



# Bridging the Cultures

## IRWA meets with affiliates in Japan

BY JANET WALKER, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

*Photography by David Walker*

While visiting Tokyo in April, I had the unique opportunity to meet with IRWA affiliate, the Japan Compensation Consultant Association (JCCA). The JCCA and IRWA have benefited from an affiliate relationship for many years and share a common approach – we both establish industry best practices and promote those practices through publications, meetings and education. This relationship has worked to facilitate the exchange of information between our two organizations.

The meeting was held with Shinichi Sakai, JCCA Executive Director, Yasuo Matsutomi, JCCA Vice President, and an interpreter, Katsushige Murayama. After formal introductions, we had an interactive question/answer discussion about the oil and gas pipeline regulations in Canada, which is my area of expertise. This was followed by an exchange of information and responses to questions regarding the JCCA's organizational structure, government interaction, educational requirements and mentor program.

The JCCA representatives described their organizational structure and explained

the responsibilities of the Compensation Consultant within each of their eight sectors. Although there are common components across the eight sectors, each one's work is highly specialized. Several division names are self-explanatory, such



Having a traditional Japanese lunch, on left side, Janet Walker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC and husband David Walker. On right side, front to back, JCCA Executive Director Shinichi Sakai, translator Katsushige Murayama and JCCA Vice President Yasuo Matsutomi.

as Land Survey, Land Valuation and Machinery and Related Facilities. Some of the less familiar divisions include Compensation for Business Interruption/Special Compensation, where the emphasis is on lapsed and restricted fishing rights. An Articles sector determines compensation for wooden and non-wooden buildings, general facilities and standing trees. There is also the Injurious

Affection by Public Works division, which reviews cost sharing for matters different from business loss. And then the Related Compensation sector conducts surveys to measure the intent of local residents, adopted livelihood, compensation with local public entities and application for project sanction. The Comprehensive Compensation group focuses on negotiations related to public lands work.

The JCCA explained that, since 1981, their education plan has been based on national government requirements for sector companies and their compensation specialists. An individual is required to learn and work within a sector for a minimum of four years. If the

individual passes the written and oral test, then they become a qualified compensation specialist. The individual is required to renew the qualification every five years.

I enjoyed the opportunity to gain an understanding of the JCCA and look forward to seeing our colleagues at the IRWA Annual International Education Conference. 🌟