

## Greeting from President

I am Suzuki Yoshio, President of Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT).

Technical Intern Training Program was created in 1993, aiming to assist developing countries to cultivate their human resources which provide the bases for their development of economy and industry, by transferring skills, technologies and knowledge in Japanese industries to their people through on-the-job trainings in implementing organizations. Around 330,000 technical intern trainees (who came to Japan) from over 20 countries and regions are currently trained all over Japan, and the program plays an important role in Japan's international contribution.

However, there were no laws that directly regulated this program before, there were some people who did not understand the principle of this program and abused it as a means to obtain cheap labour force and cover the domestic manpower constraint. It even led to violations of labour laws and human rights in some cases where Technical Intern Trainees were exploited with low wages.

Therefore, in order to improve the situation and ensure the operation in adherence with the principle of the program, Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees had enacted in the extraordinary Diet session 2016 and it came into effect as from November 1, 2017. OTIT was authorized as a legal entity and entrusted with a core role for the operation of the new program by competent ministers (the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare).

Specifically, concerning the license to supervising organizations, the notification system to implementing organizations and the accreditation for Technical Intern Training Plans for each trainee and each stage of training which are introduced under the new program, OTIT is in charge of the accreditation for Technical Intern Training Plans, onsite inspection to supervising organizations and implementing organizations, request for reporting from supervising organizations and implementing organizations and preliminary screening upon the license to supervising organizations, as well as support and protection for Technical Trainees such as counseling services in their mother languages. Therefore, we are preserving impartiality in the license, the accreditation and the monitoring and watchdog operation such as onsite inspection and are actively facing the voice from trainees who need support and protection.

Besides, the new act allows supervising organizations and implementing organizations which has not breached laws and regulations and are excellent concerning trainees' pass rate of practical test and concerning consultation and support system for trainees to raise the upper limit of the number of trainees. Such organizations are also qualified for extension of the training period (3years→5years) of trainees who pass a necessary test through the newly introduced category of "Technical Intern Training (iii)", under which more advanced training can be given.

By disseminating the proper understanding of the program including these measures and providing accurate advice on it, OTIT are working toward encouraging more appropriate utilization of Technical Intern Training Program.

We all are making every effort for the smooth operation of the organization in order to fulfill our significant role and responsibility to ensure proper Technical Intern Training and protect Technical Intern Trainees under the new program in cooperation with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare and the other various relevant authorities. Thank you for your further understanding and assistance.

Suzuki Yoshio

President, Organization for Technical Intern Training