

JAPAN

The Certified Pharmaceutical Industry Professional (CPIP) initiative, the credentials for which were first awarded in 2007, has recently attracted the attention of the non-native English speaking Japanese membership. Responding to such interest in Japan, and with the aim of fostering greater numbers of aspirants, the Affiliate established its own CPIP Committee aimed at providing a suitable support program.

Starting with an orientation in January, the Committee has provided monthly training sessions at the office in Yushima, Tokyo, for members who are required to document multiple competencies as the qualifying procedure for the next phase of the CPIP qualification: testing in 2011. Because of the language barrier and overall cultural differences, a qualified native-English speaking trainer was employed to provide guidance to the candidates on a once-monthly basis.

Moreover, volunteer pharmaceutical experts from the general membership were invited to work with the candidates, drawing on the available CPIP on-line courses packaged as Webinars, beginning with Product Development and moving onto Facilities and Equipment, etc., through seven areas of competency. The customized course provided by ISPE and the Affiliate has proven to be popular with the candidates, with the majority staying with the demanding program. By late July, two among the candidates had already submitted their qualification document packages.

For more information on the Japan Affiliate and its activities, please visit www.ispe.org or contact Natsumi Sahara, Office Manager, at ispe-japan@iris.ocn.ne.jp or tel: 81-3-3818-6737. Alternatively, contact Shigeru Nakamura, Head of Secretariat, at shigeru.nakamura@shimz.co.jp.