XII International GEMBAKAIZEN™ Congress in Poland

“Building a Kaizen Culture: Problem Solving and Employee Suggestion System”

On November 24 – 25, 2015, Kaizen Institute Poland organized the 12th International GEMBAKAIZEN™ Congress. The theme of the event was "practice for practitioners" which let everyone not only become familiar with interesting international work cases, but also showed previously used tools through Gemba visits of partner companies.

Almost 250 KAIZEN™ enthusiasts took part at the GEMBAKAIZEN™ Congress 2015. The first day offered 14 different activities: 2 keynotes from Masaaki Imai, founder of Kaizen Institute and Julien Bratu, Business Leader Kaizen Institute Poland, 4 case studies and 8 workshops. The second day offered 10 Gemba Walks at Kaizen Institute partner facilities that showed examples of being the best in Poland.

Special guest of the event was “Lean Master” Masaaki Imai, who mentioned that the methodology of problem-handling seems to overlook the issue of problem identification. The more time is spent on defining the problem, the more time is saved on handling a crisis.

Case studies were presented by several companies like Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, General Electric Aviation, Geberit Group, and Whirlpool. One of the speakers explained that it is not enough to look only at the final results of the enterprise, but the importance on examining the processes of searching for the root cause of all problems.

Another speaker presented a case study devoted to processes as daily experiments in a culture open to failure using employee’s curiosity. In accordance with the principles of KAIZEN™, management expects everyone always and everywhere to act according to the principles of continuous improvement.

The event was also an opportunity for the partners of the Kaizen Institute Poland to join us in spreading the idea of KAIZEN™, sharing their experiences and best practices with the participants.

Awards went to Carlsberg Supply Company, Mondelez Production, Leoni Cable, Wabco, Whirlpool, ArjoHuntleigh, Flextronics International and FCA. The exceptional prize TOP KAIZEN™ POLAND 2015 was awarded to General Electric Power Controls, and Kaizen Institute Poland received the award BRAND SUR for activities and development of TPM in Poland, awarded by the prestigious organization FORUM MEDIA.
The second day of the Congress were Gemba Walks to Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Mondelez, Velux, Gates, US Pharmacia, Whirlpool, Lumileds, General Electric Power Controls and Lear Corporation. The goal was to provide the participants with an opportunity to share knowledge, skills and to exchange experiences from the best.

A small summary of 12 years International GEMBAKAIZEN™ Congress Poland:

- 147 of lectures
- more than 2000 participants
- 27 of consultations and workshops
- more than 400 participating companies
- 74 Gemba Walks
- hundreds of satisfied customers
- 10 books launches featuring KAIZEN™

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