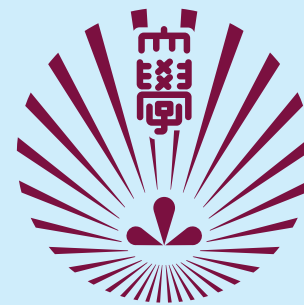


Annual Report of JDS Program

Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences Kyushu University



Vol.19 (2021)

1. Purpose of the JDS program

The purpose of the JDS program, “The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship” is to offer research opportunities to prospective young leaders in the JDS program countries. The objective of our program at Kyushu University is to develop strong human resources, build strong personal and institutional collaborations and enhance the future relationship between Japan and the students’ home countries. JDS fellows are expected to contribute to the socio-economic development of their country, by actively engaging in policy formulation and the implementation of social and economic development policies after they complete the program and return to their home country.

The JDS program at the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences at Kyushu University was launched in 2001. In 2020, our JDS program hosted twenty two Master’s students from four countries namely Lao PDR, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Ghana. Also, four **Ph.D. students were undertaking the JDS Ph.D. program**. The JDS students study and conduct research in the individual laboratories in our graduate school, prepare their Master's theses or Ph.D. dissertation in English and then present their thesis at the end of the program. Due to COVID-19, some of the students who enrolled in October 2020 remained in their home countries and worked remotely online, both taking classes, as well as consulting with their supervisor about their research project, whilst some of others have taken leave of absence until the situation has improved and they can come to Fukuoka.

2. Enrolled JDS students in 2021

Name	Nationality	Laboratory	Supervisor
Doctor Course [2019 Entrance]			
Honglikith Daoluang	Lao PDR	Water Environment Engineering	HARADA Masayoshi, Associate Professor
Phyu Phyu San	Myanmar	Insect Natural Enemies	TUDA Midori, Associate Professor
Doctor Course [2020 Entrance]			
Nguyen Thi Hang Phuong	Vietnam	Postharvest Science	TANAKA Fumihiko, Professor
Soudthedlath Khamsalath	Lao PDR	Plant Nutrition	MARUYAMA Akiko, Associate Professor
Master Course [2019 Entrance]			
Phommachanh Niphaphone	Lao PDR	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Chanthaxay Bounhom	Lao PDR	Forest Policy Institute of Tropical Agriculture	FUJIWARA Takahiro, Associate Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko, Associate Professor
Tran Thi Ut Linh	Vietnam	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Tran Thi Huong Giang	Vietnam	Agricultural and Farm Management	NANSEKI Teruaki, Professor
Tran Thi Van	Vietnam	Postharvest Science	TANAKA Fumihiko, Professor
Nguyen Thi Doan	Vietnam	Food Analysis	MATSUI Toshiro, Professor
Nguyen Huu Thien	Vietnam	Systematic Forest and Forest Products Science	SHIMIZU Kuniyoshi, Associate Professor
Yan Phyo Han	Myanmar	Forest Management	MIZOUE Nobuya, Professor
Phyo Htet Htet Kyaw	Myanmar	Food Hygienic Chemistry	MIYAMOTO Takahisa, Professor
Win Min Paing	Myanmar	Forest Policy	SATO Noriko, Professor
Master Course [2020 Entrance]			
Vongxay Airyai	Lao PDR	Forest Policy Institute of Tropical Agriculture	FUJIWARA Takahiro, Associate Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko, Associate Professor
Sramany Nilanlath	Lao PDR	Food and Agricultural Policies	ISODA Hiroshi, Professor
Vu Thi Lan	Vietnam	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Nguyen Ngoc Hung	Vietnam	Bioresources and Management	TAKASU Keiji, Professor
Truong Minh Hang	Vietnam	Food Process Engineering	IGURA Noriyuki, Professor
Duong Danh Thanh	Vietnam	Insect Pathology and Microbial Control	YASUNAGA-AOKI Chisa, Professor
Pham Khanh Nam	Vietnam	Insect Genome Science	KUSAKABE Takahiro, Professor
Le Quang Man	Vietnam	Plant Pathology	FURUYA Naruto, Professor
Azasi Foster	Ghana	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Bawah Emmanuel	Ghana	Food Marketing and Distribution	MORITAKA Masahiro, Associate Professor
Khaing Zarlinn	Myanmar	Food Hygienic Chemistry	MIYAMOTO Takahisa, Professor
Myint Than Soe	Myanmar	Marine Biochemistry	NAKAO Miki, Professor

3. List of Subjects and Supervising Professors for International Development Research Course (Academic Year 2021)

Division	Laboratory	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
Bioresource Sciences				
Agrobiological Science	Plant Breeding	Hideshi YASUI	Yoshiyuki YAMAGATA	
	Crop Science		Yushi ISHIBASHI	Norimitsu HAMAOKA
	Plant Production Physiology	Sakae AGARIE	Kazuyuki SAITOU	
	Plant Pathology	Naruto FURUYA	Kazuhiro IYAMA	
	Horticultural Science	Yukio OZAKI		Yuki MIZUNOE
	Zoology	Hiroshi IIDA	Naoki IWAMORI	Takane KANEKO
	Insect Genome Science	Takahiro KUSAKABE	Hiroaki MON	
	Entomology	Toshiya HIROWATARI	Satoshi KAMITANI	Toshiharu MITA Sadahisa YAGI
	Insect Pathology and Microbial Control	Chisa YASUNAGA-AOKI		Oumi NISHI
	Insect Natural Enemies		Takatoshi UENO Midori TUDA	
	Bioresources and Management	Kenji TAKASU		Shunichiro TAKANO Tomomi ABIKO
	Agroecology	Toyoaki ANAI	Kaori SAKAI	Sho HIRATA Tetsuhiro NAKAMURA
	Creative Science for Insect Industries		JaeMan LEE Tsuguru FUJII	
	Sanitary Entomology		Ryosuke FUJITA	Masato HINO
	Animal and Marine Biosciences	Functional Anatomy	Shoji TABATA	Shotaro NISHIMURA
Animal Reproductive Physiology			Nobuhiko YAMAUCHI	Tomoki SOH
Chemistry and Technology of Animal Products		Ryuichi TATSUMI	Takahiro SUZUKI	
Regulation in Metabolism and Behavior		Mitsuhiro FURUSE	Shinobu YASUO	
Animal Production and Ecology			Hideyuki TAKAHASHI	Yutaka NAKANO Yudai INABU
Marine Biology			Kohei OHTA	Akihiko YAMAGUCHI Chakraborty TAPAS Akira KURIHARA
Fisheries Biology				
Marine Environmental Science		Yuji OSHIMA	Yohei SHIMASAKI	
Aquatic Field Science		Norio ONIKURA	Yoshihisa KURITA	
Animal Life Science			Mako NAKAMURA	
Aquatic Molecular Developmental Biology			Yukiko OGINO	
Developmental Disorders and Toxicology			Willam Ka Fai TSE	
Agro-environmental Sciences				
Bioproduction Environmental Sciences	Irrigation and Water Management	Yoshiyuki SHINOBU		Tomoyuki TANIGUCHI
	Water Environment Engineering	Kazuaki HIRAMATSU	Masayoshi HARADA	Toshinori TABATA
	Environmental Soil Engineering		Takahiro HIGASHI	Akiko NAKANO
	Soil Science	Syuntaro HIRADATE		Yuki MORI
	Agricultural Meteorology	Tomoyoshi HIROTA	Daisuke YASUTAKE	
	Agricultural Machinery and Production Systems Design	Eiji INOUE	Takashi OKAYASU Yasumaru HIRAI	
	Postharvest Science	Fumihiko TANAKA		Fumina TANAKA
	Mathematical Modeling		Ta Viet TON	
Forest Environmental Sciences	Forest Management	Nobuya MIZOUE	Tetsuji OTA	
	Erosion Control	Yasuhiro SHUIN	Hideaki MIZUNO	
	Silviculture		Atsushi WATANABE	Kotaro SAKUTA Michito TSUYAMA Eiji GOTOH
	Forest Policy	Noriko SATO	Takahiro FUJIWARA Tsutomu ENOKI	Naoaki TASHIRO
	Forest Resources Management	Shinya KOGA	Yasuhiro UTSUMI Ryuzi ICHIHASHI	
	Forest Ecosystem Management	Kyoichi OTSUKI	Tamako KASAHARA Masaaki CHIWA Takuo HISHI Tomonori KUME	Ayumi KATAYAMA
	Wood Science	Junji MATSUMURA		Masumi HASEGAWA
	Wood Materials Technology	Tetsuya NAKANO	Noboru FUJIMOTO	Hiroki SAKAGAMI
	Forest Chemistry and Biochemistry	Yuji TSUTSUMI	Toshihiro ONA	Koki FUJITA
	Bioresource Chemistry	Takuya KITAOKA	Hirofumi ICHINOSE	
Biomacromolecular Materials	Tetsuo KONDO	Daisuke TATSUMI		
Sustainable Bioresources Science	Systematic Forest and Forest Products Science	Atushi KUME	Kuniyoshi SHIMIZU	
	Biomaterial Design			Shingo YOKOTA

Division	Laboratory	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
Agricultural and Resource Economics				
Agricultural and Resource Economics	Food and Agricultural Policies	Hiroshi ISHODA	Takaaki WATANABE	
	Agricultural and Farm Management	Teruaki NANSEKI		
	Quantitative Food Economic Analysis	Koshi MAEDA		Kohya TAKAHASHI
	Food Marketing and Distribution		Masahiro MORITAKA	Ben Taieb SEIFEDDINE
	Environmental Economics	Mitsuyasu YABE	Yoshifumi TAKAHASHI	Goshi SATO
	International Agricultural Development		Hisako NOMURA (Snr Assi.)	
Bioscience and Biotechnology				
Molecular Biosciences	Biochemistry	Yoshizumi ISHINO	Sonoko ISHINO	Takeshi YAMAGAMI
			Tomoyuki NUMATA	Takashi NAKASHIMA
				Shunsuke MATSUMOTO
	Marine Biochemistry	Miki NAKAO	Tomonori SOMAMOTO	Takahiro NAGASAWA
	Marine Resource Chemistry		Nozomu OKINO	Yohei ISHIBASHI
	Biophysical Chemistry	Yoshimitsu KAKUTA	Etsuko NISHIMOTO	Teramoto TAKAMASA
	Plant Nutrition	Ken MATSUOKA	Akiko MARUYAMA	Masamichi KIKUCHI
	Pesticide Chemistry	Mieko ARISAWA		Naotaka YAMADA
	Genome Chemistry Engineering	Takahiro NAKAMURA	Tomohiko KAZAMA	
	Yeast and Fungal Microtubule Dynamics	Douglas Robert DRUMMOND		
Systems Bioengineering	Molecular Gene Technology		Kosuke TASHIRO	Shigeru MUTA
	Cellular Regulation Technology	Yoshinori KATAKURA		Kiichiro TERUYA
	Synthetic Biology	Taizo HANAI		Hiroyuki HAMADA
	Applied Microbiology	Kaoru TAKEGAWA	Yujiro HIGUCHI	
	Microbial Technology	Jiro NAKAWAMA	Takeshi ZENDO	
	Soil and Environmental Microbiology	Kenji SAKAI	Yukihiro TASHIRO	
	Functional Genomics and Metabolism	Shigeki FURUYA		
	Bio-Process Design	Fumihide SHIRAIISHI		
	Silkworm Bioresources	Yutaka BANNO		Kohji YAMAMOTO
	Plant Bioresources	Toshihiro KUMAMARU	Takahiko KUBO	
	Microbial Bioresources	Katsumi DOI		Yasuhiro FUJINO
	Fungal Cell Biology		Hiromi MAEKAWA (Snr Assi.)	
Food Science and Biotechnology	Nutrition Chemistry	Masao SATO		Yasutake TANAKA
	Food Chemical Biology	Hirofumi TACHIBANA	Yoshinori FUJIMURA	
	Food Analysis	Toshiro MATSUI		
	Food Process Engineering	Noriyuki IGURA		
	Food Hygienic Chemistry	Takahisa MIYAMOTO	Ken-ichi HONJOH	Yoshimitsu MASUDA

Affiliated Institutions				
Center for Promotion of International Education and Research	International Relations		Mako NAKAMURA	
	International Education	Douglas Robert DRUMMOND	Yukiko OGINO	Hyunjung BANG
			Willam Ka Fai TSE	
			Ta Viet TON	
			Yasuaki HIROMASA	
			Hisako NOMURA (Senior Asst. Professor)	
		Hiromi MAEKAWA (Senior Asst. Professor)		
University Farm		Yukio OZAKI	Kaori SAKAI	Yutaka NAKANO Tomomi ABIKO
Aqua-Bioresource Innovation Center, Karatsu satellite				Chakraborty TAPAS Hirofumi OHGA Mohapatra SIPRA
Biotron Application Center	Coordination Division	Satoshi YOSHIDA	Toshihiko EGUCHI	
Institute of Tropical Agriculture	Tropical Crops and Environment Section	Ikuo MIYAJIMA		Shingo HOSOISHI
	Land -Water& Envionment Conservation Section		Masaru MATSUMOTO	
	International Development Section		Kimihiko HYAKUMURA	Akinori OZAKI

4. Program for JDS fellows

Pre-arrival program

We provide the opportunity of pre-arrival supervision in relation to the research content upon request by the prospective students or their professors.

Programs specific to JDS students during the Master's degree course

1. Special lectures/seminars/workshops on domestic, international and regional issues,
2. Special seminars related to the JDS countries,
3. Well-equipped facilities with basic standard equipment for classes and research,
4. Special supplementary lessons for students with specific educational needs for support.
5. Individual tutoring assistance for foreign students.

(These courses are taught by invited foreign scholars during the intensive lectures. Specific information and technology are included covering the unique aspects of individual regional developments). As well as the Master's Program content, additional coursework is prepared for JDS students to enhance both their academic knowledge and cultural experience of studying at Kyushu University. The course includes a number of academic activities to inspire students academically whilst also allowing them to explore Japanese culture and enjoy campus life during their studies.

1) Japan Society for International Development (JASID) Western Japan Research Meeting.

Since 2016, JDS students have had the opportunity to present their research at the Japan Society for International Development (JASID) Western Japan Research Meeting, and this is one of the highlights of the JDS students time at Kyushu university. In 2020, the 7th JASID Western Japan Research Meeting, was jointly hosted by Hiroshima University and Kyushu University and was held online.

2) Research Skills Seminar

Many of the new JDS fellows are just starting their research career. To help them make a good start there are several specific research skills seminars such as survey methodology, writing skills, and presentation practice. This year, Prof. Taylor provided his presentation skills lectures online, because some of students had to join the classes remotely from their home countries.



The online presentation skills lecture by Prof. Taylor in 2021

3) JICA Development Studies Program (JICA-DSP)

In 2018, the JICA-DSP was launched as part of a minor course in which both Japanese course students and international course students study together. The course covers two topics, 'Construction of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Development of Asian Agriculture' and 'AgriBio Advanced Technology and International Contribution'.



Students in the University Paddy field with Prof. Yasui in AgroBio classes.



4) Academic English Skills Programs

Each year before COVID-19, we visited a distinguished rice farm, the Furuno firm, and an agricultural engineering site. We were deeply disappointed that we had to cancel these trips in 2020-2021 since these were exciting opportunities for the future leaders of agriculture in their home countries to become acquainted with some of the leading technology in agriculture. Instead, this year, we opened two online English programs to improve JDS students' English skills. 'Graduate Scientific Writing Program 2020' provided by Northern Arizona University, US, was mainly for PhD students and focused on skills to write academic research papers. 'Academic Writing & Presentation Skill' by Gabby Academy was for all JDS students. Both programs were successful and many of the students felt their English skills were improved.

KYUSHU GRADUATE SCIENTIFIC WRITING PROGRAM – 2020-2021

PROGRAM PROPOSAL



Program in Intensive English

Kyushu Graduate Scientific Writing Program – 2020-2021

Life in Kyushu University

JDS fellows experience an intense and fruitful academic life in Kyushu University in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Usually one of their most enjoyable experiences is the farewell party held by the Faculty of Agriculture, including their supervisors, to celebrate the end of the two-year program and completion of their hard work.. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Post-program

1. Follow-up Seminar

After two years of hard work together, the supervisors of JDS fellows will become important research co-workers. We organize follow-up seminars in the JDS fellow's home countries, where the fellows can have another opportunity to discuss and be inspired for further research. Follow-up seminars were held in Cambodia in 2013, Myanmar in 2014 and 2019, Laos in 2015 and 2018, Vietnam in 2016. We were planning to hold it in Vietnam in 2020 but had to cancel because of COVID-19. This year, we will hold a Vietnam follow-up seminar online in winter 2021.

2. Guidance for journal article submission

Supervisors continue to guide and support former JDS fellows to submit a journal article for publication, which is based on the data collection and analysis conducted during the program.

3. Network building

JDS homepage

Further information on what's going on in the JDS Master's Program at the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences at Kyushu University, names and publication lists of professors and JDS fellows, as well as upcoming events such as international seminars and follow-up seminars is available from our JDS website, which was renewed in 2020.

<http://www.agr.kyushu-u.ac.jp/international/graduate/jds/>

What is JDS program ?

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program offers full scholarships for graduate students who come from the Japanese grant aid recipient countries. The JDS project is one of ODA grants run by JICA and aim to support human resource development of the target countries.

JDS fellows are expected to contribute to the socio-economic development of their country, by actively engaging in policy formulation and implementation of social and economic, development policies when they complete the program and return to their home country. JDS Fellows are also expected to contribute to the enhanced bilateral relations between their countries and Japan, with well-rounded knowledge of Japan.

The JDS program

- Targets highly capable young officials (mainly government)
- Offers 2-year Master course or 3-year PhD course taught in English at Japanese Universities
- Provides a special opportunity for directly learning the forefront knowledge in the technological

JDS Facebook Page

The JDS Facebook includes information about research seminars on topics such as how to conduct a literature review using academic databases such as PubMed and how to manage references using Mendeley. It also functions as a meeting place for JDS alumni where JDS fellows can stay in touch with their JDS friends long after they left Kyusyu University.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/JDS-at-Kyushu-University/441849815879864>



5. Ph.D. Mid-Term Presentation and Master's Thesis Presentation

Ph.D. students presented their research at the Mid-Term Presentation on 13th May and demonstrated their research progress. The Graduate Course faculty members assessed the progress and advised the students about issues that can be improved.



Ph.D. Mid-Term Presentation

MA students are awarded the Master of Science (M.Sc) on completion of a satisfactory thesis. This year, the presentation was held on 29th July and all students successfully demonstrated what they have gained from the last two years of training both in their laboratories and out in the field.



Master's Thesis Presentation

6. Reports from JDS Students

2019 Entrance [Doctor Course]

Honglikith Daoluang

Academic and daily life



Hello everybody! My name is Daoluang, you can call me “Dao”. I come from the capital city of Laos. I graduated with a master’s degree at Kyushu University in 2018, Japan, and then I obtained the opportunity from JDS to continue the Doctoral course. Thus, I have been continuing to study at Water Environmental Engineering Laboratory, Department of Agro-environmental Sciences, Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Kyushu University since 2019. In the laboratory, I do not only my research work, but I also assist my supervisor to do experiments that are directly related to my research. This is my second year of a doctoral student; I feel that my specialized ability and English skills increase gradually due to comprehensive academic writing, reading, and lab implementation. Moreover, the Japanese educational system is more advanced and developed mainly in the natural science sector in terms of adequate laboratory equipment, instrument, and rooms. Also, sufficient experts who provide academic advice and support for academic research. This motivates many researchers and students from different countries who would like to study here because the advanced educational system, human resources, and facility would not only enhance the academic knowledge, skills, and experiences but also could invent new technology.

Although a doctoral degree is important for our future, it is not easy to complete a Ph.D. course. There are many struggles that I must walk through and solve problems mainly the preparing of an academic journal to be accepted and published. In my case, I must publicize two academic journals to obtain the Ph.D. certificate within three years. First, I collect

data from the indoor experiment and then do interpreting and analyzing. This part is challenging to handle because I need more time to improve and understand the interpretation of data. Furthermore, drafting the journal in limited vocabulary and pages need precise words, phrases, and skills in advanced technical term of English. Therefore, it is necessary to have strong academic knowledge and technical experiences and positive thinking, or mindset because strong background, and mental and physical health are crucial factors that bring us to achieve our goal. To overcome all struggles, I manage time to study for about 11-12h and exercise about 1-2h per day. I read several academic papers and do experiments actively. After that, I do exercises such as badminton, swimming and dancing, and meditation. It could strengthen my academic ability together with good mental and physical health. It also helps me to deal with the issues during my hard time of the study. In the leisure time, I enjoy exploring new places, do adventure activity and gathering with friends. I also joined a bowling tournament, organized by the Kyushu university Foreign Students Association (KUF-SA). In the bowling competition, I could get the 4th prize and make new friends. In addition, I contribute my ability to support society through be a volunteer for Fukuoka Overseas Students Association (FOSA), I am responsible for the culture department to promote the culture and encouraged friendship from different countries. This chance allows me to show my traditional culture to them as well. The reason that why I mention this point, it could guide, and aware to you in case you may face a similar situation, a poor health condition may occur if you only focus on academic activities to be successful without interested to participate in any leisure activities.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to share my experiences and visions to encourage you through the description in this annual report. I wish that all of us will support and provide an opportunity to others who need our help as well as develop human resources in the society like JDS are doing.



Phyu Phyu San

Research work: Response of bean beetle and its parasitoids to endosymbiotic bacteria, *Wolbachia* to climate change: Focusing on the effect of *Wolbachia* diversity



Climate changes could profoundly affect the population dynamics of insect pests and their natural enemies. The intracellular endosymbiotic bacteria *Wolbachia* are widely distributed among invertebrates. Maternally inherited *Wolbachia* infection can affect host biology. To coexist with their hosts, *Wolbachia* may provide fitness benefits to their hosts. However, fitness benefits and costs may depend on the host species, genotype and sex, and thus host fitness components should be carefully investigated. Host physiology is a critical factor in determining fitness of parasitoids utilizing the host. Azuki bean beetle *Callosobruchus chinensis* in Japan exhibited infection frequencies of 96% with *wBruCon* and *wBruOri* strains (double infection) and 4% with *Con* strain (single infection) of *Wolbachia*. The parasitoids, *Heterospilus prosopidis* (Hp) and *Anisopteromalus calandrae* (Ac) are safe and promising biocontrol agents on stored grain pests, especially on bean beetles. The aim of this study was to test the fitness of the host beetle infected with different number of *Wolbachia* strains and its parasitoids under climate change.

This study showed that beetles infected with single *Wolbachia* strain significantly increased their fecundity, compared to those infected with two *Wolbachia* strains. Egg–adult (immature stages) survival rate of the beetle was significantly lower under the climate change, and in double-infected beetles than single-infected beetles. Female offspring number was signifi-

cantly lower in double-infected host beetle under the climate change than the other conditions. The development time of the host beetle was significantly shorter under the climate change. The survival rates of reproducing female and male beetles were significantly lower in double-infected beetle under the climate change.

For parasitoids, parasitism rates were different between different climatic conditions and between different *Wolbachia* diversity in the host. Hp only system showed higher parasitism rate under the climate change than under the control, independent of *Wolbachia* diversity in the host. Parasitism rate by Ac was lower under the climate change than under the control, whereas it was higher on single-infected host. Two parasitoids (Hp+Ac) system showed the highest parasitism rate under the climate change condition, independent of host infection status. Developmental times of both parasitoids were shorter under the climate change, irrespective of *Wolbachia* diversity in the host. Ac longevity was shorter under the climate change. In contrast, Hp longevity was not affected by climate change. Therefore, the diversity of *Wolbachia* in the host beetle mediated the fitness of the host such as fecundity and survival rate. Based on this study, we can recommend that these two promising parasitoids will continue to be effective in controlling the azuki bean beetle regardless of *Wolbachia* infection under the anticipated climate change. Multiple-generation experiments on the host-parasitoid(s) systems are currently in progress to investigate adaptation and persistence of the population dynamics of the host with different *Wolbachia* strains under the predicted climate condition.



Nguyen Thi Hang Phuong

My daily life and study in Vietnam

I am a Vietnam JDS fellow 2020, the first year PhD student in the Postharvest Science Laboratory, Department of Agro-environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University. I have not been able to come to Japan yet because of the Covid 19 epidemic. I feel so sorry for not being able to do research at the laboratory on time as planning. However, I have taken some online classes. Online learning has interesting experiences and inconveniences as well. I would like to share something about online learning.

I have continued my work at my university in Vietnam and taken online classes when I had the class schedule. The “Academic writing” by Gabby Academy in Canada was the first online class I took. I met most of Master and PhD JDS students from other countries at Kyushu University. Some students are in Japan and some students are their home countries like me. At the first day of the class, we introduced our shelf, so we had chance to know each other by this class. We talked many things together such as daily life and research activities of each other under Covid 19 epidemic whenever we joined into the class early. Teacher and students interacted frequently in online classroom. We had assignments after each class and emailed them to the teacher before the next class. The teacher corrected and gave comments and suggestions on our assignments so that we could understand clearly how to write an academic sentence, how to use appropriate verb tense in academic writing, what are the

qualities of effective academic writing and so on. The teacher was enthusiastic and friendly, so the class was always in lively atmosphere.

The second class I took was “Graduate Scientific Writing Program” by Northern Arizona University. We were taught the basic skills to write a scientific paper. Writing a scientific paper from our research results and publishing it are one of the compulsory requirements for PhD students. This course had very clear contents, goals and strict timetable for students. The structure of this course was group workshops and individual writing consultations. In group workshops, we learned how to organize and write a scientific paper step by step from abstract, introduction, methodology, results and discussion to conclusion. The goals of each group workshop are to help us understand what type of information goes into each section, to help us decide how to organize each section effectively, to provide us with relevant vocabulary and grammar for each section. We had assignment right after of each group workshop to practice what we learned. After that, we had 30 minutes individual writing consultations with teacher following the timetable for each student. We could select the suitable time for our individual consultations with teacher. We had time to discuss with teacher about our assignments. Teacher pointed out what we do best and what we should practice more for each section. I have completed a scientific paper by my shelf base on the individual consultations. I not only learned how to write a scientific paper but also learned how to review a scientific paper. The final project of this course was I had to select a research article in my research interests and write two-page single spaced critique of selected article as if I were a reviewer for a journal to help the editors of the journal decide whether the article should be accepted for publication. I really thank for this course very much, it was a very useful course for me.

Beside the online classes, I have joined to the seminar of the laboratory every week. We discuss about our research results or our research plan, research proposal with Professor Fumihiko TANAKA and labmates. I got a lot of guidance and comments on my research proposal. The disadvantage of online learning is that the internet signal is not stable sometime.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Japanese government and JDS program for giving me a chance to study in Kyushu University one more time. I'm very thankful to JICE staff for their kindness help.



Soudthedlath Khamsalath

Student life in Kyushu University

Firstly, **I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Japanese government, Japanese people, Kyushu University professors and staffs as well as the JICE and JICA officers** for their kind supported, educated, assistant and providing me very warmly welcome, and precious opportunity to pursue my doctorate degree this prestigious university again.

Obviously, this is not my first time to Japan since I have ever been here for my master study between 2016-2018. In my opinion, the student life seems more difficult than my previous time because of the Covid-19 pandemic around the world, especially, in the academic and social life. Therefore, my supervisor “**Dr. Akiko Maruyama-Nakashita**” and I have discussed together and decided to postpone my study from September 2020 to March 2021 because my research topic focuses mainly on the experiment in Laboratory. Indeed, I could not come to Japan on the right time with my schedule due to the pandemics of Covid-19, but I had a regularly meeting with my professors, attending the meeting, seminar, and online-classes via Zoom or Microsoft Teams since the school starts in April.

On June 11th, 2021, I have arrived Narita International Airport together with 21 students from Laos by Korea Air (KE 703). At the airport, JICE staffs have already waited for us and headed us to Shinjuku Washington Hotel by bus. We, all JDS students, stayed at the hotel for a 14 day-self quarantine with the support and help from JICE staffs. During this quarantine time, I have also attended the regularly seminar in the laboratory as well as participated many wonderful orientations and seminars which organized by JICE and JICA, for instances, the orientation on quarantine period, daily lifestyle in Japan and Agriculture Co-creation Hub. These kindly supports and valuable lessons make me feel comfortable and self-confident to be here as a JDS fellow.

As you know, Kyushu University is the biggest university in Kyushu Island, and it belongs to **top ten universities in Japan**. Therefore, learning at such a famous university is not easy but it is not very difficult too. Since **the professors and staffs here are very kind and friendly as**

well as **the university is located and surrounded with good environmental and provides you such great warmly welcome and good facilities for studying and doing research**, for example, the central library is the good place for study alone and group discussion (Open daily, except some special holidays). Moreover, there are many Japanese and International students, so it would be a wonderful time for you to improve your academic skills, sharing your opinion, and getting the comments from them as well as to improve your English and Japanese language skills.

The JDS Program provides you an amazing International Development Research Course, so **DO NOT forget to APPLY the JDS Scholarship and be a student HERE!**

Finally, **My heartfelt thanks to my professors and family** for their support and encouragement as always.



2019 Entrance [Master Course]

1 Phommachanh Niphaphone

Another wonderful year in Japan



My name is PHOMMACHANH Niphaphone, master student at Environmental Economics Laboratory. This year is the second year of my academic in Japan. Time flies so fast, I have only a few months left in Japan before going back to my home country. I still remember at the beginning when I started academic life in Japan. I was very nervous and unconfident. The research was not easy, everything was new for me, I had to learn from the basics. Sometimes I got stress and stuck on analyzing data of my research. Fortunately, under the supervision of professor Mitsuyasu YABE, associate professor Yoshifumi TAKAHASHI, associate professor Hisako NOMURA and with all kindly advice and comments from lab-mates especially from Linh san who is my room-mate, lab-mate, and JDS fellow, step by step I can overcome the difficulties to conduct my research. Through that, I acquired not only knowledge but also skills in research, in which independently and critically thinking are the most important, which are useful for my future work. I appreciate and would like to express my sincere gratitude to all my sensei for their considerate instruction, guidance, and excellent support during my study.

Besides academic life, I tried to explore Japan as much as I can but at the beginning of last year the epidemic of COVID-19 that broke many countries around the world including Japan. Therefore, I have to broke down the plan to visit Kyoto, Nagasaki from that time till now It almost one and half years that the Covid-19 occur. At first, I was worried, had a state of emergency had been declared, along with the social

distancing, but everything went smoothly. Personal and other learning activities have changed to fit with new normal life. We spend more time at home, study online, webinars.

I spent most of the time in my place, I went out with my friends only one time at last spring break to see the cherry blossom because it was the last year for me to be close to the cherry blossoms blooming. Even though we went out like a group, but we followed the social distance policy, wear the mask, avoid the “three Cs” close spaces, crowded places, and close contact setting to preventing the Covid-19 outbreak. At this time, I had a chance to wear Kimono, it was the first time for me felt so exciting.

From the bottom of my heart I would like to express my sincere thanks to the JDS scholarship program, Japanese International Cooperation Center (JICE), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as well as the Japanese government, and all Japanese for giving me a valuable opportunity to study at Kyushu University with a wonderful and unforgettable experience during two years in my dream country. I always have been taken good care of by JICE staff who always give me thorough and enthusiastic assistance and support whenever I have a problem.

As we know, academic life overseas it's not easy, but day by day you will enjoy small things in daily life, like this quote “Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day”. Hope you can find happiness in the little things and wish you have a great time in Japan.

2 Chanthaxay Bounhom

Research result.



My name is Bounhom Chanthaxay. I am an officer of the

Permanent secretary office, Ministry of agriculture and forestry, Lao PDR. I am taking a master course in the Laboratory of forest policy, Department of Agro-environmental Sciences, the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Kyushu university.

After completing required credits earned in the first year, I have developed a research proposal related to smallholder pig producers in Lao PDR. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 pandemic, Lao PDR is also not an exception. Consequently I cannot go back for data collection in Lao PDR leading to delay of the research progress. According to closely discussion with advisors, the methodology of data collection had been changed. I was assisted by a Lao researcher and his team from the National University of Lao PDR to collect data instead of myself. However, the research is still continuing as planned.

The topic is Behavior of Smallholder Pig producers in Lao PDR. This topic is not new for developed countries, while in Laos, it is crucial to enhance understanding on behavior of smallholder pig production. In Lao PDR more than 90% of the pig population belong to smallholder pig producers. Therefore, I aim to study the behavior of smallholder pig production in the current situation and their perspective on it in the future.

The reason that I chose the topic is because pig production has increasingly become an important activity of small-scale farmers in Lao PDR in the past decades. Many scholars have been conducting studies on pig diseases and pig feed improvement in Lao PDR. However, the studies related on the behavior of smallholder pig producers (i.e., the different types of and objectives for pig raising) are still limited.

The study was carried out in the Hinherb district of Vientiane Province, Laos. I selected four villages in the Hinherb district according to the two criteria: (1) location (nearby main road or far from main road) and (2) the differentiation rate of pig production households in the village. Subsequently, I did semi-structured interviews with 25 households in the four villages from February to March 2021.

The finding shows different practices among the four villages. I found that there are two main purposes of pig production in villages : income and custom practice. The Khonkeo village was mainly purposed to raise pigs for household income, while three other villages (Naphong, Somsanouk, and Sivilai) were dominant for custom practice.

The respondents had a different perspective for future raising a pig. Most of them would continue to raise pigs because it was a household activity to generate income. However, 100% of respondents in Khonkeo village would continue to raise pigs for the next five years, while 52% of respondents in Somsanouk village would not continue.

In conclusion, the trend of the number of smallholder pig producers will gradually decline because some smallholder pig producers will not continue to raise pigs due to many challenges

of raising pigs. Therefore to address this problem government related agencies and donor's development projects should pay more attention to deal with the smallholder challenges.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Japanese government, especially the Japanese International Cooperation Center (JICE) and Laos government for giving me an opportunity to study at Kyushu university and for their thorough and considerate support. Thank you JICE staffs in Kyushu who were very enthusiastic in helping me in every situation.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Association Professor, Ph.D. Hyakumura Kimihiko and Association Professor, Dr. Takahiro Fujiwara for their suggestion and encouragement to do the research writing with precious advice.

3 Tran Thi Ut Linh

SELF-INTRODUCTION



I am Tran Thi Ut Linh, one of Vietnamese JDS fellows patch 2019 – 2021. I have worked as an agricultural researcher at IPSARD, an agency belongs to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Currently, I am a second-year master student of Kyushu University at Graduate School of bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences faculty. I am a member of Environmental Economics laboratory that being mainly supervised by Prof. Mitsuyasu Yabe.

RESEARCH WORKS

JDS fellow in the last 2 years is probably the rather special patches because we have experienced the period of coping with the covid-19 pandemic. To some extent, it has affected the

research works of most students. However, the progress of my research has still guaranteed. Although we limit contact with many people to prevent the spread of the novel virus, we still conduct regular seminars with professors and labmates through connection tools such as Zoom, Microsoft Team, Moodle, etc.

At first, many students were not familiar with using these applications in distance learning. However, up to now, most students seem to have mastered them. These apps bring to us many benefits. We can participate in seminars, conferences, workshops, meetings anywhere from far away as long as we have a laptop or smartphone with an internet connection. We can divide into groups, discuss nearly like offline sessions. In addition, we can also attend many meetings with close time without spending time for traveling. Of course, these also have their disadvantages, but the effect they bring is no less than offline meetings before.

For me, I love to experience this new study way through these apps. They have helped me not only now, but also in the future, to organize remote training courses or conferences, workshops for those in hard-to-reach areas with research centers, institutes, and universities which want to transfer technology, production techniques as well as knowledge of agribusiness, etc.

THE DAILY LIFE

Up to now, I have been in Japan for about 20 months. It will take around 4 months for us to complete this master course and return to my country. However, unfortunately for me, I had health problems.

I had an operation and was hospitalized for 1 week. I was very confused, worried a lot. However, the doctors and nurses at the hospital are very kind, enthusiastic and very professional. The service provided at the hospital made me very satisfied. Besides, Ms. Yoshino san, Jice coordinator at Kyushu University, has always supported me in all aspects of my life, especially during my recent hospitalization.

Apart from health issues, I think everything is fine so far. Even though I am restricted from going to visit many places, I am still able to do the things I enjoy and experience Japan in my own way.

For new JDS fellows, I would like to remind you that Japan is a place worth to study and experience. Do not worry a lot. Open your door to the widest possible to receive the best things that the short time in Japan can be for you.

4 Tran Thi Huong Giang

My name is Tran Thi Huong Giang. I come from Viet Nam. Currently, I am a second year Master student at LABORATORY AGRICULTURAL AND FARM MANAGEMENT, belong to Prof. Teruaki NANSEKI. This is

my second year to live and study in Japan, especially at Kyushu University.



About my daily life

After nearly two years in Japan, although I haven't learned the language yet, through contact and attitude, the Japanese are very friendly and always try to help their best. I learned to cook Japanese food, experienced Japanese style shops and everything was great. I also traveled to a few provinces south of Kyushu during the golden week, but most of the shops and tourist spots were closed due to the epidemic, unfortunately. Life in Japan during the corona period makes things sometimes more difficult, from studying to traveling, but the Japanese government always has support packages for international students. I really appreciate and I hope I will have the opportunity to return to Japan as soon as possible, to continue my studies and to contribute to my country.

About my research, my laboratory

Due to the limitations caused by the corona pandemic, we don't have as many field trips as the previous JDS courses, we also have less time to meet each other at school and mostly self-study time at home. Most of the seminars are online and we meet each other by screen. At first, learning was still difficult, but over the past year, everyone has adapted and updated technology every day. All my study plans are also gradually coming to the final stage, completing my thesis and preparing for the final defense. Every remaining seminar with sensei and with lab mates is the remaining precious time. Everything is so fast and I feel that the time left in Japan is very short.

One again, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and much respect to my academic supervisors, Professor. Teruaki NANSEKI and Assistant Professor. Yosuke CHOMEI (now becoming Associate Professor in Hiroshima university),

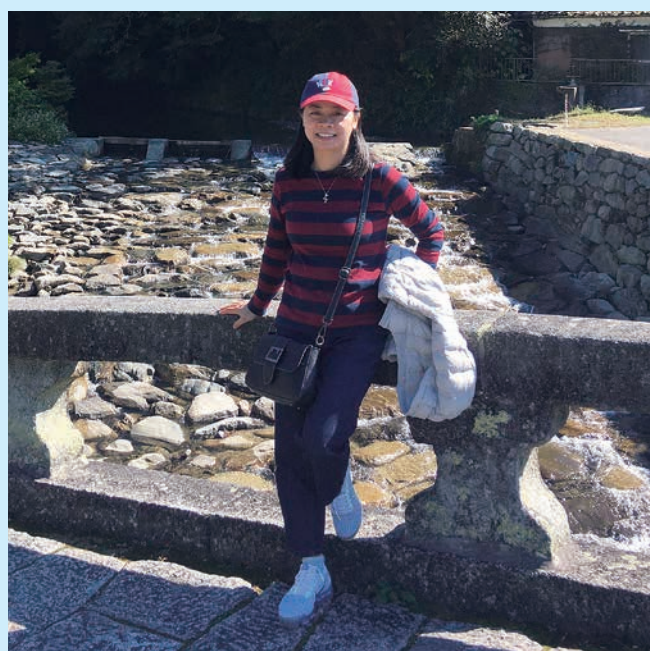
who directly guided my study, provided valuable suggestions, insightful feedback, and constructive comments for me during my academic process. I am deeply indebted to the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) and Japan International Cooperation Centre (JICE) for great opportunity and providing financial support for my study in Japan. Particularly, thanks to the JICE coordinator, Ms Yoshino Chikako, who always support not only me but also other JDS fellows in our daily life with all her carefulness. I also would like to send my thankful to all friends in Kyushu University, and special thanks for my lab-mates in the Laboratory of Agricultural and Farm Management for her sharing knowledge, skills and helping during my study period.

Thank you so much!

5 Tran Thi Van

Time flired so fast, almost the time of 2 years in Japan has passed. Thank to Japanese and its people here for giving me unforgettable experiences and memories in my life. Although it might be not perfect due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic, we have adapted and found our own ways in these special circumstances like this.

In academic field, I have completed all the units in my course through online learning. Besides, under the guidances of my professors and labmates, I have also completed my research topic and I am continuing to research and improve my research topic. I also participated in an international seminar online and published an article in an international journal. I felt myself more professional than before through the process of doing research in the lab and learning from the classes. At the first time of adaptation, I felt like confused in the finding research directions and skills of scientific research. Over the



time I have become more proactive in setting up experiments and finding new research directions step by step. In addition, I also feel that I have gradually become more professional in my academic research and writing skills. The knowledge from the classes helped me strengthen myself and reduced my limitations in the academic field. Participating in the conference is a best opportunity for me to meet experts in this field and this also is a place where I can find new research directions for myself in the future. I feel very grateful to have professors and friends here who have helped me a lot to improve myself.

Regarding extracurricular activities, I participated in the program “Understanding the Japanese Development Experience Program” organized by JICA. This program looks truly as an attractive and useful. I have been learned about the history of Japanese development, how Japanese overcame their difficulties and the process of applying science and technology to their production and life. In addition, I have also participated in a program with high school students named “Hakataseisho high school global program students meeting” to exchange and connect information about culture, society and life between two countries Vietnam - Japan. This is a very good opportunity for students like us to exchange information and understand about the differences between the two countries. In addition, I visited several tourist sites in Kumamoto and Nagasaki prefectures. These trips have helped me discover and enjoy the landscape, cuisine as well as the culture and people there. I realize that these are great experiences for international students like me to learn and exchange about the history, culture and life among other countries. This will help us to expand our connection later in the future. I feel so blessed to have those valuable experiences.

Finally, from the deepest of my heart I would like to thank to JDS program for bringing these great oppotunities to me for two years living in Japan. I would like to thank to JICE for their dedication and thoughtfulness. I would like to thank to my Professors Fumihiko Tanaka, Fumina Tanaka and all lab members for supporting me not only in academic field even always with me. Besides, I also want to thank the Professors and Officers at Kyushu University for their teaching, caring and supporting to international students like us. I will always remember and respect those memmories. I hope that I can come back here to continue studying in near future.

6 Nguyen Thi Doan

My name is Nguyen Thi Doan and now I am a second-year student for master’s course at kyushu University. I belong to Lab of Food Analysis under the supervision of Professor Toshiro Matsui. From the first days I arrived Japan to until now, I always receive great support from JICE staffs as well as JDS



program, and Matsui sensei, Tanaka sensei, Miyazaki sensei, Sakai sensei, and my friends in my lab. It helps me easily to adapt to my new life in Japan, so I am always grateful for this.

Academic life at Kyushu university

Studying at Kyushu university is a great experience and meaningful time in my life. I had worked for several years before going back to school, so it makes me much nervous at first. I know that the beginning is always the hardest, so I need to try my best. I remember the first days after arriving Japan, everything is new to me. However, in my lab, with the great support from my sensei, Japanese friends as well as foreign friends, they always support and help me a lot, so I could easy to adapt academic life in my lab. In my research, I have already learnt and performed advance methods in food analysis that help me much for my career.

The curriculum for master's course covers many areas of agricultural field from things I understand well to things I have no idea at all. In addition, I have some field trips with classes organized by JICA. For the first trip, we have a chance to go to the JA center. In this trip, we learned how they produce, manage product quality and distribute agricultural products. For the second trip, we visited Kitaya company to see how sake was made.

During studying in Kyushu university, JICE Head Quarter as well as JICE Kyushu office always support me and give me advices in daily life as well as difficult situations. Besides that, there are several orientations organized by JDS program with meaningful lectures, especially JDS pre-return program I really like. This program gave me useful knowledge and help me clearly imagine what I need to do next in the future.

In short, I would like to say many thanks to Japanese Government and Vietnamese Government for giving me a great opportunity to study at Kyushu University. I also would like

to express my sincere thanks to JDS program as well as JICE, particularly JICE Kyushu Office, especially to Ms. Yoshino for helping me a lot for my daily life during staying in Japan. Finally, I would like to say thank so much to my sensei and friends in my lab, they held me study effectively during 2 years in Japan.

7 Nguyen Huu Thien

Life with COVID-19



It has already been more than 1 year since the COVID-19 started to affect us, the JDS fellows, in not only our academic life but also everything else. The pandemic brought us several challenges, but also gave us many valuable lessons.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, most of the classes were transformed from face-to-face to online courses, in which, at first, brought many difficulties to not only students but also the professors. However, we were getting used to this limitation and started to enjoy it. Nevertheless, we still regret not being able to attend several annual JDS events and fieldtrips, which were told to be very exciting and informative in previous years by the JDS alumni.

Right now, most of us already finished the course works and the main concern is our research, and everyone is trying our best. Last February, I was delighted to present one part of my study in the "Asian Natural Products Conference", wherein I obtained several important and beneficial advices from the specialists in this field. I'm glad that I study in a kind-hearted and supportive laboratory, where every member is dedicating themselves to the whole development of the lab. I received many valuable advices, guidance and encouragements from my sensei and the lab members, that keep me going forward in my study. From them, I learned not only the expertise skills and

abilities in high level science, but also the spirit and morality of a truthful scientist. Those lessons will surely be embedded in my mind no matter where I will be in the future.

Like academic life, our life outside of the lab has also been remarkably different because of COVID-19. Many plans were cancelled, many expectations were lowered. After taking various precautions, we still think we are quite lucky to be safe from the virus until now. To prevent the mental illness from the pandemic, we tried to re-balance our life and tried to live a much simpler life. As mentioned from the beginning, the pandemic brought us not only challenges but also valuable lessons, in particular, the undeniable importance of family. During university-restricted periods, we got more time together to understand each other more and enjoy every little thing in life.

There are only a few months towards the end of my JDS journey in Japan, which is, maybe one of the most special and unforgettable experiences in my life. It's not the pandemic or the difficulties that make this journey special and unforgettable, but the warm kindness and strong supports from JICE, JICE Kyushu, JDS Agriculture Kyudai, Shimizu sensei, JDS fellows, friends, labmates and colleagues to me. I'm cannot find words to describe my gratitude and appreciation. I hope that the pandemic will be over soon, so we can return to our "new" normal life, with new hope and greater expectation in life.

8 Yan Phyo Han

How can we dream our future?

First of all, I would like to start with the famous speech of Martin Luther King Jr. He said "I have a dream". Yes, everyone has a dream. There is no one who do not expect for their good future. I also have a dream to go study abroad. Now, I am a mater student at Kyushu University under the JDS scholarship program. My dream really came true. When I arrived in Japan, I got a lot of experience especially mindset, culture, living standard, and government system and so on. I admire Japanese peoples' mindset so much. I think their mindset will be derived from their education system. For example, they know their responsibility very well related to their works or activities. They maintain their culture very well especially in language. They prepare a well plan before starting their works. And they also have a very good garbage management system. For example, in my apartment, they have a timetable to clean around the building every third week of the month. If you want to do something like changing the address or making bank account or do other things regarding the government sector, you can easily finish your work in a short time in the office. There will be a lot of experience that I could not explain perfectly.

For me, I have a plan after going back to my country.



In Myanmar, 70% of the population are rural people. I would like to share my foreign experience combining with my work experience by doing extension. I expect that I can share my knowledge as much as I can. I also have a plan to reform the system from the government sector because the system from one step to another is very slow. From the research and development sectors, there is a huge gap between research and field work. I would like to connect these sectors for the improvement.

I imagine that our country will be one of the developed countries like Japan one day. But unfortunately, our country is now facing the complicated political situation. I do not expect this situation. I think so many questions every day. What can I do for my future? How can I expect my future? What should I do for my future? What will happen in my future? In my childhood life, one of my teachers said, "There are four kinds of people: (1) good and clever person, (2) not good but clever person, (3) good but not clever person, and (4) not good and not clever person. You should not be No (2) and No (4) person". So, I have to behave at least as a good man even though not clever. Anyway, I have to stay strong. I believe that we can overcome this situation. After overcoming this situation, I will do as my decided plan.

In conclusion, I still have a dream for my life, my family, and my country. I believe that my dream will come true in the near future. I would like to say many thanks to Japanese Government and JDS program for giving me a precious chance to study at Kyushu University. I also would like to thank my supervisor Nobuya MIZOUE Sensei, JICE staff and JICE coordinator for their invaluable supports and helps for my student life and everything.

9 Phyo Htet Htet Kyaw

"Time flies, but not memories"

My student life experience in Japan is incredible and I have said this to everyone I met. Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. I am a second year master student from Myanmar. It has been one and half year since I arrived in Fukuoka. Soon or later, I would be going back to my home country. While I was writing



this report, I was reevaluating myself what I have learnt, how I try to improve myself, how I pass the challenges and how I handle the difficulties during these two years duration. Believe it or not, “*To fulfil one of the JDS objectives*”, I am assured that I would try to change or improve to become a good leader not only by polishing myself and applying what I have learnt from Japan.

Before I came here, I have already known about Japanese people who are very generous and helpful. Since I arrived in Kyushu university, Japanese students in my lab, despite their shyness to speak English, they never hesitate to help. A lot of experiments were gone smoothly because of their kind help. I would like to share from the first memorable story happened to me that I met a very warm Japanese host family via a home-stay program. For the first time in my life, I feel like “Home” in the foreign country. We became very friendly from the first time we met and hang out together until now. One more an awesome story I can’t never forget is about my bicycle accident. It was very lucky that nobody hit by me and nothing got hurt, but the bicycle was totally broken. I was absolutely got shocked, at that time, an old Japanese couple helped and sent me to my apartment safely. They even carried my bicycle and searched the bicycle fixed shop for me. I still remembered that they invited to their house and treated the poor me with a cup of tea. I was about to drop tears not because of I wasn’t hurt in luck, but I was very lucky to meet with them. I owe a lot to them, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them.

Furthermore, focusing on student life, I would have to mention about the most respectable person who gives me the opportunity to join his lab, my supervisor, Professor Takahisa MIYAMOTO. Not only that he is very kind and supportive, he is truly open-minded, always listens to students’ ideas and gives us freedom to build our own ways to achieve the goal. For the conference, I am going to attend two conferences, one is World

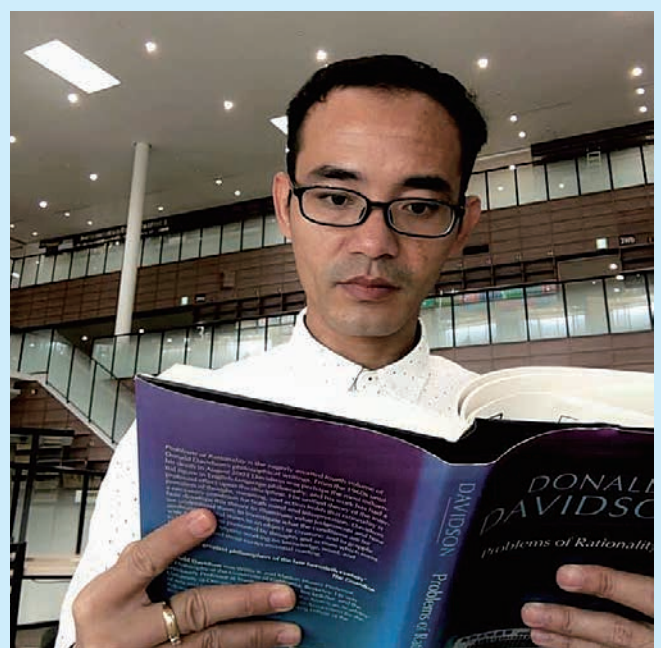
Microbe Forum, and the another is “68th Annual meeting of the Japanese society of food science and technology in Fukuoka”, proudly hosted by my supervisor. I believe that I would get valuable knowledges by attending these conferences.

In summary, I am so much into Japanese Culture; I honestly appreciate their hard works, principles, and generosity. Also, Fukuoka city has its own uniqueness and beauty throughout every season, and I am very pleased to be here. Finally, I am very grateful for every single experience I have gained in Japan as it makes me grow like today. I will work my best on the research and never stop enhancing myself. Moreover, I would give my greatest strength and serve for my country until retired.

10 Win Min Paing

Research work at my laboratory

My student life in Japan already passed one and a half years. The second year for me as a master student is a hard-working life with conducting research, data collection and interpretation, data management, and research analysis. Thesis and manuscript writings have already been on its journey. For a student from a developing world, here in Japan, ways of research thinking and building the body of academic knowledge gave me a totally different nature of education and unthinkable experiences were happened and surprised to me. The ways of thinking and finding the solutions for each case of problems in Japan’s higher education is quite different from the developing world like Myanmar. My laboratory is ‘Forest Policy Laboratory’ and related field of studies are policy and governance issues in forest sector. It ranges from timber markets and trades to rights and obligation of local communities. In



the academic body, forest policy issues range from forest management, governance, trading and marketing, forest and environmental administration, and governmentality to forest related anthropogenic and geographic studies.

Here in Japan's Higher Education, the analysis of research and building of the academic body don't merely satisfy with the studies of the emergent theories, concepts, and principles. The professors here used to train their students to have much deeper looks and reviews on the embedded and background philosophies and let us know why different kinds of principles and theories emerged as 'emergent theories and concepts'. Upon building of the academic knowledge in such manners, we visited back to the 'emergent theories and concepts' again and searched and tried to find the resolutions for each individual issue. This is a new version of 'higher education' for me and the invaluable experiences and ways of thinking were achieved throughout the student life in Japan. This is, perhaps, the basic foundation of 'higher education system', and we, from the developing world, should learn from Japan's way of thinking and ways of building up their academic body.

The idea of 'looking to the root cause behind the emergent drivers' is much important for, even in, daily life of the people. In our laboratory, we further went beyond the emergent concepts and theories related to forestry issues, and we further marched into the depths by having a deeper dive into the field of main ideologies and theories from which these emergent theories were rooted. Reviewing and provoking the opened thoughts upon these original philosophies gave us a quite different views, opinions and thoughts on the existing issues.

As I am one of the government officers from Myanmar under the ministry of 'Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation', I have due responsibilities as an officer 'or' as a normal citizen to involve in the dissolving campaigns of my country against deforestation and forest and environmental degradation issues. I strongly believed the academic materials, analytical thinking, and the philosophy of thought-provoking research thinking which I have learned in Japan will help me to participate in these campaigns against deforestation and related forest and environmental degradation issues in my country. Throughout the student life in 'Forest Policy Laboratory', the experiences gained from a series of seminars, trainings, field works, reading, and discussions with my professors and classmates will definitely support me and my country as well. I would like to express my sincere thanks to JDS for giving me a chance to study here.

11 Vongxay Airyai



According to my personal duty is about managing the village forest areas, so the topic of improving the livelihood of local resident through village forest management plan is the most appropriate to further emphasize and put more concentration. Since 2019, I have tried to find an available scholarship programs from different countries and I finally found that JDS program supported by the Japanese government is the best option and the most appropriate to be applied then I decided to put more attention for applying this scholarship, and luckily, I finally acquired the scholarship from this program in 2020.

Before I was offered this scholarship, I have prepared and submitted all related documents, passed the mathematical and English language tests, and also passed the interview session to explain about the research plan to the Council. In fact, I should normally come to Japan since September 2020, but because of the serious situation of COVID-19 pandemic so the departure date was postponed without scheduled and I had to wait.

Actually, although I could not come to Japan, the course should be promptly undertaken by online, but due to the Kyushu University has required to conduct only by face to face course then we had to postpone again for another 6 months and during that postpone period I have returned to work and wait for the course to begin, and finally it has been started in April 2021.

As my course has started by online matter in April, but there are not many subjects or lectures which provided the online basis, so I had to select only the lectures/ subjects which conducted by online. However, learning through online system there are a lot of problems and issues that directly affected to

my study including: internet interruption, the noise, and others. By the overall perspectives, my house is not the place for study, the environment surrounding is not supported for study, what I should get from the university I could not find at my place. Therefore, the quality of learning and quality of the result are definitely lower than expected.

Nonetheless, As waiting for a very long-long-long time, I'm now reached to Japan already, currently I stay in a hotel in Tokyu for 14 days quarantine. Then, after finished the quarantine period I will directly heading to Kyushu University and absolutely begin my student life destination, I do not know what will happen in upcoming 2 years but I will try my best.

12 Sramany Nilanlath



My dream came true after I have been applying for the second times of JDS scholarship, then I have finally succussed the biggest thing of my aspiration in my life to being as JDS fellow (Batch 21st) in 2020 last years before. Since then, I am so proud to be a part of the big families of the JDS fellowship, even while waiting to arrive in Japan I am continuing hard to improve myself, prepare everything on my study journey, and so on. But since the beginning of last year, we have facing the surprising of the Covit-19 spreading situation, it was appearing all around the world. So then, these situations also affected to around the world, even as JDS fellow we have to extend our study until this year. We are lucky, being as the JDS fellow, because JICE always takes care of us even any problem, even any concern able, they always helped and supported us.

I have been starting to learn my Master course through virtual only, even object schedule has provided by University through the University' webpage it's a common platform of each general institute, but it's a new thing for me to learning by doing at my personal room it's not in class room, but it's quite suitable to do in the Covit-19 spread situation. I have to adapted on my study to accomplish by learn to do, learn to know, and learn to be for success my purpose in the future.

Nowadays, I am finally arriving in Japan to remain my study, while started a journey of study abroad. I believe it's going to be an interesting thing and an important thing to my life in charge of doing new journeys.

13 Vu Thi Lan

Online Admission - A memorable experience



Unlike previous JDS fellows, although we are JDS fellows of Batch 20, until now we are still in Vietnam, not in Japan yet, because of impacts of Covid-19 pandemic. All admission process was conducted through online system. Also, we have joined all classes online, even though some recent classes organized in person.

To be honest, at first, I was a bit disappointed and frustrated when I could not go to school but had to study online. However, when I got used to learning online and getting to know other JDS fellows, I found it quite interesting. Outside of learning time, I have more time for my family. This is the first time since I entered university that I have been at home for such a long time. I am very grateful to the JDS scholarship fund for always supporting us.

Although online learning also has certain shortcomings, both lecturers and students try to overcome them. The lecturers always do their best to facilitate and support us. Instead of taking tests like learning in person, lecturers often give us report assignments with flexible deadlines, usually 1 week, so that we can be more proactive in our time, avoiding the effect of time zone difference between countries. What impressed me most about online learning was the enthusiasm of the lecturers. All questions are answered quickly whether it is via email, via the

Moodle system, or at the time of the class.

At online classes, the lecturers also facilitated us to get to know each other. Through that, I have made many friends who are JDS fellows and from other countries as well. In particular, I keep in contact with Vietnam's JDS fellows of Batch 20 who studying at Kyushu University. We together discuss topics related to the subject and also share how to overcome the difficulties of online learning as well.

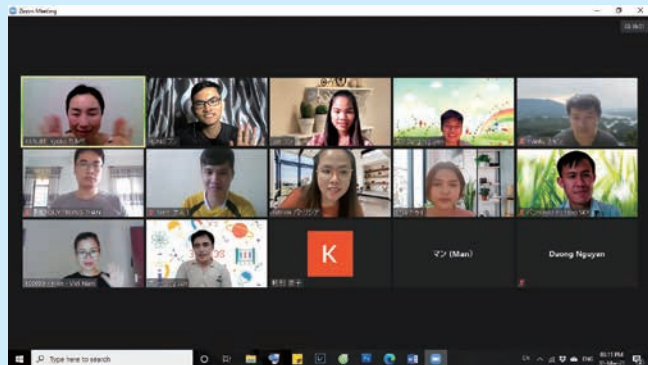
In addition, there is one very interesting thing that even the meeting along newcomers, the professors and other members (including senpais) is also organized by online.

For my research, I also often contact with my supervisor by email. He has always replied quickly all of my questions. Although I am still in my country, the professor allows me to join seminars organized by his lab. I also have had a chance to present my research proposal at the seminar, through Microsoft teams system.

I hope that the Covid-19 pandemic is soon under control, and then I can enter Japan as soon as possible. I really would like to be experienced study in Japan, particularly at Kyushu University, my dream school.

14 Nguyen Ngoc Hung

“Bad choice makes good stories”



At the present time, the Covid 19 Pandemic has disrupted everything around the world. The JDS-batch-20 students are no exception. As soon as I received the results of the JDS scholarship, I was extremely happy and looked forward to the day I come to Japan, a country with many new things, to study and explore. But Covid 19 has delayed everything. I couldn't fly to Japan on schedule. My friends and I enrolled online instead. I emphasize that we had online enrollment. This was probably the first time that a JDS students have to do remoted-admission. Everyone was not happy at that time. But we understand that the members of JICE and the school had to work very hard for our on time admission. I appreciate this help. It is said that some other scholarships have had to completely cancel this year's plans and students have to wait until the epidemic is completely controlled.

Then I started a series of days getting used to taking classes remotely. The orientation classes and Japanese language classes organized by JICE, specialized classes of the school are held remotely. In addition, seminars to share experiences of former JDS students or seminars discussions with professors are also conducted remotely. People look at each other through the screen, listen with headphones. In the first days, the class was sometimes interrupted by internet interruptions, noisy by a student forgetting to turn off the mic, and the sound was faulty due to low transmission quality. These problems are not surprising when most people are just taking a distance class for the first time. Day by day, the problems are gradually fixed, things get better. I found that I was more focused and more comfortable as taking classes remotely. I also improved my self-reliance in studying lectures and planning for my research. The classes started to get interesting as I still had the opportunity to interact with the professor and my classmates. I have completed the Fall and Winter semesters with excellent results. I am currently taking spring classes and having further discussions with the professor. Distance learning is still great but I need to be in Japan as soon as possible to do my research. The epidemic situation is gradually being controlled with the presence of a vaccine, I hope the world will soon return to the way it was before.

Although the Pandemic brought many troubles to my master's course, I have understood more important things in study and life. “Bad choice makes good stories” is always a quote I use to encourage myself when I'm in trouble. This statement is especially true over the past half year period. Then everything will be fine. JDS batch 20th has become the most special batch and special stories about us will be mentioned many times in the history of JDS scholarships. I'm so glad I was a part of it. Thank you for everything.

15 Truong Minh Hang

THE LIFE OF A JDS FELLOW DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

I am currently a Master's student in Food Process Engineering, Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University. I belong to JDS 20 batch which can be seen as a very special batch, we gained the scholarship at the historical moment of the World: the outbreak of the covid pandemic. Our memories about this period were around the anxious days of waiting for epidemic situation news in Japan and Vietnam. I and other new students eagerly prepared our luggage, followed a ton of articles about the beautiful life and culture in Japan with much hope.

Until now, it has been almost a year since the day our flight was delayed, in fact, there were times getting in a bad

mood and disappointed. However, on the positive side, this is also a memorable moment in our lives. In the situation that the whole world is struggling against the epidemic, the number of deaths is increasing, many companies are bankrupt, many people have lost their jobs, etc. I am fortunate to still be fine in my hometown and JICE's monthly allowance also helps me feel rest assured, so I can focus on studying and researching.

Not being able to experience life in Japan is a big disadvantage for an international student like me, however, I have experienced online learning. I was not only able to interact and acquire new knowledge but also restricted going out to crowded places. During this time, I also have more time for my family and doing what I enjoy.

Although we just saw each other through the computer screen, professors at Kyushu proved their dedication and thoughtfulness. Group activities of students from different countries with different ethnicities have become more fun and united, maybe the harsh situation makes people sympathize and share each other more. Another valuable experience for me is enrolling in the Japanese language course from JTCs Center of Kyushu University, the class has few students but always boisterous and very quality, the lesson is carefully prepared. I am very grateful to Professor Nishijima and Nao Tachibana who always inspire me that makes me love this subject. Therefore, my sadness about imperfect departure also be appeased, I soon recovered my enthusiasm and started life as a student in my country. On the days when Vietnam had the epidemic under control, I participated in physical training activities, charity activities and visited some food factories to gain more experience.

In the coming time, I need to fully focus on the research project, both I and the in-charge professor in charge as well as my friends in the Laboratory are looking forward to seeing each other soon. I hope the Covid pandemic is soon under control and



the peace comes to everyone, especially Vietnam and Japan. The rest of the study period is expected to be beautiful days. Finally, I wish Japan a successful organization of the XXXII Olympic Games in 2021.

16 Duong Danh Thanh

“a new experience of studying abroad at home”



First of all, thanks to The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS) has opened my dream by which I can fulfill my dream of getting a master's degree in a foreign country like Japan. In fact, Japan is always the most cherished goal for education and research. The country is the epitome of success and development in the world concerning everything. Therefore, the JDS scholarship will help me improve a lot of knowledge and experience by which I can contribute to the development of my country. In addition, Kyushu University is one of the major universities in Japan, which can provide me with sufficient knowledge and equipment for my research. I was hoping to have a good time here.

However, I cannot go to Japan as planned before because of Covid-19. I was quite disappointed by the situation. However, this is a force majeure situation and we have to accept it. In fact, the scholarship organizers have created the best conditions for our online learning. I have learned a lot of theoretical knowledge, which will serve my future thesis. Lectures provided by Japanese professors make me widen my horizon and it was a great opportunity to learn from visiting foreign professors. In fact, GMT Vietnam is 2 hours earlier than GMT Japan. so we usually get up early to attend the first class at 8:30 am (6:30 am in GMT Vietnam). with afternoon shifts, we usually begin at 11 am GMT Vietnam. Online learning is an enjoyable experience. However, if given the opportunity, I still want to experience face-to-face classes in Japan. Moreover, I have also attended other courses including a Japanese course of JTCs, an English course for masters, and doctorates. These courses have helped me improve my language and scientific writing skills. In addition, I also joined in several JICA's seminars including the situation covid-19 in Japan, classes in yoga help to relax.

About my research, Because I am not present in Japan,

my research topic has not been implemented yet. However, I contacted the professor via email about the research topic. The professor proposed a new research object that is entomopathogenic fungi from the fall armyworm *Spodoptera frugiperda*. I was quite interested in this new subject because it is also the main insect pest in Vietnam in recent years. My professor also provides materials related to the new topic. Based on these documents, I was able to understand more about my research and collect material to write an overview.

Finally, I want to give my heartiest thanks to JICA, JICE for arranging a JDS scholarship for the Vietnam civil servants and making a golden pathway for future researchers of the country. I understand the difficulties the scholarship organizers are facing due to the covid-19 epidemic. Therefore, I hope we will find solutions as soon as possible so that I and other candidates can come to Japan to conduct research. once again I sincerely thank the scholarship

17 Pham Khanh Nam

A peaceful moment to look back on



It's been over a year since I received the JDS scholarship announcement. Every time I think back to that time, my emotions are still the same. These are emotions of happiness, pride and hope. Until now, though affected by the epidemic Covid-19 that prevented me from going to Japan, I am still grateful to JDS for giving me this opportunity.

I received the notification of admission just a few months after the Covid-19 pandemic began to ravage. I am very nervous and stressed about studying online. Worried about not being able to graduate on time? Worried that if I study remotely, I can absorb the lesson well? I later understood that those worries

were not my own. The support from JDS and the school has been really dedicated. All my questions were answered almost immediately. My professor enthusiastically asked questions about my studies and directed my research goals. The professors teaching the subjects were very attentive and friendly, they helped me whenever I didn't understand something. In the past 9 months, I have completed a lot of subjects and prepared myself with a large amount of knowledge. In addition to studying in class, I have participated in online seminars and online certification exams from reputable websites. I have spent a lot of time reading and researching articles related to the research topic given to me by the professor. Every day I made plans and strictly followed them. I believe that small changes from day to day become big things when combined.

In my daily activities, I enjoy life in Vietnam by joining the badminton club, swimming on the beach, reading books and learning Japanese. At first, anxiety made me gain weight. But sports activities have kept me healthy. The Covid-19 pandemic has turned many things upside down in my life. However, if we look at it positively, our family has spent more time together. When there is a social distance order, I spend more time indoors, we talked more than usual and we understood each other better. I feel that my wife and I have understood each other a lot better than before. Instead of going out to explore the world, I found it in the pages of books and from learning Japanese. I have felt and learned Japanese culture from the Japanese language.

Finally, I really appreciate what I have now. I enjoy life through the little things in my daily life with my studies and family. From the bottom of my heart, I want to say thanks to the JDS scholarship program for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank JICE for their dedication and thoughtfulness. Finally, I want to say thank you very much for my sensei Professors Takahiro Kusakabe for giving me dedicated bits of advice during this time.

18 Le Quang Man

Study aboard in the pandemic of Covid

I have told my friends that I am a special JDS student in Vietnam because I am in Batch 20.5. It is an emotional story. I was delayed enrollment to Kyushu University in April semester, according to the advice of my supervisor, Professor Furuya. I was very nervous when I received the notification about chose entry to University in October or April. Then, I got an email from the professor saying it is a more comfortable start for me to enrol in April. I believed he knows what is good for me and follows what he recommends. Until now, It is nearly the end of my first Master semester, I can say that it is an entirely correct choice.

Someone said that Everything has two sides – a positive one and a negative one. Study abroad online for a time is



not terrible. Looking on the light side, although I am still in Vietnam, Professor Naruto Furuya, Assistant Professor, and I keep in contact well through the internet. We discussed the content of my research and determined the object with which I will conduct an experiment. On the study online time in Vietnam, It is the golden time for me to take classes and get as many credits as possible. I can also collect and prepare information related to the research that sometimes is difficult in Japan. As a result, I will be able to concentrate on Lab-works after arriving in Japan.

Moreover, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank JICE, including JICE HQ, JICE Vietnam and JICE Kyudai, who always devotedly support me. I get interesting information about Japan in the Monthly letter from JICE HQ and valuable courses organized for JDS fellow from JICE Kyudai. Besides, JICE Vietnam very kindly assists us in preparing the documents and arise procedures before departure.

I understand that flight delay is unexpected. Therefore, transfer challenge to opportunity, I take advantage of this time to self-study Japanese. I hope that I can arrange the time to take Japanese class and practice it after entry into Japan.

19 Azasi Foster

LIFE IN KYUSHU UNIVERSITY

Hello everyone, my name is Foster Azasi and I come from Ghana, a country in the western part of Africa. Currently, I'm a master student in the Graduate school of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Science majoring in Environmental Economics. I entered Japan on October 14th, 2020 but came to Kyushu University (Fukuoka) on October 28th same year after serving the 14 days' quarantine in Tokyo.

Life in Kyushu University has been mixed feelings due

to the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has restricted a lot of activities that makes school life lively. I think the authorities at Kyushu University should be commended for the way they handled the outbreak of the pandemic. I took the Fall and Winter classes online so I spent about eighty percent of the first five months on campus in the dormitory.

As an Environmental Economic student, it is rare for me to have more than 12 hours of class time per week. Over the course of my two semesters at Kyushu University, I try to schedule my classes strategically so that I will not struggle with assignments. Usually, it takes me an hour to prepare for just one class. Some lecturers use zoom to conduct their class, others prefer Microsoft teams and others also prefer giving out slides for students to study by themselves which is sometimes challenging especially if you are new to the field.

My laboratory organizes a seminar once every week and I always make sure to be present or join online. As a research student I make sure to devote three hours to my research work every day. I try to spend more of my time to study on weekdays so that I'll have enough time to rest on weekends.

With regards to food, I always try to cook it myself although I'm a bad cook. I sometimes go to restaurants with few friends to enjoy either Japanese food or Indian food. There are a lot of restaurants on campus so one need not to worry about what to eat. Food is definitely not a problem.

My biggest recommendation is for each student to figure out what works for him or her and do it. I never felt obligated to be confined to a schedule that didn't fit my personal needs.

Overall, adjusting to school can be challenging; however, with the amazing opportunities and support systems I have here, I am beyond happy to call Kyushu University a home. A special THANK YOU to JDS for making this opportunity a reality.

..... **ARIGATOU GOZAIMASHITA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



20 *Bawah Emmanuel*

Self-Introduction



My name is Emmanuel from Ghana. I am a first-year student belonging to Food Marketing and Distribution, Department of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Kyushu University. My supervisor is Professor Masahiro Moritaka. It's been eight months since I came to Japan. Through the JDS program, I have experienced things I thought I would never have dreamt of in life, such as seeing snow for the first time and enjoying the delicious miso soup.

Study life

I was feeling nervous and experienced some difficulties in the online studies because it was my first time. However, the help given to me during seminar under Professor Moritaka and Assistant Professor Seifeddine Ben TAIEB is very supportive. During the seminar, I could present my research topic, discuss and get comments from my supervisors and lab colleagues. The seminar has helped me improve my critical thinking skills and research logically. Aside from the seminar, we also have a study session every Friday, in which a student is given the chance to teach the laboratory members a topic he or she has researched.

Apart from courses provided by the university, there are also specialized subjects provided by JICA on Agricultural development and policy and Agricultural Technology Innovation in Japan. I am so grateful for being part of the Kyushu University family for two years.

Academic conference

As a JDS student at Kyushu University, I got the opportunity to attend a two-day conference organized by the Agricultural Economics Society of Japan (AEJS) on 27-28th

March 2021. It was done online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some researchers and graduate students presented their research results in many aspects of agricultural economics during the conference. Participation in the forum helped me to upgrade my knowledge and a new concept from other researchers and made me aware of some of the challenges I may face in the research process.

Finally, I thank the Japanese Government for giving me this opportunity to study at a prestigious university like Kyushu University. I am also grateful to JICA and JDS for their support in my daily life during my stay in Japan.

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Edited by **The Special Committee for JDS program
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