

INAP 2013 Kochi Conference Report from Port of Kochi

During 21 to 23 of November 2013, INAP 2013 was held in Kochi Prefecture for the first time in six years.

The International Network of Affiliated Ports or INAP, was established in 1998 as a group of sister and friendship ports.

Currently, there are 7 ports, with the Port of Kochi, Japan, the Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Port of Qingdao in China, the ports of Subic Bay and Cebu in the Philippines, the Port of Tanjung Perak, Indonesia and Mokpo New Port, Korea. Each year member ports meet for the conference to expand exchange and activities among its members.

This year marks the 15th Annual INAP Conference held under the theme "Port Growth Strategies that Contribute to the Economic Development of Asia", with six ports from six countries minus the port of Cebu participating in the general assembly, the symposium and the reception. The general assembly was held in the nationally designated cultural asset of Kochi Castle in the Lord's Reception Suite, where tea was served in the traditional cultural way of Japan to welcome the guests from overseas and exchange of opinions and information was conducted among the member ports. At the Symposium in the afternoon, presentations and keynote speeches were given in English as it was an international conference; however we were pleased that many citizens and students were able to participate. During the reception in the evening, many traditional arts were performed such as the Yosakoi Dance, the Yamada Taiko Drums and the Tsunoyama Kagura. We hope that all overseas guests were able to experience the charm of Kochi.

Other great events were the "INAP 2013 Asia Fair" and "The 2nd Comprehensive Manufacturing Technology Show" held at the Kochi Diban Center during the 21st to the 23rd to promote economic exchange through the participation of many citizens of the prefecture. It is our belief that through this, businesses from countries of INAP member ports and those within the prefecture were able to partake in business matching, which not only furthered the exchange among officials connected with the ports but also achieved great results in promoting opinion exchange between businesses within the prefecture and overseas. The booths at the Fair allowed member ports to introduce their port, tourist destinations, culture and cuisine of their country, and roughly 14,400 people visited the center during this time.

Additionally, The joint sponsor during the event, JETRO Kochi was able to hold business meetings regarding the export of Tosa Timber to the buyers in Korea. Also,

in order to promote international tourism to the prefecture, Travel agents from INAP member port countries were invited to take promotional tours and through this we were able to promote various tourist attractions within Kochi prefecture.

The next INAP conference will be held at Subic Bay in the Philippines. We are planning to dispatch another economic mission by inviting companies within the prefecture to attend. I hope that business people from within the prefecture will be able to participate.

We also wish that INAP will continue to serve as the foundation for economic exchange between INAP member ports, and that this leads to the promotion of industry within Kochi prefecture leading to the export of local products. We ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Port Promotion Division
Kochi Prefectural Government

INAP 2013 Photos from the Conference



INAP Members



Tea Ceremony at Kochi Castle, Japanese "*Omotenashi*" (hospitality)



INAP Symposium



Korean Traditional Performance at "INAP 2013 Asia Fair"