



# OCEAN BREEZE

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No. 204 2023 Winter

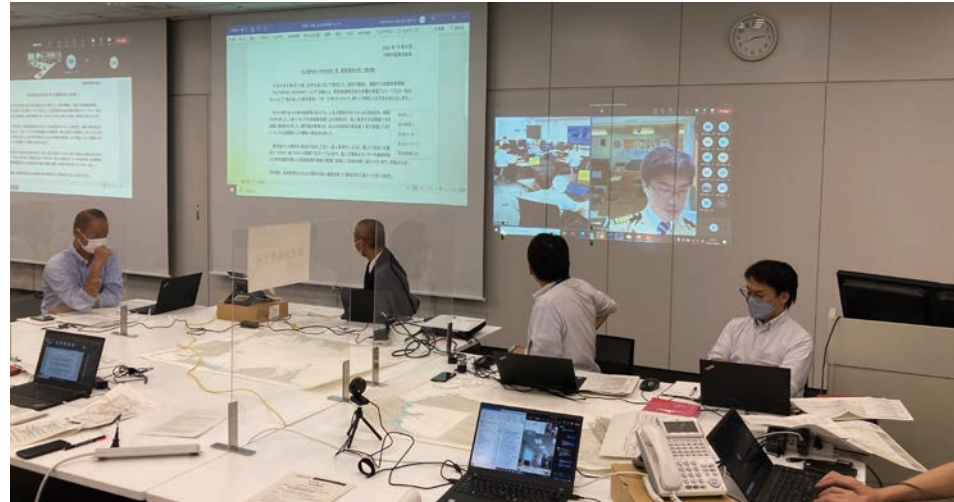
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## Conduct Emergency Response Exercise 2022

"K" Line Marine Solutions Co., Ltd.

An emergency response exercise was performed on October 6, 2022 as an emergency response training for major maritime accidents with some employees working from home. The scenario of the exercise develops as an operating car carrier collides with a ferry in Kii Channel. The accident results in missing people, injuries, and oil spilling from the ferry.

The overview is as follows.



### Accident Scenario

A ship heading north in the Kii Channel toward Kobe Port, the port of loading, collides with a coastal shipping ferry, which is heading south.

The starboard side fuel tank of the ferry is punctured, which causes fuel oil to spill through the hole. Three of the ferry's crew are missing, and some members of the crews of both ships are injured.



When we were notified that the accident had occurred, we established a task force for the company's response to the accident. We checked to ensure that information related to the state of the car carrier, human life, spilled oil, etc. were collected properly from parties, both internal and external and that the required actions and notification system would be implemented smoothly.

In the same way as the last year, we assumed the response to the emergency would use online tools in our conduct of the emergency response exercise to limit COVID-19 infections.

Partially because of the continued use of the online system since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, communication with the action teams was more smooth than in the previous exercise throughout the exercise.

At the end of the exercise, a mock press conference was held at HIBIKOKU CONFERENCE SQUARE. For this press conference, it was assumed that the accident occurred as the Representative Director was overseas on business, so Vice President Asano, Director Sonobe, Senior Managing Executive Officer Aya, and Director Takimoto of "K" Line RoRo Bulk Ship Management Co., Ltd. conducted the press conference. In a realistic tense atmosphere, people from consulting companies acting as reporters, asked the people on the podium many insightful questions to the people, and provided valuable commentary.

We will prepare for unexpected situation through this emergency response exercise and also enhance safety in navigation and cargo operations, environmental conservation, and transportation quality while implementing safety culture awareness-raising activities for employees on the sea and ashore, such as the Safety Campaign.

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude to all the people who participated and cooperated in this exercise.



## We Welcome Your Applications for the "K" Line Group Environmental Awards 2023!!

Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group

The "K" Line Group Environmental Awards were established in March 2015 to ensure that all executives, employees and crew members working for the "K" Line Group are committed to preserving the environment and biodiversity, aiming to achieve the goals set in "K" LINE Environmental Vision 2050. This is the 9th year since the establishment of the awards.

The closing date for applications for the "K" Line Group Environmental Awards is March 17, 2023 (Fri.) (deadline for reception by the administrative organization). Why don't you take this opportunity to introduce the eco-friendly activities you are engaged in?

We look forward to your energetic applications. For details about applying, please see the following:

### Details of application

#### 1. Period covered

- Your activity must have occurred during the period from January to December 2022.  
(This includes activities that started before this period. It is possible to resubmit projects that were submitted before.)

#### 2. Application period

January 10, 2023 (Tue.) through March 17, 2023 (Fri.) Note: deadline for reception by the administrative organization

#### 3. Eligibility

- Individuals, groups, or organizations of the "K" LINE Group (including the "K" LINE Group itself)

#### 4. Applicable activities

- Activities contributing to the conservation of the marine environment
- Activities contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the prevention of air pollution
- Activities contributing to the biodiversity conservation
- Activities contributing to other environmental conservation efforts

#### 5. Review

Around early April

#### 6. Award Presentation Ceremony

Early June (scheduled)

#### 7. Public relations

There will be a press release about the award presentation results and they will be posted in OCEAN BREEZE (Summer issue).



### We will distribute detailed information including application forms to related parties.

#### • Contact information for the administrative organization

Secretariat of the Awards, Environment Management Team, Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management,  
IR and Communication Group  
kljtyoemt@jp.kline.com



## Miho's Dream Journey Goes Across the Wilderness of the Sea ~Towards the Reduction of Plastic Waste~

Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group

ECO BRIDGE is underway in the Pacific Ocean.

Miho and the Eco Chief Officer, who have finished a job on the bridge, are taking a break.



Recently, the number of cafeterias, etc. that are using paper straws has been increasing.



Miho



Eco Chief Officer

Indeed. It is almost a year since the new Law for Recycling Plastic Materials came into effect. We have seen many companies' efforts to reduce the use of plastics by providing paper straws, etc.

The passing of this Law was greatly related to the marine plastic waste issue.

This is a big concern.



As you said before, globally, marine plastics are considered to be problematic.

**Review of the information on marine plastic waste we have previously shared:**

- It is believed that approximately 8 million tons of plastic waste flows into the oceans annually.
- There is a report that the amount of plastic waste will exceed the amount of fish by 2050.
- External factors such as the sun's ultraviolet rays, the action of the ocean waves, rocks and sand break down marine plastic waste into smaller particles. Pieces of plastic that are 5 mm or smaller are called microplastics.
- Marine creatures and marine birds eat plastics, mistaking them for food. They cannot digest plastics, and plastics remain in their bodies.
- There is also a report stating that humans consume an average of 5 g of plastic via fish, etc. every week.



In addition, the Basel Convention,\*<sup>1</sup> which was revised in 2021, has tightened restrictions on the export of waste plastic. Though the export volume has been decreasing year by year, Japan exports more plastic waste than other countries. Due to the revision of the Basel Convention, the requests that we properly recycle used plastics in Japan are greater than ever.

I see that the background behind the use of paper straws is complex.  
What other efforts are companies making to reduce plastic waste?



Eco Captain

Well, toiletries made of plastic, which are provided at hotels and inns (such as tooth brushes, razors, and combs), are also subject to the new Law for Recycling Plastic Materials. Changing these products to wooden products to reduce the volume of plastic used is another effort to reduce plastic waste.

In addition to changing the materials used, companies are making efforts to reduce plastic waste by giving points or sweets to guests as a reward for not using these toiletries or by collecting used tooth brushes, etc. for recycling.



Toiletries made of wood can have more excellent and stronger designs, and you can use them even in your everyday life after traveling.

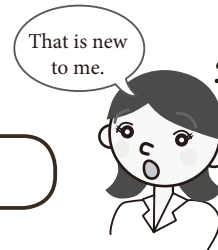


Yes. It is expected that providing high-quality toiletries and letting guests take them home will increase customer satisfaction and the number of repeat customers. Also, enabling stylish toiletries to function as novelty goods may increase word of mouth and social media buzz.



Some food-related companies are engaged in initiatives to change the materials used in food packages to paper, biodegradable plastics, etc.

Recently, the LOOP initiative for reducing plastic waste has also begun. It is a recycling-oriented shopping platform in which various companies participate.



What is the LOOP initiative?



LOOP is an initiative for reducing single-use plastics by changing the containers for commodities and foods to reusable and durable containers under its mission, "Eliminating the Idea of Waste." More specifically, they sell products using reusable containers, collect, wash, and refill used containers, and then sell them again.

Used containers are washed at a factory after collection. One of the features of LOOP is that they simply require that you put used containers in the collection box they have installed like you would normally throw them out or send them to LOOP in a dedicated bag.

The system is simple and similar to the conventional bottled milk delivery system.



The order of priority in the use of waste is 1. Reuse, 2. Repurpose (reusing products for different purposes), and 3. Recycle. I have heard before that the implementation of reuse is the most important!



Indeed. Actually, an LCA (Life Cycle Assessment)\*2 of a glass bottle reuse system and the comparison of the situation when glass bottles are recycled and when they are reused show there is a huge advantage when the bottles are reused just once, and the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decrease as they are repeatedly reused.



In this system, the bottles are not disposable. They are reused repeatedly, which means that bottles are assets of their manufacturer.

Therefore, the manufacturer will invest more money in the bottles and the importance of the production of durable bottles with excellent designs will increase. This can also increase the number of LOOP users because people want to use bottles with excellent designs.

As a result of an attitude survey of users in the US regarding their reasons for using LOOP, usability was the most common response, and package design was second. It was predicted that the reduction of home waste would be the most common answer. It was third.

This may be the secret to making sustainable (continuous) efforts that enable the use of your favorite products and products that you think are convenient to be eco-friendly.



I agree.

Going forward, we will have to continue to reduce plastic waste more than ever. However, an ideal situation may be that each person uses their favorite products repeatedly and enjoys the reduction of plastic waste without too much effort.

To be continued in the next issue.

\*1 Basel Convention

The Basel Convention is an international convention that regulates the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and the movement of ships. Since the 1970s, hazardous waste has been exported from countries with more strict legal restrictions or developed countries and imported into countries with less strict legal restrictions or developing countries with lower waste treatment costs. Since waste is left untreated, environmental contamination has occurred. In 1992, the Basel Convention came into effect with the goal of preventing damage to human health and the destruction of the global environment. Currently, 188 countries have signed the Convention.

\*2 LCA

LCAs are a method of calculating the volume of energy and materials used and the GHGs emitted throughout the life cycle of a product from the mining of the raw materials necessary to produce a product to the processing, manufacturing, logistics, consumption, reuse, recycling, and disposal of the product and quantitatively and objectively evaluate its impact on the environment.



## The Community Where I Live ~Vietnam~

Contributed by Mr. Daisuke Yaseo, "K" Line (Vietnam) Limited

If you are in your 40s or older, your image of Vietnam is probably dark and connected to the Vietnam War in the 1960s and 1970s.

I, too, had a negative image of Vietnam as a country of struggle, resignation and poverty that was mostly influenced by the movies and novels I came across as a student, such as *The Deer Hunter*, *Platoon*, *Taxi Driver* and Takeshi Kaiko's darkness trilogy (*Into a Black Sun*, *Darkness in Summer*, and *Darkness Where Flowers Die*).

These are, however, stories from more than fifty years ago. As someone who works for a global shipping company, I am ashamed to admit that I had only this stereotypical image of the country. Now, one and a half years since I was transferred to Vietnam, my early impression of the country has been overturned in a positive way, and I am enjoying my life here.

### Paris of the Orient

My hometown in Vietnam is Ho Chi Minh City, the largest economic center in the country. Originally a part of the Khmer Empire, the city was annexed by Vietnam in the 16th century when Vietnamese immigrants from the north began to settle there. Later, in 1859, the city was integrated into the French colony and started to develop as a central city of the Indochinese Federation, alongside Hanoi. As the capital of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) which existed until 1975 it was named Saigon, and it was renamed after Ho Chi Minh, the first president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, following the unification of North and South Vietnam after the end of the Vietnam War.

There is a lot of old colonial architecture in the city, remnants of the French colonial period from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, which earned the city the nickname Paris of the Orient in the past. I have never been to Paris, so I am not sure if this title is appropriate for the city. However, it is certain that the churches, hotels, public buildings and old apartments in the city are all quite beautiful, and I never get tired of looking at them as I stroll the streets alone.

After arriving in Vietnam and spending weeks in quarantine as a measure to prevent COVID-19, my first impression when I went out into the city was, "Hey, isn't it just like a Latin American city?" I have had





many opportunities to visit Latin American countries, both on business and in my private life, and I had always wanted to live and work in one of those countries. To my surprise, I felt the same sense of comfort here in Ho Chi Minh City as I did in Latin America.

I guess what they have in common is a fusion of European and indigenous ethnic cultures. On one side of the road, European-style architecture flourishes, and in the other direction, people sit on the side of the road chatting and eating, motorcycles whiz by, and a tropical breeze wafts through the streets. The city creates an unbalanced environment where formal and solemn tranquility mingles with chaotic everyday life, giving an indescribable sense of comfort to Japanese people who cannot swing between the two.

### People of Vietnam

When describing the national character of the Vietnamese people, the four Ks are often referred to. The four Ks are as follows. (They are taken from the first letter of Japanese words, so it must be an evaluation from a Japanese point of view.)

#### (1) Dexterity

This is probably one of the reasons why Vietnam is home to many labor-intensive manufacturing businesses, from casual clothes and shoes to industrial products, and is attracting attention as a global factory, second only to China.

#### (2) Strong enthusiasm for learning

Young people, in particular, are said to be very diligent and hardworking.

The young generation in Vietnam tends to think that they should work hard, earn a high salary, and support their families because their parents suffered hardships during the war.

#### (3) Short sighted

One hundred yen today is worth more than a million yen tomorrow.

Some people may plausibly say that Vietnam was forced to cherish the present because there have been so many years of uncertainty in its long history, with major wars with France and the US and colonialism. On the other hand, there are also those who ridicule the South in particular, saying that the people of Vietnam do not need to worry about the future because the climate is warm and stable and, in the worst case scenario, if they go back to the countryside, they do not have to worry about food. Both perspectives make sense.



#### (4) Strong women

Vietnamese women are really hardworking. They work admirably in the office and in streetside stores, where I often see women with their children on their backs running the store while men sit on plastic chairs with their bellies out, puffing on cigarettes. It seems that women tolerate men's laziness, which is quite puzzling to me. Perhaps there is some social magnanimity or national character in this country that tolerates useless husbands who are only affectionate. (While looking at them always makes me smile, as if I am watching my ideal marriage, there are also many cases where the wife gets fed up with the husband and asks for a divorce, or a love affair leads to a knife fight, so everything should be done in moderation.)

#### Nguyen

You see more and more Vietnamese people in Japan, which is no wonder, as there are now 440,000 Vietnamese residents in Japan, second only to the Chinese. Recently, there have been many news reports about crimes involving Vietnamese, which may give some of you a negative impression of Vietnam, but in my experience, I have rarely had a bad experience with the local people here. Whenever I hear news like that, I feel rather sorry for them as a Japanese person, thinking that the harsh working environment in Japan may have driven them into a corner.

If you look at the name badges of Vietnamese people working at convenience stores in Japan, you may notice that many of them are named Nguyen. Forty percent of the population has the surname Nguyen, and there is a historical background behind this.

Vietnam was ruled by a series of dynasties for more than 1,000 years from 938 to 1945, when it was common for people to take their family name from the name of the dynasty of the time.

As regimes changed due to civil war or a neighboring country invading, people with the surname of the former dissident dynasty were often persecuted socially, and to avoid this, they often changed their name to that of the new dynasty. As a result, today there are many Vietnamese who have the surname of the Nguyen dynasty, the last dynasty in the history of Vietnam.

Aside from Nguyen, there are also many people whose surnames were taken from other dynasties that once existed, such as Chen, Le, and Ly.

So, what should you call someone in Vietnam, where you cannot throw a stone without hitting someone with the surname Nguyen? Mr. Nguyen Van Ha, Vice President of "K" Line (Vietnam) Limited ("KLV"), for example, is usually called by his first name, Ha, which comes at the end of his name. The family name usually comes first, followed by the middle name, and finally the first name, so feel free to call people by their first names!







### **KLV Company Trip**

Like many other countries, Vietnam was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The one-party dictatorship of the Communist Party enforced a complete lockdown of the city from August to September last year. During that period, people were forced to stay in their apartments for two months. On the other hand, as a trade-dependent country, Vietnam quickly shifted to a system of coexisting with COVID-19, believing that a prolonged lockdown would lead to a decline in the strength of the nation.

Since this spring, life has returned to normal.

In these circumstances, KLV decided to take a company trip for the first time in three years. A total of about 40 people, including KLV employees and their families, visited Halong Bay, a World Heritage site in the northern part of

the country. While a company trip may sound like something out of a Japanese company in the Showa period, corporate events, such as trips and year-end parties, are a common and essential part of the company's welfare program here.

Halong Bay is a tourist destination that is comparable to Matsushima in Miyagi Prefecture, one of the three most scenic spots in Japan, but on a larger scale.

The participants seemed to have sincerely enjoyed the cruise around the bay, with the scenic beauty of the towering islands of various sizes and the oddly shaped rocks, and enjoyed the dinner party arranged with an MC. It was a great opportunity to help deepen friendships with our stakeholders, employees and families, as well as to appreciate the hardships they have endured during the pandemic.

### **Vietnam Has More to Offer**

Vietnam is renowned as an attractive tourist destination, with many World Heritage sites, beaches, and highland resorts in addition to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. I regret that in this report I could not mention one of the country's major attractions, food, and there are also some negative stories that I would like to share with you some other time.

Vietnam is a six-hour flight from Japan. The best way to experience what I could not write about in this article is to experience it firsthand. With the COVID-19 pandemic ending soon (possibly), Vietnam is a great place to restart your overseas travels!



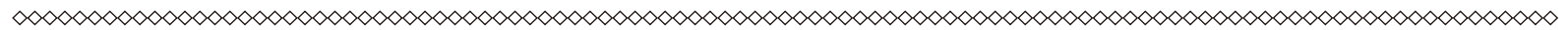


## An Arabian Story: Episode 1

Contributed by Mr. Goichi Tsuruta, Middle East Representative Office

Happy New Year!

I was transferred from Indonesia to Dubai in May and since then I have lived in this city, which is in the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East. I appreciate your continued support this year.



I moved to Dubai in early May. The high temperature in the city each day was around 33°C, similar to Indonesia, and I felt comfortable. However, it started to get hot pretty quickly. The high temperature was over 40°C in June. In July, the low temperature during the day was around 40°C and the city often reached highs of around 45°C. It was simply too hot. It was almost painful. I drove everywhere of course. The mere 10-meter walk from the parking lot to the building made me sweat profusely. It hardly rains but the air is surprisingly humid due to the city's proximity to the sea. A mist comes down occasionally, making the place humid and extremely uncomfortable. Initially, I could not understand why people decided to settle in this area. I later learned that fisheries and trade historically flourished in the city because of the naturally formed creek. I think this origin helped Dubai transform itself into a major trading city. Talking about the history British protectorate several emirates in the area of current UAE, Qatar and Bahrain since 1892. When British decided in 1968 to withdraw British troops from the area east of Suez Canal, led the emirates to the decision to found a Federation, as some emirates were too small to be an independent country. Six emirates led by Abu Dhabi and Dubai jointly formed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1971. Another emirate joined the following year, bringing the total to seven. In UAE, each emirate has administrative and sovereign powers, and the emirs elect a president of the UAE. At the time, Qatar and Bahrain declined to be united and decided to become independent sovereign states.



As you may know, Dubai has become a truly modern city. There are no therapists selling "energy infused" drinks that fend off COVID-19, nor police who order non-mask wearers to do push-ups as a form of punishment. There are no street vendors who appear on busy highways, the government does not employ a rain shaman, and there is certainly no ghost who appears in the office. (If you want to know more about these things, read "An Indonesian Story" featured in a previous issues of the OCEAN BREEZE.) I was slightly disappointed because, unlike Indonesia, I had no amusing anecdotes about the city.



To get back to the subject, I normally live here away from my family, but they visited me in late September and stayed for about 10 days. I wanted them to explore the desert before seeing many other tourist destinations, so I booked a desert tour on their fourth day, which was a Tuesday. To make most of the opportunity, I opted for the Premium Heritage tour, a slightly more expensive excursion. The tour went to a part of the desert in the national park, which is a desert conservation area. I heard that they help raise funds for the desert conservation program. The program of tour is from starting pick up at the hotel at 3:00om, the tour offers us an option to let us explore the desert for around one hour in a convertible Land Rover from the 1950s or on camels. We chose to ride the camels. The excursion also included a falcon show..... around 9:00pm. A cheerful man called Jim, a Filipino, picked us up at the hotel. Jim is supposed to take care of our group of seven people, including some staying in another hotel, all day.



It took about one hour to get to the desert. It was sunny but windy. Despite my wearing glasses, sand got into my eyes when I was saying hello to the camels. My wife then noticed dark clouds in the sky, although they were in the far distance. Jim looked unconcerned and assured us that the clouds were moving in the direction of Oman. He stressed that we were in the desert. We agreed and got on the camels.

The camels were tall and I was sitting high above the ground. In fact, they were as tall as the elephant that I had ridden before in Bali. Their humpy back was not as wide as I expected. I had to hang onto the saddle tightly to prevent myself from losing my balance. Led by a camel driver, we travelled in a row. After about fifteen minutes, I felt rain in the desert. I thought it would start raining, but the camel driver continued moving forward nonchalantly. After about five minutes, however, the heavens opened (so-called "guerrilla rainstorms" in Japan.). It was actually raining sideways. We got soaked to the skin in a second, and all the camels stopped.

Unable to move forward or move backward, the camel driver appeared to have no idea what to do. We were also at a complete loss. Then suddenly, we heard the sound of a car horn. Surprisingly, Jim arrived by Land Rover to rescue us. We got in the car quickly thinking we were saved, but the car was a convertible. It continued to rain on us while we were sitting in the car helplessly. After about five minutes, we managed to get to the Bedouin camp where we were scheduled to have dinner. We had another problem as a gust of wind nearly blew our tent away. But after moving to a different tent and having a hot cup of tea, we finally felt relaxed. We enjoyed a special service as well. A falconer visited our tent and let us take photos with his falcon on our hands. The rainstorm lasted about an hour. Jim came back and said: "The wind has



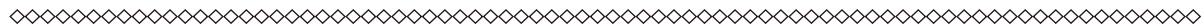


eased. You can return to your hotel and get a refund, or stay here to have dinner, which is being prepared." We were soaking wet and covered in dust. We decided to cancel the rest of the excursion and return to our hotel. On the way back, I asked Jim whether he had experienced something like this. He said: "I never experienced anything like this in the six years since I started working here. We have light rain a few times a year and it lasts only about ten minutes." Which means that we had an extremely unusual and amazing experience. The tour operator dealt with our request with great care. We decided to try again and booked the same tour the next Saturday. This time, we chose the Land Rover over the camels.

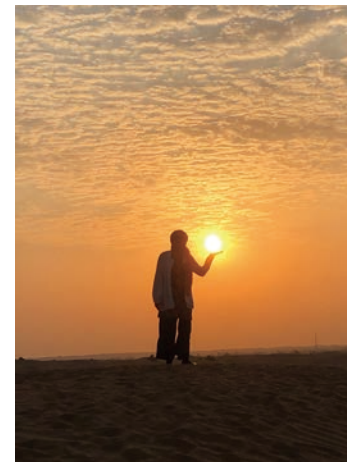


On Saturday, it was bright and there was not a single cloud in the sky, despite our worries. It was not windy and we didn't need to worry about sand getting into our eyes.

This time, we explored the area by Land Rover. We took time to follow the route in the national park and stopped occasionally to admire wild oryxes and play on the dunes, instead of going up and down the hills like a rollercoaster, which is a more common way to explore the desert. Being in the desert was relaxing. We took photos in front of the bright sun as it was setting. The view of the glowing dunes was fantastic and the whole experience was unforgettable. After a falcon show, we had a delicious dinner, cooked using traditional methods, that included mutton that had been aged in an earthenware pot buried underground, camel meat and fresh oysters from the Arabian Sea. After dinner, we watched the Bedouin dance while playing small traditional drums in their hands. (Belly dancing is not a part of Bedouin culture.) We also enjoyed a ceremonial dance performed holding guns, and we did some stargazing as well. The guide kindly told us where to look to see the North Star, the Summer Triangle and Jupiter, which was very bright at that time of year. While looking at the sky, I remembered I had not looked at the stars for a long time and felt a sense of nostalgia. Then my son said "Father, the stars, I saw in your hometown, was 100 times brighter than here and much beautiful. " Oh... yes, I forgot it, he was absolutely right.



The desert tour was an interesting experience. I can say now that it was good value because we managed to enjoy both riding the camels and riding in the Land Rover for the price of one. Besides, we are able to boast about our unusual experience getting caught in the heavy rain for a while. I highly recommend a desert tour if you have a chance to visit Dubai.





## Environmental Conservation Activities in Chile and Peru —Drive Green Network Activity—

Contributed by Ms. Momoka Shinoda, "K" Line Chile Ltda, and Ms. Hikari Araki, "K" Line Peru S.A.C.

### DGN Chile: Coast Cleaning Activity We All Worked Hard to Conduct and A Tour of the KAR Facility

Hello, readers of OCEAN BREEZE!

I, Shinoda, will report on our local environmental activities in Chile, in South America. When I heard that the theme of OCEAN BREEZE would be the environmental activities we performed around the world, I put pen to paper, hoping to share KCL's activities with everyone. We participated in the coast cleaning activity held in San Antonio every year in time with International Coastal Cleanup Day for the first time in two years because the COVID-19 pandemic situation has improved. In addition to KCL employees participating in the activity hosted by the Maritime Bureau of San Antonio and incorporated NPOs in cooperation with local students, we invited the students and teachers of the Santiago Japanese School to the activity this year. It was a happy opportunity for us to communicate with the students of the Japanese school participating in the DGN activity again, who participated in the drawing contest held in the situation where face-to-face activities could not be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year. We gathered at the coast where cool winds were blowing, separated into several mixed groups, and enjoyed the activity while competing with each other.

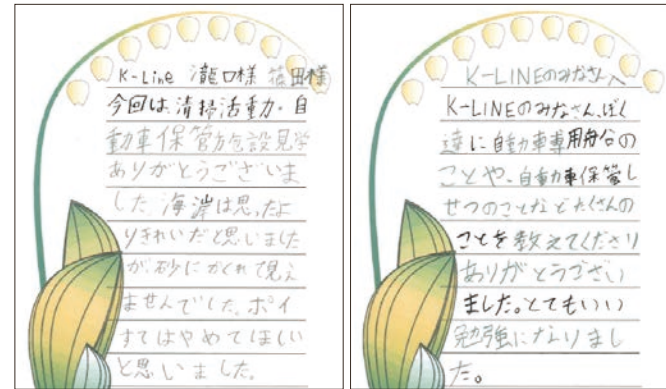
Surprisingly, we successfully collected a total of 150 kg of litter from the coast. We received various comments from the students following the activity. They included, "The coast looked cleaner than I expected, but there was a lot of invisible litter hidden in the sand," "I found many small pieces of litter such as cigarettes. I wish everyone would stop littering," and "I want to take on environmental issues that I have not looked at so much in the past." I was delighted that the time





was also meaningful for the students. I also understood the importance of the goal of our activity, publicizing DGN to children and local communities, not just to internal people. We provided a lecture on the car carrier service for Chile using a picture-card show while eating lunch after the cleaning activity. We moved to the city center of Santiago and visited Kar-Logistics, our automobile logistics facility, together with our staff and the students and teachers of the Japanese school. There were many questions about vehicles, car carriers and transportation methods, including, "How are vehicles ordered?" "From which countries are they transported?" and "Do you have sports cars?" I saw the surprised and shining eyes of the students who saw the approx. 5,000 vehicles lined up.

I hope the things they learned at KAR will help their future studies. I would like to continue the marine conservation activity next year and beyond.



### DGN Chile and Peru: KPE's First Coast Cleaning Activity

It was October 14, when we could hardly wait for the arrival of spring.

We gathered at the Pampilla Pacific coast, which is 15 minutes by car from our office in Miraflores, Lima. It is a popular surfing place. Japan is at the opposite end of this ocean. With the cooperation of employees of the Miraflores district office, we cleaned the coast for the first time as KPE. This coast is not a sandy beach. It is a lot of stones about the size of a fist. We separated into three groups, gathered, and picked up stones to collect litter. There were many kinds of garbage on the beach, such as sea urchin carcasses, ice cream container lids, PET bottle caps, and wood waste.

At first it looked like there were not much litter, but there was a lot of litter under the stones! It took a lot of energy to move the stones to collect litter. It was like an excavation site. We all worked doggedly with smiles, collecting 26 kg of litter.

After the activity, we were surprised at the volume of plastic litter! We all felt that the efforts to reduce the use of disposable plastics, even if only slightly, are necessary. After the coast cleaning activity, we moved to a seafood restaurant near the beach. We had delicious fresh ceviche. Thinking about the beautiful sea that creates delicious fish, we couldn't help but smile. Through this activity, I felt that it was important to do the environmental activities we can do in our everyday lives, not just coast cleaning, and it is necessary to expand the scope of our activities.

I was a leader of this activity for the first time, and it was a fun event cooperating with everyone without injury. The "K" Line Peru cap is a precious treasure to me.



## Letter from the South American Andes, Part 8 Purple Month October in Peru

Hello everyone! I'm Betzabe Zuzunaga Durand from "K" Line Peru.

In October, people in Lima go out dressed in purple. Let me talk about Purple Month, an important festival for Peruvians. 95% of Peruvians are Catholic. The festival has many names: El Señor de los Milagros (the Lord of Miracles), Cristo de Puchacamilla (Christ of Puchacamilla), Cristo Morado (Christ of Morado), Cristo Moreno (Christ of Moreno), or the Lord of Earthquake. There is the splendid painting with the theme of El Señor de los Milagros on the sun-dried brick wall at the center of the Church of the Nazarenas in Lima. What is the Christ of Miracles painted there? I would like to tell its story. We used to have a slavery system in Peru like some other countries. In the middle of the 17th century, slaves taken from Angora to Peru painted a picture of the crucified Christ on the wall of a humble cabin made of adobe (a Spanish word meaning sun-dried brick). Several years later, a major earthquake hit Lima. For some reason, the part of the wall bearing the painting remained intact. A series of miracles occurred after that. A person was miraculously healed after the person prayed earnestly putting a roof over the painting and attaching decorations. The wall painting was not damaged by the major earthquake that struck several years later. For these reasons, people started to call the painting El Señor de los Milagros (the Lord of Miracles). El Señor de los Milagros became a patron saint in 2005. Then Peruvians began celebrating this festival in October. The Catholic procession from the monastery of the Church of the Nazarenas to the Cathedral of Lima occurs on the first Saturday of October, and it returns to its starting point the following day. Following this procession, people participate in other processions on October 18, 19, and 28, taking different routes. During the procession, dozens of people carry a Lord of Miracles painting on a palanquin and walk on a specially made flower carpet. The believers wear loose purple robes with a white tie and a Christ badge attached at the level of their heart. Female believers sing. Fragrant smoke wafts through the air. Male believers carry the palanquin depicting the saint without saying anything. The believers and smoke wind massively through the city, overwhelming spectators. The festival is one of the religious events that Peru can boast of to the world.

The festival has a special confection, turrón. It is a kind of baked cake made by layering biscuit bars while altering their direction and pouring a generous amount of sweet syrup made of cooked-down fruit over them. You will become addicted to the delicious cake and it will bring you luck! The origin of the confection can be traced back to a cake baked by a black person whose arm injury was healed, which is considered one of the miracles of El Señor de los Milagros. You can find many stalls selling turrón in Lima during the festival. There are other sweets stalls selling, for example, picarones (doughnut), mazamorra morada (jelly) made from purple corn, and arroz zambito (sweet black sugar porridge). That's why I love October.