

The people who support JATCO #Daily Cleaning Staff

This is the third installment of our popular column, where we get up close and personal with the people who support JATCO.

This time the spotlight is on Ecoro. It seems that they have been working with JATCO for about 30 years. Currently, we handle a wide range of cleaning services, including cleaning common areas of buildings and factories in the Fuji, Fujinomiya, and Motegi areas, as well as managing trees and plants, renovating plumbing, and painting.

We spoke with Mr. Takagi, the person in charge, Ms. Tanabe, a JATCO-based cleaning staff member, and Mr. Choji, who is in charge of greenery management.



The cleaning staff

President Sato also requested that we interview Ecoro.

Takagi: I'm grateful for that. Previously, we had heard from staff that the electric cord of the vacuum cleaner they were using for work was difficult to handle, so we decided to change to a cordless type.

Tanabe: When I met President Sato in the elevator this morning, he said, "You walk

fast. What time did you come?" They will greet you in a friendly manner and say things like: I am always moved.



Takagi-san

Could you please tell us about the scope of your work?

Takagi: The tasks I perform full-time are daily cleaning and green space management.

In addition to daily cleaning of shared areas such as employee restrooms, conference rooms, corridors and stairs at JATCO's business premises, we also wax the facilities several times a year as part of special cleaning.

Green space management involves a wide range of tasks, including pruning and felling trees, weeding plants, and mowing the lawn.

The total number of staff across both operations is about 25. We are also responsible for collecting and disposing of waste at large events such as JATCO Festa.



Tanabe-san

Please tell us about your job, Ms Tanabe.

Tanabe: We clean common areas such as restrooms, hallways, and stairs in the head office building and factory.

In the bathroom, I pay attention to areas that are usually hard to notice, such as above the toilet paper holder. My work starts early in the morning and I also have to make lunches for my children, so it's hectic, but it's fulfilling. I'm not good at cleaning at home, but when I make it my job, I get to clean up dirty places, it helps me lose weight, and it gives me a sense of accomplishment, so it's great. I have been working with JATCO for about 15 years, and since then I have lost about 20 kg. It's a "cleaning diet".



Tanabe-san cleaning the bathroom

I am always helped by Ecoro's quick response.

Takagi: JATCO's portal JOY has a page called "Clean Desk." The Clean Desk handles about one or two cases per month, including questions from cleaning staff in each area and dealing with stains on air conditioners and carpets. We borrow a shared computer from JATCO, so being able to view the website directly makes for a smoother response.



Ms. Tanabe vacuuming and a cleaning robot

Are there times when you feel your work is rewarding?

Tanabe: Sometimes when I get home I'm tired and I drink a protein drink, but I'm very happy just to hear them say, "Thank you as always." When we met while working, we said "It's been a while!" Some women have said this to me, and in the past I've even had the privilege of teaching someone how to put on makeup when I met them in the bathroom (laughs). They also collect trash from waste areas and are like, "Where do I put this?" He asks kindly, `` Are you okay?" Everyone at JATCO is really warm and welcoming. I will continue to do my best!

Next up is Choji, who manages green spaces.



Green space management staff

Please tell us about your work.

Choji: I've always loved working with nature and I chose this job because it allows me to acquire specialized skills.

I am a qualified landscape gardener and joined Ecoro in May 2020. The work mainly involves mowing the grass in green spaces inside and around the factory and climbing trees for pruning. In the summer, it's so hot that grass and weeds grow within a week, so we also spray disinfectant once every three months to prevent

moth larvae and leaf-eating caterpillars. If requested, we can also handle the removal of wasps, spider webs, and other pests.

Takagi: We've asked Mr. Choji to take on the role of something like a playing manager. The target areas are Fuji, Fujinomiya, and Kambara. We cannot work around the large tree in the head office rotary on weekdays, so we restrict parking on weekends. JATCO's green space is one of the largest in Fuji City, so I think that the sense of fulfillment was what motivated Mr. Choji to join the company.

Are there times when you feel that it is rewarding?

Choji: It's very rewarding! A private home garden might have at most 10 trees, but JATCO has an incredible number of trees, with 50 to 200 in its parking lot alone. It's a lot of work because of the size and volume, but it's interesting because it's easy to see the before and after. In addition to District 1, we are also responsible for the head office and Fujinomiya areas. On Saturdays, when there are fewer employees around, we weed the courtyard of our headquarters.





Mr. Choji pruning

What is your impression of JATCO employees?

Choji: Most of the people there are friendly. They thank me in a friendly way, saying things like, "It's been bothering me to have a tree here, so I'm grateful for it," or, "The trees in my garden aren't producing any fruit. What should I do?" Sometimes people ask me for advice.

So there are consultations like that too.

Choji: In terms of the landscape, it's not good if the trees grow too tall, and old trees get in the way of young trees that are just starting to grow. If you don't develop in a balanced way overall, you will end up damaging yourself. We select and cut such items with a professional eye.

As an aside, there are often bird nests in the trees in JATCO's green spaces. Because we have a large number of employees, it is easy to avoid natural enemies such as crows and pigeons. Even these casual scenes are attractive.

When you want to refresh yourself, it might be a good idea to just take a moment to look at the trees.