

Annual Report of JDS Program

Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences Kyushu University



Vol.20 (2022)

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. Our program at Kyushu University aims to develop strong human resources, build strong personal and institutional collaborations and enhance the future relationship between Japan and the students’ home countries. Furthermore, 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. dissertations in English, and then present their thesis at the end of the program.

2. Enrolled JDS students in 2022

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
Southedlath Khamsalath	Lao PDR	Plant Nutrition	MARUYAMA Akiko, Associate Professor
Doctor Course [2021 Entrance]			
Pham Nguyen Anh Duy	Vietnam	Insect Natural Enemies	UENO Takatoshi, Associate Professor
Aye Thida Maung	Myanmar	Food Hygienic Chemistry	MIYAMOTO Takahisa, Professor
Master Course [2020 Entrance]			
Vongxay Airyai	Lao PDR	Forest Policy Institute of Tropical Agriculture	FUJIWARA Takahiro, Associate Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko, 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
Khaing Zar Linn	Myanmar	Food Hygienic Chemistry	MIYAMOTO Takahisa, Professor
Myint Than Soe	Myanmar	Marine Biochemistry	NAKAO Miki, Professor
Azasi Foster	Ghana	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Bawah Emmanuel	Ghana	Food Marketing and Distribution	MORITAKA Masahiro, Associate Professor
Master Course [2021 Entrance]			
Nanthaphone Bounsy	Lao PDR	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Vorachith Nilapha	Lao PDR	Forest Policy Institute of Tropical Agriculture	FUJIWARA Takahiro, Associate Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko, Professor
Le Thi Xuyen	Vietnam	Bioresources and Management	TAKASU Keiji, Professor
Dam Tuan Anh	Vietnam	Marine Biology	OHTA Kohei, Associate Professor
Nguyen The Vuong	Vietnam	Marine Biology	OHTA Kohei, Associate Professor
Zin Naing Win	Myanmar	Forest Production Control	ENOKI Tsutomu, Associate Professor
Adegoke Michael	Ghana	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Amiyuure Joshua Atule	Ghana	Plant Production Physiology	AGARIE Sakae, Professor

3. List of Subjects and Supervising Professors for International Development Research Course (Academic Year 2022)

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		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
	Agroecology	Toyoaki ANAI	Kaori SAKAI	Tomomi ABIKO 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		Shotaro NISHIMURA
Animal Reproductive Physiology			Nobuhiko YAMAUCHI	Tomoki SOH
Chemistry and Technology of Animal Products		Ryuichi TATSUMI	Takahiro SUZUKI	
Regulation in Metabolism and Behavior		Shinobu YASUO		
Animal Production and Ecology			Hideyuki TAKAHASHI	Yutaka NAKANO Yudai INABU
Marine Biology			Kohei OHTA	Akihiko YAMAGUCHI Chakraborty TAPAS
Fisheries Biology		Tomoyuki KOKITA		Akira KURIHARA
Marine Environmental Science		Yuji OSHIMA	Yohei SHIMASAKI	
Aquatic Field Science		Norio ONIKURA	Yoshihisa KURITA	Akihiko KOYAMA
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 SHINOGI		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	Gaku YOKOYAMA
	Agricultural Machinery and Production Systems Design	Takashi OKAYASU	Yasumaru HIRAI	
Forest Environmental Sciences	Postharvest Science	Fumihiko TANAKA		Fumina TANAKA
	Forest Management	Nobuya MIZOUE	Tetsuji OTA	
	Erosion Control	Yasuhiro SHUIN	Hideaki MIZUNO	
	Silviculture	Atsushi WATANABE	Eiji GOTOH	Kotaro SAKUTA Michito TSUYAMA
	Forest Policy	Noriko SATO	Takahiro FUJIWARA	
	Forest Resources Management	Shinya KOGA	Tsutomu ENOKI	Naoaki TASHIRO
			Yasuhiro UTSUMI	
	Forest Ecosystem Management	Kyoichi OTSUKI	Ryuzi ICHIHASHI	Ayumi KATAYAMA
Tamao KASAHARA				
Masaaki CHIWA Takuo HISHI Tomonori KUME				
Sustainable Bioresources Science	Wood Science	Junji MATSUMURA		Masumi HASEGAWA
	Wood Materials Technology	Tetsuya NAKAO	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	
	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 ISODA	Takaaki WATANABE	
	Agricultural and Farm Management	Teruaki NANSEKI		Yoshihiro UENISHI
	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
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	Takamasa TERAMOTO
	Plant Nutrition	Ken MATSUOKA	Akiko MARUYAMA	Masamichi KIKUCHI
Pesticide Chemistry	Mieko ARISAWA		Naotaka YAMADA	
Systems Bioengineering	Genome Chemistry Engineering	Takahiro NAKAMURA	Tomohiko KAZAMA	
	Molecular Gene Technology		Kosuke TASHIRO	Shigeru MUTA
	Cellular Regulation Technology	Yoshinori KATAKURA		Kiichiro TERUYA
	Synthetic Biology	Taizo HANAI		Hiroyuki HAMADA
				Yuki SOMA
	Applied Microbiology	Kaoru TAKEGAWA	Yujiro HIGUCHI	
	Microbial Technology	Jiro NAKAYAMA	Takeshi ZENDO	
	Soil and Environmental Microbiology		Yukihiro TASHIRO	Mugihito OSHIRO
	Functional Genomics and Metabolism	Shigeki FURUYA		
	Bio-Process Design			
Silkworm Bioresources	Yutaka BANNO		Kohji YAMAMOTO	
Plant Bioresources	Toshihiro KUMAMARU	Takahiko KUBO		
Microbial Bioresources	Katsumi DOI		Yasuhiro FUJINO	
Food Science and Biotechnology	Nutrition Chemistry	Masao SATO		Yasutake TANAKA
	Food Chemical Biology	Hirofumi TACHIBANA	Yoshinori FUZIMURA	
	Food Analysis	Toshiro MATSUI	Mitsuo TANAKA	
	Food Process Engineering	Noriyuki IGURA	Shuntaro TSUBAKI	
	Food Hygienic Chemistry	Takahisa MIYAMOTO	Ken-ichi HONJOH	Yoshimitsu MASUDA

Affiliated Institutions				
Center for Promotion of International Education and Research, Faculty of Agriculture	International Relations		Mako NAKAMURA	
	International Education	Douglas Robert DRUMMOND	Yukiko OGINO	Bang HYUNJUNG
			Willam Ka Fai TSE	
			Ta Viet TON	
			Yasuaki HIROMASA	
			Hisako NOMURA (Senior Asst. Professor)	
Hiromi MAEKAWA (Senior Asst. Professor)				
Biotron Application Center	Coordination Division	Satoshi YOSHIDA	Toshihiko EGUCHI	
Institute of Tropical Agriculture	Tropical Crops and Environment Section	Ikuo MIYAJIMA		Shingo HOSOISHI
	Land -Water& Environment 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 international students.

(Invited scholars to teach these courses during the intensive lectures. Specific information and technology cover the unique aspects of individual regional developments). In addition to 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 while 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. This is one of the highlights of the JDS students' time at Kyushu University. In 2020 and 2021, the 7th and 8th JASID Western Japan Research Meeting was jointly hosted by Hiroshima University and Kyushu University and was held online.



Special lecture provided by Emeritus Prof. Dr. Ogata

- 2) Research Skills Seminar

Many of the new JDS fellows are just starting their research careers. To help them make a good start, we offer several specific research skills seminars such as survey methodology, writing skills, and presentation practice. For example, Prof. Taylor provides his writing and presentation skills lectures.



Rice replanting in Ukiha city

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.



Students visiting Mamizu Pia with Prof. Hiromasa in AgroBio classes.

4) Research Trip

Based on the student requests, we organize research trips and visit research centers or farmers. After two-year of not visiting anywhere, we could finally have a few field excursions. We visited Mamizu Pia in Fukuoka, where they converted seawater into drinkable. The innovation took place as Fukuoka used to face a shortage of water. We also visited the agricultural R&D center in Iizuka, and they explained what they produce and their role. We also visited Mr. Furuno, the integrated duck organic farmer, who demonstrated his new technique, “hoking” for weeding. It is a technique that can be applicable to JDS students’ countries where organic, GAP, and other environmentally friendly farming methods of production are becoming important for sustainable agricultural production. That is part of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

5) 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, we opened two online English programs this year to improve JDS students’ English skills. ‘Graduate Scientific Writing Program 2020’ provided by North Arizona University, US, was mainly for Ph.D. 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 students felt their English skills improved.

KYUSHU GRADUATE SCIENTIFIC WRITING PROGRAM – 2021-2022

PROGRAM PROPOSAL



NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Program in Intensive English

Kyushu Graduate Scientific Writing Program – 2021-2022

Life at Kyushu University

JDS fellows experience an intense and fruitful academic life at Kyushu University in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

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, and Vietnam in 2016. We planned to hold the seminar in Vietnam in 2020 but had to cancel because of COVID-19. This year, we held 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/>



The image shows a screenshot of the JDS Program website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: HOME, About Us, Outline of the program, Student Life, List of students and thesis titles, Application, and Contact. Below the menu is a large banner image of a modern, multi-story building with a grid-like facade. To the left of the banner is the JDS PROGRAM logo, which includes the Kyushu University logo and the text 'JDS PROGRAM at the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences'. Below the banner is a section titled 'What is JDS program?' which contains the following text:

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 leave 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 12th May and demonstrated their research progress. The Graduate Course faculty members assessed the progress and advised the students about issues that could be improved.



Ph.D. Mid-Term Presentation



Master's Thesis Presentation

MA students are awarded the Master of Science (M.Sc) on completing a satisfactory thesis. This year, the presentation was held on 28th July, and all students successfully demonstrated what they gained from the last two years of training in their laboratories and out in the field.



Master's Thesis Presentation

6. Reports from JDS Students

2019 Entrance [Doctor Course]

Honglikith Daoluang

Academic Achievement Journey

My name is Daoluang Honglikith or Dao as nick name, I am Lao JDS fellow who have enrolled in Doctoral course at Kyushu University since 2019, Fukuoka, Japan. This is my final academic year in Water Environmental Engineering Laboratory, Department of Agro-environmental Sciences, Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences. First, I sincere for all inspirations, opportunities, involvement, and encouragements from the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) which is one of the main contributions for my successful in both master and doctoral degrees. Thus, I do really thank you to JDS that provides me financial supports and grateful chances to join academic life at Kyushu University. Furthermore, I appreciate my respective Professors, Associate and Assistant Professors who do not hesitate to provide the outstanding with valuable suggestions to me. Apparently, I acknowledge to Dr. Masayoshi Harada, my main supervisor for his intensive support and educated me. In the following description, I explained my problems and the ways to deal with the difficulty and reach my goal.

Second, for 3 years engaging in ph.D course, my academic knowledge and skills in water environmental field have been upgrading and developing in advanced level via learning from research implementation, international conferences, seminars and internships courses participation and supervisor's feedback. I have learnt from many mistakes that I made because it was new for me to established research and write academic journals. Academic journals included several rules before submitting and approving our academic articles for publishing, it is significant task in Doctoral course to achieve this approach. I spent almost two years for preparing one published article which was a little bit late to complete my degree. This is because not only one published article but also two published article requirements to fulfill the graduated criteria. At that time, I face a lot of difficulty to write the academic paper even I had plenty of analysis data from conducted experiments. I felt that my academic writing and data interpretation needed a lot of improvement due my weak background. As consequence, I had to learnt triple or multiple times harder than other students which leads to have the depression period in the second-year doctoral course. I am willing to share this experience to you and pointed out this issues because I would like to aware future Ph.D JDS fellows to be well prepared and more ready for academic writing which is a core of degree achievement and avoid the occurrence in high

pressure situation.

Third, enormous unique, historic, and popular places in Japan are attracted people around the worlds. When I had free time, I explored, experienced, and visited several extreme activities and places such as mountain tramping, water snorkeling and famous place site seeing. These leisure activities could refresh our mind and boost our energy to combat with various issues such physical and mental health problems. Also, the time management is one of crucial skill to produce an effective works. Not only focus on study but strong health condition also main factor to bring us to reach our goal. Ph.D course caused many students involved in high tension and health problems because its limited time of the course and the difficulty of collecting and interpreting data in particular during COVID 19 pandemic and preparing for submitting the published journals. Thus, we should prioritize to take care our mental and physical health through concerning our routine and daily life along with academic life. This is because weak mental and physical health would lead to unsuccessful life.

Lastly, I am proud to express my stories with you through this report and hope that it could inspire you to walked through the problem that you may face in your future academic life during studying in Japan. Without any support from JDS, family, and all supervisors, I would not succeed and complete in Doctoral degree. I wish to be one of the leaders in Laos, my home country to cooperate and encourage with Japanese government as well as the human resources development project which JDS is doing in order to contribute my acknowledgement to Japan.



Phyu Phyu San

Research result: Diversities of endosymbiont *Wolbachia* and parasitoids affect species assemblages under climate change: Implications for biological control



The endosymbiotic *Wolbachia* infect about a half of arthropod species and are known to influence the biological and ecological functions of their hosts. The thermal environment can alter endosymbiont biology and ecology. In addition, anticipated climate change can affect insects' fitness, affecting each species directly and their interactions indirectly. However, the combined effect of temperature and CO₂ concentration rise as well as the interplay of endosymbiont diversity and parasitoid diversity on host insects are not yet fully understood. This study aimed at the combined effects of *Wolbachia* and parasitoid diversities under climate change, that is, elevated temperature and CO₂ concentration, on species assemblage consisting of the host *Callosobruchus chinensis* and its parasitoids (*Heterospilus prosopidis* [Hp] and *Anisopteromalus calandrae* [Ac]). Three lines were established; a line infected with two *Wolbachia* strains (*wBruCon* [Con] and *wBruOri* [Ori]), a line infected with Con only (cured of Ori), and an uninfected line (cured of both). The fitness of individuals, population densities and assemblage persistence were examined in host-only system and host–parasitoid(s) systems (with one parasitoid, Ac or Hp, or with both two parasitoids) by performing single- and multiple-generation experiments under control and climate change (+ 2°C

and a doubled CO₂). Relative *Wolbachia* abundance in infected hosts was quantified using qPCR. Single-generation experiments revealed that higher diversity, but not relative abundance, of *Wolbachia* incurs a cost on the host's fitness traits, and climate change imposed additional stress, except for development time. The fitness of parasitoids was lower in uninfected hosts and was increased by climate change only in Hp. Multiple-generation experiments with a constant supply of beans as the resource for the host showed that the host population level was higher on the uninfected line for the host-only system and that the uninfected host population drastically decreased with Ac with/without its competitor (Hp). With Hp present, the host population size was smaller under climate change. This outcome was partly associated with the host female ratio that decreased with decreasing *Wolbachia* diversity and with increasing parasitoid diversity. The population size of host and Ac was decreased by climate change but unaffected by its competitor (Hp), while Hp population size was unaffected by climate change but was smaller with its competitor (Ac) present. The extinction of a species was earlier with higher parasitoid diversity. On the other hand, the proportion of bean mass uninfested was higher under climate change and with increasing parasitoid diversity but unaffected by *Wolbachia* diversity. These results suggest that endosymbiotic diversity and parasitoid diversity can affect the dynamics of the higher trophic and organization levels via the host in a complex way, but that indirect effect of endosymbiotic diversity on the dynamics of the lower trophic level might be relatively small.



Nguyen Thi Hang Phuong

Exciting experiences as a student in Kyudai



I am one of the JDS fellows batch 2020 from Vietnam and the second year PhD student in the Postharvest Science Laboratory, Department of Agro-environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University.

I had to study online one year from my home country because of Covid 19 epidemic and I have been a real student almost a year in Kyudai. There are some interesting experiences I would like to share.

This is the second time I have chance to study at Kyushu University. This time is really a big challenge for me compared to master time, it forces me to learn new knowledges by myself under my professors advice to apply them to my experiments. I have chosen a research topic that is completely new to me because my laboratory and other faculties have very good research conditions with a lot of modern laboratory equipment that my country does not have. I took some courses on the equipment that I would use in my experiments before I conduct my research. Now I am able to operate the devices myself confidently after completing these short courses. Some courses were in Japanese and I get support from my laboratory technical staff, Iwasaki san. She prepared all document in English

and went to class with me. On the first days I carried out my experiments, Fumina sensei, Iwasaki san and my Japanese labmates helped me a lot. I would like to thank them for their kindness support. There have been so many issues I do not quite understand about the experimental results, it has taken hours to discuss research results with my professors. They are always willing to spend their valuable time to discuss with me and give useful suggestions. This is one of the most impressed things about Japanese education system. One of the biggest challenges when studying PhD is publishing scientific papers in specialized scientific journals. To get good data and have enough data to publish papers, I am trying my best in studying.

One more thing I would like to share is my daily life beside my study. I'm so happy to see my friends from my master's time in Kyudai again, we are all JDS fellows and we are back for PhD. They are from Myanmar and Laos and now we are good roommates. Sometime we cook and have meals together, enjoy each other's foods and chat about everything. This makes us not feel lonely when living away from home because now we are a family. We all focus on our studies but we still spend time going out together to enjoy the beauty of cherry blossoms, wisteria and rose.

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 staffs in Japan and JICE staffs in Vietnam for their kindness help. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisors, Fumihiko Tanaka sensei and Fumina Tanaka sensei for their guidance and encouragement to my research with precious advice.



Soudthedlath Khamsalath

Self-introduction



Currently, I am a second-year doctoral student at Plant Nutrition Laboratory, Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Kyushu University. In Laos, I work for the government sector, which belongs to the Biotechnology and Ecology Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Daily life

Japan is one of the most beautiful and peaceful countries in the world that many people would like to live, work, and visit. Certainly, the living cost in Japan is higher compared to our developing countries, but staying here under the JDS scholarship is more convenient because the allowance for our daily life is sufficient if we are well-managed. Therefore, we have enough time to focus on our studies and research.

Above and beyond, the environment and transport system in Japan are very good and well-organized. So, do not forget to go to explore Kyushu Island as well as the whole of Japan and enjoy your life during your stay.

Academic life

Time flies with educating knowledge and skills. A year passed since I left my country for studying in Japan. Presently, I am conducting my research based on the topic “Functions of sulfate transporters *SULTR2;1* and *SULTR3;5* in plant growth and development of *Arabidopsis thaliana*” under the supervision

of Dr. Akiko Maruyama-Nakashita.

As you may know, Kyushu University is the biggest university on Kyushu Island, and it belongs to the top ten universities in Japan. Thus, learning at such a famous university is not easy but it is not very difficult too since the professors and staffs here are well-supported, very kind, and friendly as well as the university is located and surrounded with a good environment and provides you with such great warm welcome and good facilities for studying and doing research, for example, the central library is a good place for study alone and group discussion. Moreover, there is the JDS-Program Secretary Office at Kyushu university that can support you from your first arriving the university until your graduation. Being a student here you also have a chance to join Kyushu University Foreign Students Association which consists of Japanese and international students, so this would be a wonderful time for you to build friendships, improve your academic and language skills as well as to share your traditional culture with them.

The JDS Program at Kyushu University provides you with an amazing International Development Research Course, so DO NOT forget to APPLY for the scholarship and be a JDS student HERE.

Finally, 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, assistance, and providing me very warmly welcome, and precious opportunity to pursue my doctorate degree in this prestigious university again. Also, my heartfelt thanks to my professors, family, and lab-mates for their active support, suggestions, and encouragement as always.



Pham Nguyen Anh Duy

“BE BIO WITH KYUDAI”



“Be Bio with Kyudai” means let’s be a student at the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University. I do not need to see this introduction, becoming a Kyudai student is always one of the most important milestones in my life. That is also my answer to being asked what is the most important thing that has happened in my life? Fortunately, it happened to me twice for both my Master’s and current PhD degrees.

My name is Duy, a researcher at the Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Can Tho University. I am doing my PhD research at the Laboratory of Insect Natural Enemies of Associate Professor Takatoshi UENO, under the sponsorship of the JDS scholarship program, supported by the Japanese government. Besides, it is my pleasure to share my experiences and visions to encourage you, the future fellows of the JDS program and Kyudai students, through the description in this annual report.

Going back 4 years ago when I first went to Kyushu to study for my Master’s degree in 2018, I am very surprised and admired the training program and facilities at Kyushu university. The professors in our faculty are very enthusiastic to teach us useful knowledge, through creative lectures and classes, bearing many academic marks. In addition, the program is designed to bring a lot of real-world experience to all students by taking field trips to factories, processing plants, and companies dealing with agricultural products. From there, it helps me and my friends understand more about the importance of the knowledge learned in the classroom and the practical application of those results in production. Moreover, it cannot be denied that as JDS students in Kyushu, we have received great support from JICE, and JICA as well as professors and facilitators at the faculty of

Agriculture. With its many years of experience in managing the JDS program, JICE has done everything it can to make life as comfortable as possible for new students who come to Japan for the first time, and just focus on studying, research, and enjoying life in Japan. Besides, my experiences with people, climate as well as life in Fukuoka have given me more motivation to continue sticking with Kyushu on my upcoming study path. With the support and encouragement of the department I work for in Viet Nam, I applied for the JDS PhD program in 2021, and now I have passed the first 6 months of my 3-year doctoral program in Kyushu when I am writing this story. I am here again with the attitude of being a “new alumnus student”, I am very confident to show all my abilities in research and study. With the desire to contribute to Vietnamese farmers to create products that are safe for consumers, I chose to pursue research on the benefits of natural enemies in pest management, I chose to join the natural enemies laboratory. With the dedicated guidance of my supervisor, along with the knowledge gained from the lectures of other professors as well as visiting lecturers from JICA experts. I look forward to creating more important milestones in my life.

Last but not least, 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 is doing. I am looking forward to seeing you in Kyushu soon. **Let’s be Bio with Kyudai together!**



Aye Thida Maung

Wonderful study life as one of the JDS fellows in Kyushu University



My name is Aye Thida Maung. I am one of the Myanmar JDS fellows 2021 and now I am studying as a first year PhD student at the Laboratory of Food Hygienic Chemistry under the supervision of my kind sensei, Professor Takahisa MIYAMOTO. I have been studied under the same supervisor at the same Laboratory of Kyushu University since I was JDS Master student from 2016-2018. I really loved study life in Japan and applied again for continuous study. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Japanese government, Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program and Japan International Cooperation Centre (JICE) as well as my sensei for giving me precious opportunity to pursue my doctoral course in this prestigious University again.

My daily life is very convenience in current because of Japanese people are very kind and disciplined, moreover, weather, social service and public transportations are very nice and safety for living. Fukuoka city has its own uniqueness and beauty throughout every season, and I spend some of the time with my friends to explore something new. Also, I am living in shared house with my Vietnamese and Laos friends who are

also JDS fellows. We knew each other when we were master students, and we will be creating sophisticated environment by exchanging our education, culture, lifestyle. Moreover, JICE responsible staffs are always ready for enthusiastic assistance and support for all the JDS fellows who experiencing even small difficulties.

Regarding the academic life, I am very pleased for continuous study under the guidance of my respectful sensei. He always communicates very warmly with all students, listens to student' ideas, gives us freedom to build our own ways, and advises brilliant idea to achieve the goals. My laboratory has many students not only Japanese also international from different countries (China, Egypt, Taiwan, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Myanmar), they are very generous, friendly, and helpful. We always share knowledge and experiences related with our experiments, also different culture, and lifestyle each other although we all came from different countries. I usually must go to lab from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm every weekday and expend my time valuably with studying and working experiments. Also, my laboratory has weekly seminar for journal club and progressive report presentations on every Monday and Friday, so we could share and discuss different experimental topics. I got a lot of knowledge and idea from their valuable suggestions, constructive comments and insightful feedback of my professors and lab mates through seminar, and it will be extremely useful for my next study. Besides, I could enjoy with other activities such as graduation party, laboratory trip, badminton and softball recreation with my all sensei and colleagues.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the JDS program for giving great opportunity and providing financial support, also JICE staffs for their kindness help. Furthermore, I heartfelt thanks to my respectable supervisor Professor Takahisa MIYAMOTO, Associate Professor Ken-ichi HONJOH and Assistant Professor Yoshimitsu MASUDA, lab members and family for their kind supports and encouragements during my study life in Japan.



Vongxay Airyai

Daily activity



After moving from my previous apartment to live in Hakozaki, Kyudaimae, it's a bit far from Kyushu University (Ito-campus). From Monday to Friday, I wake up at around 5:30 am. Then, I leave for Kyushu university by bus at 6:50 am and arrive there at around 8:20 am. I usually return from university around 6 pm and arrive at my apartment around 7:45 pm. Currently, I got all credits required for the master's program, so I do not have any lectures these days. Instead, on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday of every week, I do a literature review sometimes at my laboratory or university library; on Wednesday and Thursday, I have a regular seminar with the professor to report and discuss the reviewing progress. On the weekend, if I do not have any urgent tasks that need to be completed and other friends' schedules are not so tied, my friend and I will always go out to travel around Fukuoka city (*There are various beautiful places to visit such as Hakozaki Shrine (Shinto Shrine); Nanzo-in (Sasaguri-machi); Ohori Park and ...etc.*).

Attend the Japanese Society of Tropical Ecology (JASTE) conference

The JASTE conference is an academic conference organized annually which open for various academic researchers

to share their interests and informative research in agricultural and forestry fields. This year (2022) is the thirty-second of JASTE conference (JASTE32), which was organized by using a hybrid method (online and onsite) at Nagoya from 18th to 19th of June 2022. This is my great opportunity to attend this conference in an oral presentation session onsite. I have shared my research which was based on review work related to Village Forest Management Planning in Laos.

I have a precious time to share my research and learn from other academic researchers. Besides the academic research, I have a chance to practice presentation skills and learn how other researchers structure their research and presentation skills. Moreover, the JASTE conference brings opportunities for academic network creation. Break from the academic time, I have a chance to explore many exciting landmarks such as Nagoya Castle, the Science Museum of Nagoya city, and the aquarium. In the process of learning to conduct the proper academic research, attending the academic conference is essential and can help to shape logical thinking by understanding from other experienced researchers.

Sramany Nilanlath

Home visit program



In early December last year 2021, I have an opportunity to jointed home visit program. The purpose of this program is very valuable and useful for getting a new experience in exchange

culture form each participated, especially international student whose were participations, with local Japanese peoples and Japanese families. I had participated this program twice. In the first time, I have stayed one night two days at Japanese family's house. In the second, I participated as a trainee on the rural development Training program, that program was conducted by JICA's program and were held in Oita prefectures since 2014.

Otherwise, during the situation of Covid-19 pandemic and the life with new-normal, we should be awareness in responding of Covid-19 spread, I am also very happy to be honor in exchange cultures with kindness of Japanese families, even though it was only one day, but we have various activities to do each together for a whole day in this program. After that we keep in touch each other, and they invited me to a hiking activity in Kurume Mountain last March 2022. There were interesting things, and I loved hiking activity as my favorite thing. This activity is like the huge activities, because there were more than 30 peoples and most of them were Japanese families. March has a Fun holiday, which called "Dolls' Festival/Girls' Festival and Spring Equinox." It's the first month of the year and the start of the spring season especially Sakura-cherry blossom blooming. You can see the beautiful Sakura's flower all around the mountain and the city in downland over your viewing, while seeing from the top of the mountains.

After lunch, we did egg hunt. This game was very fun, because the children had to find eggs. Some of them were hidden by me or other members in the park. The rule is simple. If the children find eggs, then they can bring them to exchange them to chocolates and candies. There were extremely attractive to the children pretty much, they were challenging to compete with the others, and I was also having fun when I heard their laughs and saw their intention in this competition.

That is the gainful experience and perceived about local Japanese people that I did not imagine before; there're going to be a good feeling and the best memories for me thoroughly my whole life in the future and so on.

Vu Thi Lan

My life in Japan

My name is Lan, from Viet Nam. I am a master student belonging to Laboratory of Environmental Economics. I feel very lucky when becoming a part of Kyushu university, especially Laboratory of Environmental Economics. Sensei and my labmates are so supportive and friendly.

If in last year, I faced many difficulties when I had to join the distance learning, but since arriving in Japan my research journey has become more convenient. I have had many chances to discuss directly my research with my supervisor at seminars and privately as well. Through presenting many

times at seminars, my confidence and presentation skills are improved significantly. Also, I have gotten much knowledge and experience related to research from Sensei and my labmates.



Although as a second-year master student, I have been in Japan for nine months because of the negative impacts of Covid-19. I am very grateful the JDS program gave me chance to Japan. Not only have I gotten to experience studying at Kyushu University, one of the top universities in the world, but I also have had experience living in my dream country. Thanks to the JDS program, I have experienced a lot of amazing things, such as playing with snow and enjoying the delicious and famous food including Sushi, Udon noodles and Ramen noodles. I have experienced full four seasons in Japan. Which, I am really impressed with the spring season with beautiful flowers, especially cherry blossoms, and the autumn with red leaves. They are really beautiful.

In particular, through events organized by the JDS program, such as experiencing transplanting rice in Ukiha city, I had memorable experiences and have made some local Japanese friends as well. They are very kind. We made Japanese food and Vietnamese food together. Also, I have made many international friends from many countries such as Ghana, China, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, etc. They have helped me a lot in studying.

In addition, I also joined a lot of extracurricular events organized by Fukuoka Overseas Students Association – FOSA and Kyushu University Foreign Students Association – KUFSA. We together visited many Shrines and Temples in Fukuoka, such as Arahito Shrine and Daitokuji Temple, experienced bamboo work, and had lunch exchange. In particular, thanks to FOSA,

I joined Hakata Dontaku festival. These are memorable and exciting experiences. Furthermore, my friends and I traveled to some famous places, such as Beppu, Nagato city, Nanzoin temple and Raizan Sennyoji Daihioin Temple, in Fukuoka prefecture to explore more about the culture and beauty of Japan.

Nguyen Ngoc Hung

A milestone in life



Before, I lived and worked in many places, but Japan has given me different experiences. The peaceful landscapes made an impression on me when I first arrived. Then, I felt familiar here. Although my Japanese is only at a superficial communication level, I efficiently carry out procedures such as updating a residence card, opening a bank account or sim card, and buying items from a supermarket, a shop, or a combini. In addition, the public transportation in this country is fantastic. The network of buses and trains can take me anywhere. I fondly remember getting lost the first time I traveled by subway. Thanks to that, I met new friends who gave me directions back to campus.

It didn't take me long to settle in at first, so I was able to start my research earlier. Kyushu University is an ideal place for any researcher. The laboratories are well equipped so that I can do experiments efficiently. Professors regularly gave valuable suggestions during my research. Discussions with professors have greatly helped me improve my thinking, brainstorming, and scientific writing skills. In addition, books and reference materials are easily found in the on-campus libraries. I like the quiet space when reading at Central Library, although it sometimes makes me fall asleep. The library's volume of books also overwhelmed me, many of which were directly related to my research. However, if I had to choose one place I love the most on campus, it would be my rearing chamber at the lab. I spent most of my work time tending and experimenting with pests and their natural enemies in that chamber. Temperature,

humidity, and light are controlled and completely isolated from the outside environment. Those are the perfect conditions to conduct the most accurate research.

Along with the lab experiments, I also participated in field trips to learn about Japanese culture, famous landmarks, and especially Japanese agriculture. I enjoyed the trip to practice rice cultivation on terraced fields in Ukiha city, Fukuoka, and visit the local farmer's markets there. In addition, I also take advantage of my free time to visit the temples, parks, and beaches near the campus with my friends. It was an opportunity for us to share dishes from different countries, chat about fond memories, and help if someone was having a hard time. Everyone felt very comfortable and happy. Besides, I also participate in sports activities with Japanese and international friends. We often joke that every football match is a Worldcup tournament because the players come from more than ten different countries.

There are more and more stories related to my research, life, and experience. All of them contribute to the milestones of my life. My time in Japan is an unforgettable memory and greatly influenced my future development orientation. Thank you so much!

Truong Minh Hang

ENJOY THE PRESENT MOMENT



It was been almost 10 months since I arrived in Japan, but my initial feelings are still here. I will call this Master's course a more loving name - a colorful trip. I have been immersed in the extremely interesting culture of this country. It was very emotional when I saw cherry blossoms and falling snow for the first time. I am really into sushi and Japanese onsen.

Time flies and I cherish each minute of this moment. Every day is a unique day for me to learn, observe and contemplate. I feel like I am back in my school days. As the only international student in the laboratory, at first, I was a bit nervous and confused, but then I overcame myself, breaking down the language and cultural barriers. This course not only trained me academically but also exposed me to the new

challenge that I had to overcome. I am very lucky to have a kind teacher, friendly friends and meet enthusiastic people. They are the ones who have brightly colored my trip. I have traveled to more than 7 cities and many places in Japan, participated in different activities of organizations and connected with friends from all 5 continents. I have joined and contributed to many events of FOSA (Fukuoka Overseas Students Association), KUFSA (Kyushu University Foreign Students Association), and been an active member of VYSAF (Vietnam Youth and Student Association in Fukuoka). The diverse cultural experiences help me to broaden my knowledge and feel love for my country more than ever.

This colorful trip is very meaningful to me because I can accompany with my husband - who is also a fellow of JDS batch 20. We held hands to overcome a ton of emotions, shared enjoyments and hardships in research work and daily life.

Currently, my research topic is studying the properties of emulsion gel for people with dysphagia. I love this topic because of its worth and it brings me a feeling that I can help the community with my efforts. Studying in Kyushu University allows me to expose to many modern machines and technologies. I am progressing and becoming more mature day by day in scientific research and I am confident that I will be a useful resident of Vietnam. Igura Sensei, Tsubaki Sensei and my labmates were always ready to support and explain to me on academic issues. They promoted my participation in some short courses, seminars and meetings. Besides, everyone in my laboratory also takes care of my spiritual life. We had fun field trips and exciting sports events together.

I am very grateful for JICE's support and connection, JICE Kyushu staffs were always by my side whenever I need, I think I might be in a little low mood after returning home when I no longer receive emails and JICE's caring as usual. Thanks again to the professors of Kyushu University for their dedication, to Hiroshi Sensei for different journeys and parties, to my Japanese friends for their warmth, to my husband and Vietnamese friends who always share and encourage me.

Duong Danh Thanh

UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES

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 Japan. I am Duong Danh Thanh and now I am a second-year student in master's course at Kyushu University. I am a member of the lab of Insect Pathology and Microbial Control of Chisa Yasunaga Aoki Sensei.

In fact, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I spent 1-year in Vietnam for an online course. Therefore, when I arrived

in Japan, I tried to spend as much time doing experiments on my topic as possible and experiencing the Japanese culture as much as possible. About my life at Kyushu University, due to the limitations caused by the corona pandemic, we do not have as many field trips as the previous JDS courses. However, the activities of my lab are still going normally. I can still go to the lab every day to do my experiments and meet my lab mates. Every week, we have seminars where we can report on our project progress and practice our presentation skills. My research about the Insect Pathology and Microorganism Control which is my also my favorite field since I was a student in Vietnam. Therefore, I feel very happy to be able to do my favorite field in Japan. I would like to express my deepest gratitude and much respect to my academic supervisor, Professor. Chisa Yasunaga Aoki and Assistant Professor. Oumi Nishi, directly guided my experiments and provided a lot of valuable suggestions and feedback for me during my academy process.



Up to now, I have been in Japan for about 10 months. Fortunately, economic activities have returned to normal in Fukuoka city. I can go to busy areas in the city for shopping or street photography. I also joined some events which be held by Fukuoka Overseas Students Association (FOSA) and Kyushu University Foreign Students Association (KUFSA). These activities help me learn more about Japanese culture, beautiful lands, and characteristics of each region here. In addition, I also tried organizing a few small activities to connect with international friends through travel near where I live. Through these events, I connected to some students from foreign countries such as China, Laos, Cambodia, and so on. The people in Fukuoka are very kind and gentle. The elderly people near the dormitory where I live often give vegetables to international students as well as help us when we have problems.

Once again, Thank you JICE Head Quarter and the JICE Kyushu office for always supporting me and giving me advices in daily life as well as in difficult situations. Especially, thank you for the JDS-pre return program. This program gave me useful knowledge and help me clearly imagine what I need to do next in the future.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japanese government and the Vietnam government for giving me an opportunity to study at Kyushu university and for their thorough and considerate support.

Thank you for all!

Pham Khanh Nam

“A Purposeful life”



For an imperfect person like me, the past ten months in Japan have been a wonderful experience to develop a certain part of my personality and abilities. This time has been wonderful, exciting, busy, exhausting, yet amazing. University life in Japan is interesting, and my daily routine will be a prime example.

- I get up by 7 am, have breakfast and prepare lunch, then walk for 30 minutes to go to school.
- I attend classes, clean up the lab, and do research projects in the morning.
- After lunch with the lab members, I finish the lab work in the afternoon.
- I join the badminton club activity after school for 3 hours or so.
- I return home at 9 pm, take advantage of learning

more foreign languages and reading some books.

- I can finally sleep at 11 or 12 at night, after spending some time with my family.

This is my typical daily schedule, and although sometimes I felt a lack of time and sleep, once I got used to it, I even enjoyed the experience. Every day I find myself moving a little further along the path of knowledge and health.

During the time when I just arrived, I realized that I still had too many shortcomings in foreign languages, my ability to communicate in English was not as I imagined, and Japanese was at the starting line. Seeing other international students, especially from China, able to converse fluently with Japanese people, I honestly feel extremely self-conscious. Fortunately, the professor and the Japanese students always encouraged and created conditions for me to practice foreign language skills. Besides, actively participating in the school's extracurricular club also helps me to be more confident in communication. With perseverance, I can now converse fluently in English and understand Japanese as well. I am truly grateful for the patience and kindness of the people I have known over the past year. In addition to specialized knowledge and foreign languages, I realized that I also gained many other treasured things in life. I learned the valued Japanese virtues of hard work, independence, and respect for others.

Outside of class, I enjoy improving my health by participating in the Kyushu University badminton club. Extracurricular activities in Japan are not only a place to practice sports after school but also a place to share the devotion and worth of the Japanese people after school. The students are very grave in their work and the order is taken very actively. The kohai always bow to the Senpai, and are responsible for cleaning rooms and carrying heavy equipment. Honestly, I was astonished at the graciousness of the students, and I could feel the kind of social convention that existed everywhere, playing an important role in life here.

Studying at Kyushu university can be effortful and hectic, but the reward is totally worth it. My foreign languages, English and Japanese, have improved a lot in the past 10 months. In addition, I have achieved a solid scientific background, along with maturity in character and improved physical health. I can say with full gratification that "For the past ten months, I have lived A Purposeful Life, this is the best time of my life."

Le Quang Man

A year full with memories

Time rushes by so quickly that it's hard to believe I've been in Japan for over a year. A memorable year for me, as I had no idea when I would be able to set foot in Japan a year ago. And now I have great memories of my time in Japan. I've spent

the last year studying, working, and engaging in extracurricular activities with my international and Japanese friends.



As the sole international student in my laboratory, I was able to witness personally the Japanese working style and mindset that I had heard about. Due to the nature of my work, I spent the majority of my time in the lab. I've changed the way I manage my time and organize my work as a result of being engaged in a focused, hardworking, and meticulous study atmosphere. One surprise was that the experimental equipment was not as modern as I had imagined. But it doesn't mean my labmates and I haven't had some fascinating results. Aside from studies, I enjoyed participating in sports with my labmates. For the first time, I got to play in a softball game. Even though we did not win, everyone was happy. I was upset not to be part in the group photo that day because I had class before the game ended.

I engaged in exchange events organized by Student Associations outside of school. For example, the Kyushu University Foreign Students Association (KUFSA), the Fukuoka Overseas Students Association (FOSA), and the Fukuoka International Student Support Center (FiSSC), and as a Vietnamese student, I also attend events hosted by the Vietnamese Youth and Student Association in Fukuoka (VYSAF). These student organizations host a variety of exchange programs where students can learn about Japanese culture and participate in cross-cultural exchanges. It is an excellent opportunity for students, particularly those who have recently arrived in Japan, to make new friends and adapt to Japanese life. I have wonderful memories of my time in Fukuoka. Due to the serious Covid-19 situation when I initially came in Japan, no events were held. However, as the pandemic was eventually brought under control, the authorities permitted the event to take place. At the Hakata Dontaku festival, in the FOSA parade, I marched alongside a large group of students. I'll never forget the vivid, bustling environment that existed at the time.

It's a pity that my stay in Japan is not long, hopefully I will have more interesting experiences in the remaining time.

Khaing Zar Linn

My memorable Kyushu University's student life



My name is Khaing Zar Linn. I am from Myanmar. Currently, I am a first year master student belonging to Food Hygienic Chemistry Laboratory (FHC Lab) at Kyushu University under the supervision of my kind and honorable Sensei, Professor Takahisa MIYAMOTO. In Myanmar, I am a veterinary researcher of Mandalay Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and my main responsibility is detection of bacterial diseases for animals especially for infectious and zoonotic agents and food borne pathogens under the framework of food safety. Studying abroad is my childhood dream and I always dream to do further study for advanced food science technology especially for food borne pathogens. I have always wanted to do my master degree in foreign countries, especially Japan because Japan is a developed country and has world class facilities in every sector, such as education, technology, agriculture and livestock and so on. In 2020, I was awarded JDS scholarship and got a treasure chance in life- time experience to stay in Japan and my dream came true to learn the advanced study of food borne pathogens especially bacteria at Kyushu University, one of the top ranked universities in Japan.

According to Covid-19 pandemic situations, I took a one year postponement and after that in 2021, I came to Japan, and started my study last October, 2021. That was my first long stay in a new environment and I have no experience being apart from my family for a long time. I worried that I could

not adapt to a new environment and teaching system in Japan which is different from what was studied in Myanmar. As soon as I arrived at Narita Airport, my fears flew away from my mind. JICE headquarter staff warmly welcomed, gave guidance and cared for all of the JDS students to be able to take 14days quarantine period at Shinjuku Hotel in Tokyo and survive in Japan. During the quarantine period, I could attend my online classes without any difficulties because JICE is always ready for whatever I need their help and they also arrange all perfect support like delicious meals, drinks and snacks, health care and so on. My first study started by online learning and the classes of international courses are really excellent and very interesting and gain knowledge for international students since every lecture is taught in English by many professional teachers and they are experts in their fields. All of the teachers are very kind and patient and expert in teaching so I am happy to study with them without any difficulties.

I then moved to Fukuoka to fulfill my dream at Kyushu University. When I arrived at Fukuoka Airport, JICE Kyushu office staff warmly welcomed me and until now, they support me what I needed to facilitate and to be comfortable and safe in my daily life during my study in Japan. Now everything is settling down with me in Kyushu's life. On weekdays, most of my time is spent attending courses, regularly discussing with my professors in our lab. On weekends, I usually go around Fukuoka with my Myanmar friends. I have been to Nanzoin Temple, Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, Atago Inari Jinja Shrine, Marine world and Seaside Park at Uminonagamichi, Sakurai Futamigaura and couple stones beach. In the Sakura season, I enjoyed "Hanami" with my Myanmar friend at Ohori Park. Moreover, I joined a one day home visit program and made unforgettable memories with my Japanese host family. From this visit, I learnt about Japanese culture and their daily life, cooked and ate Japanese foods together with my host family, and I also learnt how to wear Kimono and wore Kimono for the very first time. My host family is very kind hearted and hospitable and now, we still have close contact with each other and they always send special meals for me. I also joined Tsuzura rice terraces trip to beautiful mountainous land in Ukiha under the JICE support. I participated in rice planting with other international JDS fellows and Japanese people and their children. I learnt from that trip that Japanese people respect their tradition and distribute rice planting, forest and natural resources conservation to their next generation.

As a foreign student, I felt a little worried about the new environment and studying at first. However, under the kind supervision and skillful guidance and suggestion of all of my sensei, Japanese and international lab members' help, I have learnt how to improve my own research. Particularly, weekly experimental report seminars and journal clubs in our lab help me to improve the critical thinking skills to conduct my research

and analyze research results. All of my sensei and lab colleagues are always ready to help me whenever I need their help and thus I always think that I am a very lucky girl to be one of the FHC's candidates. Finally, I would like to say "THANKS" to my professors, my lab mates and JICE members who always give me valuable support and kind suggestions and advice on my study and stay in Japan.

Myint Than Soe



I arrived in Fukuoka last year 2021, in October. Now I have about 9 months passed in Fukuoka. During the first semester from October 2021 to March 2022 (6-months period), I have been taking lecture classes as much as possible because we need proper credits to pass the Master degree course within two years and also on the other hand, I have limited and weak knowledge for research concept. Therefore I have been collected necessary information and database for contribution of my research theme according to the guidance and advice of my supervisor. During the last six months, I only focused on the lecture classes and literature survey process via scientific papers and journals from Kyushu University Library website and some other reference books as well as google scholar website. As a summary from the last six months' credit results, I already gained total of 17 credits. Concerning health matter, I have been attended hospital due to severe gastritis in May 2022. The first proposal for May is to initiate experiments for my research but I cannot launch my experiment in May according to my health condition. However, I can start my experiment during June just a little late. Actually, I am not in perfectly good health, and I am taking medicine to reach the original condition which will take time. Fortunately, with comprehensive support and perfect guidance with better instruction from my supervisor, I can initiate and proceed with my experiment during this month smoothly.

By the way, pertaining to the trip, I have joined our laboratory (marine biochemistry) trip to Yamaguchi joyfully at 2021 during November. Concerning daily life as mentioned, my

daily life is nothing special and simple by attending lectures as well as continuing to carry out my experiment in the laboratory under the supervision of my professor with furthermore joining journal club that is convened by our laboratory once a week. Relating to another topic for Kyushu university life in Fukuoka, Fukuoka is a big city for convenient communication and facilities as well as Kyushu university is a unique environment for seeking broad research knowledge and appropriate academic areas for local and international students. Therefore, I am still trying to pursue and explore research knowledge in Kyushu university through the remaining more than one year. In the meantime, I still have necessary things, otherwise essential things due to my inadequate knowledge and concept in my research practice. I still need to narrow this gap by fulfilling learning and reading activities that will contribute to my research goal. Corresponding to my research activity, currently, I focus on the laboratory experiment related to trying to address good distribution of my research result in the future. Thank you very much for your support.

Azasi Foster

A TRIP TO NOKONOSHIMA ISLAND PARK



As stated by John Donne in 1624, “No man is an Island” therefore, we must connect for an individual’s well-being and survival. Few events in one’s life change how one sees the world, and the trip to Nokonoshima Island Park was one of these moments. Nokonoshima Island Park is a perfect gateway from the stressed city life; it’s not pricy and is closer to home than one may predict.

It all started when a lab mate invited me on a trip to an island with her friends. I was super excited to be on my first trip with schoolmates because campus life had been so uninteresting due to the CoVid-19. We were 10 in all, from China, Vietnam, Japan, and Ghana.

We started our journey by boarding a bus from the Meinohama bus station to the Meinohama ferry terminal. Many

other people (students, families, etc.) were also waiting to board the ferry to the Island as well. We finally got our tickets and were onboard the ferry to our destination. The crashing of the waves as the ferry moved on top of the sea was like music to my ears. It took us about 10 minutes to arrive at the Noko Passenger Waiting Area, the main entrance to the island. We then boarded a local bus to the park, got our tickets, and voila, we were in the park.

I became dumbstruck when I entered the park. Beautiful flowers were everywhere, and the gorgeous multi-colored flower beds refresh the mind and restore the health of anything and everything around it. It was an absolute delight to watch and a paradise to my eyes. Within the park, you will find an adventure park for kids. You can also play sports such as nokonokoball, grass sled, the long swing, soccer, and badminton, to mention a few. There is a Raku Pottery Painting and Pottery Wheel Workshop where you can design your plate, cup, bowl, or mug, have it fired in a kiln, and then take it home or request it to be posted to you. There is also a mini zoo that hosts animals like goats and rabbits. We toured the entire park and took loads of pictures every step of our way. During our lunch break, we had time to laugh and enjoy each other’s company over delicious homemade meals from different countries. Eating together is always one of the most unique and exciting moments when on a trip with friends.

All too soon, the time was up for us to return home. We boarded the bus back to the ferry terminal and off the Island. On our way home, we visited a Vietnamese restaurant to have dinner and then parted ways. It was such a great day I will never forget.

Well, as a Japanese will say, “*miru koto wa shinjiru koto*,” which simply means seeing is believing. So, be there and witness it for yourself.

Bawah Emmanuel

My name is Emmanuel from Ghana. I belong to Food Marketing and Distribution, Department of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Kyushu University. My supervisor is Professor Masahiro Moritaka. This year is the second year of my studies in Japan. I have only few months left in Japan before I go back to my country, Ghana. When I came to Kyushu University, I felt nervous and experienced some difficulties in the online studies because it was my first time. Also, I was very unconfident of myself because the course I am doing is very new to me, the research was not easy; it’s like I must learn everything from the basics. And this comes with stress and sometimes get stuck on analyzing my research data.

However, the help given to me during the seminar under Professor Moritaka and Assistant Professor Seifeddine Ben

TAIEB is very supportive. During the seminar, I could present my research topic, and 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 a chance to teach the laboratory members a topic they have researched.



There was an also a field trip organized by JDS office in Kyushu University to Ukiha city for learning of rice harvesting. The field trip was led by Dr. Nakamura Sensei. The field trip was very interesting because it gave me the opportunity to learn how to plant rice for the first time.

I am grateful for being part of the Kyushu University family for two years.

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. During the conference, some researchers and graduate students presented their research results in many aspects of agricultural economics. Participation in the forum helped me 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. This year conference is due to take place in August, 2022 and I would get the chance to present my project work.

To all my colleagues in my country, if it is your wish to get more knowledge in courses which deals with International Development Research then you must apply for JDS scholarship to get the opportunity to study at KYUSHU UNIVERSITY.

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 not forgetting my professors and colleagues from Food Marketing and Distribution for their support in my daily life during my stay in Japan.

2021 Entrance [Master Course]

Nanthaphone Bounsy

Student Life in Kyushu University



I'm Bounsy Nanthaphone and I come from Lao PDR. Currently, I'm a master's student majoring in environmental economics at the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Science. My trip to Japan was postponed for a few months. Fortunately, I was permitted to travel to Japan on November 5th, 2021, under special circumstances, including quarantine and COVID tests on departure and arrival. But I came to Kyushu University (Fukuoka prefecture) on the 20th of November the same year after serving the 14-day quarantine at the Shinjuku Washington hotel in Tokyo. On this auspicious occasion, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the Japanese government, Kyushu University professors and staff, JICA and JICE staff for their dedicated support, education, assistance, and hospitality, as well as for providing me with the

opportunity to pursue my master's degree at the prestigious university.

Obviously, most activities that keep school life interesting have been restricted as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. As a result, both autumn and winter semester classes were offered online, while some others preferred giving out study materials for students to study on their own, which can be challenging, especially for those who are new to the field. I attempt to organize my classes strategically throughout my two semesters so that I do not struggle with assignments and other tasks. Later, when the COVID-19 situation was reduced significantly and changed to a new normal life, I was able to attend several lectures, both in-person and online, that gave me significant insight into Japanese agricultural development and helped me enhance my knowledge. My laboratory holds a lecture once a week, and I make every effort to attend or participate remotely. As a research student, I have to allocate a few hours every day to my research. On weekdays, I try to devote more time to studying so that on weekends, I may take some rest and socialize with my friends. My professors were extremely helpful in providing all of the necessary materials as well as a pleasant learning environment. I admired that the learning and teaching environments between students and distinguished professors, as well as the assistance of concerned people, had resulted in high-quality learning abilities and accountability. Apart from the academic activities, I was able to visit some of Fukuoka's famous places, the highlight of which was observing the Dontaku festival (the biggest festival in Fukuoka) and having a great time meeting many people and eating amazing dishes like sushi, sashimi, and ramen. This is my favourite. This made me appreciate how beautiful the culture is. Another important aspect is that I was also able to participate in social activities organized by the Lao Student Association, FOSA, and IYEO events.

Lastly, as we are aware, Kyushu University is the largest campus university in Japan, and it is currently ranked among the top 10 universities in Japan and 135th in the QS World University Rankings 2023. As a result, learning at such a prestigious university is more interesting and challenging. However, there is a support system in place, and the professors and staff here are kind and friendly, especially since the university is situated in a beautiful environment and provides you with a warm welcome and great facilities for studying and conducting research. In particular, the central library and the Science and Technology libraries offer a great learning atmosphere. The JDS programme offers an excellent opportunity to study international development research courses. As a JDS fellow, I strongly recommend other international students consider studying in Japan. It is a unique study destination that guarantees to learn and make you educated.

Vorachith Nilapha

My daily life and lecture.



My name is Nilapha Vorachith, a first-year master's student at Kyushu University. I belong to the forest policy laboratory. Almost 9 months have passed since I arrived in Japan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in my country and also in Japan, I had to attend the entrance ceremony online. I thought I would have no chance to come to Japan, but luckily later on the Japanese government allowed students to enter Japan. I arrived in Tokyo on November 5th, 2021. I had been quarantined for 14 days in Tokyo with very warm support from JICE and after that, I reached Fukuoka on November 20th, 2021.

Before I came to Japan, I had had online learning in my country. The registration system was very new and challenging for me and I always kept asking the International Student Exchange Section, Student Affairs Division of my Faculty and University before I became familiar with the system. They always gave me very kind support that has helped me overcome this situation. I still remember I was very excited and nervous about my first lecture. During my quarantined period, I had also regularly attended lectures, laboratory seminars, English courses, and orientation with JICE. Sometimes, I was stressful during the study in only the square room for two weeks. During my study, some subjects are challenging because they are very new to me, deeply technical, and written in academic terms. So, I have to try to prepare for joining the lectures as much as I can. During 18-19 June 2022, I also had a great opportunity to do a presentation at JASTE 32 conference in Nagoya with many professors, and researchers from many institutions and universities. I had a chance to do a presentation and learn from other presenters.

Not only studying but there are also other activities like the bowing competition that is organized by Kyushu University Foreign student association (KUFSA). I have joined these activities. It was fun and relaxed to talk to other international students. I very much love the season change in Japan, it comes up with new things like flower, food, events and etc. that has a specific characteristic that impressed me. I like exploring new places but for now, according to my schedule of study

and research, I still have limited chance to see other cities. I appreciate it very much the opportunity to study abroad like in Japan as a JDS student. Japan is a safe country with a modern economy and cultural tradition that makes my daily life easy and convenient.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Japanese government, JICE, JICA, Kyushu university, professors, and staff for giving me a great opportunity to study here and for the great support. Special sincere thanks to my supervisor Associate professor FUJIWARA Takahiro and Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko for their valuable time, great support, and guidance. I will try my best to learn new knowledge and also the experience from my living as much as I can during my stay in Japan.

Le Thi Xuyen

Self-introduction



My name is LE THI XUYEN and I come from VIET NAM. I am a first-year master's student in Bioresource and Management laboratory, Department of Bioresources Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. I have worked as a researcher at Plant Protection Research Institute in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

Daily life in Japan

It has been nearly one year since I came to Japan. Looking back at that time, when I arrived at Narita Airport, Japan, Jice staffs supported me so much, which brings warmth to my mind. Japan is a nice country with a lot of strange and interesting things in culture, humans, and nature. I am very proud of what I have done to become a fellow JDS student and can enjoy life here. I have experienced four seasons autumn, winter, spring, and summer. I feel the season changes specific to Japan in temperature and climate. The period from March to May is spring, June to August is summer, September to November is autumn, and December to February is winter. One of the most surprising things for me was seeing snow. It was an early winter morning, on the way from the dormitory to the school I was very excited and had time to take beautiful pictures with the

snow. In addition, It is springtime, and going out to see cherry blossoms is also an unforgettable memory for me. Besides, being a foreigner, I have still had to face the different languages and cultures, however, thanks to the Jice Kyushu office, the support of my professor, and my friend I can overcome these troubles.

Academic life

Kyushu University provides us with a lot of facilities and academic environments as well as many chances to attend seminars and conferences. From having access to huge resources of collection of academic papers in both libraries and websites of university, I can enrich my knowledge and learn some techniques for setting up my own experiments and analyzing the data I got. Regarding my research field, when I get stuck, my professor will give me some valuable advice and other new ideas also comes from my lab mates who are students from the institutes in different countries with their previous experience. To be honest, I feel comfortable and enjoy research work every day and hopefully get good results later. Last but not the least, I would like to thank the Japanese government and Jice staff for their support and assistance.

Dam Tuan Anh



It is impossible to tell you all the exciting things I have been experiments through in the last year since I became a student in the JDS scholarship program. I went to Japan, a country I loved very much and always wanted to visit. I also was educated by Professors at the prestigious Kyushu University with new friends from all over the world.

Although before coming to Japan, I learned a lot about the culture and people here through TV shows, the internet, and manga and anime series that I love very much. However, when I arrived here, I discovered more and more wonderful things, especially about Fukuoka city where I live, and Kyushu University.

I could not stop sharing with my friends and family, who

had not had a chance to go to Japan, about the natural beauty of Fukuoka. Japan and Fukuoka were much more beautiful than I had imagined before coming here. If you come here, you will have the opportunity to see the beautiful nature throughout the four seasons, and each season has very unique characteristics. In particular, same as many other international students, I enjoy the experience of watching Sakura flowers bloom in spring everywhere in the city.

Fukuoka is also famous for its beautiful beaches, including Itoshima Beach, which is known to many Japanese and international tourists. Walking on the beach on the weekends is also my favorite activity.

In addition to the beautiful natural scenery, Fukuoka is also one of the largest cities in Japan. If you come to Fukuoka, you can also enjoy the bustling shopping streets such as Tenjin, and Hakata. From Fukuoka, you also easily travel to other cities in Japan by plane or shinkansen train at a reasonable cost. I have also had some trips in the past year.

Besides, there are many beautiful, ancient temples throughout Fukuoka city and I have visited a few of them. I also experienced some delicious Japanese food for the first time.

In addition, I am also very proud of Kyushu University. Kyushu University is one of the most popular universities in Japan, with a high international ranking. I have all the modern research equipments for my research and also received enthusiastic guidance from the professor. Although I came here only a year ago, I have expanded a lot of knowledge in the field I am studying. I also have very friendly and talented new friends in my lab. We often participate in the common activities of the laboratory such as some parties and sports games.

To sum up, over the past year I've had a lot of interesting experiences that I will never forget. I feel very proud to be a member of the JDS scholarship program. I will spend the next time studying and experiencing a lot of interesting new things in Japan.

Nguyen The Vuong

The landscape in Fukuoka is extremely beautiful

Hello everyone. Ohayo Gozaimasu!

To begin with, I would like to introduce myself. My full name is Nguyen The Vuong and I am a researcher at Research Institute for Aquaculture No.2, located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Currently, I am living and studying at Kyushu University, situated in Fukuoka City, Japan for a 2-year Master's program from 2021 to 2023.

First of all, I sincerely thank you Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid, the Kyushu University, and my Institute in Viet Nam for giving me the great opportunity and providing me with the best

conditions to pursue my academic path by learning abroad in Japan. Particularly, it takes place in the context of a complicated COVID-19 pandemic, therefore the support becomes more special and precious.

Following I would like to share my good impressions of Japan as an international student. It is so emotional to remember the first day I put my foot in Japan, according everything became full of novelty and filled with excitement even though there were still many worries. Of course, I welcome my future as a gift and readily enjoy an upcoming journey. In fact, I spent unforgettable months with many interesting. Hence, it might be a little difficult to pick a topic for highlight my valuable experience in Japan.



Above all, I will mention my favorite things in a suburb of Fukuoka city where I am living. Regarding weather first, from my perspective, cool air is popular all year round here. I find the temperature quite comfortable. In general, the four seasons change clearly. It can be seen that the winter certainly comes with a cold atmosphere but rarely see snow, after the autumn moment by lovely leaves change color and fall down romantically. In contrast, the spring is when the weather became warm and there is a series of flowers blooming. Many believe that the cherry blossom season in Japan is the most famous festival in the world. You can imagine super beautiful scenery under magnificent cherry blossoms that will lead you astray in a wonderland. Lastly, the summer is the time people enjoy many useful outdoor activities under bright sunlight. I have a feeling

that one normal day seems last twice as long.

Moreover, natural landscapes overflow everywhere in Fukuoka. It is real that I can immerse myself in a clear blue sea, walk leisurely through a shady forest, or challenge my health by climbing a nice mountain. I usually wonder what makes wild nature become friendly and attractive in Japan. A reasonable answer could be definitely thanks to the conservation policies of the government, the preservation awareness of residents, and especially thanks to the important connection of traffic lines for any destination. Equally wonderful, I can see a lot of wild animals such as birds, turtles, and wild boars in this place. Surprising, they hardly run away when across humans by chance because they feel absolutely safe in this country.

In short, I feel that I am a very lucky one to have these experiences. Based on that, helping me not only enriches my knowledge for actively contributing to my country's development but also encourages me discover new horizons, thereby enhance my beautiful life.

Zin Naing Win

“From Dream to Reality”

Everyone always says, “Follow your dreams!” But not everyone does that. However, most people have dreams in their lives, big ones or small ones. No matter what our dream is, we can achieve it, but we need to be aware that the distance between our dreams and reality is an action. If we are struggling, our dreams are our reason to keep going, and they are what makes our entire life worth living. Without our dreams, we are nothing. As for me, I have dreamt of studying abroad in Japan, and it has become a lifetime purpose that I am determined to fulfill. The world is a big place with so much to see, and studying abroad gives us an opportunity to see the world differently and to experience a new country in a way only a student can. We can immerse ourselves completely in a new culture that challenges us to improve our language skills and pushes us to experience a different kind of education while actively studying about and living in it.

Fortunately, I had a great chance to follow my dream and make it come true by applying for the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid (JDS Scholarship) for a master's program at Kyushu University, Japan in 2020. Therefore, I tried my best every selection step to get a JDS Scholarship under the pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic. After that, my dream came true of being one of the JDS fellows from Myanmar in 2021. We all have different types of days in our lives; some are ordinary, while some are special, and there are some that get etched in our memories forever. Likewise, I also had an unforgettable day in my educational life. It was the day I received an email from the JICE office stating that I

had won a JDS scholarship for my master's program. As soon as I found this email, I couldn't find the words to express how happy I was on that day. What is more, this day was engraved in my heart and will remain so forever.



Currently, I am studying Forest Ecology at the Forest Resource Management Laboratory, Kyushu University Forest, Sasaguri. My research is focusing on Japanese oak plantations and my study site is at Ashoro Research Forest, Kyushu University, Hokkaido, and therefore, I am sure that I can get a lot of invaluable experience and knowledge from this research. As you know, student life is one of the most memorable phases of a person's life, and in student life, we do not just learn from books; we learn to grow emotionally, physically, philosophically, as well as socially.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japanese government and the JICE-JDS program for giving me this great opportunity to realize my dreams in Japan. Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks to my professor, Dr. Tsutomu ENOKI sensei, for his kindness, invaluable suggestions, and support for the new journey of my educational life. In conclusion, dreams can motivate, inspire, improve, and help us achieve any goal that we want to achieve. Therefore, it is the most important thing in life, and without dreams, we will be nowhere.

Adegoke Michael

The JDS program changed my life forever. Sincerely, pursuing another degree abroad was one of my greatest desires and Japan was the right choice because it has everything you need to transform your life. After being in Japan for about 8 months, I didn't know I could still enjoy life in this pandemic era. First, I owe a great debt of gratitude to the JDS program and Ghana government for giving me this opportunity. I really have an unforgettable memory and I want to write about some aspects.

Academic life



I am a Masters student at the Environmental Economics Laboratory, Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, Graduate School of Bioresources and Bioenvironmental Sciences. A government official, out of academia for over a decade. I knew I had to do my best in the course and research work, but luckily for my supervisors and all sensei's, I had a smooth process. The academic structure was helpful, and all sensei are available for further engagements after the lecture. Although the COVID situations has made many things to become permanent now, for instance, most courses, seminars, announcements, etc. are conducted online. Checking email frequently is key to staying up to date with information. The presentation of the seminars in the laboratory helped students improve their research through comments from sensei and lab colleagues. The university environment is great and provides a

conducive environment for learning. The ambiance is excellent and it makes learning easier.

Daily day life in Japan

Life could not have been so easy without the support from JDS in terms of the preparation they gave us before arriving in Japan. The entire orientation before and after departure from my country highlighted the most important issues for me. Therefore, it was much easier to adapt to the Japanese way of life. I will urge the prospective JDS scholar to take all orientations seriously as it will play a key role in adjusting to daily life in Japan. In general, life in Japan is one of the best in the world and will happily return to Japan if the need arises. Japanese people are unique in many ways, accommodating, rich in culture and tradition, honest, polite, friendly and hardworking. Honestly, the little encounters I've had with them, they will exceed your expectations every time you asked them for help. Considering where I'm coming. I have to say that my daily life has been full of joy and the new experience I've had so far are countless, for example, the subways, transportation system, sewage system, sea, rivers, real estate services, shops, scenery, entertainment and bars etc. are all absolutely first class. Enough words can express the feelings I've had so far. There are many beautiful places in Fukuoka and I know that everywhere is unique. Kyushu University offers opportunities to meet new foreign students and join many associations. As the Vice President of the African Society, Kyushu University (ASKU) and board member of Fukuoka Overseas Student Association (FOSA), I have had the opportunity to attend many events and traveled to a lot of places.

Finally, say that technology development in Japan is driven by 3 categories, namely person, policy and system and invention. My subsequent annual report will be comprehensive and in detail about my stay in Fukuoka and beyond. Arigatoo gozaimasu (Thank you).

Amiyuure Joshua Atule

My laboratory

I belong to the laboratory of plant production physiology and in our laboratory, we deal with plant function and behavior, encompassing all the dynamic processes of growth, metabolism, reproduction, defense, and communication that account for plants being alive.

For example, how plants utilize light for photosynthesis, or the mechanism plants go through to tolerate abiotic effects such as drought or soil salinity.

I enjoy this laboratory because in my previous studies I only learned that, to increase the productivity of plants you have to consider the morphological factors such as the number

of productive tillers per hill or the number of filled grains per panicle, but here I got to know that, those factors are the outcome of several activities that go through the plant and if controlled can influence the phenotypic productive parameters.

An example is the photosynthesis pathway

My visit to the karatsu castle



Karatsu Castle is a hilltop castle. It is also known as “Maizuru Castle,” because the castle resembles the head of a crane (or *tsuru*, in Japanese), and the curving coastline resembles a crane spreading its wings.

This castle is one of the oldest castles in Japan which is found on Saga Island. It was built to protect the emperor from his enemies and currently, the castle houses a mediocre history museum, but it is worth climbing to the top of the hill for the sweeping sea vistas. To get to the top there is a lifter you can use but if you do not want to use the lifter you can climb by walking which is very interesting or a form of exercise. In spring, cherry trees bloom on the grounds. At the top of the castle, there are a couple of things that are very interesting.

One of them is the 360° overview of the area. At the top, I could view the entire town, the sea, and all the ships on the sea. The color of the sea is dark brownish which is probably a reflection of light rays beneath the sea surface. Also from the top, I could see the movement of the sea waves and the activities on the sea such as people swimming and big ships sailing.

The second interesting thing about the castle is also how

you can have a total view of the arrangement of the trees and roads. At the top, the trees are seen online and some along the boundary of the sea which gives the place a spectacular view. As for the roads, you could see how they are well interlinked to each other, and I believed the easier way to locate a particular place in that city is to have a view of the area better first from the top before.

Thirdly the most amazing thing in the castle is the tree with long and several branches that provide a resting shade for visitors to relax. This tree has nice flowers, and you could see beautiful butterflies floating around making everyone who goes there try to take a picture of it.

Finally, what I will say is that if you are in Japan and you have not been to this place then you have not been to Japan yet. I therefore, encourage everyone to visit this place to have their first share of this nice experience.

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Edited by **The Special Committee for JDS program
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