

Activities of JAPIA

The 7th. Branch Activities

JAPIA East Branch, Central Branch, and West Branch are each developing their own activities based on the needs of their members.

Various lectures and seminars, factory and facility tours, etc.

JAPIA has a total of 428 regular and associate member companies. In addition to the head office, which coordinates the activities of the entire industry, including statistical surveys of the entire auto parts industry, examination and response to issues faced by the industry, and provision of information on government policies, the JAPIA is divided into three branches (JAPIA East Branch, JAPIA Central Branch, and JAPIA West Branch), which conduct their own activities.

When joining, a new member company is assigned to one of the three branches according to the location of member's head office. Currently, JAPIA East Branch has 247 members, JAPIA Central Branch has 92 members, and JAPIA West Branch has 88 members. The main activities include various lectures, tours of factories and facilities of excellent companies, and various seminars and training sessions through the independent subcommittee activities based on the needs of the members of each branch. In addition, in cooperation with the head office and each branch, information exchange meetings and get-togethers are held to deepen exchanges among member companies.

JAPIA East Branch

JAPIA East Branch consists of member companies in Hokkaido, six prefectures in the Tohoku region, one metropolitan area and nine prefectures in the Kanto-Koshinetsu region, and Shizuoka prefecture. 247 companies, about half of which are small and medium-sized enterprises.

However, the number of projects with overlapping themes such as CASE (Connected, Autonomous, Shared & Services, Electric), MaaS (Mobility as a Service), IoT (Internet of Things), and ESG (Environment, Society, Governance) has been increasing. Therefore, two years ago, we reorganized the organization into a "Planning Committee" under the "Steering Committee" to study and implement specific projects and activity themes.

Last year, due to the effects of COVID-19, we had to cancel our factory tours and overseas visits. Instead, we increased the number of lectures from six to twelve, using the location-independent web conferencing system "Zoom". For

example, we are trying to be flexible in responding to the requests of member companies in a timely manner, even if the theme was not initially planned, such as the briefing session on the system and procedures for employment adjustment subsidies held in June last year, which was held on short notice in cooperation with the head office and each branch. In the past, we used to limit the number of participants to one per company due to the capacity of the venue, but now that we no longer need to do so, we are seeing an increase in the number of participants from multiple companies and remote locations. As a result, we have 100 to 150 participants per lecture, which is more than before COVID-19 calamity. Under the After COVID-19 program, we will continue to hold lectures using a hybrid of on-site and web systems.

The content of the plan is examined from a ~~needs~~ survey of all member companies of the JAPIA East Branch in October each year, and the content of activities for the following year will be determined (Automotive Parts trends, productivity improvement, technology trends, corporate management, environmental themes, etc.).

This year, there were many requests for lectures on CASE, MaaS, powertrain, AI utilization, ESG management, SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), etc., so we will focus on each of these topics.

We will continue to promote useful activities for our members through timely information services and attractive programs.

JAPIA Central Branch

JAPIA Central Branch has 85 regular members and 7 associate members in the three prefectures in Tokai region, west of the Tenryu River in Shizuoka, and Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui prefectures in the Hokuriku region.

Due to the region's fame for manufacturing, including automobile manufacturers, there are many major automotive parts manufacturers, including Toyota Motor Corporation's major parts manufacturers and related Tier 2, Tier 3, and independent companies. The annual activities of the branch include the annual meeting, the lecture by Director-General, Chubu Bureau of Economy Trade and Industry, a New Year's greeting party, and overseas tours. As for the sub-committees, the Small and Medium Enterprise Sub-committee and the Environment Sub-committee plan to hold lectures three times a year and factory tours three times a year, respectively.

The SME Sub-committee has 39 members. Last year, we cancelled the factory tour due to strict compliance by member companies, and implemented a program

focused on lectures, including a webinar in cooperation with the SME Committee.

The Environmental Subcommittee consists of 42 companies, mostly major automotive parts manufacturers, who are interested in the environment issues, and holds lectures and factory tours focusing on the themes of ESG, SDGs, Carbon Neutral, and environmental activities.

Every November, we hold an "Environmental Case Study Presentation Meeting" in Nagoya City, where 150 to 200 members gather. Mainly member companies of the Environment Subcommittee introduce examples of how they have reduced carbon dioxide emissions and electricity consumption through various efforts such as devising equipment and processes in their production lines. Every year, about 120 cases are compiled and publicized through booklets and the web.

As for the exhibition, we picked up 13 examples and held a panel exhibition. We also hold two lectures on environment-related themes that include different industries. Last year, we distributed archives on Brother Industries' "Environmental Initiatives" and Asahi Holdings' "ESG Management," and we plan to hold them again this year.

In the past few years, major global movements such as CASE and MaaS have been progressing at a fast pace, and we will provide information on themes that are timely and of high interest. In addition, we will aim to improve the convenience of JAPIA Central Branch for the member companies by utilizing the web conference system linked to the headquarters and branches.

JAPIA West Branch

JAPIA West Branch is in charge of the West Japan area west of Shiga and western Mie prefectures. More than half of the members are located in the Kansai region and a quarter in the Chugoku region: 47% in Osaka, 14% in Hiroshima, 11% in Hyogo and 10% in Okayama. Compared to the East and Central Branch, the ratio of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is the highest at 61 out of 88 member companies. In addition, the western Japan region, centered on Osaka, saw the development of the automotive parts industry after World War II. From this background, we are currently at a turning point where the management is about to succeed from the second generation to the third generation.

The organization is centered on four companies, including the branch president, under which there are seven subcommittees: Management Training Meeting, General Affairs Subcommittee, Quality Subcommittee, Production Subcommittee, Technology Subcommittee, Aftermarket Parts Subcommittee, and the JAPIA

Kansai Club, as well as DX (Digital Transformation) Subcommittee, which was newly established this year.

DX Subcommittee was established because member companies have long voiced the need to know how to utilize DX in the manufacturing industry. In June, we had our first lecture by an outside lecturer on ZOOM, "Why is DX necessary? Considerations from a Factory Management Perspective", and we discussed specific directions.

A total of 36 events are scheduled for this fiscal year, including lectures and factory/facility tours. Last year, about half of the events were cancelled due to the state of emergency, etc., so we will continue to hold events with a small number of participants and utilize the web.

JAPIA West Branch's lectures and factory tours tend to be attended by a high percentage of executives such as chairmen and presidents. Therefore, assuming that the main target audience is the management of small and medium-sized companies, we try to include not only technical fields but also management-related topics in our lectures.

In recent years, we have also made efforts to reform the selection of lecturers for our lectures. For lectures by automobile manufacturers, both domestic and overseas, we request mainly executive level speakers. In addition, we have also held study sessions for using automotive technology to expand into other industries, including lectures by agricultural and construction equipment manufacturers such as Yanmar Holdings Co., Ltd and Komatsu Ltd., and aircraft manufacturers such as HondaJet and ShinMaywa Industries, Ltd.. We will continue to respond flexibly to the needs of member companies, as we did with the DX subcommittee launched this year.