an incredible lesson about Japan and South East Asian countries. Learning how to explore the common goals and sustain relationships for mutual prosperity. I am very excited and looking forward to going to Japan and to meeting other participants exchange perspectives, widening the global network, and having fun in a different culture.



**INDONESIA**

## Participants' Messages before Leaving for Japan (Continued)



**VIETNAM**

When I had heard of interesting stories from the Vietnamese alumni about IATSS Forum, I was really motivated and excited. At once, these mottos "Work hard, play hard" & "work not only hard, but smart" came into my mind whenever I thought about the Forum. For a while, I had been looking for an opportunity like this, with an aim to build up and expand my relationship network with friends from ASEAN- neighboring countries and Japan as well. And now, it is a right time.

Ops...just imagine the days that I could become a Vietnamese ambassador at the IATSS Forum to introduce new but great things on Vietnam- my beloved country; explore Japan in many aspects such as culture, economic development, people not through books, movies, etc but in reality; and learn and share knowledge about ASEAN and Japan with my new friends, I am extremely exciting. Wow...everything would come to me just like a dream.



**Tammie**

The 40<sup>th</sup> IATSS Forum- great things in a new sky have been waiting for me. Yeah... I can not wait anymore.



**Viv**

I am very blessed to have been given this golden opportunity to participate in the IATSS Forum and to double my joy, Japan has always been a country which I have wanted to visit when I have saved up enough money.

This trip gives me the motivation to learn more about myself, my country and other ASEAN countries in a different aspect.

It being my first exploration outside my country, Singapore, for a 2 month period will definitely help to build up my independence and confidence level. I am really looking forward to fostering more friendships during this trip and to gain better insight into the lives of others.

Lastly, I hope that IATSS, Japan as well as all the other participants are able to achieve their purpose of being in this program in one way or another, and to bring home sweet memories to share with their family and friends.



**SINGAPORE**

When I first found out about the IATSS Forum, I knew I had to sign up immediately. Where else can you find such a program where you get to learn, share, and interact, experience while making a contribution to society with everything being paid for. You can't imagine how happy I was when I got selected. I am really thankful that HONDA is still sponsoring this Forum even after 20 years.

There are 3 main things I hope to achieve within the short 2 months:

1. to learn and experience everything "Japanese" ; from the history, the culture, the art, the technology, the language, the food, the people and their lifestyles
2. to meet and make new friends and hopefully build strong, lasting friendships among the participants as we share our ideas and embark on this journey together
3. to appreciate the situations in the respective ASEAN countries and contribute through the Forum by coming up with useful and practical solutions that can help alleviate to problems

Even as I write this, I can't wait to arrive in Japan and start experiencing, straightaway, this new and exciting chapter in my life!!



**Kenneth**



**Som**

Having a hastily written and submitted an essay to IATSS, I gave up hope of being selected to join this forum. Spending most of my time and energy to finish loads of tedious impassable jobs has somewhat diluted my eagerness to face new challenges. Then, it was a big turn over for me once I was informed I would participate in the 40<sup>th</sup> IATSS Forum.

Overwhelmed! This would not only bring a great opportunity but also a great challenge for me to fulfill my goal of professional development, 'think globally and work locally'. Now I am very enthusiastic to learn various aspects of oriental perspectives. Particularly, I am lacking sufficient understanding about Japan. Thanks to a concentrated yet concise course syllabus, I wish to finally gain better insights into Japan and other Asian countries. Thank you IATSS Forum for giving us a chance to 'think and learn together', and hopefully to build the most memorable experiences together in Japan.



**THAILAND**

When I first went over the IATSS Forum brochure, I was questioning myself how this Forum was very interesting, why this Forum was established 20 years ago, why many participants wanted to join this Forum. As I notice from other similar Forums, they don't have same kinds of 'Alumni' so after finishing the program, participants may not see each other anymore. But for IATSS

Forum, there are not too many participants, we can get to know each other better. We can learn and share our experience among participants whose countries have quite similar culture and development track. After finishing the program, IATSS Forum provides the IATSS Alumni a way to still keep in touch with friends. Moreover, IATSS Forum will be held in Japan, which has the highest level of modernization in Asia, including every one in the world belief in Japanese technology and development so that we can know Japanese thought. With all the reasons supporting it, this is a good opportunity to develop my new development paradigm by exchanging my own view with that of other participants.



**Tong**



**Roel**

As the schedule of the 40<sup>th</sup> IATSS Forum draws near, the volume of work that gets to my desk increases by the multitude. Considering that I will be gone for almost two months, it is imperative that I work double-time. All these things give me that adrenalin rush that pumps me up like I am Superman. Truly, preparing for the Forum is in itself an adventure to experience and enjoy.

But of course, I believe all this would be no match to the joy and pleasure of actual participation in the Forum. It will be an opportunity to experience Japan first hand --- the warm people, the culture, and the preserved natural environment amidst technological advancement --- while thinking and learning with co-participants from across Asia. The experience will surely broaden my perspective and will

qualify myself to be a true citizen of Asia.



**PHILIPPINES**



**Ones**

The Philippines alumni of IATSS Forum has been very consistent in telling me that my attendance to the Forum will be worth it and something to treasure. This is probably what drives me enthusiastically to discover what they mean by that.

Definitely, one thing I am looking forward to is to get oriented with the different cultures of my counterparts and the rich cultural and developmental practices of Japan not in written form but in actual interactions. I am likewise quite excited to feel being a citizen of a bigger community having other nationalities in the Program. The exchanges, discussions and tours will definitely be extra exciting.

I should thank in advance the officers and staff of IATSS Forum and the Japanese people for regularly sponsoring this Program. In anticipation of the successful conclusion of this Forum, I shall be glad to be part of the alumni association and, perhaps, look forward to meeting everyone when the Philippines is granted to host an alumni gathering in the near future.



**Eldy**

It was undeniable that IATSS has made one of my life goals achievable and that goal is to pursue my studies in one of the most captivating countries in the world, Japan.

I am looking forward to understanding the work culture of Japanese society as well as to explore the unique blend of cultural heritage and technological development in Japan. In addition, I would like to learn and experience the way Japanese people con-

serve the environment especially in recycling programs or other kinds of social activities. Besides that, I hope that IATSS Forum can broaden my knowledge and strengthen my views towards global perspectives ranging from politics, economics, business, and so on, in order to face competitive and innovative global challenges.

Lastly, together with other participants from ASEAN, and also Japan, I strongly believe that we can create a mutual understanding and establish an everlasting friendship in the future.

In IATSS forum, I look forward to making new friends from ASEAN countries & Japan. I hope I can learn basic Japanese and perhaps adopt some Japanese culture, which is beneficial for the betterment of the way I do things in future. I expect IATSS Forum to be a serious event with all the upcoming lectures & presentations. It's a lot of work even before I set foot in Japan and I expect more work when I am in the land of the rising sun.

I am hopeful that the learning experience will also include some fun with the different approaches and ideas from participants of various backgrounds. Hopefully, I can learn a lot from this experience and may IATSS forum be a memorable and joyous event in my life. I am counting down the days to September 18, 2006. See you all there!



**Alia**



**MALAYSIA**

I still remember the day when I was told that I was chosen as one of the participants of the 40th IATSS Forum, I was so pleased to get the opportunity to visit my dream country, Japan, which I always keep in my mind. I have tried to apply for this program many times, but I couldn't get in until this time. While I am in the Forum, I would like to share the knowledge and skills I have gained, cultures and traditions with people from different countries in south-east Asia and Japan, and build up the strong relationships with both the participants and people there. I will also try my best to participate in all the activities. I am very excited when I think of culture exchange day and the country booth, because this is my first time to see many interesting people and things and I will try to learn and gain from the new experiences we share to enable me to contribute more to my personal and professional development. At the moment, I am still busy preparing for the programs' requirements. But anyway, Thank you very much for IATSS Forum providing me this very good chance.



**Nom**



**LAOS**

I am from Laos and the only applicant from another province outside of Vientiane, the capital city. I will never forget my feeling at that time when I knew I was selected to join the program. IATSS Forum gave me the opportunity and gave me more than what I was expecting at that time.

To participate in the program in Japan would be a good change to learn and share between minds and experience with all the participants and to make inter-relationships with Japanese as well as to show them Lao culture. In the program a lot of activities are new and value upgrading skills, knowledge from the inside outside. I hope the forum will provide me with more opportunities to learn about Japanese and to join in the activities closely with others. Japan is one of the most developed countries in Asia as well as good conservation. It has preserved its environment, forests, culture and traditions. It is very important to know how they achieve this.



**Tia**

## Participants' Messages before Leaving for Japan (Continued)



**Michael**

I am from Myanmar and very excited to participate in the 40th IATSS Forum.

It is a very good opportunity for me to understand cultures through IATSS Forum. I believe that the beneficial experiences gained from that program will help to enhance not only my life but also my country. And also the program will help to promote friendship and tranquility among the Asian countries. I am expecting to get new ideas and making friends from that program.

I deeply thank you IATSS Forum for giving us all chance to learn about Japanese life and share our ideas and beliefs while we are staying together in Japan. I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon.



I am most grateful to be a participant of the 40th IATSS Forum, streamlining between ASEAN and Japan. I am very much interested in the Japanese teamwork spirit, mind-set and strategic thinking to develop their country. So I feel it is

excellent to get this golden opportunity to share mind and heart. I believe that our stream of consciousness will make us improve our knowledge and skill. Then we will all serve our relative societies better. Moreover, I expect to strengthen our relationship by understanding different cultures and traditions. I am sure that my day-dreaming of having valuable friendship, brilliant knowledge and experiences at the Forum will take shape during 55 days in Japan. Let's have nice time together.



**Angelina**

## IATSS Forum Secretariat News

At the beginning of July 2006, Mr. Nobuhiko Kuroki (Blackie) was transferred from the IATSS Forum secretariat to Honda Motor Co., Ltd. after his 11 years of service. The following is a message from him:



**Nobuhiko Kuroki  
(Blackie)**

My first memory of IATSS Forum is that of having found a poster in my workplace at Honda. I noticed the words; "Let's learn Southeast Asia in Japan" with a shadowy picture of young people surrounding a desk. Who could have known this one poster would change a man's life? Maybe, a lot of IATSS Forum alumni have had the same experience as mine.

Then, my first experience of IATSS Forum was as one of the 14<sup>th</sup> Forum participants. I experienced so much culture shock for 3 weeks; and again, I never imagined myself later joining this Forum as a staff member.

I've been involved in a total of 17 Forums from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 39<sup>th</sup>. I recall back that I have had highly precious and unforgettable experiences in the last 11 years.

My current work is to cope with the quality of motorcycles, which seems quite different from my responsibilities at IATSS Forum. However, in both cases need to handle products, or participants, with speed and accuracy. So, I'm still keeping the IATSS Forum motto "Thinking and Learning Together" in mind and would like to make the best use of it in my work and life hereafter.

I hope IATSS Forum continues to have challenging programs. Lastly, I would like to express my best regards from the bottom of my heart to everyone I have known throughout the IATSS Forum.

### ..... 【New office】

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