



## JPC sends young executives to Vietnam and India for internships

**T**he Japan Productivity Center (JPC) launched the Global Leadership Practice Program in Asia (GLPPA) in collaboration with the Vietnam Productivity Centre (VPC) and National Productivity Council, India, the past summer. Four young Japanese completed predeparture training and started business internships in the host organizations.

Research conducted by the JPC showed that education for global leaders attracts great interest from Japanese industries. Most believe that it should come before employees leave their 30s and that the conventional pattern of “train overseas and send the trained abroad” should be abandoned. Japanese industries are aware that significant growth cannot be expected within the domestic market, and successful competition in the global market is therefore vital. However, most Japanese industries are not yet equipped with sufficient human capital to handle rapidly expanding global business. The GLPPA was therefore designed by the JPC to educate young Japanese executives to cope with the globalizing economy.

Early in August, a newspaper journalist and wind-power generation engineer arrived in Ho Chi Minh City to start their internships. They received a three-day start-up orientation supervised by Ho Chi Minh City Office Manager Nguyen Thi Van of the VPC on Vietnamese history, culture, economics, politics, and society; basic language lessons; tour of the city and local market; courtesy calls on government officers; and a networking meeting with social entrepreneurs. Dr. Bui

Van Quyen, General Director, Southern Representative Office of the Ministry of Science and Technology, who studied nuclear technology in Japan for two years in the early 1990s, asked the interns to, “Give me your mobile phone numbers as soon as you get them,” and urged them to contact him with any problems. He also requested an invitation to their presentations on the internship results.



*L-R: Dr. Bui Van Quyen, General Director, Southern Representative Office of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Ms. Nguyen Thi Van, Ho Chi Minh City Office Manager Nguyen of the VPC; and two interns.*

At the end of orientation, the journalist commented, “I expected differences, but found more similarities between Vietnam and Japan, for example, visiting temples and deepening friendships at karaoke.” “The mixture of high-tech and traditional in buildings was a surprise to me. I appreciate Vietnam’s diversity and youth, and want to gain as much as possible from the internship,” enthused the engineer. The former will be engaged in media and productivity promotion activities in VPC headquarters in Hanoi, and the latter will perform technical work at a wire and cable manufacturer. The JPC anticipates future expansion of bilateral collaboration with many other APO members through the GLPPA. 