

LEAN JOURNEY

STUDY MISSION TO JAPAN

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Tour Japan's Leading Manufacturing Companies with The Improve Group

Introduction

Our company is very proud to present an exclusive trip to the birthplace of Lean Manufacturing, Japan. We have planned a one-week tour of Japan at a reasonable, all-inclusive cost that will guide you to a better understanding of Lean Manufacturing principles. Our partnership with Enna allows access to Lean facilities that no one else has. This is due to Enna's close relationship with Japanese companies and their publication of Dr. Shigeo Shingo's classic, *"Kaizen and the Art of Creative Thinking."* This will be a great experience for any leader or student of Lean. You will have one-on-one exclusive access to Japanese Lean thinkers and learn from their experiences and simple solutions.

You will realize the action and flow of Lean throughout your stay in Japan; we have designed each manufacturing tour to highlight fundamental aspects of Lean.

Topics covered are:
TPS, SMED, TPM, Lean Accounting, 5S Visual Management, Employee Empowerment, Waste Identification, Mistake-Proofing, Value Stream Mapping.

This trip will teach you to discern the dynamics of Lean at the different plants we visit. We will be working with you to transfer these practices to your own work environment.

"We have arranged experienced tour guides, interpreters, and professors to make your learning experience truly revolutionary"

Tour Features:

- Our tour is the only way to get exclusive access to Japanese Lean executives.
- All of the necessary arrangements are carefully made by The Improve Group to ensure comfort and security.
- Experience world-class Lean practices as well as both modern and traditional Japanese culture.
- Group discounts are available.

This is not an ordinary factory tour where you only observe assembly lines and roam around museums. This tour gives you exclusive behind the scenes access to management executives from successful companies such as Toyota, Nissan and Canon. Interact with the world's best trained workers in Lean on the shop floor and get so close you can smell the machinery. Obtain full access to "Best In Class" management principles and discover the motivations behind Japanese best practices.

The tour is designed to answer the most asked question by Lean practitioners. Get exact answers on how Japanese companies have succeeded in implementing Lean to become the best manufacturers in the world. Gain insight from Japanese executive managers in Q&A sessions, or even while sharing a meal.

Observe and talk to workers on the shop floor and get involved in their Lean practices. Japanese companies are eager to share their accumulated wealth of knowledge with international businesses and explain how they have learned from their mistakes and improved overall operation as a result.

Learn from their techniques so you can leverage their experience in order to avoid common implementation and sustainment mistakes in your own factory. The relationships you will build with Japanese host companies will inspire your company in pursuit of continuous improvement for many years to follow.

Cultural differences have discouraged many Lean companies from making a trip to Japan. We make sure that such differences in cultures and languages do not stand in the way of your studying Lean principles in the birthplace of TPS. We have arranged experienced tour guides, interpreters, and professors to make your learning experience truly revolutionary.

On the last day, we will have the opportunity to visit some unique sightseeing areas in and around Kyoto. This is a prime opportunity to take some time to absorb a unique culture and people as well.

"Lean success in Japan is not a cultural phenomena. It is leadership's ability to continuously motivate employees in order to obtain desired results and objectives."

Tour Highlights

Lean Workshops will be led by PhD. Michael Mestre. Michael was the first to study Japanese Management Practices and introduce Lean to his curriculum as a business leader and educator of business professionals and industry managers. We will also have the opportunity to learn from Japanese industry professionals. These professionals are senior managers who usually perform a half-day training seminar on specific issues that the group would like to learn about. This is followed with a company tour highlighting issues discussed and focused on during the training. The training is practical and insightful and a great learning experience. Dr. Michael Mestre is professor from Northwest University, and will focus on "Leadership in Change."

Tour Hosts

Toyota Motors, Toyota Supplier(s), Nissan Motors, Sango, Denso, Daihatsu Motor, Nikon, Yamaha, Ajinomoto, Mitsubishi, Ricoh, Dunlop, Aichi Sangyo, Toto, Asahi Glass and many other Lean organizations.

We have built strong relationships with the best Lean companies in Japan. Our network of companies adds depth and understanding to the experience for participants. The companies we visit will welcome you and are willing to share their insight and production systems with you. You will learn new management tools that are successful for continuous



Shinkansen (Japanese Bullet Train)

Experience Japanese modern technology by riding a bullet train across Japan. Enjoy the scenery passing by or just relax in the first class service.

Principles Covered

- How to reduce the cost of manufacturing
- How to service Level while dealing with staff layoffs
- How to deal with supply chain issues in an economic downturn
- How to manage cash flow and lines of credit
- How to get more out of your staff and become more productive
- How to leverage technology so your operation can dynamically change with the economy
- How to effectively lead change in an economic downturn to prepare for the upswing

Tour Details

Upcoming dates:

- **June 6th - 12th, 2010**
- **Nov. 7th - 13th, 2010**
- **May 15th - 21st, 2011**
- **Nov. 13th - 19th, 2011**

Participants need to arrive in Japan in the early afternoon of the first day in order to be fully prepared for the week's study mission.

On the return trip, participants will depart Japan on the last day.

Travel:

All your travel needs in Japan are pre-arranged by Enna. Please let us know if you have any special requests.

Group Size:

The size of our tour group is limited to no more than 20 in order to maximize the value of the tour for each participant.

We provide audio listening devices during our factory tours so that important ideas will not be missed in a noisy factory environment.

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Interpreter

Our professional staff are experts in Japanese and English languages as well as Lean Manufacturing. This will ensure that the nuances of Lean are not lost in translation.

Our goal is for nothing to be lost in interpretation or culture. This facilitates the best learning atmosphere for our participants.

Tour Costs

The tour fee is **\$7,995 USD** per person. This includes all hotels, meals, misc. expenses and domestic transportation while in Japan. Airfare to Japan is not included.

Please contact us for information regarding available group discounts. We encourage all of Lean learners to take advantage of this great offer.





“Any leader of an organization is always concerned what the future looks like for their organization. We are constantly trying to see that ‘vision’, that ‘direction’, and that ‘purpose’. This tour is the single most important investment of my career and without a doubt, a catalyst for the future of our competitiveness and success. Go, as I did, and you will have a clear direction for your organization.”

Edward Schoessler, CEO, Schoessler Group

About the Tour Host

Enna is a provider of innovative training packages and publisher of Lean books developed for internally led process improvement initiatives. Enna’s purpose is to provide you with knowledge you can put into practice. Enna is committed to helping companies reduce costs and increase productivity by world-class methodologies that can be put into practice. We strongly believe this “Lean Journey” to be the most effective tool for companies to implement Lean Manufacturing Principles.

Enna and its Tour Hosts have exclusive experience in organizing custom manufacturing tour for small groups. We have provided private tours for select customers and are now providing access for the general business public. After having completed our Japan tour, our clients have implemented and sustained continuous improvement in their own factories.

Through our previous Japan tours, we have become acquainted with top management from world-class companies in Japan; no other company has been able to establish such relationships with Japanese companies. These relationships have allowed us to gain exclusive access to the leaders, movers, and shakers of Japanese Lean, as well as meetings with senior executives, personnel, and workshops with Lean-trained workers.

We look forward to being your guide and providing you with this amazing opportunity!

Collin McLoughlin, President of Enna



Registration

Please register by phone, or fax us your registration by filling out this form below. Online registration is also available at www.improvegroup.com.au

Name(s): _____

of Participants: _____ Company(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Full payment is due six weeks prior to departure. A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 USD is due upon registration to secure your place. Online payment methods are also available online.

Please make checks payable to:

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