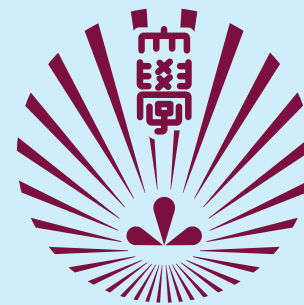


Annual Report of JDS Program

Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences Kyushu University



Vol.21 (2023)

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. As of April 2023, the JDS programme had hosted 18 master’s students from five countries - Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Ghana and Cambodia. In addition, five PhD students are enrolled in JDS PhD programmes. 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 theses at the end of the program.

2. Enrolled JDS students in 2023

Name	Nationality	Laboratory	Supervisor
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
Doctor Course [2022 Entrance]			
Tran Thi Van	Vietnam	Postharvest Science	TANAKA Fumihiko, Professor
Master Course [2020 Entrance]			
Khaing Zar Linn	Myanmar	Food Hygienic Chemistry	MIYAMOTO Takahisa, Professor
Myint Than Soe	Myanmar	Marine Biochemistry	NAKAO Miki, Professor
Master Course [2021 Entrance]			
Nanthaphone Bounsy	Lao PDR	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Vorachith Nilapha	Lao PDR	Forest Policy Natural Resource Management	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, Professor
Nguyen The Vuong	Vietnam	Marine Biology	OHTA Kohei, 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
Master Course [2022 Entrance]			
Phanthavong Saengdara	Lao PDR	Environmental Economics	YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor
Sithvihohane Insavai	Lao PDR	Horticultural Science	OZAKI Yukio, Professor
Tran Nguyen Van Anh	Vietnam	Insect Genome Science	KUSAKABE Takahiro, Professor
Ou Nary	Cambodia	Forest Policy Natural Resource Management	FUJIWARA Takahiro, Associate Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko, Professor
Phal Chhorvorn	Cambodia	Bioresources and Management	TAKASU Keiji, Professor
Chann Mithona	Cambodia	Mathematical Modeling	TA Viet Ton, Associate Professor
Adjorlolo Dennis	Ghana	Plant Production Physiology	AGARIE Sakae, Professor
Djre Solomon Selasi	Ghana	Agricultural Machinery and Production Systems Design	HIRAI Yasumaru, Associate Professor

3. List of Subjects and Supervising Professors for International Development Research Course (Academic Year 2023)

Division	Laboratory	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
Bioresource Sciences				
Agrobiological Sciences	Plant Breeding	Hideshi YASUI	Yoshiyuki YAMAGATA	
	Crop Science	Yushi ISHIBASHI		Chetphilin SURIYASAK
	Plant Production Physiology	Sakae AGARIE	Kazuyuki SAITOU	
	Plant Pathology	Naruto FURUYA	Kazuhiro IYAMA	
	Horticultural Science	Yukio OZAKI		Yuki MIZUNOE
	Zoology		Naoki IWAMORI	
	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
	Creative Science for Insect Industries		JaeMan LEE	
	Sanitary Entomology		Ryosuke FUJITA	Masato HINO
Animal and Marine Biosciences	Functional Anatomy	Yoshinao HOSAKA	Shotaro NISHIMURA	
	Animal Reproductive Physiology		Nobuhiko YAMAUCHI	Tomoki SOH
	Muscle & Meat Sciences	Ryuichi TATSUMI	Takahiro SUZUKI	
	Regulation in Metabolism and Behavior	Shinobu YASUO	Keisuke IKEGAMI	
	Animal Production and Ecology		Hideyuki TAKAHASHI	Yutaka NAKANO Yudai INABU
	Marine Biology	Kohei OHTA		Akihiko YAMAGUCHI Chakraborty TAPAS
	Fisheries Biology	Tomoyuki KOKITA		Akira KURIHARA Kazuki MATSUSHIGE
	Marine Environmental Science		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	Masayoshi HARADA		Toshinori TABATA
	Environmental Soil Engineering	Motohei KANAYAMA		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	
	Postharvest Science	Fumihiko TANAKA		Fumina TANAKA
Mathematical Modeling		Ta Viet TON		
Forest Environmental Sciences	Forest Management	Nobuya MIZOUE	Tetsuji OTA	CHICAS Santos Daniel
	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	Buntaro KUSUMOTO
	Forest Ecosystem Management	Tomonori KUME	Ryuji ICHIHASHI	
			Tamao KASAHARA	Ayumi KATAYAMA
Masaaki CHIWA Takuo HISHI				
Sustainable Bioresources Science	Wood Science			Masumi HASEGAWA
	Wood Materials Technology		Noboru FUJIMOTO	Hiroki SAKAGAMI
	Forest Chemistry and Biochemistry	Yuji TSUTSUMI	Toshihiro ONA	Koki FUJITA
	Bioresource Chemistry	Takuya KITAOKA	Hirofumi ICHINOSE	Mayumi HATAKEYAMA
	Biomacromolecular Materials		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	Norikazu INOUE		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		
	Internatinal Agricultural Development		Hisako NOMURA		
Bioscience and Biotechnology					
Molecular Biosciences	Biochemistry		Tomoyuki NUMATA	Takeshi YAMAGAMI 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
		Genome Chemistry Engineering	Takahiro NAKAMURA	Tomohiko KAZAMA	
	Yeast and Fungal Microtubule Dynamics	Douglas Robert DRUMMOND			
Systems Bioengineering		Molecular Gene Technology		Kosuke TASHIRO	Shigeru MUTA
		Cellular Regulation Technology	Yoshinori KATAKURA		Kiichiro TERUYA
		Synthetic Biology	Taizo HANAI		Hiroyuki HAMADA 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		Tsuguru FUJII	
		Plant Bioresources	Toshihiro KUMAMARU	Takahiko KUBO	
Food Science and Biotechnology		Microbial Bioresources	Katsumi DOI		Yasuhiro FUJINO
		Fungal Cell Biology		Hiromi MAEKAWA	
		Nutrition Chemistry	Masao SATO		Yasutake TANAKA
		Food Chemical Biology	Hirofumi TACHIBANA	Yoshinori FUZIMURA	Motofumi KUMAZOE
		Food Analysis	Toshiro MATSUI	Mitsuru TANAKA	
	Food Process Engineering	Noriyuki IGURA	Shuntaro TSUBAKI		
	Food Hygienic Chemistry	Takahisa MIYAMOTO	Ken-ichi HONJOH	Yoshimitsu MASUDA	
	Analytical Food Immunoscience		Yoshiyuki MIYAZAKI		

Affiliated Facilities				
Attached Promotive Center for International Education and Research of Agriculture	International Relations	Mako NAKAMURA	Yasuaki HIROMASA	
	International Education	Douglas Robert DRUMMOND	Yukiko OGINO	Hyunjung BANG
			Willam Ka Fai TSE	
			Ta Viet TON	Hiroko KITA
			Hisako NOMURA Hiromi MAEKAWA	
Environmental Control Center for Experimental Biology	Coordination Division	Satoshi YOSHIDA	Toshihiko EGUCHI	
Institute of Tropical Agriculture	Tropical Crops and Environment Section		Norimitsu HAMAOKA	Shingo HOSOISHI
	Land- water Resources & 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.

In addition to the Master's Program content, the following additional coursework/activities are 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 2023, the 10th JASID Western Japan Research Meeting was jointly hosted by Hiroshima University and Kyushu University.



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.

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.



Drone technology demonstration with Prof. Hiromasa in AgroBio classes.

4) Research Trip

Based on the students' requests, we organize research trips and visit various research centres and farmers. After two-year of no trips due to the restrictions to control COVID19, we resumed a few field visits in 2021 and continued to do so in 2022. We visited Mamizu Pia in Fukuoka, where they converted seawater into drinkable. This new innovation was driven by a shortage of drinking water Fukuoka City used to suffer from. We also visited Furuno Farm where Dr. Furuno practices the integrated duck-organic farming. He also demonstrated the newly developed tool and technique, 'howking', for easy and efficient weeding. The technique uses materials that anyone have access to and therefore is 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 a part of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.



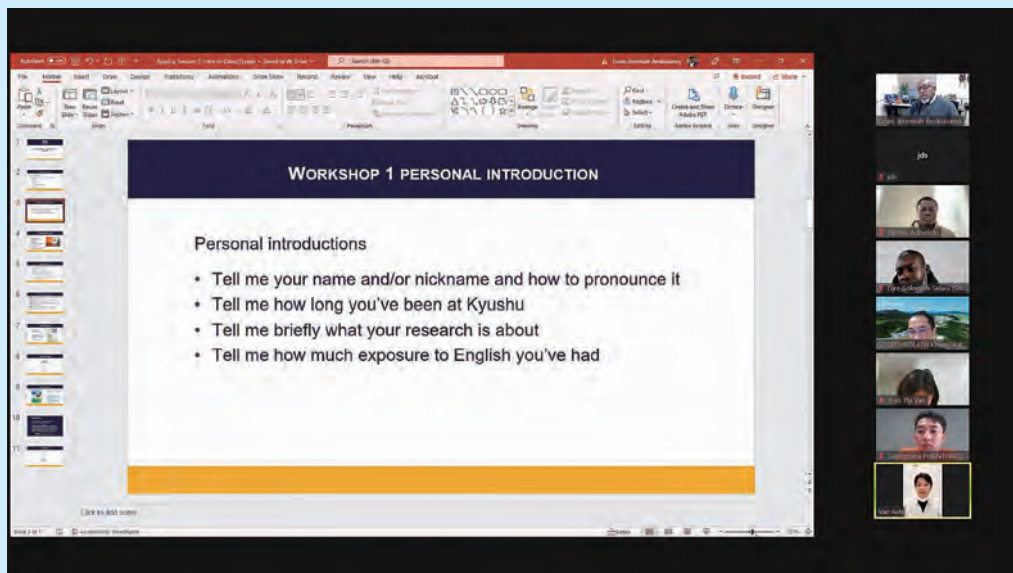
Furuno farm warmly welcomed the students.



Rice replanting and harvesting in Ukiha city

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 technologies 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 – 2022-2023

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, so that 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. Since then, we have not been able to hold follow-up seminars. However, we are hoping to resume again soon.

2. Guidance for journal article submission

Supervisors continue to guide and support former JDS fellows to submit journal articles for publication, which are 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/>

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

Ph.D. students presented their research at the Mid-Term Presentation on 17th May and demonstrated their research progress. Faculty members in the Graduate School assessed the progress and advised the students about issues that could be improved.



Ph.D. Mid-Term Presentation

Master's course students are awarded the Master of Science (M.Sc) upon completing a satisfactory thesis. This year, the presentation was held on 27th July, and all students successfully demonstrated what they gained from the last two years of training in their laboratories and out in the field.



Greetings from the Dean Miki NAKAO, Prof. Dr.



Master's Thesis Presentation

6. Reports from JDS Students

2020 Entrance [Doctor Course]

Nguyen Thi Hang Phuong

Unforgettable memories at Kyudai as JDS fellow



I am one of the JDS fellows from Vietnam and now I am a third year PhD student at Postharvest Science Laboratory, Department of Agro-environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University. I am so proud for being JDS fellow to obtain Master degree in 2018, continue Doctoral course since 2020. I am really appreciated the JDS program offering research opportunities to the prospective young leaders, building a stronger personal and a social network, and contributing to development of Vietnam.

I am lucky to be able to study at two campuses of Kyushu University – Hakozaki campus and Ito campus. I was very impressed with an ancient architecture main building at Hakozaki campus which has many unforgettable memories of my master's time. I was attracted to the modernity of Ito campus where I study now. My daily life is going well with the

support from JICE staffs and University staffs and my academic life is going smoothly under the kind guidance and support of my supervisors. Studying at Kyushu University provided me an opportunity to obtain more academic knowledge, communication skills, technical skills when using modern devices for experiments, logical thinking skills, presentation skills, self-learning ability, problem solving, decision making, and idea generating ability as well by joining International conference, seminar, and participating in the field trips under JDS program with different objectives. JDS program arranged for JDS fellows not only for academic experiences but also for social skills. In my opinion while studying in Japan not only focusing on academic but also participating in social events should be concentrated.

Time fly very fast, it is almost two years since I have been in Japan and this year is my final year to stay and study in Japan. It is really amazing time to study at Kyushu University and I am very appreciated to belong to Postharvest Science Laboratory. Without the kind supports from Tanaka sensei, Fumina sensei, Iwasaki san and lab mates, I have not carried out experiments smoothly and published papers in journals. They always give me their guidance, valuable suggestions, and encouragements and my lab mates also support me whenever I need their help which make me move on step by step in the right way. My research is not always smooth, I have always tried my best to complete my research. Whenever I felt down or out of energy, I remembered the day I wished to be here to overcome negative feelings and be able to move forward.

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. 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, and both international and Japanese lab mates, my friends who have fulfilled my study and life in Japan.



Soudthelath Khamsalath

Self-introduction



I am a third-year doctoral student at the 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 because of their unique and wonderful culture with hospitality and comfortable daily life. Surely, the living cost in Japan is higher than in our developing countries. However, 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. Overall and beyond, Japan's environment and transport system are very good and well-organized. **So, DO NOT forget to explore Kyushu Island and the whole of Japan and enjoy your life during your stay!**

Academic life

Student life is a wonderful journey of exploration, growth, and endless possibilities, where knowledge intertwines with

friendship and dreams take flight towards a brighter tomorrow! Two years passed since I left my country to study in Japan. From now on, I still have 10 months to conduct my research based on the topic "Functions of *Arabidopsis* sulfate transporter SULTR2;1 and SULTR3;5 in sulfur metabolism and plant growth".

You may know; Kyushu University is the biggest university on Kyushu Island and belongs to one of Japan's leading universities. Thus, the university provides an ideal setting for students to grow academically, professionally, and personally. However, learning at such a famous university is not easy, but it is not very difficult too. The professors and staff are well-supported, kind, and friendly. Beyond academics, being a student here, you also have a chance to join the extracurricular activities like student clubs, international events and associations which consist 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.

Interestingly, the JDS Program at Kyushu University provides an amazing International Development Research Course in various fields and wonderful related activities such as networking events, seminars, English programs and group discussions. In addition, the JDS-Program Secretary Office at Kyushu University can support you from your first arrival until graduation. **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 staff, and the JICE and JICA officers for their kind support and for providing me with a very warm welcome and precious opportunity to pursue my master and doctorate in this prestigious university. Also, my heartfelt thanks to my professor Dr Akiko Maruyama-Nakashita, lab mates and family for their active support, suggestions, and encouragement.



Pham Nguyen Anh Duy

It's been a year full of meaningful events in Kyudai, where I've made many new friends during my study and research. Although I've enjoyed my time here, I believe my peers would agree that it's been a great year for them as well. It's been almost two years since I first came to Japan, I've been busy researching the use of volatile organic compounds released during insect attacks to manage small insects and spider mites that are harmful pests to plants. This has given me the confidence to promote more environmentally friendly, such as biocontrol or integrated pest management methods instead of relying on chemical pesticides.

Let me explain my research in a way that's easy to understand. Picture yourself tending to plants or vegetables in your garden or field. You have a particular tree which you're fond of and love watching it grow and flourish every day. Unfortunately, you wake up one morning to find that your favourite tree has been attacked by some kind of insect, and you may feel uneasy. This feeling is even worse if you're a farmer relying on your crops for income. Then, the immediate solution is to use pesticides to kill the pests and restore your plant's health. In the wild, trees can also save themselves without human intervention

by calling for help from natural enemies that are beneficial to plants and harmful to pests. They do this by emitting chemicals to attract these natural enemies to come, find, and kill the pests when being attacked by target insects, creating a win-win situation for both the plants and the insects. Therefore, harmful insects will have a harder time attacking your plants, and you won't have to use chemicals to protect them. In my research, I analyze the correlation between different plant scents and the attractiveness to natural enemies. My goal is to create "plant fragrances" to use in your crop that will attract beneficial organisms to your garden, resulting in a rich ecosystem of beneficial insects and fewer pest attacks on your crops.

In addition, the past year was a year when we successfully controlled the COVID-19 epidemic, resulting in large gatherings returning to normal conditions. As a result, the 9th JASID Western Japan Research Meeting was successfully organised at Hiroshima University, an annual conference hosted by Kyushu University and Hiroshima University. Particularly, this scientific meeting attracts researchers from various disciplines related to Agriculture, Energy, Society, and Economic management policies. Indeed, it provides a platform for students to present their research to other students and professors from different fields and different universities, aiming to share new explorations besides finding new ways to enhance research work by getting many valuable comments and suggestions from participants. It is a valuable opportunity for those studying and conducting research at the Graduate school of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University. Besides, the faculty also organizes many interesting extracurricular activities for students such as visiting the pest management model with ducks or replacing the traditional rice cultivation and harvesting on terraced fields.



JDS bring me to impressive study life



Konnichiwa everybody! I am one of the JDS fellows from Myanmar, studying at the Laboratory of Food Hygienic Chemistry, Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Kyushu University. Time flies so fast! This is my second year of doctoral course, almost 2 years passed with educating knowledge and skills. It is my pleasure to share my study life through this annual report.

I always feel very proud to be a student at Kyushu University. Why? As you know, Kyushu University is the biggest university on Kyushu Island, and it belongs to the Top-ten universities in Japan. When you go around Japan including Fukuoka and introduce yourself “I am from Kyudai”, most of the people know and they look at you very impressively. The advanced education system, human resources, and facilities in university would not only enhance the academic knowledge, skills and experiences but also invent new technologies. The professors in our faculty are very enthusiastic to teach us useful knowledge and research abilities through creative lectures and academic seminars. These are attractive points for many researchers and students from different countries to come and study here.

I am also impressed that I am one of the JDS fellows. JICE staffs are always active and ready to support all JDS fellows for living and studying comfortably in Japan. They

have been taking care of everything for their JDS fellows from small to difficult things. We have monitoring meetings every three months with JICE coordinators for checking the status of their fellows. Also, JICE organized many special programs such as JDS field trips, networking events, homestay programs, and academic seminars. Last year, I went to Tokyo many times to join the JDS networking events with different ministries, and to Hiroshima to attend the JASID Western Japan Research meeting. We could explore our study life outside of Fukuoka too and learn a lot of knowledge and experiences in different areas of Japan.

One more impressive thing is my student life in the Laboratory of Food Hygienic Chemistry. My respectful sensei, Professor Takahisa Miyamoto, who supervised me from my master time until now, is very kind and always advises brilliant ideas to do my research smoothly. My sensei’s positive outlook and confidence in my research inspired and gave me more energy. Also, I could share and discuss different experimental topics of lab members through laboratory seminars. I got valuable suggestions, constructive comments, and insightful feedback from my three sensei and lab mates, it was extremely useful for my next step. My sensei supports attending domestic and international conferences for exchanging informative research and new technologies. I joined the 21st Federation of Asian Veterinary Association (FAVA) Congress in Fukuoka last year and achieved much knowledge to apply in my research. Besides, my laboratory looks like a sweet family, we enjoy many activities such as laboratory trips and parties, food industry exhibition, badminton, and softball recreation.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Japanese government, JDS scholarship program and JICE staffs for supporting and giving me a great opportunity to pursue in this prestigious university one more time. My heartfelt thanks to my kind and generous 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. Arigatougozaimasu!



Tran Thi Van



For me, life is always a constant movement to achieve the goals that I set out, that gives me meaning in life anytime and anywhere. A PhD student life is time to be happy with new goals.

First of 10 months in Japan have passed quite quickly, I had new experiences and new achievements. In the academic field, I have completed four units of the PhD schedules. Besides, under the enthusiastic guidance of professors and lab mates, I have completed a part of my research. I am continuing to research and complete my research topic. I signed up for an international conference and am waiting for the results. In addition, I have published an article in an international journal with an Impact Factor of 3.7. I feel more professional than before after doing research and learning from classes; in addition, I also feel more proficient in writing journalism skills. The knowledge from the classes helped me strengthen myself and chart the course for my future. I feel very grateful to have professors and friends here who have helped me a lot to improve myself.

Regarding extracurricular activities, I participated in some activities of VYSAF,

Vietnamese festival in Fukuoka, Dontaku festival 2023. This is the first time I participated in Dontaku festival. It can be said that the festival was enhanced with strong emotion. The festival shows the greatness of the scale and the number of participants. Full energetic faces with epic performances that I've never seen before. Those moments gave me strong impressions of the strength of the Japanese people in general and the people in the city of Fukuoka where I live in particular.

About daily life, I live with a family of 4 members. This is still the time when my children are adjusting to their new school and living environment. There are difficulties and advantages during this period. Difficulties are reading, understanding lessons as well as listening to teachers' lectures or conversations in Japanese. However, there are many advantages, most of which is the support of teachers in the school and surrounding organizations. My main point is to let my children solve their own problems, including my supervision. I feel very fortunate to have the support from the school and the surrounding support organizations, I secretly thank them very much. I also feel fortunate because my children have self-discipline in learning and somewhat love the class, teachers, and friends gradually. I hope that they will master the language and love the place even more soon. I felt this is a great experience for me and my family to learn and exchange about history, culture, and life between different countries. This will help us to expand the connection later in the future. I feel very lucky to have such valuable experiences.

Finally, from the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank the JDS program for giving me these wonderful opportunities for three years living in Japan. I would like to thank JICE for their dedication and thoughtfulness, especially Kawano san for her enthusiasm support. I would like to thank Professors Fumihiko Tanaka, Fumina Tanaka and all the lab members who have supported me not only in the academic field but also on my side. I will always remember and cherish those memories.



2020 Entrance [Master Course]

Khaing Zar Linn

My valuable memories in Kyushu University as a FHC student



I am Khaing Zar Linn from Myanmar and this is the second year of my master course at Kyushu University. My research field is Food Science and Biotechnology and my laboratory is Food Hygienic Chemistry (FHC). I am so glad to be a FHC lab member under the kind supervision of my generous professors. I have studied almost two years in this laboratory and now I feel this lab as my sweet home but soon, it is very near to say Good Bye.

My academic life in Kyushu University is attending lectures, food borne pathogens research, participating in weekly experimental progressive report and journal review presentations, regular discussion and reporting my experimental results with my professors. I gained knowledge, updated information and advanced technology especially in food science, agriculture and environmental conservation by attending the skillful professors' lectures and joining the relevant field trips. I also have a chance to meet many international students coming from different countries and create a good connection with them during group presentation works and field trips. Moreover, I always gain valuable comments, suggestions and new research ideas from my professors and lab mates by participating in our laboratory seminars, and these kinds of laboratory activities also contributed to making me more confident in presentation skill.

One of my significant experiences is joining the 9th JASID Western Japan Research Meeting held at Hiroshima University in August, 2022 which was organized by JICE. This is my very first time presenting my research in front of all international students from different study fields. I got valuable comments and suggestions upon my presentation, research experiences and knowledge from international students. After my presentation, I travelled to famous places in Hiroshima such as Atomic bomb Dome, Hiroshima Peace Memorial park and

Museum, Hiroshima Castle, Shukukeien Park, Miyajima and Kintai Bridge. In August, 2023, I will also attend an academic conference, the 70th Annual Meeting of the Society for Food Science and Technology in Kyoto. In this meeting, I have to make both a poster and oral presentation and I am going to try my best under the close supervision of my professors. I believe that this conference will be a good chance for me to present my research and to receive the comments and suggestions from professors and international students from different universities.

During my studying and research work for two years, my honorable professors always give me valuable kind guides, suggestions and help whatever I need. My professors and lab mates are always ready to help and support me and thus I can do my experiments very smoothly under their kindness, continuous support and advanced laboratory facilities. I am very proud to be one of the FHC lab members and student of my generous sensei, Professor Takahisa MIYAMOTO, Associate Professor, Ken-ichi HONJOH and Assistant Professor, Yoshimitsu MASUDA. I also really say a deep "THANK" from my bottom of my heart to all of JICE staffs who always support and care to me during my two years study in Kyushu University.

2021 Entrance [Master Course]

Nanthaphone Bounsy

Academic life in Japan



My name is Bounsy NANTHAPHONE, a master's student affiliated with the esteemed Environmental Economics

Laboratory at the prestigious Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Kyushu University. Being a part of this renowned laboratory has provided me with unique opportunities for research, collaboration, networking, and professional development in the field of environmental economics. As I transition into the second year of my program, the focus has shifted from coursework to the research phase. This phase represents a crucial step in my academic journey as I utilize my expertise to delve deeper into my research, implement effective data collection methods, analyze findings, and contribute new knowledge to the field of environmental economics. My research focused on examining the potential benefits of fairtrade certification in the coffee industry for smallholder farmers in Lao PDR by investigating how fairtrade initiatives can enhance food security and income. Therefore, conducting primary data collection through a field survey in Lao PDR is an integral aspect of my research. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and travel restrictions, I am fortunate to have received concrete support and guidance from my supervisors and JICE, enabling me to proceed with my trip to Lao PDR. The survey was so important as it provided me with the opportunity to immerse myself in the rich coffee-growing regions, directly engage with coffee farmers, and obtain firsthand and valuable information and insights into the dynamics of the local coffee sector.

Kyushu University offers a vibrant student life experience in which I can engage in various extracurricular activities, student clubs, cultural events, and sports competitions that contribute to personal growth and build friendships. One unforgettable highlight was the seminar in Tokyo “JDS Pre-return Program and JDS Government Leaders Networking Event”. This prestigious event brought together JICA/JICE scholars and government officers, offering a unique platform to engage in thoughtful discussion, exchange ideas, critically reflect on academic journeys, and foster meaningful connections that may lead to future collaboration and advancements in their respective fields. Another remarkable trip to Ukiha City’s traditional rice planting experience was organized by the Ukiha agricultural association and the JDS-Program secretariat office at the faculty of agriculture at Kyushu University. This trip provides valuable insight into terrace paddy rice cultivation and offers the opportunity to observe traditional farming practices, understand the importance of sustainable agriculture, and attaching visitors to experience rural charm and natural beauty while fostering the agricultural tourism industry and preserving the rice production tradition and cultural heritage.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to JICA/JICE for their concrete support and tangible assistance throughout my academic journey. I am also deeply appreciative of my dedicated supervisors, whose guidance and expertise have been instrumental in shaping my

research and academic pursuits. I would also like to extend my thanks to the various departments, institutions, professors, and individuals who have been involved in facilitating my academic pursuits.

Furthermore, Fukuoka Prefecture provides students with a supportive and enriching environment, renowned universities, comprehensive support services, and a warm community that supports academic achievement. Students can immerse themselves in the region’s cultural richness, enjoy a high quality of life, and engage in networking opportunities. Therefore, Fukuoka Prefecture is an excellent option for students looking for a professional and fulfilling experience in student life.

Vorachith Nilapha

My academic and daily life



My name is Nilapha Vorachith, I belong to the forest policy laboratory at Kyushu University. This is my second-year master’s student. Time has flown very fast since I arrived in Japan. During my stay, I gained a lot of experience in academics and daily life.

Since I obtained most of the credit required from the school in the first year, in the second year most of the time I focus on the research work. After the border restriction was lifted from the Covid-19 pandemic. But some procedures before going back to my country and entering Japan still remained at that time. I have had a chance to conduct field research in my country two times. For the first time, I conduct preliminary research in October 2022 to understand the situation in the field, and the second time in February 2023 was the main survey. After I went back to Japan, I have been focusing on entering and analyzing the data from the field survey and preparing for the thesis writing. Only one month left from the time I am writing this report is my thesis defense day. I feel nervous and excited. Before that, In June, I have an opportunity to do a presentation at JASTE 33 conference again but in a different place. This time, it will be held in Kochi. It is nice to see a new city in Japan

and learn new experiences.

Besides academic life, as I said the situation of the Covid-19 pandemic was lifted. Face-to-face activities can be organized. I also joined activities with laboratory members and field trips for JDS fellows from other countries. It was a great experience to see and learn from Japan. I joined JDS pre-return program organized by JICE in Tokyo. It was the first face-to-face event for my batch with more than 300 fellows attending after the pandemic of Covid-19. After finishing the event, I have some time to explore someplace in Tokyo like Tokyo Disney Land to see a fairy tale life. It was very fantastic. I like season changes in Japan, especially in spring for taking a photo with a cherry blossom which always impressed me even when I saw it in the second year. During the golden week a holiday in Japan, I have a chance to join the Kyushu University parade for the Hakata Dontakue Harbor festival, which was a big and important parade. It was a good and memorable event.

I know academic life is not easy. I have to put a lot of effort into it. But I believe I can overcome and gain valuable knowledge and experience from it.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Japanese people, government, JICE, JICA, Kyushu University, professors, and staff for this great opportunity and unforgettable memories in my life studying here and for their kind support. Special sincere thanks to my supervisor Associate Professor FUJIWARA Takahiro and Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko for their valuable time, great support, and guidance on academic supervision. I will try my best to absorb new knowledge and be successful in academic life in Japan.

Le Thi Xuyen

Self-introduction



My name is LE THI XUYEN, and I am one of the JDS fellows batch 2021 from VIET NAM. I am a second year Master 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

After more than one year of living in Japan, I have gradually adapted to life here. As the cherry blossoms bloomed in springtime, I found myself immersed in the beauty of Japan's rich culture. It was hard to believe that just a year ago, I had arrived in this foreign land with uncertainty and a longing for home. Now, the streets of Fukuoka felt like a second home to me.

During the day, I dedicated myself to my research in the lab, my Sensei and colleagues had been my supervisors and friends, always willing to share their knowledge and experiences. But life wasn't just about work. In the evenings and weekends, I also arrange some sightseeing trips with friends and socialize with some international friends. Some unforgettable sightseeing trips, the ancient temples, vibrant marketplaces, and serene gardens scattered throughout this area will be the memories that would last a lifetime.

The challenges that once seemed insurmountable had become steppingstones on my journey of personal growth. I no longer felt the pangs of homesickness as acutely as before. Instead, I embraced the cultural differences and found beauty in the Japanese traditions.

As the days turned into weeks and the weeks into months, Japan had become more than just a place I lived in—it was a part of me. Looking back on my time in Japan, I realized that the initial challenges had shaped me into a stronger, more adaptable individual. I had not only grown academically but also emotionally. The lessons I learned in patience, perseverance, and embracing the unknown would stay with me long after I left this country.

And so, with gratitude and respect, I will continue to study, explore, and enjoy Japan more in the next time. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the JICE staffs in Japan and JICE staff in Viet Nam for their unwavering support and assistance. I am very thankful to Takasu sensei and Takano sensei for their guidance and encouragement to my research with precious advice.

Dam Tuan Anh

As a second-year master's student in marine biology supported by the JDS scholarship, my last year in Japan was filled with wonderful experiences. I had the opportunity to participate in fascinating field trips and engaging sightseeing excursions, while also gaining valuable knowledge through my studies and experiments.

One of the most unforgettable memories was joining the memorable rice harvesting trip organized by JDS-Kyushu University office. This field trip allowed us to connect with the

local community and experience Japan's rich cultural heritage. Participating in the traditional process of rice harvesting provided not only a physical break but also a chance for profound cultural immersion, allowing us to appreciate the customs and traditions of our host country. The rice harvesting trip was an unforgettable cultural adventure that further enriched my time in Japan.

Additionally, I and my friends enjoyed exploring the beautiful nature of Japan throughout the four seasons. We embarked on sightseeing trips to nearby areas in Fukuoka, the captivating city where I am currently studying. We particularly cherished the cherry blossom season in Fukuoka castle ruins, capturing countless beautiful photos.

Moreover, this year marks the final year of my master's course, during which I dedicated a significant amount of time to studying and conducting experiments. Marine biology, my major, is complex but also captivating. I had the incredible opportunity to engage in a fascinating molecular experiment that expanded my knowledge and practical skills in the field. Under the guidance of my esteemed professor and alongside my supportive lab mates, this experience has proven to be an invaluable stepping stone in my academic and professional journey. I am delighted with the wealth of knowledge I have gained through experiments and insightful discussions with my professor and lab mates. Collaborating with them, we actively participated in discussions, troubleshooting, and collaborative problem-solving, fostering an environment of shared knowledge and growth. I am confident that the knowledge I acquired during my time studying in Japan will be applicable when I return to my home country in the near future.

In conclusion, my last year as a second-year master's student in Japan was not only filled with enjoyable activities but also a valuable period of personal growth. I was fortunate to enhance my knowledge and skills under the kind support of my professors and lab mates. I am deeply grateful to JICA for providing me with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I believe that even after my return, these beautiful memories will stay with me for the rest of my life, reminding me of the remarkable



country I had the privilege of living in. Furthermore, I hope to contribute to further developing the friendship between our two countries.

Nguyen The Vuong

Great experiences in the country of cherry blossoms



As I approach my graduation in September, I am preparing to leave Japan and return to Vietnam. While I am excited about going home, I also feel nostalgic and somewhat sad to leave behind the wonderful memories I have made here. In this writing, I aim to share the amazing aspects of my life in Japan, providing you with a glimpse into the country's unique culture and experiences.

First and foremost, Kyushu University has been a fantastic place for my studies. The campus boasts state-of-the-art facilities that fully support academic pursuits and innovative research. Particularly, in my Marine Biology laboratory, I have access to advanced machinery, which has greatly contributed to my great result. Additionally, the university's extensive and user-friendly library, both in-person and online form, has proven to be a valuable resource for my research. Last but certainly not least, it is the unwavering support from professors, staff, and fellow students, which has been instrumental in helping me overcome research challenges and foster my academic growth.

Secondly, I would like to highlight the outstanding education system for children. In Japan, children's education is highly valued and rigorously pursued. The country's educational system emphasizes discipline, respect, and academic excellence. From a young age, students follow a structured curriculum that

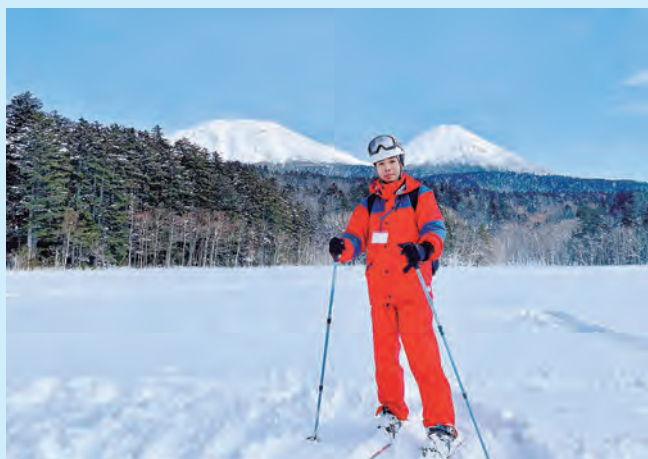
includes not only core subjects but also character development, cultural activities, and teamwork, fostering well-rounded individuals for the future. The care and support children receive here are truly unparalleled. Our personal experience with preschool and elementary school education has been exceptionally positive and fulfilling. The educational programs for children are well-funded and provide emotional support, facilitating their smooth integration into new environments and fostering their holistic development. Furthermore, the government's provision of monthly allowances for children significantly contributes to their overall well-being. Japan is truly a wonderful place for nurturing the next generations.

Thirdly, Japanese transportation system is another noteworthy aspect. It exemplifies advanced technology, modernity, and sophistication, earning its reputation as one of the world's best. Country's transportation infrastructure is extensive and meticulously developed. Exceptional quality of the public vehicles ensures a comfortable and satisfying journey for passengers like myself. Besides, What truly sets Japan apart is its commendable traffic culture, characterized by conscientious adherence to traffic laws and civilized behavior. This creates a safe and harmonious environment for everyone. The transportation system in Japan is not merely a means of transportation; it is an experience to be cherished.

Conclusion, Japan has undeniably left a profound impact on me, with countless amazing experiences that I have been fortunate to have. However, the two years of my master's program feel insufficient to fully explore and absorb everything this country has to offer. I yearn for the opportunity to return to Japan in the future, continuing my journey of learning and research. I genuinely hope that Japan continues to progress and provide increased support for individuals like myself. I am sincerely grateful for everything I have received during my time in this extraordinary country.

Zin Naing Win

“Winter Wonders in a Couple of Years”



As I approach the culmination of my master's student life at Kyushu University, I find myself immersed in a whirlwind of emotions. Time flies so fast! It feels like just yesterday that I embarked on this transformative journey, filled with anticipation and excitement. Yet, as I stand on the precipice of completion, I am astounded by how swiftly time has flown by. The days turned into weeks, the weeks into months, and before I knew it, I am nearing the end of my master's student life. Anyway, my master's journey has been filled with happiness, challenges, growth, and unforgettable moments that have shaped my academic and personal development. A truly unforgettable moment from my time here was the opportunity to participate in winter activities at the Ashoro Research Forest of Kyushu University, Hokkaido this year. It was also my study area for my research. I am incredibly grateful for this tremendous opportunity, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to my professor, ENOKI sensei, for extending the invitation and providing me with this enriching experience, and deepest thanks to the JDS organization, unwavering and continuous support throughout my academic journey as well. Their gesture not only allowed me to engage in hands-on learning but also fostered a strong mentor-student bond that I will forever cherish.

Ashoro, Hokkaido is a haven of natural beauty, where winter paints a mesmerizing picture and its snow-covered landscapes, serene forests, and tranquil environment completely fascinated me. It was my very first experience seeing and feeling snow scenes in reality and therefore, I was over the moon at that time. I engaged in activities such as hiking, map reading in forest mountains, and skiing. Hiking through the snowy landscapes and forest mountains was an awe-inspiring experience that left an indelible mark on my soul. The sense of accomplishment upon reaching the summit of a mountain was unparalleled, fueling my passion for outdoor adventures. In addition, one of the highlights of the winter activities was the opportunity to enhance my map reading skills in the enchanting forest mountains in Ashoro. Equipped with compasses and detailed maps, we navigated our way through steep mountains and forests, relying on our newfound knowledge and teamwork. It was a valuable learning experience that not only sharpened our navigational abilities but also fostered a deep appreciation for the intricacies of nature. The guidance and support provided by our teachers were instrumental in honing our map reading skills, and I am also truly grateful for their expertise. Furthermore, skiing amidst the breathtaking beauty of alpine forests was an exhilarating and joyful experience. With the guidance of the teachers and staff, we glided down the slopes, feeling the rush of the cold wind against our faces. The rhythmic motion of skiing, combined with the serenity of the alpine forest surroundings, created a harmonious connection with nature. These exhilarating moments were shared with my friends, as we laughed, cheered, and encouraged each other. The joy and

friendship formed during these skiing adventures have left an everlasting impression on me.

To summarize, these activities have not only enriched my understanding of nature but have also fostered personal growth, resilience, and a deep appreciation for the beauty of winter. I will forever treasure the memories created during this remarkable journey and it will always hold a special place in my heart as “Winter Wonders”, as they have allowed me to embark on unforgettable adventures and create cherished memories during my academic journey at Kyushu University.

Adegoke Michael

MY STUDY EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS



Reflecting on my experience abroad in Japan, I realize how much I have grown both personally and academically. As a final year master’s student in the Laboratory of Environmental Economics at Kyushu University, I have had the privilege to witness the impact of technology in our daily lives. Though technology has made it easier to connect with people from around the world, there is no substitute for the invaluable lessons that come with studying abroad and immersing oneself in a new culture. I am immensely grateful to JICA/JDS and my home country, Ghana, for making this dream a reality. I have gained vital experiences and I have no doubt that they will continue to shape my future. I would like to share few things I learned.

Better understanding of my home country and perspectives of other cultures.

As a resident of Ghana’s capital city for the majority of my life, I used to complain and envying the seemingly greener pastures of other countries. However, experiences abroad have taught me that perfection is elusive in any nation. At least, I realize aspects of my country that I can proudly embrace. For instance, the heat that I once condemned became something I cherished during winter. The most rewarding aspect of studying

abroad is the opportunity it affords to engage with different cultures. I have learned to inquire tactfully and examine the mindset of unfamiliar societies. One lesson that changed my outlook and prompted me to review my beliefs relates to privacy. I was a reserved person, both online and in person. However, my stay in Japan proved the importance of respecting others privacy. I was used to sharing photos of anyone I pleased and even disclosing personal information like phone contacts to others without consent. However, living in Japan has taught me to respect others privacy, patient, tolerant, and sympathetic.

Traveling in the new era

Trip to Japan in year 2021 was a thrilling experience that brought about a whirlwind of emotions. While it is true that the COVID era brought changes that may be seen as permanent, I embraced them in a positive light. I had to adapt to online lectures from my home country despite the time zone difference, undergo COVID testing, quarantine in a hotel for fourteen days, and observe the mandatory wearing of masks. Although it was a daunting responsibility, it was a great eye opener to witness how we can thrive amid adversities.

Through academic studies and associations, I had the privilege to explore Japan cities and realized culture has been an exciting experience that has made me more receptive to new cultures.

Appreciating differences

Indeed, people are different in many ways, yet essentially the same. With an open mind and heart, I came to appreciate and embrace the uniqueness present in friends from diverse cultural backgrounds. The challenges and victories I have experienced have fostered my personal development, particularly my soft skills like communication, problem-solving, and time management. Also, I acknowledge the value of the hard skills I have gained by being immersed in a country where communication is difficult. Regardless, learning to communicate effectively has been a rewarding experience that boosted my confidence and knowledge.

Lastly, my heartfelt gratitude goes to all the faculty, supervisors, lecturers, laboratory colleagues, and academic coordinators who have made my study abroad an unforgettable and successful one.

Amiyuure Joshua Atule

From Amiyuure Joshua Atule

Hi everyone, I am from Ghana, and I belong to the Laboratory of plant production physiology.

I was one of the lucky students selected as JDS scholars for 2021 to pursue a master’s degree at Kyushu University in the Department of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture.



I started my studies online in my country because of the closure of international borders due to the covid 19. It was difficult attending lectures online because of the time difference and poor internet connectivity but thankfully I was able to cope with my studies after we arrived in Japan six months late, and I am doing well academically.

Currently, I am in my final year, and I have completed all the credits required to obtain a master's degree except my project work in which I am working on.

I am researching in a field that is completely new to me because Kyushu University is one of the best universities in Japan and it has all the facilities required to carry out complex researches that cannot be conducted in my country. Therefore, I have taken advantage of this to learn some of the complex experiments that I believe will help me have a positive impact when I return to my country.

Before I started my experiment, my supervisor familiarized me with the rules and regulations of the laboratory. One of these rules was "Do not use one spoon for more than one chemical". however, in my first experiment, which was to determine the chlorophyll content of plant leaves using the Porra's method, out of tension and anxiety, I used a spoon that had already been used to measure another chemical, and the chemical I wanted to measure was discarded.

One of my challenges was also how to determine the metabolite of Moringa Oleifera leaves. I used different protocols, but it didn't work, and I spent almost three months trying to do this experiment. However, with the advice of my supervisor and the help of Prof. Anai's lab, I was finally able to

create a protocol that gave me the best result.

One more thing I would like to share is my lab. Let me say that I am so lucky to be in this lab because, not only my supervisor is lovely and tries to help everyone overcome their academic and personal challenges (especially health problems), but also, my colleagues are nice people who make me feel at home. We host parties together and most of the time, if I have a challenge in conducting any experiment and approach anyone who has done it before, he/she is always more than willing to help.

Finally, I would like to extend my heart appreciation to the Japanese government and JDS both at home and abroad for the privilege of improving my knowledge at Kyushu University. I would also like to say that my research would not have been a successful one without my supervisor and all the people that help me along the way "Arigato gozaimasu"

2022 Entrance [Master Course]

Phanthavong Saengdara

Self-introduction

Konnichiwa, my name is Saengdara Phanthavong, a first-year master JDS fellow from Lao PDR. I belong to the Laboratory of Environmental Economics under the supervision of Professor Mitsuyasu Yabe. In Laos, I worked as an official in the Trademark and Geographical Indications division, Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Pursue my dreams

A dream to study in Japan has been with me since I was in secondary school when I started learning English, and my teacher told me about the success of his pupil who got a scholarship to study in Japan. I appreciate JDS program and Kyushu University for giving me a chance to pursue my dreams,



I was so lucky to win this competitive JDS scholarship to study at one of Japan's top universities and the world. Even though the thought of spending two years away from home seemed intimidating at first, it did not take long for Japan to become home for me.

My students' life in Kyushu University

Studying in Ito campus is convenient, and the environment is suitable for learning with the appropriate curriculum, leading teaching materials and various facilities. I am even luckier as a JDS fellow to have the opportunity to participate in diverse activities outside the classroom, such as visiting chicken farm, Sake factory, orange picking, rice replanting, etc. In addition, I also have a good time improving my English with native speakers in terms of presentation, pronunciation, and scientific writing through the additional courses in the JDS program of Kyushu University. Moreover, I can communicate and make friends with people from different cultures and speak other languages, especially Japanese. Recently, the Corona Virus's measures have been relaxed and have enabled me to enjoy more activities with my lab mates, the university, and other association like Kyurious, KUFSA, FOSA and Hippo family club.

In academic life, I challenge myself by competing with other students as much as possible to improve my skills and strive for the better. Besides, whenever I do not fully understand the lesson in class, I will review it and reread it in more detail with extra materials to remember it better. I also apply suitable study methods to acquire satisfactory exam results, improve my GPAs, and attach significance to intensive reading to improve my analytical thinking, vocabulary, and reading and writing skills. So, what I learned in that classroom was not just lessons on agriculture. There were, in fact, the lesson of my life that I will take with me forever.

Reflecting on my one-year experience in Japan, there is a difference. I am far more prepared and better in forms and have a reserved knowledge of what will come. In the past year, I have transformed personally and professionally, and without a doubt, Kyushu University has been instrumental in this process. I want to thank a few of the many who all reinforced my perception by supporting this university's values. I want to thank the Japanese government and the JDS program for the scholarship; I appreciate sensei and KU staff for your support; my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Professor MITSUYASU YABE, for his kindness and encouragement with great advice, and finally, how can I forget senpai and friends who always share and exchange experience.

Sitthivohane Insavai

Japan has always been a dream destination for my higher education, and now I am fortunate to be pursuing my

master's degree here. My name is Insavai Sitthivohane, currently in my second year as a master's student at the Laboratory of Horticultural Science in the Department of Bioresource Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences at Kyushu University. Prior to coming to Japan, I worked as a manager at a Botanical Garden in Laos for five years. Being passionate about education, I became a lecturer at Souphanouvong University, Ministry of Education and Sports, in 2015. I consider myself lucky to have the opportunity to study in Japan, a country known for its beauty, peace, cleanliness, and safety. The Japanese culture is captivating, and many people wish to visit Japan for various reasons, although not everyone gets the chance. Moreover, Japan offers excellent education and advanced technology compared to many Asian countries. It is crucial for us to learn from the Japanese people and their various aspects to develop ourselves and our own countries. Currently, I am a graduate student under the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program, and I thoroughly enjoy my study life in Japan.



My daily life in Japan is incredibly convenient, thanks to the well-organized public transportation system and social services that prioritize safety. The environmental conditions are ideal, with the presence of all four seasons, and the Japanese people are known for their kindness and discipline. Additionally, the wide variety of Japanese cuisine has had a significant impact on my life in Japan. I regularly explore different traditional dishes that are not only delicious and flavorful but also healthy. Furthermore, Fukuoka prefecture, where I reside, has its unique charm throughout the year. During my free time, I visit various places, participate in cultural events, and engage in interesting activities such as the Hippo family clubs, Dontaku parade, cultural exchange programs, and study tours organized by the university, JDS, and JICA programs. Moreover, I have enjoyed sharing a room with my friends from Laos and have had a great time participating in activities organized by the Foreign Overseas Students Association in the Fukuoka area (FOSA) and the Laos-Kyushu Students Association. These experiences have

been incredibly fun and enjoyable.

In terms of my academic life, since leaving my home country to study at Kyushu University, I have gained valuable insights into the Japanese university education system, particularly regarding the course registration process and earning credits through attending classes. Currently, I am conducting research on the topic of “Micropropagation of edible banana (*Musa accuminata x balbisiana*) and ornamental banana (*Musa spp.*) through leaf tissue culture” under the supervision of Professor Dr. Yukio Ozaki, with Assistant Professor Dr. Yuki Mizunoe as my co-advisor. Learning about plant research and techniques is crucial for underdeveloped countries to address challenges related to sustainable agriculture, crop improvement, technology transfer, rural development, and environmental conservation. Lessons from developed countries like Japan provide valuable insights and guidance for implementing effective plant research strategies and sustainable agricultural practices. By leveraging the power of plant research, underdeveloped countries can improve food security, livelihoods, and foster sustainable development.

Kyushu University, the largest university on Kyushu Island and ranked among the top ten universities in Japan, has a rich historical background and is renowned for its dedication to learning and teaching. The university boasts professors with diverse experiences, and contrary to expectations, learning here is not overly challenging thanks to the kind, friendly, and supportive professors, and staff. The study environment is excellent, with easy access to numerous cafeterias, convenience stores, and libraries.

The JDS program at Kyushu University offers generous support and provides a multitude of amazing and interesting opportunities. I encourage you to consider applying for the JDS scholarship if you aspire to be an international student here.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all those who have contributed to providing me with opportunities, inspiration, encouragement, and involvement. I am especially grateful thanks to the officers at the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as the Japanese government for their kind support through the scholarship. I am also thankful to the professors who have taught me and imparted valuable knowledge and experiences, and to my supervisor and co-advisor for granting me the chance to study here. I hope to receive such wonderful support again in the near future.

Tran Nguyen Van Anh

Life is a remarkable journey, where each destination offers unique experiences and lessons. Japan, renowned for its rich cultural heritage and cutting-edge advancements, presents a

captivating tapestry of experiences that leave a lasting impact on those who choose to immerse themselves in its vibrant society. As a student pursuing a Master’s degree in agriculture at Kyushu University through the JDS program, I have had the privilege of not only studying but also living, integrating, and forging friendships with the people of Japan. This report aims to share the inspirational insights I have gained from my time in Japan, showcasing the beauty of experiential living and the profound impact it has on one’s perspective.

Japan’s reputation as a leader in scientific research and technological advancements is well-deserved. Kyushu University, with its esteemed faculty and cutting-edge facilities, has provided an extraordinary platform for exploring the frontiers of agriculture. Through my research on transgenic silkworms, I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable dedication, expertise, and meticulousness that characterize Japanese scientific pursuits. Collaborating with brilliant minds and engaging in groundbreaking research has been both humbling and inspiring, highlighting the immense potential for growth and innovation.

Studying in Japan has revealed the deep-rooted cultural values that permeate every aspect of life. The immersive encounters have allowed me to witness the breathtaking beauty of Japan, not just as a tourist but as a temporary inhabitant. From traditional tea ceremonies to peaceful meditation in Zen gardens, I have learned that true understanding and appreciation of a place can only be achieved through firsthand experiences and an open heart.

Experiential travel has been an integral part of my journey in Japan. Through field trips organized by the JDS program, I have had the privilege of exploring the country’s diverse landscapes, visiting local communities, and engaging in authentic cultural experiences. The similarities I have observed between Japan and my home country, such as fruit gardens combining tourism with harvest experiences, preservation of historic quarters, and traditional farming methods, have showcased the universal human connection that transcends borders. Japan’s commitment to preserving its heritage while embracing progress has taught me the importance of honoring one’s roots and identity while fostering growth and adaptability.



Living in Japan has been a transformative experience that has broadened my horizons and enriched my perspective. The warmth and kindness of the Japanese people have made me feel welcomed and encouraged me to embrace their culture wholeheartedly. By actively seeking opportunities to participate in community events, festivals, and social gatherings, I have formed meaningful connections with locals and fellow students, fostering friendships that transcend cultural boundaries. The deep sense of camaraderie and support I have found in Japan has taught me the value of unity and the power of collective growth.

Japan effortlessly weaves together tradition and modernity, offering a profound and inspiring tapestry of experiences for those willing to embrace it. My time in Japan, studying at Kyushu University and immersing myself in its culture, has provided a transformative journey of personal and academic growth. Through experiential living, I have gained invaluable knowledge and skills while developing a deep appreciation for the beauty of our destination. Japan has taught me the importance of truly living in a place, studying its nuances, integrating into its society, and forging connections with its people. It is through these immersive experiences that we can truly understand and appreciate the world around us, fostering a global perspective rooted in empathy and respect.

Ou Nary

Life as a student at Kyushu University



My name is OU Nary, and I am proud to be one of the Cambodia JDS fellows in 2022. I am a first-year student

at the Forest Policy Laboratory at Kyushu University. I am privileged to work with two esteemed supervisors, Professor HYAKUMURA Kimihiko and Associate Professor FUJIWARA Takahiro, who guide and support me in my research journey.

When I first arrived in Japan in September 2022, I resided at the Ito Harmony House Dormitory until late February 2023. During my stay there, I thoroughly enjoyed walking to school, immersing myself in the beautiful surroundings. However, after almost six months, I moved into a new apartment near Kyudai Gakkentoshi station. Although it is a bit farther from the university, I embraced the opportunity to cycle to school, turning my daily commute into an invigorating exercise routine.

As a master's student at the Faculty of Agriculture, my life revolves around agricultural innovation, sustainable practices, and academic excellence. Each day, I eagerly engage in lectures delivered by distinguished professors who are renowned leaders in their respective fields. These lectures expanded my knowledge and sparked intriguing discussions among my fellow students. Additionally, I dedicate a significant portion of my time to conducting research, exploring the diverse disciplines within the agricultural field.

One of the most remarkable experiences during my studies has been the opportunity to participate in field visits. These visits have proven invaluable, as they provide a unique chance to witness firsthand the practical application of the knowledge I acquire in the classroom. For instance, one memorable field visit took me to a desalination plant. The tour was educational and exciting, as I had the opportunity to observe the advanced equipment and complex procedures involved in transforming seawater into freshwater. During the visit, experienced staff members guided us through each step of the desalination process, explaining the various methods and tools used. It was truly fascinating to witness how the facility effectively filtered out salt and other contaminants from the water, producing clean and safe drinking water. This field trip deepened my understanding of the significance of desalination in addressing water scarcity issues and highlighted the crucial role that technology plays in enabling this process.

In short, my life as a master's student at the Faculty of Agriculture at Kyushu University has been an enriching and transformative experience. Engaging in lectures, conducting research, and participating in field visits all contribute to my growth and understanding of the agricultural field. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of a vibrant academic community that fosters innovation, sustainability, and academic excellence.

Phal Chhorvorn

“The Farmer’s Son Life”

Before reach to the report, I would like to tell a story

about the farmer's son. That boy wanted to quit his undergraduat degree in the 3rd year because he wanted to help his parents' field work. His parents worked very hard under the sun's light. His mom told him that you must complete your bachelor's degree. If so, you will work hard, using energy like mom. He tried to graduate with a bachelor's degree and became a government officer. Now he wins the scholarship for a master's degree in Japan. That boy is me.



My name is **Phal Chhorvorn**. I worked at the Plant Protection, Sanitary, and Phytosanitary Department in Cambodia. Now I am a first-year student in the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University, supported by the JDS Program (2022). I am under the supervision of **Keiji Takasu Sensei**, Bioresource and Management Laboratory. I have worked closely with smallholder farmers, and I grew up in the field, so I know well about their hardness. I came here because I am going to absorb and gain knowledge from Japan to help poor people in my country. After I submitted the research proposal to my professor and revised it again and again, he finally approved me to conduct the experiments and do research in my country related to biological control, natural enemy in pest management. I hope that my research findings will be beneficial to farmers in the future.

I really appreciate JDS-Kyudai for arranging some study tours for all JDS and JICA fellows to visit and learn from Japan. I have visited the chicken farm and orange farm. What I am interested in the chicken farm is their market networking and chicken sashimi taste because they sold chicken from their

own farm with good quality. After then, we reach forward to the orange farm at the other location. It is a nice farm with a fresh environment and pretty landscapes. In June 2023, I have visited the Seawater Desalination Plant in Fukuoka City. It is so interesting that they can extract seawater to produce pure water with high technology to serve the people. I would like to express that Japan is the world leader in seawater desalination.

Kyudai is one of Japan's top educational campuses. It is my new discipline to learn from here. I have learned everything new from the professor and other students. We have group discussions and presentations. It sounds like there is a close relationship between us, and we knew each other as well. Outside of the lecture, I always played soccer with international students at the weekend. I feel safe for living in Ito Campus because I received a warm welcome from the Harmony House Dormitory manager and staff for six months.

Moreover, I would like to say thanks and grateful to JDS, JICE, Kyudai, The Government, and Japanese People who have always helped and supported my country since the previous time. I am going to keep Japan in my heart.

Chann Mithona

I. Introduction



JDS program provided various Field trips to the scholar fellow come from different countries such as China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Myanmar, Ghana, and Kenya. This field trip is a very crucial role in building capacity, knowledge, and experience. In particular, it included many topics such as visiting the Tokunaga Poultry Farm at Tsukijo-cho, Chikujogun, Fukuoka prefecture, picking orange farm at Youyama, Munakata, Fukuoka prefecture, visiting rice planting in Ukiha and Hita, and visiting desalination plant at Fukuoka City.

II. Objective

This field trip has three main objectives as following:

- 1) To understand the value chain process of chicken production
- 2) To take part in the rice planting on the terrace area

- 3) To study on desalination plant of the Fukuoka city.

III. Results of Field trip

This field trip outlines the activities, observations, and key experiences from various topics including:

- 1) **At the chicken farm:** we were greeted by the farm manager who provided us with an overview of the operations, especially the whole value chain. We observed the well-maintained coops where the chickens were housed and learned about their living conditions. The manager explained the different stages of chicken growth, from chicks to fully-grown chickens ready for market. One key observation was the emphasis on animal welfare, as the farm ensured proper ventilation, adequate space, and a balanced diet for the chickens. We also learned about the importance of biosecurity measures in preventing diseases and maintaining a healthy flock. Witnessing the feeding process and the collection of eggs gave us a practical understanding of the farm-to-table concept. On the other hand, we also learned about the promotion of the chicken markets likewise the shop sells chicken products to visitors both locally and outside who would like to prefer chicken products.
- 2) **The Rice planting:** Next, we visited a picturesque rice plantation on terraced fields. The local farmers guided us through the process of rice cultivation. We actively took part in replanting young rice seedlings, experiencing firsthand the meticulous work required for successful cultivation. We participated in how to plant rice on the terrace area at Ukiha. There were many people joint together not only the students but also all the people who have time for this event. Especially, some family brought their children to realize the important technique of rice production as the main food that they have eaten so far. The key delivery of this event to be observed such as the rice planting demo, irrigation system management in the mountain area, experience sharing from different people, and enhancing relationships together.
- 3) **The desalination plant of the Fukuoka city:** The warm welcome by the plant staff introduced us to the process of converting seawater into freshwater. We witnessed the various stages of desalination, including filtration, reverse osmosis, and post-treatment. It was fascinating to learn about the advanced technology and energy-efficient methods used in the plant. We also gained an understanding of the environmental impact of desalination and the importance of conserving water resources. The plant's staff emphasized the vital role desalination plays in regions with limited freshwater sources.

IV. Conclusion

Overall, this field trip provided us the comprehensive knowledge and diverse experience about agricultural production such as a valued chain of chicken farms actively participated in rice planting on terraces and learned about the desalination plant process. Furthermore, it broadened our awareness of sustainable practices and the challenges faced by farmers and the broader agricultural community for better improvement in the future.

Adjorlolo Dennis



I am Dennis Adjorlolo and one of the JDS Fellows from Ghana and a master student. I belong to the Plant Production Physiology Lab which focuses on applications of sustainable agriculture to the photosynthetic function and dry matter productivity of plants. I am very grateful to JDS for giving me the opportunity to study at Kyushu University. In the first few days, I was at Kyushu University, I realized that the student support system was strong and the professors were friendly and approachable making it conducive for sound learning.

As Nelson Mandela once said, “*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world*” so I have always strived to open myself up to new challenges to enable me to become an agent of positive change in my society.

One of the famous Greek philosophers, Plato also said, *“If a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life.”* These wise sayings served as a source of motivation for me to pursue further studies because knowledge is power and I found Japan to be the most suitable place for me due to their cutting-edge technologies, caring and honest in their dealings.

I was privileged to attend a field trip with my colleagues where we visited Tokunaga Chicken Farm in Chikujyo Town and Taiyoen in Munakata.

At the Tokunaga Chicken Farm, I appreciated the integrated farming system that was practiced over there and also being run as a family farm. Dedicated to making delicious, safe, and secure eggs, Tokunaga takes special care of his chickens, feed, and ensuring a clean environment.

The farm raise only “Sakura (pink)” and “Momiji (red eggs)” purely domestic chickens that have been bred and improved in Japan and are resistant to disease and stress. The farm is surrounded by natural spring water and is electrolyzed and given to the chickens in the form of magnetic ion water, which absorbs nutrients very well.

At Taiyoen, which is an organic mandarin orange farm and a family-run establishment, it has a friendly atmosphere, as all three generations of the family take care of and take pride in it. Every year from the beginning of October to the end of December, the farm is open for “mandarin orange picking.” There is no entrance fee so one is expected to purchase special take-out bag for ¥600 and one can fill it with as many harvested mandarin oranges.

Djre Solomon Selasi

To aspire beyond your limitations is anything but pure mental focus, a life value I picked from working with the Japanese experts in my home country Ghana and that was the beginning of my choice to come to Japan. Solomon Selasi Djre is my name, and I am very much grateful to the JDS program for giving me such rare opportunities to make a dream come through. It has been a great life experience so far and I must say that Japan is a very beautiful country, from the landscape to the culture of the Japanese people.

Life in Kyushu university

Kyushu University offers students a lot of facilities, making the environment very conducive for academic life. The campus landscape is green and incredibly beautiful, fusing well with the environment. I belong to the Agricultural Machinery and Production Systems Designs Laboratory, Agri-environmental Department, Graduate School of Bioresources and Bioenvironmental Science. There are many things to look on for inspiration and to relax yourself after a hectic day.

Academic life has not been easy, especially for an official whose progress depends largely on workshops and field work with a lot of time spent behind the desk. However, I have made modest strides with the support of my sensei and laboratory mates. There is a lot of engagement between the professors and the students through the frequent laboratory presentations. The academic experience has been great with the gradual process of enhancing my knowledge and skill set, both the practical and theoretical aspects of my thesis experiments.

JDS field trips

The JDS program offers the opportunity to experience Japan through their educational trips while pursuing your education in Japan. I really enjoyed these trips and hope to experience much more by exploring the rest of Japan through my personal tours when time allows. However, the few I have attended has left a great impression on me, especially the rice fields and the farming culture in general. Modernization has not taken anything away from the rich Japanese cultural experience, and we must learn from such cultures.

The experience has been interesting, and I am glad to start my international academic journey by pursuing my masters in Japan and to see the world beyond Africa through Asia since we share a lot in common. It has afforded me the opportunity to meet many people from different parts of the world and I hope to cultivate many academic and business collaborations alongside lasting friendship, especially with the Japanese people.



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