



OCEAN BREEZE



Contents

No. 194 2020 Summer

News Roundup

- Hosting a Media Announcement Event for New MBV (Mercedes-Benz Vietnam Ltd.) Models at KGL Facilities P1
- Winners of "K" LINE Group Environmental Awards 2020 Announced P2

Cheering Message

- THANK YOU, SEAFARERS!!!!
Messages of Support to Those Who Work at Sea! P9

Special Column

- At Narita
~ Report on My Experience of Japan's Airport Protection Measures ~ P13

Special Feature

- My Way of Enjoying Staying at Home During the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration ... P16

Letter from Overseas

- The Community Where I Live ~Tianjin~ P18



Hosting a Media Announcement Event for New MBV (Mercedes-Benz Vietnam Ltd.) Models at KGL Facilities

Contributed by Mr. Takayuki Furuya, "K" Line-Gemadep Logistics Co., Ltd

A media announcement event for new MBV (Mercedes-Benz Vietnam Ltd.) models was held at the KGL ("K" Line-Gemadep Logistics Co., Ltd) facility last March 6. Before depicting the details of the event, KGL took the opportunity to introduce its business. To give a brief explanation about KGL business, KGL is entrusted with completed import and domestic cars by automobile manufacturers, the customers, and these cars are inspected, given regular maintenance, attached with parts and accessories, and more before they are delivered to dealers. Depending on the customer, KGL also offers import customs clearance and land transportation services before and after being entrusted with cars and is also contracted for customs clearance services not only for completed cars, but also for imported parts to be used in domestic production, as well for as the transport of those parts to production factories. KGL also offers a fast total auto-logistics business for completed cars in the northern part (Haiphong) of Vietnam centered around Ho Chi Minh City, where economic growth and future growth in the number of cars sold is expected.

Getting back to the main topic, MBV built a storage space for 780 vehicles and a workshop within the KGL facilities as a Vehicle Processing Center in August 2019, receiving contracts for the maintenance and servicing of automobiles. For the event, about 100 people from the media and from dealers across the country were invited, the venue was decorated with gorgeous sets, and the event opened with a spectacular mood. It began with opening remarks and a presentation on the details of the business and introductions of the new cars by MBV President Brad Kelly. The mic was then handed to KGL President Nakanishi, who offered his usual appreciation to MBV, and both presidents made a pledge to continue the cooperative relationship between their companies with an impressive handshake.

After that, the seven new model cars that were the main event took to the stage with exciting background music, being brilliantly driven by professional test drivers. The new model cars were then introduced, test rides were given to guests who wanted a ride, and the event ended with a Q&A session. After that, everyone moved outside, and a buffet while standing was served among a suddenly peaceful mood.

A few days later, the event was introduced on Vietnamese local news, with the KGL facilities clearly shown, and KGL gained a little publicity thanks to MBV, including the publicity from the event.

There aren't many opportunities to introduce the company, but I hope that a few of you will take this chance to remember KGL.



New models (GLC and GLS class) introduced by being driven on stage

Winners of "K" LINE Group Environmental Awards 2020 Announced

Environment Management Group

"K" LINE Group Environmental Awards were established to honor and recognize outstanding environmental preservation contribution activities undertaken by both executives and employees working throughout the "K" LINE Group according to the direction developed in "K" LINE Environmental Vision 2050. This year marks the 6th awards since their establishment in 2015, and we also have accepted 22 entries (21 last year) from our group companies in Japan and overseas. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your cooperation.

The judging committee of "K" LINE Group Environmental Awards met on Tuesday, April 14, and selected candidates for commendation, including one Grand Award winner and six Excellence Award winners.

The commendation ceremony was held at the head office of Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha on Friday, June 5. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's ceremony was held in an online meeting where the Grand Award winner represented all award winners and received a commemorative gift and a certificate from Mr. Myochin, president. Congratulations to all winners of the Grand Award and the Excellence Award.

[Speech by the President]



Thank you for taking the time to join the Environmental Awards ceremony today.

"K" LINE Group Environmental Awards started in 2015 to achieve "K" LINE Environmental Vision 2050. This marks the sixth year of the awards and we received 22 entries. One Grand Award winner and six Excellence Award winners have been selected. As in previous years, this year's ceremony takes place on June 5, which is designated by the United Nations as World Environment Day.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are holding the commendation ceremony online this year and Grand Award winner Seagate Corporation is with us here representing the award winners. I would like to congratulate all award winners including those who are not here today.

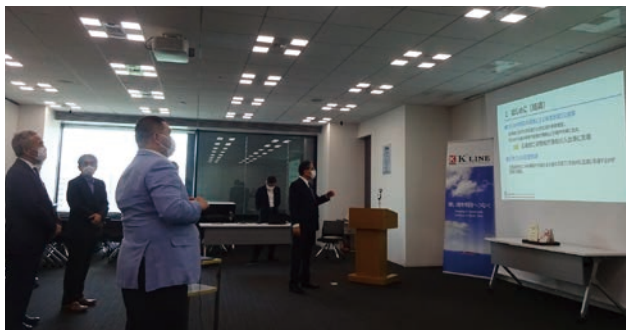
With the spread of COVID-19, many countries and cities imposed lockdowns, which brought about the stagnation of economic activities and the temporary decline in demand for logistics. Unavoidably, our business operations have suffered significant impacts. Now, all our executives and staff members are concerting their efforts to minimize the impacts. Meanwhile, contributions toward making society sustainable is one of the important responsibilities of the "K" LINE Group, which originated from marine transportation. It will take on greater importance in the COVID-19 period. To hone the "K" LINE Group's great strengths in safety, environment and quality, we will continue to engage in the Group-wide commitment to conserving the global and marine environments through the "K" LINE Group Environmental Awards, among others. The "K" LINE

Group has Drive Green Network for facilitating its environmental commitment. The network is in its fourth year and will strengthen the worldwide dissemination of information on our Group's environmental commitment while facilitating feedback on our activities in many different places. In this way the network will expand bidirectionally. Everyone is expected to take the initiative in our commitment to environmental conservation at their respective workplace.

In March 2015, we formulated "K" LINE Environmental Vision 2050. This was revised as we achieved the intermediate goal for 2019 and with consideration for the latest social conditions. Construction of our LNG-fueled car carrier will be completed within this fiscal year and we will launch the LNG bunkering business. We will exceed our IMO goal for 2030, namely 40% improvement of CO2 emission efficiency. To this end, we will combine many different technologies, both tangible and intangible, such as K-IMS and SEAWING. The former is an integrated system for controlling the operation and performance of a ship, while the latter is an automatic kite system. We will promptly work on these goals and research on hydrogen, ammonia and other next-generation fuels as well as technologies for the reduction of GHG emissions, such as CCS, in the Safety and Environmental Technology Project Team and the Alternative Fuel Project Team, which launched in April this year.

The other day, the Ship Recycling Sub-Committee of the Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA) received the JASNAOE Award for Social Contribution from the Japan Society of Naval Architects and Ocean Engineers. JSA's activity for encouraging green ship recycling has spurred improvements in ship recycling facilities in India, which led to the ratification of a treaty there in November last year. The winner of the award obtained a high rating for these achievements. The role of the head of the Ship Recycling Sub-Committee has traditionally been held by our executives and we believe that they greatly contributed to winning the award.

As we explore coexistence with COVID-19, people's interest in the environment will grow as they begin to pursue a sustainable society. Our commitment to environmental conservation will take on greater importance. I want all staff members of the "K" LINE Group to proactively become involved. In addition, I want you to avoid infection with COVID-19 and I hope that you and your families are well.



[Grand Award] (1 winner)

Grand Award goes to an activity that meets the aim of the Environmental Awards and can be identified with the "K" LINE Group.

Grand Award**Support activities for landing work of floating debris, driftwood by a heavy rain in Western Japan recovered by a marine environment maintenance ship in Hiroshima Bay****<Seagate Corporation>**

Regarding the floating marine debris that had been leaked into Hiroshima Bay due to the heavy rain disaster in Western Japan that occurred in July 2018 and endangered the daily operation of ships, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism's Chugoku Regional Development Bureau carried out the recovery work using a marine environment maintenance ship, "Ondo 2000," owned by the Chugoku Regional Development Bureau. In 2019, Seagate Corporation mobilized its 60-ton crane truck and technical staff to engage in the landing work of these collected waste.

In FY2019, the company carried out the joint work five times in the intervals between the unloading work for steel products from domestic ships as normal business, and cooperated in the disposal of 100 tons of marine floating waste in total.

Initiated in response to a request from the Chugoku Regional Development Bureau, the activity was highly regarded for its continuity, contribution to the environment and ripple effects based on the fact that it extensively contributed to the regional society in terms of marine safety and environmental conservation.

**[Excellence Award]** (6 winners in no particular order)

Excellence Award goes to an activity that, irrespective of its size, can be recognized as excellent in terms of creativity, continuity and other respects.

Excellence Award**Reducing the number of tugs usage by improvement of gantry crane parking method at Oi Terminal No. 2****<Daito Corporation>**

Based on the pilot undertaking criteria, letting a ship enter the port at Oi Terminal No. 2 is supposed to use only one tugboat to prevent contact that may result depending on where the gantry crane is parked. However, the terminal used two tugboats on some occasions for unavoidable reasons.

Daito Corporation redid the mooring diagram, and cooperated with yard operators and concerned companies in improving the method of parking cargo handling equipment and reviewing the information provided to pilots and a ship. Consequently, the company succeeded in reducing the use of tugboats without affecting the cargo handling work.

The reduction of fuel use in tugboats lead to the conservation of the marine environment and the reduction of greenhouse gases. In particular, the amount of reduction is equivalent to 200-liter heavy fuel oil A and 542 kg-CO₂/L of CO₂ emissions in a tugboat per activity (nearly two hours).

Daito Corporation reviewed what could be improved in the workplace, its materials and human resources and had a significant and positive impact on the environment by gaining cooperation from many of the concerned departments in the company. Based on this achievement, the company was highly rated for contributing to the environment and exerting ripple effects.



Excellence Award

Marine environment conservation activities through community-based beach cleaning

<"K" LINE Chile Ltda>

The award winner cooperated with Fundación Mar de Chile, a local NGO, and participated in beach cleaning. Each participant from "K" LINE Chile Ltda (hereinafter "KCL") formed a team with five local children and recorded the type and amount to see what kind of garbage was there and in what quantity in addition to picking up garbage. In this way, the activity deepened the children's knowledge of and interest in the marine environment. The beach cleaning was followed by a port tour for KCL staff members at the San Antonio Port.

The activity is participation in an existing program, and it educated local children and cleaned the environment. In addition, it raises environmental awareness among KCL staff members. Based on that fact, the KCL's activity was highly rated for its contribution to the environment, ripple effects and continuity.

*Number of volunteers and amount of garbage collected on the same beach in the last three years (overall statistics of the NGO activity)

2017: 95 volunteers and 6,000 kilograms (KCL did not participate)

2018: 135 volunteers and 1,650 kilograms (KCL did not participate)

2019: 200 volunteers and 1,500 kilograms (KCL participated)



Excellence Award

Switch to eco bags from disposable black plastic trash bags in warehouse

<"K" LINE Container Service (Thailand) Ltd.>

Operating on an on-site basis, "K" LINE Container Service (Thailand) Ltd. (hereinafter "KCST") generated a large amount of waste specific to a warehouse company, such as used paper pallets, transparent wrap and bands for binding and fixing cargo, in addition to regular garbage and waste bottles and cans. Conventionally, the paper and plastic waste generated within the warehouse was put into black plastic bags before disposal. Two years ago, KCST switched its subcontractor to a company that would supply free returnable eco bags for the waste and collect the waste for free.

Now, all four locations of KCST use nearly 100 plastic bags per day for the waste specific to a warehouse company. Purchasing the plastic bags would cost monthly average 170,000 yen and 2 million yen yearly. In 2019, KCST saved an expenditure of 2 million yen. (Black plastic bags are still used to dispose of garbage, waste bottles and waste cans.)

At the same time, KCST achieved the reduction of CO2 emissions from the plastic bags.

A judge said that besides the direct effects in cost reduction and resource conservation, many of the Thai colleagues are growing aware of their contribution, irrespective of its degree, to the environmental commitment and they are becoming confident that they reached a higher level of virtue. The activity was highly regarded in terms of creativity and contribution to the environment, because it is very meaningful in terms of changing the staff's awareness.



Excellence Award

Food Redistribution

< Century Distribution Systems, Inc. (Hong Kong Office)>

Twenty-three staff members and five guests from their strategic partner spent a half-day participating in a volunteer activity organized by an NGO where they took part in food preparation, which involves vegetable inspecting, sorting, and cutting. Five hundred and twenty kilograms of donated vegetables were processed and used to prepare more than 4,000 portions of nutritious and hot meals, which were provided free of charge to the elderly, low-income families, and other disadvantaged communities in Hong Kong. The volunteer activity served as an opportunity for staff members to learn about how food waste poses problems for the environment. They also learn that disposing of food wasted the food itself and the costs associated with land, water, labor, fertilizer, and other factors relating to food production.

The activity involves participation in an existing program and the judges highly rated it for its diversity. The focus on food waste issues represents the creative aspect of the activity, and it also contributes to society by leading to improvements in the environment surrounding nutrition-poor households.



Excellence Award

Create awareness in the office on environmentally friendly practices

<“K” Line Pte Ltd>



“K” LINE Pte Ltd. raises environmental awareness among its staff members as shown below after it joined the Drive Green Network in fiscal 2019.

1. The first kickoff meeting was held under the leadership of Mr. Hashizume, CEO.
2. An environmental meeting was held monthly.
3. During lunchtime, breaks or other occasions when many staff members are present, Mr. Hashizume, CEO encouraged them by exchanging opinions about the environment in an effort to raise environmental awareness.
4. At least one environment-related article was included in the quarterly in-house newsletter to spread related information throughout the company.
5. A video of information about waste recycling and other environmental issues was shown on the monitor screens placed in the pantries and offices for the purpose of spreading related information throughout the company.
6. “K” LINE Environmental Vision 2050, KLPL environmental targets, posters to encourage recycling and other related information were posted in the offices.
7. Some staff members spontaneously put up environmental targets and pledges on the walls of offices to encourage their colleagues’ involvement in the environmental commitment. (All staff members were involved.)
8. All staff members received a briefing and video training.
9. An awareness survey was conducted to verify the effects of the abovementioned activities. (Rate of response: 99%)

On an individual basis, these activities are small, however, they generate a significant multiplier effect where strong enthusiasm is felt. In addition, the way the CEO takes the initiative to exchange opinions with staff and educate them on the environment conveys his seriousness about the cause. Therefore, the company was highly rated for the ripple effects and continuity of its activities.

Excellence Award

Business process improvement action to improve the overall level of accident eradication, environmental conservation and operational efficiency

<Nitto Total Logistics Ltd>

For 12 years, Nitto Total Logistics has followed a PDCA cycle of setting a target, checking the monthly outcome, obtaining comments from superiors and conducting a review. The status of the efforts is checked, and the rate of achievement is verified at the annual in-house ISO committee meeting held in March. In this fiscal year, 47 teams participated in this activity and worked on priority matters such as workshops, eradication of accidents, sharing of information, cost reduction and 5S. On a company-wide average, the annual rate of achievement reached 87%, exceeding the target of 70%. The introduction of a work improvement system allows monthly outcomes of the efforts to be immediately shared throughout the company and helps reduce the consumption of photocopier paper.

In particular, Nitto Total Logistics considered organizing SOx workshops, reusing anti-load shift film to keep a cargo on a pallet, dispersing the tasks to be performed in the beginning of the month and reviewing the way to maintain a container warehouse that entails risk of offshore outflow, among others.

In addition to the activity with which the entry was made, Nitto Total Logistics also engages in the prevention of near miss accident and what we call KY (kiken yochi or danger prediction). Because they are closely correlated, all staff members work together in a continued effort to eradicate accidents, conserve the environment and streamline operations from many different directions. Nitto Total Logistics was highly rated for the ripple effects and continuity of its activity.

Achieving the goals set forth in "K" LINE Environmental Vision 2050 requires all executives, staff members and crew members of the "K" LINE Group to repeat low-profile efforts for environmental conservation in their everyday lives. Drive Green Network comprehensively leads the "K" LINE Group in its commitment to environmental management and is in the fourth year since its launch. The network will extend to the overseas affiliates that have yet to join and will deepen its efforts. Through "K" LINE Group Environmental Awards, we will continue trying to ensure that the environmental conservation activities of the "K" LINE Group companies are widely shared and will deepen the entire Group's commitment to the environment. Your cooperation is appreciated.

We will start accepting entries for the next Environmental Awards in the beginning of 2021.

We look forward to receiving many entries.

THANK YOU, SEAFARERS!!!! Messages of Support to Those Who Work at Sea!

Message of support from every department to our friends who aren't letting COVID-19 win and are working on the seas of the world!

"Where there is a will, there is a way. " Thanks so much for your untiring efforts to keep high quality on board and operation in such a hard situation of COVID-19. Wishing you and your family are all staying safe and praying that you can meet again with your dearest people asap, even a day sooner.

Thank you for always running a safe operation! Let's get through this difficult time together!

North America Team, Car Carrier Business Group



Your patience is proud & smiles of gratitude from those who love you. Do your best till happy disembarkation.

Marine Business Audits, Kobe Branch

We're sure all of you are dealing with difficult emotions, being forced to work onboard for a long period of time amidst spreading COVID-19 infections. We are truly grateful for all of you that are working every day for the safe operations of the K LINE fleet. Take care of yourselves.

Thermal Coal Group



As NCAP with responsibility for the Ise and Mikawa Bay region, we are thankful for the daily efforts of all our crew. In addition to normal safe operations and management of boat quality, you're required to respond to COVID-19, and we're sure the hard work on board is endless. Unlike those of us on land, we're sure you are also dealing with a great deal of stress and worry about your far away families. However, every day, efforts to establish knowledge and procedures aiming for a coexistence with COVID-19 measures continues across the globe. We pray that all of you and your family at home be healthy and safe, and we are waiting for you here in the Ise and Mikawa Bay region.

Marine Business Audits, Nagoya Branch

Thank you for always safe voyage. Please take good care of yourself. Don't forget that you have people waiting for you.

Australia-Asia Team, Car Carrier Business Group

Thank you for always safe voyage. Please take good care of yourself. We are always thankful for you. Don't forget that you have people waiting for you.

Australia-Asia Team, Car Carrier Business Group

We are deeply grateful that you continue with safe operations despite being forced to be on board for long periods of time and during this tough time with restrictions on repairs and inspections. All of us on land support you as one, and together we will get through these difficulties.

LNG Team No. 2, LNG Group

I don't have enough words to express my gratitude, but I really appreciate each of you on board! I hope things return to normal and you can see your family soonest.

To our crews - thank you for everything. It is a really tough time with COVID-19, so please take care of yourselves. We will support you as much as possible as operators, and we'll get through this together.

Europe Team, Car Carrier Business Group

To all our crews: thank you for your voyage and duties onboard. The containership business of transporting daily necessities around the world was shifted to ONE, but CBG will continue to support your safe operations, so keep it up.

Have a safe voyage!

Containerships Business Group



We are so grateful that you are smoothly delivering energy to Japan amidst this rough situation. All of us on land have come together and will support you, so let's get through this situation together.

LNG Team No. 1, LNG Group

Our HIGHWAY never stops thanks to your carefulness, diligence, and spirit! Hooray for all the crews!

Thanks to your awesome work, so many people can eat, sleep and spend time with their precious people.

Please be strong. Hope begins with a smile.

Middle East-Africa Team, Car Carrier Business Group

Even if people stop moving, logistics continues to work without stopping. Despite this, we've given you hard work to do without being able to properly change crews. We are incredibly grateful for all your efforts in supporting global marine transportation. We pray for a safe voyage for you.

Marine Personnel Team, Marine Human Resources Group

The world is giving thanks for frontline healthcare workers, but we also want to offer thanks and respect to your seamanship, supporting marine logistics. We once again have felt that you are reliable and confident friends. Putting the safety and health of everyone first, we wish for your continued safe operations.

Seafarers Policy Team, Marine Human Resources Group

We are so grateful that you are devoted to your duties regardless of the coronavirus situation. Keep up the good work. We hope the pandemic will come to an end soon.

Latin America Team, Car Carrier Business Group

We've made life very inconvenient for all of you with our infection prevention measures. I think these tough times will continue for a while, but I hope that you will make safety a priority.

Hideaki Nishio, Manager of Safety and Quality Management Group



We are so grateful that, through all your great contributions, you have continued providing services amidst this difficult situation. This hard situation will continue on, but let's all come together and get through this predicament.

LNG Team No. 3, LNG Group

Without a doubt, our marine transportation business is supporting the foundation of people's lives. I am truly thankful for everyone's seamanship in working on safe operations amidst the pandemic. Thank you in advance for your continued efforts.

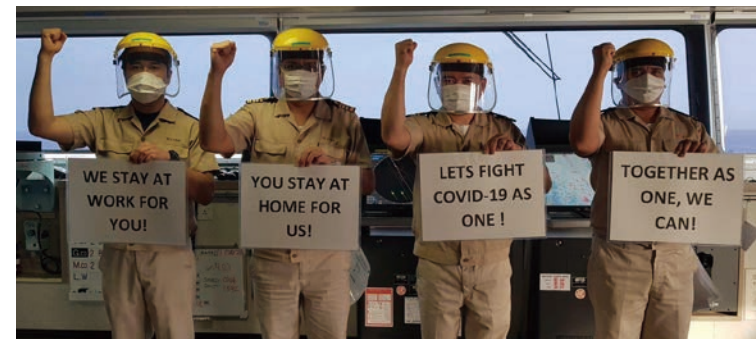
Hideaki Nishio, Manager of Safety and Quality Management Group

We want to thank you for all your daily efforts in supporting marine logistics, which are essential to everyday life, despite the anxieties of risk of infection from coming ashore and of not being able to visit family due to the spreading coronavirus. Please take care of yourselves.

Tanker Group

No Seaman, No life! Your hard working onboard save our lives!!

Technical & Quality Management Team,
Car Carrier Quality and Operations Group



Presenting a Movie to Support Crews Whose Duty Has Been Prolonged: Delivery to Our Friends at Sea!! Messages to Connect with Family!!

Due to travel restrictions in many countries following the spread of the novel coronavirus, our friends continue to be unable to return to their countries or go to their families, despite working at sea day and night to support the lives of people around the world.

We made this movie with feelings of thankfulness and encouragement for the crews all around the world and as a message to connect the men and women working at sea with their supporting families. Check out our yells of support for our friends. We look forward to messages of support for our crews in the comments on the YouTube, as well.

KlineMovie "THANK YOU SEAFARERS" - UNSUNG HEROES -

■ <https://youtu.be/lo7ey4vMoIs>

■ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1RM3V5SfRkD6nIPJZE0bcA>

At Narita ~Report on My Experience of Japan's Airport Protection Measures~

Contributed by Mr. Goichi Tsuruta, PT. K Line Indonesia

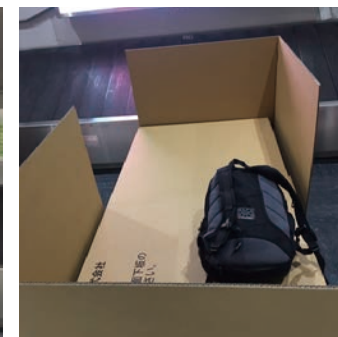
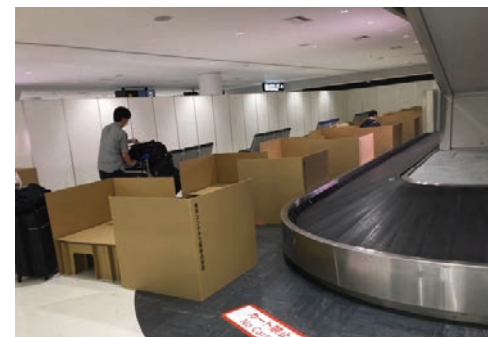


"We have now arrived at Narita Airport. This is Captain XX. Since we expect that quarantine and other procedures upon arrival will take a long time today, we wanted to do what little we could to reduce your burden, and so were able to go as quickly as possible and arrive one hour ahead of schedule."

This was a wonderful announcement made upon arrival at Narita Airport at 14:40 on April 22. It was aboard the ANA flight bringing me back from Indonesia to Japan for a short visit. As a control measure of COVID-19 infection, Japan implemented PCR testing of travelers entering the country from risk areas upon arrival, requesting self-isolation for 14 days from the day after arrival even if the result was negative. This also came to apply to Indonesia from April 3. The families of resident employees in Indonesia had already started leaving in mid-March due to concerns about

the spread of the infection and the medical care. In April, more and more resident employees were also returning to Japan. Many companies also decided on (temporary) travel to Japan in the week from April 24 because public safety usually becomes worse during Ramadan and because of concerns that the disease might spread due to people eating together and returning home after the fast. The number of passengers on the plane was about half the capacity as middle seats were left empty. Although there were no in-flight magazines or duty-free sales aboard, services like movies and in-flight meals were provided as usual. Despite the added experience of filling out a medical form in the air, the 6.5-hour flight was a comfortable one. However, looking around, I saw that most people, like myself, were unable to hide their unease about the medical process that awaited. This was because people who had gone back before had said that it took two hours to get off the plane, that they had to wait five hours in a cold corridor for the PCR testing, and that there was no food or water. What we were told required quite a lot of preparedness, such as that convenience-store rice balls would be the only food at the stand-by hotel, that some would have to wait in provisional rooms made from cardboard since there were not enough rooms in the hotels where were to await the test results, and that we might be taken to Chubu Airport instead.

In any case, after a while, there was an in-flight announcement saying that we would be divided into groups of ten and allowed to disembark in order to prevent crowding and confusion at the testing. The order was 1) passengers transiting to international flights at Narita, followed by business-class passengers 2) passengers who were going home to stand by after the PCR testing without using public transportation, and 3) passengers who would await the PCR test results in facilities readied by the government and then move to stand-by



locations at home or at a hotel. After that came the economy-class passengers. It was in groups of ten, but since it was five to ten minutes between each group, I think it took about 1–1.5 hours before the last person was off.

I chose to stay at a hotel after the testing, even if it turned out negative, to avoid causing trouble for my family if worst comes to worst, so I booked 14 nights at a hotel near Narita Airport. Fortunately, I had upgraded to business class so I qualified as 3) and could get off the plane quickly. My turn came at 15:20. Following instructions from the cabin attendants, ten of us formed a line with space between each and headed for the quarantine station. We quietly walked for about five minutes without feeling any excitement over having come back to Japan. First was the document inspection with long desks lined up in the corridor and one quarantine officer standing by each. There, our papers were checked, we agreed to the PCR test, were informed about how to get to our stand-by locations afterward, and told other important points. The PCR test came right after that. It took place in a small room lightly walled off by a partition and curtain on one side of the corridor, a simple construction. I sat down and the doctor performing the inspection nicely told me "Pull down your mask just beneath your nose and look up" and "Looks good." There was almost no pain involved and it was all over in five seconds. It was quite abrupt, but I did sweat a bit when thinking that this would decide my fate.



After that, when the number of those going to the hotel had reached a certain level (eight people), we were led by staff to immigration (face recognition) and baggage reclaim. Until this point, everything had been very smooth and it had only been 30 minutes since disembarkation. The eight of us then met up again and we moved to the rumored cardboard room. They had made a waiting area in the form of a cardboard room in one corner of the checked-in baggage reclaim area. A staff member explained that we would wait there for a bus to take us to the hotel prepared by the government. We were told that those going to Osaka and others interested could go to Chubu International Airport so I was relieved to hear that we wouldn't have to spend the night there. We were also given a bottle of water and a light snack. Yet it was a bit chilly for someone who had just come from Indonesia. I put on the thin jacket that I had brought for this purpose. After waiting about two hours, my turn finally came at 17:50 and I could get on a bus. Twenty people were allowed on each bus, and the seats were covered in plastic and the window curtains closed and likewise covered with plastic. This reminded me how extremely vigilant they were of us as returnees. We reached the stand-by hotel after about 20 minutes, where a staff member from the quarantine station came aboard and told us what to think about during the stand-by period. The PCR test results would come on the morning two days later (24th) and if negative, we would be allowed to travel to our self-isolation location before noon. Until then, we couldn't take even a step outside our rooms. We would get three meals a day, but they would be hung on our doorknobs so we should receive them after the public announcement. We were not allowed to drink alcohol or smoke throughout the stay, and so forth. We were then given our box dinner (not just a rice ball, but wonderful side dishes as well! The Japanese flavors made me cry) and went to our rooms. Cramped and cold, but heaven compared to the cardboard. I felt grateful to the hotel that took us in, the staff, and everyone at the quarantine station as I went to bed.

So came the fateful phone call to my room at 7:30 on the morning of the 24th. "I am calling you as we have received a notification from the Narita Quarantine Station. Your PCR test result was negative."

Great. I immediately felt happier. I packed and got on a bus provided by the quarantine station at around 10. Mine was going to hotels near Narita Airport (others went to hotels near Haneda Airport and near Shinagawa and Tennozu) and so it took me to my hotel, thus initiating my long stay until check-out on May 7. The hotel room was spacious and I was allowed to use the convenience store and restaurant inside the hotel, so it was no problem getting three meals a day. The WiFi was great as well. There was a coin laundry so I could wash too. I was allowed to go outside for health purposes. Narita was perfect for this as the surrounding areas were forest and paddy fields where you could take a one-hour walk without running into many people at all. I went for a 40-minute run every morning, breathing the fresh air to cleanse my lungs of Jakarta's air pollution. I never felt better! During my stay, I wore a face mask whenever leaving the room (also for my runs!) and didn't speak to anybody except for the convenience-store staff. At the same time, I would feel fear in the form of anger at Japanese people who are supposed to be from the same company laughing and talking without masks in the lobby and elsewhere as well

as at foreigners having drinks. During the days, I worked remotely via the Internet connection. I had been working remotely and tried not to go outside so much even before coming back to Japan, so in that sense my working and living environment hadn't changed much. However, because I was following the Indonesian calendar and times, I ended up working throughout the Japanese Golden Week, which was both a matter of course and a miscalculation. I checked out from the hotel on May 7 and started working from home.



The "large-scale social restrictions" in Jakarta that started on April 10 have been extended until the end of June as of today (June 7). The latest news is that Indonesia has 31,186 infected (672 more than the previous day) and 1,851 dead (50 more).

P.S.

As Ramadan is over and we are expecting the gradual recommencement of economic activities, I started my trip back to Indonesia on June 5 (Friday). Indonesia allows foreigners with visas to enter, but there is a lot of advance information about PCR being mandatory upon arrival and isolation at the Asian Games Village and hotels. I had an examination in advance at a hospital that provides special PCR testing at one's own expense, and headed to Narita with my certificate to show that I was not infected with COVID-19 and my health certificate. The airport was empty, and all duty-free stores closed except for one or two. The flight arrived at 23:40, a bit ahead of time. I was nervous about what would happen, but my COVID-19 certificate did what it was supposed to and I got through quarantine and immigration without any trouble. I was able to get back to my apartment and rest by 1 a.m. Today is the second day of my 14-day isolation at home. Although the infectious spread has not stopped in Jakarta, I am told restrictions are being eased in stages. I hear that worship in mosques will be resumed and shopping malls reopened. There are fears that the spread will increase again because of this, but all I can do is pray that by the time this article is published, it will have calmed down to some extent and the "new normal" life promoted by the president has started.

As Japan is heading toward summer it will become more difficult to manage one's health, but I wish that all of you will be able to take care and stay healthy and safe.



My Way of Enjoying Staying at Home During the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration

Sewing Machine Appeals to Me

Ms. Megumi Madono, Finance Team, Finance Group

I used to go out at least once a day. I thought about how stressful it would be if I stayed home. However, I enjoyed cooking with leftovers using Cookpad, watching movies on Amazon Prime, and taking Thai classes online. I learned you can do anything on the Internet.

Looking around my room, I spotted a new-looking, unused sewing machine and loads of unused fabric.

I took sewing classes two years ago, but I have not attended for two months. It seemed as though the sewing machine told me to use it and I started sewing out of a sense of guilt. Soon I found sewing fun. It was pleasant to see the assembled pieces of fabric take shape. It was more moving than I expected when I finished making something.

Later, I spotted the bread machine that has been unused for three years. Should I use it now?



Online Birthday Surprise

Ms. Rena Michiki, Energy Transportation Planning & Development Team, Energy Business Planning Group

Since I started to stay at home, I have tried many activities that others have probably tried, such as watching Netflix, reading, cleaning and cooking. Feeling a bit tired of doing almost the same things every day, I decided to have an online drinking party with my friends from high school.

When it was time, I clicked on the specified link while getting excited about seeing them for the first time in a while. Then, suddenly, I heard firecrackers exploding and the birthday song being sung on my headphones. Some of the participants had planned to celebrate the birthday of those who recently had a birthday, including me. It was an online birthday surprise because we could not see each other in person at the moment. Some people changed the background image using the collage feature, and others sent a gift to my mobile phone. I was grateful for their kindness. It was such a happy moment during a boring time. I felt their warmth through online communication. I have no idea when we can see each other face to face again. Why not try an online surprise for someone?

Virtual Trip with a Glass of Whisky

Mr. Asuka Nishii, Energy Transportation Planning & Development Team, Energy Business Planning Group

Every year, I go to my parents' house during Golden Week. However, due to the pandemic of COVID19, I enjoyed drinking whisky at home this year. I keep several kinds of whisky bottles at home, so I fully enjoyed tasting the different flavors of the various whiskies.

Whiskey has a profound taste and multiple elements create its diversity such as types of aging barrels, length of aging and place of production. It means each whiskey has individual taste depending on how these elements are combined.

Among the many types of whiskey, Islay Whisky is the type I love. The distilleries of Islay Whisky are located near the sea, which gives a scent of the ocean to the taste. They smoke peat when drying malt, the raw material of whisky, and this unique process makes whisky taste smoky. That flavor reminds me of retro distilleries facing the ocean and the landscape of the vast moor.





The Community Where I Live ~Tianjin~

Contributed by Mr. Kenichiro Ichiki, K LINE Zhenhua Logistics (Tianjin)

Hello, everyone. I am Kenichiro Ichiki. I have worked in Tianjin since October 2018. Today, I would like to talk about how things are in Tianjin.



Even now, you must wear a mask when going out.

What do you think of Tianjin, China? If you are a member of "K" Line, K LINE Zhenhua Logistics, which is a joint venture with Zhenhua Logistics and "K" Line, may come to mind.

How about other people? They may think of tenshinhan (Tianjin rice), Tianjin amaguri (sweet chestnuts), or a city possibly next to Beijing. In fact, there are no dishes called tenshinhan or Tianjin rice here. If you say "tenshinhan" in Tianjin, a discussion about the character from Dragon Ball will ensue in most cases. The chestnuts from Tianjin are famous and delicious, although they are not called sweet chestnuts.

About Tianjin

Tianjin is one of the four municipalities under the direct administration of the Chinese central government (the other cities are Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing). It is the center of the economy and trade in Northern China, with an international port at Bohai Bay.

The population is approximately 15.6 million (as of the end of 2019), 97% of which is Han. There are believed to be fewer than 3,000 Japanese residents.

Tianjin is a city of manufacturing. The key industries are automobile, aerospace and electric machinery.

Tianjin is located at a latitude of 38.34 degrees north and longitude of 116.42 degrees east (almost the same as Akita Prefecture, Japan), in the northeastern part of the North China Plain.

The total area of the city is about 11.916 square kilometers, which is also almost the same as Akita Prefecture.

The plain takes up 95% of the land, and the remaining 5% comprises low mountains and hills. Five rivers (Southern Canal, Northern Canal, Ziya River, Daqing River, and Yongding River) join together in the suburbs of Tianjin to form the Hai River, which is 72 kilometers in total and runs across the city in an almost east to west direction, leading to Bohai Bay. The Hai River is the main river and is a symbol of the city for the citizens of Tianjin.

Climate in Tianjin

It has a dry climate throughout the year. Spring and fall are short, summer is very hot and winter is extremely cold. In summer, the maximum air temperature is at least 30°C, and you can find many men swimming in the urban part of the Hai River. On the other hand, in winter, the minimum temperature is as low as -10°C, and sometimes, even the maximum temperature remains below zero. Needless to say, the Hai River is frozen during winter. Children enjoy ice skating, while men enjoy fishing on ice.

You may have difficulty imagining -10°C. Let me tell you about my work outfit on a winter day.

Tops and outerwear: a HEATTECH undershirt, a shirt, a light sweater and a down coat. (You can buy Canada Goose cheaply in China for some reason.)

Bottoms and shoes: HEATTECH underwear, HEATTECH trousers and boots. (You can buy UGGs cheaply in China for some reason.)

You have to be fully protected when going out in winter.

On the other hand, the district heating system warms the house sufficiently to allow you to wear only a shirt.

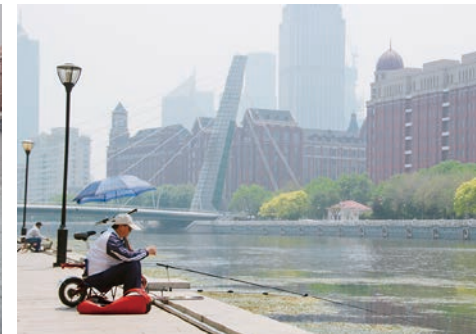
My motto is, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." True to that, I have already gone swimming in the Hai River and went skating on it when it was frozen. I am thinking about getting equipment and trying ice fishing this winter.

The Tianjin Streetscape

Tianjin opened as an international port under the Convention of Peking between China, Great Britain, and France in 1860. Then, concessions were openly ruled by nine countries including Great Britain, the U.S., France, Japan, Italy, Russia and Germany. That is why you can still find buildings in the architectural styles of these countries. The city is something like a museum of foreign concession architecture. The old town in Tianjin is located along the Hai River. A street called Jiefang Beilu running along the river used to be the center of economy and finance in Northern China when there were foreign concessions in Tianjin. Therefore, there are many different remnants from those times built in different foreign architectural styles, such as the German Club, the British Club, and the Tianjin office of Yokohama Specie Bank. The street is very appealing if you like colonial styles. When I started to work in Tianjin, I was surprised to find the preserved concession architecture still in use here and there.



Hai River frozen in winter



Hai River, the main river in Tianjin

Living in Tianjin

[Transport]

I commute by subway. The base fare is two yuan (about 30 yen). It only costs eight yuan (120 yen) even if you take a subway train from the starting station to the terminal station. It is much cheaper than in Japan.

There are bikes for bicycle sharing placed (or abandoned) throughout the city. You can easily use them with your smartphone. The fee is less than two yuan if you use it for 30 minutes. It is very convenient, eco-friendly and helps you exercise.

However, I cannot help but take a very cheap taxi (the starting fare is 11 yuan).

[Eating]

Tianjin cuisine is salty and looks brown, containing lots of seafood. The portions are generally big. Many people have goubuli,*1 the famous stuffed baozi, in the city, young or old, male or female, daytime or nighttime.

The Tianjin-style crepe called jianbing is the standard breakfast for Tianjin people. They do not make jianbing at home, but get it from numerous stalls in the morning, before work.

[Mobile payments and package delivery services]

Mobile payments and home delivery services are essential when discussing today's China. Making payments with a smartphone has become standard in Tianjin. You rarely use cash here. All you need is smartphone when you eat out, use the subway, or shop at a convenience store. In addition, my wife gives me an allowance via smartphone. Without a smartphone, you cannot live there.

Home delivery services are satisfactory in Tianjin. Almost all restaurants including fast food offer delivery services*2. They will even deliver a cup of coffee to your home or office. Without such services, it will be very inconvenient. My family orders food delivery in Tianjin more easily and frequently than in Japan.

*1 The Chinese word literally means "even dogs will not eat it," although there are different opinions. Google it if you are interested.

*2 Meituan Dianping and Ele.me are the two largest online delivery services. They deliver food to individuals for affordable prices (about three yuan).



The Tianjin streetscape

Business Environment in Tianjin and Tianjin's Character

There are many industries that require large amounts of capital and it is difficult for them to withdraw after starting in Tianjin, such as the automobile industry, including Toyota and Volkswagen, the aerospace industry, including Airbus, and the pharmaceutical industry. The successful development of such industries in Tianjin is because of the first-class port. Another possible reason is that the industries match the character of Tianjin citizens who are conservative, enjoy stability and hesitate to embrace change.

In fact, many people have lived in Tianjin since they were born at an overwhelming rate. It seems that the city has fewer immigrants than other areas. Most staff members at my office come from Tianjin.

“知足常樂” is a phrase that Tianjin people use to describe their character, and means “knowing how to enjoy yourself at all times.” Tianjin citizens and Japanese people seem tend to have similar ways of being satisfied. I think both have good chemistry together.

There are over 20,000 slightly affluent people, with total assets of over 10 million yuan (150 million yen) and about 2,000 affluent people with total assets of over 100 million yuan (1.5 billion yen) in Tianjin, while Tianjin people are said to understand contentment. Clearly, there is a great difference in contentment between Chinese and Japanese.

Eventually

Tianjin is a discreet, small city next to Beijing. However, I have become charmed by the city the longer I live there and learn about it.

I have recognized anew that a city, its culture and customs are the consequence of the people, that is, living in an area, eating local food, speaking the local language, and enjoying the local environment. I appreciate my fate: I am living and working in the city. I enjoy living here in Tianjin.

A Small Digression

I spotted Mr. K, a good senior colleague of mine, in the spring 2020 issue of Ocean Breeze. I recognized him although the photo was edited for privacy reasons. According to the article, Mr. K was on a diet. Sensing a rivalry, I decided to lose weight and set up Tianjin Diet Club (TDC). I had enjoyed the delicious Chinese food and much cheaper beer (a 365 mL can of beer costs only 50 yen) since my assignment to Tianjin and had gained weight over time. I started to diet by not finishing my lunch even if I was the only member of TDC. Here in Tianjin, the portions are very big. A standard bowl of ramen is the size of a very big bowl in Japan. You cannot help but gain weight. See the results when you visit me in Tianjin for a business trip or vacation.



Street breakfast