

Greeting from the President

I am Otani Kodai, President of the Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT).

Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) was established in 1993 with the aim to cooperate human development of the technical intern trainees from the developing countries to acquire skills, technologies and knowledge through on-the-job training in implementing organizations (IOs) and to make use of them for development of economy and industry after returning their home countries. Around 400,000 trainees who came to Japan from over 20 countries and regions are currently in training all over Japan, and this program has played an important role in Japan's international contribution.

However, some malicious people who did not understand the purpose of this program abused it as a means to secure cheap labour force and make up for domestic manpower shortages as there were no laws and regulations that directly disciplined the TITP at the outset, which resulted in violations of labour laws and regulations and human rights in some cases where 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, the 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. The OTIT was authorized as a legal entity based on this Act and entrusted with core roles for the operation of the new program by competent ministers (the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare).

In relation to the schemes of 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, the operations for these roles specifically have included: accrediting Technical Intern Training Plans; requesting for report and conducting onsite inspection against supervising organizations (SVOs) and IOs; accepting notification from the IOs; implementing preliminary screening upon the license to SVOs; and providing consultation services in native languages and assisting to enhance protection and support for the trainees. Therefore, we strictly keep impartiality in licensing and accrediting operation and supervising operation such as onsite inspection, and proactively face the voice from the trainees who need protection and support.

Besides, the new Act allows SVOs and IOs which have not breached any provisions of these laws and regulations and have performed well in the results of trainees' pass rate of skill evaluation exams and consultation and support system for trainees to enlarge the number to accommodate trainees, and includes the improvement to raise the upper limit of training period from three years to five years for the trainees those who have passed the prescribed skill evaluation exams through the new addition of technical intern training (iii) that enables more advanced TITP. The OTIT is working toward more appropriate utilization of Technical Intern Training Program by disseminating the proper understanding of this program including these measures and providing accurate advice on it.

We all are making every effort to fulfill our significant roles and responsibilities of the proper implementation of Technical Intern Training and the protection for technical intern trainees under the new program in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the various relevant governmental authorities

Thank you for your further understanding and assistance.

Otani Kodai

President, The Organization for Technical Intern Training