The 5th JSIDRE Students Study Tour in Foreign Country
— Along the Murray River in Australia —

Kyoichi OTSUKI*
*Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University

The 5th JSIDRE Students Study Tour in Foreign Country has been conducted during August 23 - September 1, 1997, along the Murray River in Australia. Title of the tour was “Land and Water Management in the Murray River Basin” and the objective was:

1) Investigate land and water management including agriculture and ecology along the Murray River
2) Establish the friendship between Australia & Japan

The members attended in this tour were:
3 Japanese university teachers (Tottori, Kitasato and Meiji University),
1 Japanese researcher (Nat. Res. Inst. of Agric. Eng., currently CSIRO visiting researcher),
15 Japanese undergraduate and graduate students (Hokkaido Senshu, Kitasato, Iwate, Niigata, Utsunomiya, Meiji, Kyoto, Tottori).

First, we greatly appreciate the heartwarming welcome and kindness of Australian people. Due to their charitable support, we could have great time in this tour.

Most impressive issue which we have learnt in this tour is the activity towards the environmental conservation. Environmental conservation was the keyword of all the organizations which we visited. We felt that this movement towards the environmental conservation had originated from the local people and the cooperation between local people and governmental organizations was well harmonized. This high consciousness of environmental conservation among Australian people and government is due to the seriousness of the environmental problems. The biggest problem among these is salinity problem.

Australia has been combating against three major salinity: irrigation salinity, dryland salinity and river salinity. These salinity problems, which have been mainly induced by agricultural development, are very difficult to solve, and the complete answers to solve them have not yet developed.
All the semiarid and arid countries are fated to struggle against the salinity problems. Australia excels others in the participation of the local people. We could learn a lot from the activities towards the environmental problems in Australia, and believe that their activities give a clue to solve the environmental problems of the other countries.

The itinerary was as follows:
Aug. 1997
23(Sat) Narita – Sydney
24(Sun) Sydney – Cooma
   National Capital Authority (a.m.)
   Parliament House (p.m.)
   stay at Cooma
25(Mon) Cooma – Albury
   Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority (a.m.)
   Tumut 3 Power Station & Blowering Dam (a.m.)
   stay at Albury
26(Tue) Albury – Echuca
   Hume Weir (a.m.)
   CRC of Freshwater Ecology (a.m.)
   Albury City Council (invited lunch)
   Albury Water Reclamation Project (p.m.)
   stay at Echuca
27(Wed) Echuca – Swan Hill
   SUNRICE Center (a.m.)
   Rice Farm (a.m.)
   Steven Weir (a.m.)
   Murray Irrigation Water Limited (p.m.)
   Evaporation Pond (p.m.)
   Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement (night)
   stay at Swan Hill
28(Thr) Swan Hill – Mildura
   Sunraysia Horticulture Center (a.m.)
   Tangye Centrifugal Pump (a.m.)
   instructed by First Mildura Irrigation Trust
   Lindemans Karadoc Winery (lunch)
   Mildura Weir & Lock (p.m.)
   stay at Mildura
29(Fri) Mildura – Murray Br.
   Irrigated Crop Management Services (a.m.)
   Sand dune in farm (p.m.)
   stay at Murray Bridge
30(Sat) Murray Br. – Adelaide
   Lake Alexandrina Cruise (a.m.-lunch)
   to see Goolwa Barrage and the Mouth of the Murray
   stay at Adelaide
31(Sun) Adelaide – Sydney
   Sightseeing in Sydney
   stay at Sydney
Sep. 1997
1(Mon) Sydney – Narita

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