Japanese and Swedish experts met in Linköping!

A Japanese-Swedish workshop on Road and Transport was held in Linköping on 11–13 December 2000. The workshop was a result of an agreement of co-operation in 1998 between the Ministry of Construction of Japan and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Sweden.

As a result of this agreement the Sweden-Japan research co-operation in the field of Roads and Transport was initiated in February 1999 and signed by the Director Generals of the Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) in Japan and The Swedish National Road Administration (SNRA) in late 1999. Interesting presentations and fruitful discussions were the result of the three days in Linköping.

Exchange of information
The main fields of interest included in the Sweden-Japan Research Arrangement in the field of Roads and Transport are:
- Road Technology in Snowy and Cold Regions
- Bridge Technology
- Poroelastic Road Surface (PERS)
- Cold Asphalt Pavement.

The arrangement is to include, but not be limited to, these four fields. The two organisations, PWRI and SNRA, together with VTI, have, since the agreement was signed, established contacts between the countries and planned the exchange of information.

The main themes of the present workshop in Linköping were Winter Road Management and Pavement.

In the Pavement session special interest was focused on Cold Mixing Pavements, Porous Elastic Pavements and Anti-icing Pavements.

To give and to take
According to the Japanese delegates the workshop in Linköping turned out to be very informative. It is very important to continue this co-operation, emphasized Mr Takeshi Yoshida, Director of the Pavement Division of PWRI in his closing speech.

He draw attention to three factors; accessibility, environment and traffic safety.

- The concern of the environment we have in common already, but where the Japanese emphasise accessibility, the Swedes point out the importance of traffic safety.
- There we can both give and take, which is vital in co-operation, said Mr Takeshi Yoshida.
- In the cooperation, it is very important that both sides find it fruitful and beneficial. Therefore, we must focus on the areas of great importance in line with the ongoing development. I have during these three days noticed that in many presentations both the environmental factor and the traffic safety factor have been mentioned, which is a sign of the times. I believe there are some keywords to remember when we are prioritising our topics: environment, traffic safety, sustainability and contracting out, said Mr Dick Jonsson during the closing session.

The results of the workshop are published in a report which you can load down from VTI’s home page www.vti.se.

http://www.vti.se/nordic/1-01mapp/vti2.htm