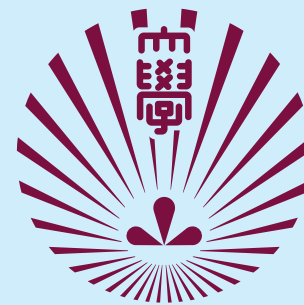


# Annual Report of JDS Program

## Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences Kyushu University



Vol.12 (2014)

### 1. Purpose of the JDS

The purpose of the JDS program, Japan's Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Program, is to offer the research opportunities to the prosperous young scientists, business persons, and government officers, who may take the official initiative in their home countries, at the higher educational institutions such as Kyushu University. The objective of this program is to develop strong human resources, build a stronger personal and institutional collaboration, and furthermore, enhance the prospective relationship between Japan and their home countries.

The JDS program at the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences at Kyushu University has launched in 2001. In 2014, 24 students from four countries, namely Lao PDR, VietNam, Cambodia, and Myanmar, are enrolled. They study and conduct research in the individual laboratories in our graduate school, and prepare the master's theses in English and present them at the end of the program period.

### 2. Enrolled JDS students in 2014

| Name                       | Nationality | Laboratory   | Supervisor                              |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|---|
| 2012 Entrance              |             |  |   |
| <b>INTRAVONG Chanthy</b>   | Lao PDR     | Food and Agricultural Policy                                       | ITO Shoichi, Professor                  |
| <b>BUI Thi Nha Trang</b>   | VietNam     | Insect Natural Enemies   | TAKAGI Masami, Professor                |
| <b>DONG Dao Dung</b>       | VietNam     | Food Marketing   | FUKUDA Susumu, Professor                |
| <b>LE Thi Thu Huong</b>    | VietNam     | Food and Agricultural Policy                                       | ITO Shoichi, Professor                  |
| <b>NGUYEN Thi Huong</b>    | VietNam     | Agricultural and Farm Management                                   | NANSEKI Teruaki, Professor              |
| <b>TRAN Thi Thu Duyen</b>  | VietNam     | Environmental Life Economics                                       | YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor               |
| <b>CHEA Sokhen</b>         | Cambodia    | Postharvest Science  | UCHINO Toshitaka, Professor             |
| <b>HUN Sothy</b>           | Cambodia    | Forest Ecohydrology (University Forest)                            | OTSUKI Kyoichi, Professor               |
| <b>PHON Sovatna</b>        | Cambodia    | Bioproduction Engineering  | INOUE Eiji, Professor                   |
| <b>Thant Sin Kyaw</b>      | Myanmar     | Tropical Crops and Environment (Institute of Tropical Agriculture) | OGATA Kazuo, Professor                  |
| <b>Thein Saung</b>         | Myanmar     | Forest Management  | MIZOUE Nobuya, Assoc. Professor         |
| <b>Thein Zaw</b>           | Myanmar     | Reproductive Physiology  | HATTORI Masa-aki, Professor             |
| 2013 Entrance              |             |  |   |
| <b>PHOUTHIVONG Khamsay</b> | Lao PDR     | Environmental Life Economics                                       | YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor               |
| <b>SISOPHA Khansawanh</b>  | Lao PDR     | Irrigation and Water Management                                    | SHINOBI Yoshiyuki, Professor            |
| <b>LAOKOM Vila</b>         | Lao PDR     | Environmental Geochemistry   | WADA Shin-Ichiro, Professor             |
| <b>PHOMVISITH Ouanh</b>    | Lao PDR     | Animal Production & Ecology  | GOTO Takafumi, Professor                |
| <b>VO Hong Tu</b>          | VietNam     | Environmental Life Economics                                       | YABE Mitsuyasu, Professor               |
| <b>NGUYEN Thi Ly</b>       | VietNam     | Agricultural and Farm Management                                   | NANSEKI Teruaki, Professor              |
| <b>MAI Thi Ha</b>          | VietNam     | Animal Production & Ecology  | GOTO Takafumi, Professor                |
| <b>NGUYEN Cong Thanh</b>   | VietNam     | Microbial Genetics   | DOI Katsumi, Senior Assistant Professor |
| <b>TRAN Viet Phuong</b>    | VietNam     | Regulation in Metabolism and Behavior                              | FURUSE Mitsuhiro, Professor             |
| <b>PRUM Viseth</b>         | Cambodia    | Food and Agricultural Policy                                       | ITO Shoichi, Professor                  |
| <b>KONG Sothea</b>         | Cambodia    | Agricultural and Farm Management                                   | NANSEKI Teruaki, Professor              |
| <b>TAING Koungveng</b>     | Cambodia    | Irrigation and Water Management                                    | FUKUDA Tetsuro, Associate Professor     |

### **3. Requirements for Qualification and the Description of the JDS program**

The required qualifications for applicants are as follows:

- (1) **Academic requirement:** Bachelor's degree or equivalent must be or expected to be awarded by the time they are enrolled in the JDS program.
- (2) **Language skill:** Non-native English speakers must hold a sufficiently high score of official qualification test such as TOEFL, TOEIC, or the Cambridge Certificate.
- (3) **Health:** An applicant has to be certified to be both physically and mentally healthy by a qualified and recognized physician.

#### Program description and degree awarded

JDS program consists of lectures, seminars, and thesis writing. Students are required to obtain 30 hour credits with a minimum required grade of 60% during the two-year program period. Master of Science (MSc) will be awarded in the completion of a master thesis.

### **4. Course Description of special course (Master's Course)**

The Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences offers the special course, the International Development Research, which only opens for international students. The new semester for the special course begins fall semester on October 1 each year followed by the spring semester in April.

#### (1) Course description

The special course is constructed with lectures, practicals, seminars and tutorials. Students are required to obtain 30 hour credits with a minimum passing grade of 60%. The offered subjects of lectures are presented in Tables 1 to 3. Table 2 shows the outline of the course. Compulsory subjects consist of 12 hour thesis credits and 6 hour credits of laboratory seminars. Students can also take 10 hour credits of module subjects, and 2 hour credits of specific subject offered by the department a student belongs to. See the detail of the module subjects in Table 3.

#### (2) Opportunity to learn Japanese

The JDS students are expected to learn Japanese language during the course, though it is not compulsory. Learning Japanese language enhances communication power and enriches their daily lives.

#### (3) Thesis work

All the thesis works are conducted in English. A research topic for the thesis is determined over the discussion with your major advisor.

#### (4) Expected degree awarded

In the end of their course work, specifically in the spring term of their second year, students are required to present their research results and submit their master theses to the examination committee of the Graduate School of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Sciences. The committee evaluates overall performance, and the students with satisfactory performance are awarded the Master of Science (M. Sc) degree.

Table 1. The Master's Course Curriculum

| Code* | Subjects   | Credit | Term*** |        |         |        |
|-------|--|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
|       |  |        | I (A)   | II (S) | III (A) | IV (S) |
| C01   | Master's Thesis Research I                                     | 6      | 6       |        |         |        |
| C02   | Master's Thesis Research II                                    | 6      |         |        | 6       |        |
| C03   | Seminar in a Specified Field I                                 | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
| C04   | Seminar in a Specified Field II                                | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| C05   | Seminar in a Specified Field III                               | 2      |         |        | 2       |        |
|       | (Subtotal)   | (18)   |         |        |         |        |
| P01   | Agricultural Problem-Based Learning I                          | 1      | 1       |        |         |        |
| P02   | Agricultural Problem-Based Learning I                          | 1      |         |        | 1       |        |
|       | (Subtotal)   | (2)    |         |        |         |        |
| M01   | Fundamentals of Agricultural Sciences I (Basic Statistics)     | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
| M02   | Fundamentals of Agricultural Sciences II (Advanced Statistics) | 1      |         | 1      |         |        |
| M03   | Biological Resources : Utilization and Conservation            | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
| M04   | Soil and Water Environment                                     | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
| M05   | Current Topics in Agriculture and Food Environment             | 1      | 1       |        |         |        |
| M06   | Agricultural English I - Presentation Skill                    | 1      | 1       |        |         |        |
| M07   | Agricultural English II - Paper Writing Skill                  | 1      | 1       |        |         |        |
| M08   | Special Lecture on International Development I                 | 1      |         | 1      |         |        |
| M09   | Special Lecture on International Development II                | 1      |         | 1      |         |        |
| M10*  | International Rural Development                                | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
| M11*  | Rural Survey Methodology                                       | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
| M12** | Advanced Technology in Agriculture                             | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
| M13** | Food Science and Food Systems                                  | 2      | 2       |        |         |        |
|       | (Subtotal)   | (20)   |         |        |         |        |
| S01   | Agricultural Bioresource Sciences                              | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S02   | Animal & Marine Bioresource Sciences                           | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S03   | Forest and Forest Products Sciences                            | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S04   | Bioproduction Environmental Sciences                           | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S05   | Agronomy and Environmental Sciences                            | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S06   | Agricultural and Resource Economics                            | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S07   | Molecular Biosciences  | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S08   | Systems Biology  | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S09   | Applied Molecular Microbiology and Biomass Chemistry           | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
| S10   | Food Science & Biotechnology                                   | 2      |         | 2      |         |        |
|       | (Subtotal)   | (20)   |         |        |         |        |
| J01   | Business Japanese I  | 1      |         |        | 1       |        |
| J02   | Business Japanese II   | 1      |         |        | 1       |        |
|       | (Subtotal)   | (2)    |         |        |         |        |
|       | Total  | 62     |         |        |         |        |

\* C: compulsory subjects = 5 subjects (18 credit units); M: module subjects = 10 credit units selected from a total of 13 subjects (20 credit units); S: specialized subjects = compulsory and particular to each department (2 credit units).

\*\* Detailed schedule will be announced later.

\*\*\* A = Autumn term; S = Spring term

An outline of the Master's course subjects is given in Table2. Compulsory subjects consist of the thesis (12 credits) and laboratory seminars (6 credits); module subjects of 10 credit units from a total of 13 subjects; and specialized subjects of one specific subject (2 credits) given by the department to which the student belongs.

Table 2. Preponderant features of the Master's course subjects

|                      | Aim   | Lecture methods   | Choice      | Professors       | Required       |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| Compulsory subjects  | Research practice   | Conventional form | 5 subjects  | Laboratory Prof. | 5 (18 credits) |
| Module subjects      | Improvement of basic academic abilities focusing on agricultural administration and rural development | Block module      | 13 subjects | Special team     | 10 credits     |
|                      | Cross-cutting or interdisciplinary research   |                   |             |                  |                |
| Specialized subjects | Improvement of expertise  | Block module      | 10 subjects | Your Depts.      | 1 (2 credits)  |

## 5. List of Subjects and Supervising Professors for International Development Research Course (Academic Year 2014)

| Division                             | Laboratory   | Professor           | Associate Professor | Assistant Professor |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Bioresource Sciences</b>          |  |                     |                     |                     |
| Agricultural Bioresource Sciences    | Plant breeding   | Atsushi YOSHIMURA   | Hideshi YASUI       |                     |
|                                      | Crop Science   | Mari IWAYA-INOUE    | Yuushi ISHIBASHI    |                     |
|                                      | Plant Production Physiology                                      | Osamu UENO          | Kazuyuki SAITOU     |                     |
|                                      | Silkworm Science   | Takahiro KUSAKABE   |                     | Jae Man LEE         |
|                                      | Zoology  | Hiroshi IIDA        |                     | Takane KANEKO       |
|                                      | Entomology   | Toshiya HIROWATARI  | Satoshi KAMITANI    |                     |
|                                      | Plant Pathology  | Kenichi TSUCHIYA    | Naruto FURUYA       | Minoru TAKESHITA    |
|                                      | Insect Pathology and Microbial Control                           |                     | Chisa AOKI          | Kazuhiro IYAMA      |
| Insect Natural Enemies               |  | Masami TAKAGI       | Takatoshi UENO      |                     |
|                                      |  |                     | Midori TUDA         |                     |
| Animal & Marine Bioresource Sciences | Functional Anatomy   | Shoji TABATA        | Shotaro NISHIMURA   | Fuminori KAWABATA   |
|                                      | Reproductive Physiology  | Masa-aki HATTORI    | Nobuhiko YAMAUCHI   | Tomoki SOH          |
|                                      | Chemistry & Technology of Animal Production                      | Yoshihide IKEUCHI   | Ryuichi TATSUMI     | Wataru MIZUNOYA     |
|                                      | Regulation in Metabolism and Behavior                            | Mitsuhiro FURUSE    | Masataka SHIMOJO    |                     |
|                                      |  |                     | Shinobu YASUO       |                     |
|                                      | Animal Production & Ecology                                      |                     | Takafumi GOTOH      | Yutaka NAKANO       |
|                                      |  |                     |                     | Hideyuki TAKAHASHI  |
|                                      | Marine Biology   | Michiya MATSUYAMA   |                     | Akihiko YAMAGUCHI   |
|                                      | Fisheries Biology  | Shigeo KAWAGUCHI    | Noritaka MOCHIOKA   | Akira KURIHARA      |
|                                      | Aquatic Field Science  | Michiyasu YOSHIKUNI | Shin OIKAWA         | Norio ONIKURA       |
| Marine Environmental Science         | Yuji OSHIMA  |                     | Yohei SHIMASAKI     |                     |
| Plant Photophysiology                |  | Tomonao MATSUSHITA  |                     |                     |
| <b>Agro-environmental Sciences</b>   |  |                     |                     |                     |
| Forest Sciences                      | Silviculture   | Susumu SHIRAIISHI   | Atsushi WATANABE    | Michito TSUYAMA     |
|                                      |  |                     | Koichiro GYOKUSEN   | Kotaro SAKUTA       |
|                                      |  |                     |                     | Eiji GOTOH          |
|                                      | Forest Production Control  | Shoji OHGA          | Shinya KOGA         | Naoaki TASHIRO      |
|                                      |  |                     | Tsutomu ENOKI       |                     |
|                                      |  |                     | Yasuhiro UTSUMI     |                     |
|                                      | Forest Management  | Shigejiro YOSHIDA   | Nobuya MIZOUE       |                     |
|                                      | Forest Policy  | Noriko SATO         |                     | Akie KAWASAKI       |
| Erosion Control                      | Tetsuya KUBOTA   |                     | Yoshinori SHINOHARA |                     |
| Ecohydrology                         | Kyoichi OTSUKI   | Tamao KASAHARA      | Masaaki CHIWA       |                     |
|                                      |  | Atsushi KUME        |                     |                     |
|                                      |  | Takuo HISHI         |                     |                     |
| Bioproduction Environmental Sciences | Irrigation & Water Management                                    | Yoshiyuki SHINOBI   | Tetsuro FUKUDA      |                     |
|                                      | Water Environment Engineering                                    | Kazuaki HIRAMATSU   | Masayoshi HARADA    |                     |
|                                      | Environmental Soil Engineering                                   |                     | Takahiro HIGASHI    | Akiko NAKANO        |
|                                      | Environmental Geochemistry                                       | Shin-Ichiro WADA    |                     | Yuki MORI           |
|                                      | Agricultural Meteorology   | Masaharu KITANO     |                     | Kenji WAKIMIZU      |
|                                      | Bioproduction Engineering  | Eiji INOUE          | Yasumaru HIRAI      | Muneshi MITSUOKA    |
|                                      |  |                     | Takashi OKAYASU     |                     |
| Postharvest Science                  | Toshitaka UCHINO   | Fumihiko TANAKA     | Daisuke HAMANAKA    |                     |
| Agronomy & Environmental Sciences    | Horticultural Science  |                     | Akira WAKANA        |                     |
|                                      | Agricultural Ecology (University Farm)                           | Toshihiro MOCHIZUKI | Yukio OZAKI         | Kaori SAKAI         |
|                                      |  |                     | Satoshi YOSHIDA     |                     |
|                                      |  |                     | Toshihiko EGUCHI    |                     |
|                                      | Tropical Crops & Environment (Institute of Tropical Agriculture) | Kazuo OGATA         | Ikuo MIYAJIMA       | Masaru MATSUMOTO    |
|                                      | Bioresources and Management                                      | Keiji TAKASU        |                     | Shunichiro TAKANO   |
| Sustainable Agricultural Production  | Katsuki ADACHI   | Hideaki IWAHORI     |                     |                     |
| Sustainable Bioresource Science      | Wood Science   | Junji MATSUMURA     |                     | Masumi HASEGAWA     |
|                                      | Wood Material Technology   |                     | Noboru FUJIMOTO     | Hiroki SASAGAMI     |
|                                      | Biomacromolecular Materials *                                    |                     | Daisuke TATSUMI     |                     |
|                                      | Forest Chemistry and Biochemistry                                | Yuji TSUTSUMI       | Toshihiro ONA       | Koki FUJITA         |
|                                      | Bioresources Chemistry   | Takuya KITAOKA      |                     | Hirofumi ICHINOSE   |
|                                      | Systematic Forest & Forest Products Science                      |                     |                     | Kuniyoshi SHIMIZU   |
| Biomaterial Design *                 | Tetsuo KONDO   |                     | Shiugo YOKOTA       |                     |

| Division   | Laboratory  | Professor                         | Associate Professor                                 | Assistant Professor                       |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Agricultural & Resource Economics  |   |                                   |   |   |
| Agricultural & Resource Economics  | Environmental Economics   | Mitsuyasu YABE                    |   | Goshi SATO                                |
|  | Agricultural Policy   | Shoichi ITO                       | Hiroshi ISODA                                       |   |
|  | Farm Management   | Teruaki NANSEKI                   |   | Yosuke CHOMEI                             |
|  | Quantitative Economics of Food Industry   | Koshi MAEDA                       |   |   |
|  | Food Marketing  | Susumu FUKUDA                     | Masahiro MORITAKA                                   |   |
|  | Advanced International Development of Agriculture                                 |                                   |   |   |
| Bioscience & Biotechnology   |   |                                   |   |   |
| Molecular Biosciences  | Biochemistry  | Makoto KIMURA                     | Yoshimitsu KAKUTA                                   | Takashi NAKASHIMA                         |
|  | Marine Biochemistry   | Miki NAKAO                        | Tomonori SOMAMOTO                                   |   |
|  | Marine Resource Chemistry *   | Makoto ITO                        | Nozomu OKINO  |   |
|  | Applied Plant Science   |                                   | Etsuko NISHIMOTO                                    |   |
|  | Plant Nutrition   | Ken MATSUOKA                      | Takeo YAMAKAWA<br>Akiko MARUYAMA                    | Masamichi KIKUCHI<br>(Research Associate) |
|  | Molecular Gene Technology *   | Satoru KUHARA                     | Kosuke TASHIRO                                      | Shigeru MUTA                              |
|  | Protein Chemistry & Engineering   | Yoshizumi ISHINO                  |   | Takeshi YAMAGAMI                          |
|  | Pesticide Science   |                                   | Akinori HIRASHIMA                                   | Naotaka YAMADA                            |
|  | Plant Molecular Bioscience  |                                   | Takahiro NAKAMURA                                   |   |
| Systems Biology  | Applied Biological Regulation Technology *  | Masahiro OKAMOTO                  | Taizo HANAI   | Hiroyuki HAMADA                           |
|  | Cellular Regulation Technology *  | Sanetaka SHIRAHATA                | Yoshinori KATAKURA                                  | Kiichiro TERUYA                           |
|  | Silkworm Genetics   |                                   | Yutaka BANNO  | Koji YAMAMOTO                             |
|  | Plant Genetics  |                                   | Toshihiro KUMAMARU                                  |   |
|  | Bio-Process Design *  | Fumihide SHIRAIISHI               |   |   |
|  | Metabolic Regulation Research *   | Shigeki FURUYA                    |   |   |
| Applied Molecular Microbiology & Biomass Chemistry   | Soil Microbiology   | Kenji SAKAI                       |   | Yukihiro TASHIRO                          |
|  | Applied Microbiology  | Kaoru TAKEGAWA                    | Sadazo YOSHINO                                      | Yujiro HIGUCHI                            |
|  | Microbial Technology *  | Kenji SONOMOTO                    | Jiro NAKAYAMA                                       | Takeshi ZENDO                             |
|  | Biomacromolecular Materials *   |                                   | Daisuke TATSUMI                                     |   |
|  | Microbial Genetics  |                                   | Katsumi DOI<br>(Senior Asst. Professor)             |   |
| Food Science & Biotechnology   | Nutrition Chemistry   |                                   | Masao SATO  | Bungo SHIROUCHI                           |
|  | Food Chemistry *  | Koji YAMADA<br>Hirofumi TACHIBANA |   | Michiko NONAKA<br>(Research Associate)    |
|  | Food Analysis *   | Toshiro MATSUI                    |   | Mitsuru TANAKA                            |
|  | Food Process & Engineering  | Mitsuya SHIMODA                   | Noriyuki IGURA                                      | Seiji NOMA                                |
|  | Food Hygienic Chemistry   | Takahisa MIYAMOTO                 | Ken-ichi HONJOH                                     |   |
|  | Plant Molecular Function  |                                   |   |   |
| * belongs to the Department of Innovative Science and Technology for Bio-industry in the Doctor's course |   |                                   |   |   |
| Innovative Science & Technology for Bio-industry **  |   |                                   |   |   |
| ** opens only for the Doctor's course.   |   |                                   |   |   |
|  | Karatsu Research Center   |                                   | Naoki NAGAMO  | Keishi SAKAGUCHI<br>Hajime KITANO         |
|  | Open Problem Study Program  |                                   | Ik Joon KANG<br>Tohru SUZUKI                        |   |
|  | Attached Promotive Center for International Education and Research of Agriculture |                                   | Mako NAKAMURA<br>Layne WESTOVER<br>Yuichiro AMEKAWA |   |
|  | International Faculty Members   |                                   | Amelia B. HIZON<br>(Senior Asst. Professor)         |   |
|  | International and Foreign Students Affairs  |                                   | Hisako NOMURA<br>(Senior Asst. Professor)           |   |

## 6. Program for JDS fellows

In addition to the Master's Program, an additional coursework is prepared for JDS students to enhance their knowledge on both academic and cultural experience at Kyushu University. It filled with a number of academic activities that inspire you academically while allowing you to explore Japanese culture and to enjoy campus life during your study.

### (1) International Seminar

We invite well-known researchers from all over the world. This is a great opportunity to hear about their research, and also a good chance to discuss it with them personally.

Recent seminar titles are, “New Challenges of ODS for Agricultural Development Schemes in Recipient Countries” in 2012, “Contemporary Issues in East Asian Agriculture, its Market, Environment, and GIAHS” in 2013, and “ASO GIAHS” in 2014. This will be one of the most exciting experiences you will have in your academic career.



### (2) Research Skills Seminar

Many of the new JDS fellows are just starting their research. We will help you get started on your research as smoothly as possible. We have several research seminars such as survey methodology, writing skills, and presentation practice.



### (3) Research Trip

Based on the student requests, we organize research trips and visit research centers or farmers. We have visited the marine product and research center, a strawberry farm, rice farmers and an agricultural engineering site. This is an exciting opportunity to get to know and see the leading technology in agriculture or marine production as a future technological leader in your home countries.



**(4) Follow-up Seminar**

After two years of hard work, your supervisors will be your important research co-workers. We organize follow-up seminars in your home countries, where you can have another opportunity to discuss and inspire your further research. Follow-up seminars were held in Laos in 2011, Vietnam in 2012, Cambodia in 2013 and will be held in Myanmar in 2014.



**(5) Life in Kyushu University**



Life in Kyushu University Academic life at Kyushu University is intense as well as warm and welcoming. One of the best experiences of your two year academic life will be the farewell party held by the Agricultural Faculty, including your supervisors, at the end of your two year program. JDS fellows celebrate their hard work, and enjoy the last BBQ at Kyushu University.

**(6) Master's Thesis Presentation**

Students will be awarded the Master of Science (M.Sc) on completion of a satisfactory thesis. This year, the presentation was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and the students successfully met satisfactory level.



## 7. Reports from JDS Students

### 2012 Entrance

#### Chanthy INTRAVONG

##### My impression and my experiences study in Japan

I am a second year Master student of JDS Program 2012-2014 in the laboratory of food and agricultural policies. It has been two years studied at Kyushu University and two years of living in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. I will graduate in the next few months, and I have to say goodbye soon. Time is flying very fast. Studying at Kyushu University gives me several experiences and



great opportunity to study new research techniques as well as new lessons that I have not study. All lessons and experiences that I gain from Japan, especially, from Kyushu University are very useful knowledge, and the greatest experiences that I can apply for my work and also be a part of developing my home country (Lao PDR).

My study life has been started since October 1st, 2012 until now that is almost 2 years. During 2 years of studying in Kyushu University, I get the best condition and environment for studying. I like facilities that the university provided such as comfortable and useful library with lots of books, modern computers, quiet and a big space to concentrate on studying. Besides the library, all students can easily access to textbooks, journals, magazines and any reference documents which all students can download from the library and outside via the good internet system. Kyushu University is one of the prestigious universities in Japan. In the second years of master study, most of my time were spent for research and data analysis. Besides conducting research, I also participated in the weekly seminar in the laboratory. I would say that all students provided a lot of useful comments, and the professor and associate professor instructed me to process my dissertation with informative and professional direction. I was pushed a lot from supervisor to study some unknown lessons by myself, especially an econometric and micro-economic theory that I applied for my data analysis and my research. This can make me deeply understand and complete my dissertation.

Furthermore, during 2 years of my master study, I also have chance to participate in the conferences and meetings with my supervisor, associate professor and my lab mates that very spreading my academic knowledge. Besides studying, I have participated in the traditional activities that took place in Fukuoka and other prefectures nearby. In addition, I have been travelling to many places in Japan for sightseeing. This can really broaden my knowledge about Japanese life and culture. In my daily life, the life has been a nice Fukuoka city. There are so many places for visiting. The Japanese people are very kind and friendly. They make me feel very happy and warm. By the way, they also make me familiar with the life that is far from my home

country. Unavoidably, I sometimes have a little homesickness. Unforgettably, I have had really nice memorable time in my life during my 2 years studying and living in Japan.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciativeness acknowledge to my academic supervisor, Professor Dr. Shoichi ITO for his invaluable time granted and excellent guidance throughout the course and frankly comments about my study. Without his kind supporting, my study would not have come with achievement. Besides that, my deep appreciation and thanks to Associate Professor Dr. Hiroshi ISODA, for providing the helpful advices and comments on my study during our laboratory's seminars and giving a clear direction of my research, constant support, invaluable suggestions and contributions. I wish to express special gratitude to all of laboratory colleagues for their supports and helpful.

Finally, I would like to express my profound thanks to the Japanese Government, Japanese people, and especially JICE staffs for their kind assistances to ensure that I can live smoothly without any problems during 2 years of my stay in Japan.



#### Bui Thi Nha Trang

##### Annual report 2013-2014

When we stay, land just be the building land

When we leave, the land became our soul

(Translated from the poem of Che Lan Vien – The singing of trains)

Whenever I think to the departure day, I remember a Vietnamese verse of Che Lan Vien – a Vietnamese famous poet that I translate above by myself.

First of all, I would like to express my grateful attitude toward my supervisors, Professor –Doctor Masami TAKAGI and Dr. Kengo NAKAHIRA for their guidance and in support of my research and my life in Japan. Besides, I also would like to send my deeply thanks to other teachers and members in the Laboratory of Insect Natural Enemies for their help during last time. They made me feel I was not alone when I study abroad.

Two years in Japan is the unforgettable time in my life. In Kyushu University, I had changes to study in professional scientific environment, to be instructed by the top of professors and the experienced teachers in my field. On the other hand, I experienced a colorful life with Japanese friends and other international students in Kyushu University. My friends and my

lab-mate took me to the beautiful Japanese Gardens and shrines in Fukuoka. I also heard the stories about Japanese heroes which made me admiring the Japanese spirit. Furthermore, the traditional festivals in summer season took me to the atmosphere of previous ears and understood the ancient life. These characters make Japan different from other modern country in the world.

Finally, I want to use the verse of Che Lan Vien again: when we leave, land will become our soul to express my mind. These experiences and lessons will remind me about Japan - a wonderful country when I leave here.

## **Dong Dao Dzung**

### **A two year review: Daily life and study in Japan**



Meeting other JDS fellows in the same batch 2012, I know that we share the author's feeling in a poem name "Time flies" on Prior House blog: *Just closing the eyes and two years have gone by*. Like a dream, I have lived with so much things received from academic work and daily life.

The lessons learnt from daily life in Japan will inure me to the future hardships. In very time, it is keeping courtesy attitude and kind treatment to other people; being patient to face with problems; being diligent and active to carry plans. Those are the impressive things I have ever got. The more I have been absorbed into the native Japanese culture, the more valuable lessons I have summed up. Mentality seems have the U-curve. Now, we are preparing for our returns bring memories filling our "cup of life", our "life banks" and our "love tanks".

Friendship is another thing I would mention about. It is the network relation with such friends come from various regions in Vietnam or other countries. We shared feeling together, studied in the same laboratory or courses, group-worked in the assigned tasks and so on. Each person I met in the last two years had retained amazed impression in mind with their own way. The development of social networking brings us the chance seeing each other, updating information and even sharing experience of life. I look forward to meet them someday, in Japan, in our country or somewhere else.

After two year of oversea studying, diploma is what we would receive. Behind that, it is the improvement in academic curriculum vitae that has been result of saving knowledge and skill or developing competency. I have gained credits from various fields of study, those supported for students to widen knowledge and provide different approaches to solve the real problems. I could be involved in researches conducted in

Japan and elsewhere, where professors supervised students from initial idea to the final outputs, from that my skills have improved in accordance with practicing. I do prefer participating in the laboratory seminar and conferences. These are realistic ways to train on presentation skills and confidence attitude beside research results. It sharpened soft skills offered to any researchers. Through the conference, I also saw other aspects of related topics and updated orientations in academic society.

The master thesis is an illustration of academic results. The selection of research title may take time for explanation due to its role. In fact, that was outcome of my analyzing, consulting, planning and writing research proposal. Finally, I paid attention in contract farming in swine sector in Hanoi city, Vietnam. Before conducting investigation, I presented in the laboratory seminars research proposal, literature reviews, methodology and how to deal with sample survey. It did took time and skills but there was no doubt about the interesting valuable lessons it had brought to me. These were not explained in the textbook. Like doing experiments in technical fields, data analyzing was the next step had been done. During this time, I revised literatures and methods, calculated data, which were aimed to get findings behind statistics figures. The results were step by step included in presentations that had showed in every seminar for gaining comments. Passing 20 presentations related to the thesis, I would like to give my deep gratitude to professors, our colleagues and friends for their kindly listening, comments and encouragements. It was such my unforgettable time.

Some research topics are still on-going to find further results and explanation for the real life. Mission of researchers may contribute to solve that. If I have chance to conduct those things under doctor course or higher education program, I do expect to do it here, in Kyushu University. At this opportunity, I would like to give my deep grateful to our supervisors at Laboratory of Food Marketing and Distributions, professors in Graduate school of Bioresource and Bioenvironmental Science, Kyushu University for their advices and encouragements. I would thank you to Student Section, Faculty of Agriculture and other organizations behind. We would have received their support from the first days at Kyushu University. I would send acknowledgement to Japan International Cooperation Center-JICE, especially whose people directly related to JDS candidates. It is no confusion that they bring me the faith, warm close pressure all the time. I also engrave on my mind that JDS program had provided finance for my great time studying in Japan. When turning into the next stage of life, there are changes, growths and new ways but my impression and memories of the past two years are still the same stuff - different days.

## **LE THI THU HUONG**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF JDS PROGRAM**

#### **My daily life in Japan**

Now I am a second year master student. Going through almost 2 years, I feel that Japan, especially Fukuoka is a good place to work and live. Because Fukuoka is located in Southern Japan, the climate here is same to my country Vietnam so that I can adapt easily.

Staying almost 2 years in Japan, I have chances to visit



many sightseeing places and understand more about Japanese cultural. I find that each place in this country has its own interesting features. Somebody say that travelling in Japan is very expensive. However, if we take advantages of promotions in some special occasions in year, we can save so much money.

Life in Japan seems to be good for someone planning to bring family to here. Social services and

healthcare system is pretty perfect. Tuition fee for nursery school and children healthcare fee is very reasonable. By the supports of good welfare, we have much time to focus on our work.

#### **My academic life**

Nearly completing 2 years of master course in Japan, I feel that I grow up in many ways. First, my self-study skill is improved substantially. Because the major module of the master course is doing research, this skill assists considerably for my work. Reading a lot journal papers everyday help me develop reading skill, discovery the research problems and look up the materials on different sources. Second, together with self-study skill, presentation skill is one of valuable lessons for me. Every month, I have opportunities to present my research progress to my sensei and friends in the seminars. I get comments from them, which makes my research better gradually. And I hope that this improvement in giving presentation will help me a lot in my jobs when I return my country. In addition, participating the seminars provide me so much useful information from other research.

Under JDS scholarship, students have chances to visit many places and participate the international and domestic conferences. Sensei took me and some other students to Okinawa and Tokyo for conference. Besides, I visited Hokkaido and Fukushima for field trips with my sensei. Sometimes, sensei took some students to special places around the university such as sake-company or strawberry garden. From those trips, I understand more about the Japanese agriculture.

One interesting thing that I love when staying in Japan is party in my laboratory. We held the parties in some special days such as farewell and welcome party, new year party, and so on. In those parties, we make food, eat our food together, and share our stories with each other. Sensei and some students play guitar and sing songs. Everybody feel relaxed after hard working times.

Almost finishing 2 years in Japan, I have full of both happiness and sadness. But I think the 2 years is the most memorable time in my life. I do not know if I would come back here any time, but I express my gratitude to JICE, my sensei and other Japanese people, who teach me about the strong spirit and extraordinary fortitude.

## **NGUYEN THI HUONG**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF JDS PROGRAM 2014**

I would like to acknowledge many people who have contributed to help me complete my Master course at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. First of all, I



would like to express my deepest gratitude to my academic supervisor, Professor Dr Nanseki Teruaki, who has guided and encouraged me to study independently throughout the research. He has given my friends and me many chances to improve my abilities in research throughout support us to attend and present at conferences as well as publish papers. I would never forget my friends in Laboratory of Agriculture and Farm Management, who always encourages me and helps me in the study as well as in daily life. We have had precious time to share our knowledge and improve our research skills in seminar time as well as in literature review time. We also have had much of happy time in parties; I would never forget the moment when we organized the party to happy birthday to our sensei.

Along with studying, I sometimes set up my own trips to travel around Japan. In my point of view, traveling brings me great chances to discover Japan as well as Japanese culture throughout traveling. Traveling is the most favorable activities when I have free time. I would never forget the moment of New Year Eve when I was in Zojoji Temple to hear 108 Bell rings; it was the most touchable and emotional moment in my life!!! In the early morning of the first day of year, I was at the top of Tokyo Tower to enjoy the new sunshine; it was so incredible and I thought I just only had one chance to enjoy. Such kind of these moments is my treasures!!! I have some experiences when taking trips in Japan so if new JDS students want to set up the trips, please feel free to contact me \*\_\*.

I would like to give my great appreciation to JICE Kyushu Office as well as JICE Headquarter for their fully supports and assistance to make my two years staying in Japan much more easier and enjoyable.

## **TRAN THI THU DUYEN**

### **My study in Kyushu University**

I am really happy to be a student in Kyushu University where I have been obtaining useful knowledge as well as valuable experiences.

I have been provided a good study environment in Kyushu University. Beside the knowledge learned from lectures at classroom, we have weekly seminars for academic discussion in our laboratory. Especially, there were some special lectures, seminars and excursions for JDS students. My most favorite excursion is the trip to Aso Mountain where I was deeply impressed by big effort of Japanese to conserve the heritages. From these activities, we could obtain good knowledge, useful lessons as well as tighten the bonds of solidarity among of us – JDS students.

On the other hand, I have had great opportunities for academic exchange through international conferences. I have joined in many international conferences: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> *International Seminar of JSPS Core-to-Core Program "Collaborative Project for Soil and Water Conservation in Southeast Asian Watersheds"* in Vietnam and Japan, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on Agriculture, Forestry Environment and Life Science in Asia* in Korea and Japan, 7<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on the East Asian Environmental Problems* and 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary *Agricultural Economics Society of Japan* in Japan. During these conferences, I learnt a lot of knowledge and experiences from attractive presentations of Professors and students of many Universities and then had interesting discussion with them. On the other hand, I had happy time to make new friends and discover new places through the conferences.

I would like to thank JICA, JICE, Kyushu University's staffs so much for all your supports. Especially, I express my deep gratitude to my supervisor, who always gives students good chances to study and improve our abilities.



## CHEA SOKHEN

### Two-year sweet memory in Japan

First of all, I would like to talk about my social life within two years in Japan. I feel that the lifetime in Japan flew so fast while I am not ready to say goodbye to this beautiful country. The two years have gone, left me a plenty of pleasure, enjoyable and unforgettable memories. Looking back to the past two years of my life in Japan, remind me a lot of amazing experiments in both social and academic life, especially the good memories have been made with my professors, lab mate, friends from difference countries and especially Japanese people. It was the most unforgettable memories in my life when I had a good chance to take part in a Hippo Family Club. I stayed a night off with my Japanese host family, and we had made lots of fun together for almost a whole night. A little girl of my host family, Lizako, made me a very surprised feeling through her hand-made gift for my birthday. It was a fantastic experience that could not forget in my life. I got a very warm welcome and hospitality from my host family. And what impressed me the most is the special hand-made gift that I got from little lovely girl, Lizako who is a daughter of my host family. She made this present and gave to me for my birthday. The gift was simple and small, but it was so beautiful and meaningful to me. A party to my birthday was very wonderful because during that time I almost forgot it.

I was very surprise that they gave me such beautiful present and make special birthday party for me even I totally forgot that day is my birthday. Further to the stay in Japan, I had many chances to visit some interesting places such as Kitakyushu, Hokkaido, Oita, Kumamoto, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, Taiwan, Tokyo and Hiroshima Prefecture. I could explore lots of entertainment places, for instance the World Heritage Sites in Hiroshima Prefecture—Itsukushima Shrine and A-Bomb Dome of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. Itsukushima Shrine is one of the most vital shrines in Japan, and the only shrine in the world, which has a Red Torii-Gate and built in the middle of the sea. They were my dream to visit while I was in Cambodia.

Living and studying in Japan are a big turning point in my life. It is a place where I not only get experience, knowledge, skill and expertise but also entertainment.



### Academic life in Japan

Secondly I would like to talk about my academic life. Only two months left for me from now up to my departure time from Japan. I could not believe that two years of lifetime in Japan is so quick. I should have spent the rest of my time in Japan to visit the interesting place or do everything that I want but unfortunately it is also a very hard time for me to finish the master program under Grand Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS). The same to other JDS fellows, I have to complete my thesis writing and prepare for upcoming final presentation that will be held on July 23, 2014. It was the most stressful and various times ever for my lifetime in Japan. However, a lot of inspiration and support from professors, lab mate and friends around me always push me up when I was down and lost. With their guidance and encouragement made me feel more confident, especially professors in my laboratory always sacrifice their valuable time and generosity to help me throughout my laboratory experiment as well as my thesis writing.

Finally, I would like to express my profound thanks to the Japanese government for the Grand Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS), Coordinators, and the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) for their support and encourage from begin up to date. Furthermore, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to supervisor, Prof. **Toshitaka Uchino**, for his valuable supervision and support throughout my research. I also extend my grateful thanks to Associate Prof. Fumihiko Tanaka, Laboratory of Postharvest Science at Kyushu University, for their intimate reviews and constructive suggestions on the draft of this dissertation and Assistance Prof. Daisuke Hamanaka for his technical advice through my laboratory experiment. Indeed, without all of them my research thesis would not have been possible.

## HUN Sothy

### Unforgettable Memories

Time flies so quickly, in 2 months I have to say goodbye to people I have known here. During two years of my academic life as a student in Japan, it has provided me a lot of memories I have never forgot. I would like to share some experiences what I have learnt and achieved from here.

To be a student without background much about hydrology provided me a big challenge for my study. Because my topic research I have written from my country was too broad, my supervisor asked me to read book and paper to get more knowledge in order to decide my topic research again. Those things were so hard for me to understand and sometimes, I felt stressful very much. However, in certain period, my topic research was decided and study site was conducted in steep forest mountainous area in Japan. I have to go collecting the data with my lab mates every after rainfall events. It was my first time to work in steep forest mountainous area. To collect the data, I sometimes climbed up from downstream to upstream or other times, I went down from upstream to downstream. It was a bit hard for me but I really enjoyed with the view of my field study and enjoyed with my lab mates by eating, talking and kidding with each other very much. Another difficulties were related to the data analysis. After getting the data from field, I still didn't know how to analyze those data. And when I plotted those data, I still didn't know how to interpret those graphs. One sentence I have never forgot, my supervisor asked me that "what do you think when you plotted the graph without knowing how to interpret? Do you think the audience understand your graphs by just showing when you do a presentation?" I felt ashamed very much; however, from my supervisor advice, day by day, I can understand the mechanism of my study research. What should I do and how to deal with the problems I met. By looking to the pass, I felt I have understood and learnt a lot of things. I am happy very much for what I have and what I get now.

Finally, I would like to thank my supervisor for all the wonderful advises and guidance my study with patience. And also, I would like to thank my lab mates for helping and supporting me. Picture of my supervisor, my lab mates and my study site are always occurred in my mind and I cannot forget all the memories with all of them. I would like to take this chance to express my sincere gratitude to Royal Government of Cambodia to allow me study in Japan and Japanese government for providing me the scholarship under JDS program and JICE



coordinators who always take care me. With knowledge and experiences I obtained from Japan, I will be able to contribute to help my country in the future.

## PHON SOVATNA

### MASTER RESEARCH STUDENT IN JAPAN



The infatuated time in Japan rolls very fast and a two-year master degree under laboratory of bioproduction engineering is almost passed up. Final presentation and research thesis submission are approaching the deadline that retains me busy in these several months. Sometimes, it is very stressful, but very interesting in some cases because I have learnt a lot from this research. I am not hesitating to describe the activities academically and enjoyably within these two years.

#### 1. academic student in Japan

The academic year 2012-2014 has been started for international students since the first semester in autumn, 2012, and my credits have been gradually recoded simultaneously. The required credits for master degree completion is 30 of which 12 credits are given to international development research courses and 18 credits are provided to compulsory subjects. Up to date, all required credits from international development research courses and compulsory subjects have been earned of 24 credits. The remaining 6 credits will be obtained soon after research thesis completion.

Every student is getting very busy including me for thesis compilation. I have spent almost times in the laboratory activities. Weekly lab-seminar in the laboratory of bioproduction engineering has been organized for all students in this laboratory including fourth year, master and Ph.D. students to sharpen and enhance knowledge, and also an effective tool to follow up students' activities. Moreover, it has been developed to enable students to properly communicate, gain and share knowledge, know-how and skill among each other. Furthermore, students have had chance to discuss on critical issues related to research thesis with professors for any trouble. The subjects for the lab-seminar are data processing, data management and handling (SQL) and signal processing. In addition, all students are requested to present their research progress every week step-by-step from introduction to results and discussion. With this occasion, I have received lots of good idea, comments from professors and lab-mates. I really feel confident recently to presentation for I have done it almost every week from my introduction part until results and discussion. Sometimes, former students gave us presentation about work opportunities in Mechanization Company. These opportunities have been good for students in job hunting and new technology research.



I can say that I have learnt lots of knowledge and skills from this laboratory, especially on mechanization vibration and other related subjects. Currently, I have had a special additional experiment on Japanese machinery vibration in Japan. Two sensors were employed for the experiment, specifically conventional strain gage type and new modern technology MEMS sensor. This time experiment understood me clearly on how to obtain observation data and calculation. I will be confidentially using these devices when I returned home to improve human safety.

## 2. enjoyable time in Japan

A two-year life in Japan seems to be very speedy. The open time to drum life to many environments and aspects in Japan is almost flown away. To date, the enjoyable time is almost kept behind my consideration because of business with the research thesis writing. Instead of environmental viewing, I have spent plenty times with the research. This would sometimes cause me very stressful, but sometimes very happy with some successful unexpected results.

However, I cannot keep my voice to give a detailed account in words of previous entertainments and lab-parties. When I first landed on Japan, I felt strange but very excited with so beautiful landscapes—mountain, forest, infrastructures, people, life style, and so on. I then really wanted to know why Japan developed very fast. Traced deeper to the society, the image reflected to my eyes. Human resources, natural resources, and high commitment to any obstacle were key improvement of country development. I could learn a lot of incredible aspects from my observation.

Not for just observation, I have spent special times with my beloved Japan host family. They have tough me plenty knowledge on Japanese tradition and culture. I have stayed with them and we have shared together many things. Moreover, they have always brought me to join many special events—national holiday, primary-school entrance ceremony, and other events performed by Japanese elders. Furthermore, they have sometimes brought me to experiment life as Japanese farmer and Japanese community. I really love my host family.

The enjoyable time in Japan is not always outside. Under laboratory of bioproduction engineering, my professors have always encouraged and inspired students a lot. They have also kept their eyes on students' activities, and many discussion-ceremonies have been celebrated to make close relationship with students and also to release stress after hard working. I have never missed such great chances to join the parties because we have always discussed additionally about our research and study. I have even learnt many things during the parties.

Finally, I thank to the Japanese Grand Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS) and Coordinators and Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), who have supported me so far. Then I extent my profound

appreciation to my professors—Professor Eiji Inoue, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Muneshi Mitsuoka, Ph.D., Associate Professor Takashi Okayasu, Ph.D. and Associate Professor Yasumaru Hirai, Ph.D., who have supervised, encouraged, and inspired me so much through experimental research and good opportunities in Japan. After that, my warm appreciation goes to all friends within and across laboratories for their assistance and for together sharing our knowledge and experience. Last but not least, I would like to pay my sincerest gratitude to Japanese host family, my parents, siblings, grandparents, relatives and all friends who have also supported and encouraged me to reach a bright goal. Without them, a great experience in the laboratory would not have been possible. My memories have left here, and it would make me unforgettable, especially my kind professors, lab-mates, friends and host family. I would say that Japan is the best foundation for education and life, my soul and spirit will be here always.

## Thant Sin Kyaw

### A Look Back to Student Life in Kyushu University and My Research



As another year flew away, the time is close to an end of my master student life in Kyushu University. In my mind, it seems a few days ago when I first arrived to Fukuoka. This reports remind me that I've to say good-bye to Japan soon. Two years in Kyushu University makes important turning point of my life. It gives me a lot of new experiences for both academic and daily life. Also I had some opportunities to take a glance at Japanese culture and history through festivals and study tours. I was very happy during these two years and I will never forget these days.

As a second year master student, I spent most of the time for research work. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Dr. Kazuo OGATA and Associate Professor Dr. Kimihiko HYAKUMA for their valuable guidance, patience, motivation, and continuous support to my research work and writing master thesis. Also I'd like to appreciate the support of all my friends, lab mates, as well as JICE coordinators.

Then I'd like to express summary of my research; titled "Study on Efficiency of Community Forest Management in Myanmar".

The concept of Community Forestry (CF) program returns right to manage and use forest resources as well as

responsibilities to communities in order to achieve sustainable forest management and to fulfill their forest product needs. In Myanmar, Community Forestry programs have been launched in 1995. Under CF program, local community forming CF users' group receives 30 years duration of land tenure, right to manage CF according to their management plan and no taxation for personal use of forest products from CF and sale within village. As CF programs have been practiced for nearly 20 years, many challenges and limitations of CF management were reported through scientific studies and reports. These limitations show some gaps between legal system and actual conditions of CF management in Myanmar. This study focused on CF users' group perspective and supportive activities by government from where the apparent gap appears. The objectives of this study are 1) to identify the gap between legislation and actual implementation of CF management; and 2) to evaluate the efficiency of management by CF users' group in study site.

The first part of this study is exploring major limitations of CF program in Myanmar through reviewing existing scientific studies on CF of Myanmar, legislations and manuals, and reports about CF. Then in second part, in order to study the existence of limitations in actual implementation of CF in Myanmar with emphasis on management system and collaboration of users' groups and FD staffs, field surveys were conducted in September 2013 and in March and April 2014. During field surveys, key informant interviews with leaders of CF users' groups, semi-structured questionnaires survey with 39 households in four selected villages, and discussion with Central and Local Forest Department Officers and NGO staffs. According to the preliminary survey, a case study was conducted in Mai-Thaut CF due to its unique management system.

**Reliance on CF** - Findings show reliance on CF is highest in Village Y, followed by Village A, X and B in descending order. Village Y gets income from CF by selling charcoal and fuelwood to other villages. The reliance on CF is different according to their livelihood system; three villages Y, A and X base on natural resource and village B mainly depends on service works. Introducing of electricity in Village B and X reduce their reliance on CF. Although Village X and Y use forest products from CF, they are not official member of CF.

**CF Management System** - Before CF establishment, local people living around Mai-Thaut area managed forests under three traditional systems: village managed forest, individually hold woodlots and open-accessed forests. After establishment of CF, all three types of forest have been under the CF. For individually hold woodlots inside CF, holders have kept same forest use, but CF member did not claim them because of enough space of forest area. The main objective of establishment of Mai-Thaut CF is prohibition of cutting trees for selling fuelwood and charcoal. Village X and B drastically reduced collection of fuelwood due to electricity introducing, and only Y still heavily rely on fuel for their income. Local FD staffs also realize that situation but did not act strictly as laws and regulation prescribed, because of not so severe deforestation occurred. In 2011, Village X and Y were added as new members of CF, then adopted sub-CF system by dividing official CF area into four parts with acceptance of local Forest Department. Village A and B implemented forest plantation, agroforestry practice and natural regeneration practice (improvement felling, pruning, etc.) in early years of CF, but about 26% of planned target was carried out.

**Awareness of Users' Group on CF** - Findings show

awareness level of CF in Village Y and X is lower than Village A and B. This is because official member villages A and B had opportunities for trainings about CF and also participated in CF implementations. Among Village A and B, acceptable awareness level is found for the items clearly described in management plan and important items reflecting main problems of their CF.

On legal basis, adoption of traditional individually hold woodlots inside CF is obviously a kind of occupation that deviate the regulations of CF. But in actual situation, both users' group and local FD staffs did not restrict due to its not strong impact on others' rights although some latent conflicts exist. Overall, local FD staffs could not strictly follow rules and regulation in monitoring CF users' group. However, they understand the localities and supported if users' group claim.

User's group could not fully implement their regulations and operations described in management plan. The CF management of users' group could be assumed not efficient to fulfill the expectations of government, but to some extent, satisfactory from the view of users' group (in other word; local people). Weakness in awareness of newly applied members may reflect inefficient management and FD should emphasize in extension work to those members.

## **Thein Saung**

### **Recollection of my activities in Kyushu University**



Coming soon, I will have to say good bye to Japan. Really I don't believe that how fast the time is at staying in Japan. Before returning to my country I am recalling my activities or experience got while studying in Kyushu University. What did I learn within studying in Japan? To get degree, just only need to get needed credits and to submit thesis as partial fulfillment. So normally we have to attend class to get credits and have to submit thesis for degree. But JDS program might intend us not only to get degree but also to get external knowledge and experiences while studying in Japan, therefore they arranged many study tours for us such as studying integrated farming system with duck, practicing rice field to get experience in Japanese culture, and letting us join at workshop. Moreover they always monitor and evaluate concerning how improve gradually our ability is in compare with the condition at the time of arrival to Japan. Therefore I really appreciate JDS program for its detailed plan considering for us.

Moreover, I would like to give my sincere thanks to my Professor Shigejiro Yoshida, Associate professor Nobuya Mizoue (my supervisor) because of their kind arrangement for many



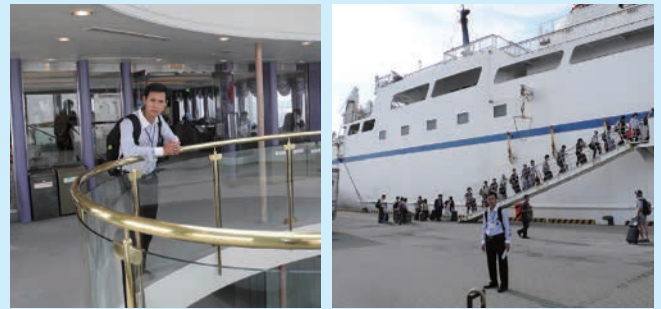
study tours while studying in laboratory of Forest Management. As a member of lab of Forest Management, I had an opportunity to get more experience and knowledge by joining field works, excursions, and conferences. I could join the conferences held in Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Kobe, and South Korea, as excursion I could visit Yakushima island Natural Recreation Forest Arakawa Area, Yakusugi Museum, log-yard for old logs and stumps of old growth (*Cryptomeria japonica*), old growth *Cryptomeria japonica* forest (Yakusugi Land), Ohko-no-taki waterfall, and western area of Yakushima Island (World Natural Heritage area) at Yakushima Island. Moreover, I could visit to Ashoro Museum of Paleontology exhibited about fossils of Ashoro, Furthermore, I had a chance to visit to Akan National Park and took sightseeing by ship around Akan lake and enjoyed with the beauty and mysteries of Lake Akan at Hokkaido.

Kyushu University is one of the university that owns university forests and which is composed of three research forest; Kasuya Research Forest located in two towns, Sasaguri and Hisayama in Kasuya-gum, Fukuoka prefecture, Ashoro Research Forest located in Ashoro town, eastern Hokkaido, and Shiiba Research Forest situated in the central area of Kyushu mountain ranges, Miyasarki prefecture. Among them Ashoro Research Forest is the largest one in area and dominated by boreal hilly forests. As laboratory of Forest Management member, I had a chance to visit two research forests, Kasuya Research Forest located in Sasaguri and Ashoro Research Forest located in Hokkaido. As a forestry student these field trips are priceless for me and really good opportunity to study the condition of forests in Japan.

#### Memorable field trip to Ashoro Research Forest in Hokkaido

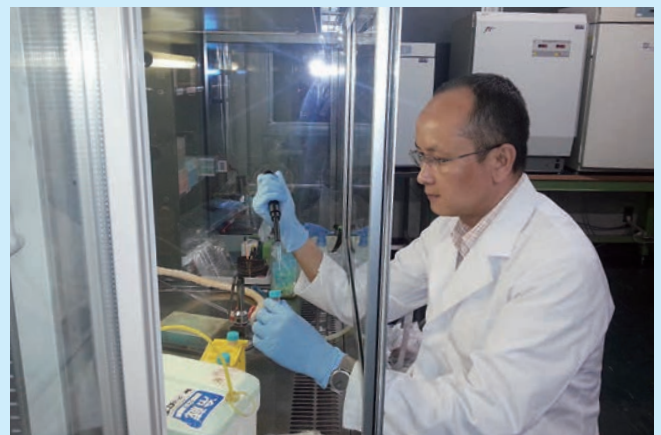
One of my field trips that I will never forget is visiting to Ashoro Research Forest located in Ashoro town, eastern Hokkaido, which is a large-scale field experimental facility of forests for educations and researches. Various studies are carried out by students, research staffs and other visiting researchers in the forest. I went Hokkaido on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 with my professor Shigejiro Yoshida and lab members. I remember that at that time it was raining. On the way to Ashoro town from Obihiro by car, I found very large agricultural lands and mountainous areas, at the same time I missed my country, Myanmar because of similar natural beauty. We arrived our destination, the building of Kyushu University Forest situated in Ashoro town in the evening. When I arrived the building of Kyushu University Forest, I was surprised for seeing facilities put in ready such as field equipment, kitchen materials, sleeping beds. When I saw this condition, many thoughts appeared in my mind for my country. I really appreciated their detailed arrangement for visitors to stay and conduct their study comfortably. The next day morning, we made breakfast by ourselves. After having breakfast, we went into the Research Forest by car and conducted field survey. And we had lunch in the forest. Even though in the forest, we can go

most places by car. I understood how different between Japanese forester and Myanmar forester are. I stayed in Hokkaido for 5 days and within these days I got a lot of knowledge concerning forest condition, management system, and research activities in research forest. I knew that research forests are utilized not only for the education and researches on forestry, forest product science, ecology, physiology, soil science, meteorology and hydrology but also for hands-on learning program for adults and children, lifelong learning studies for local residents, extension lectures for teachers of junior and senior high school. This field trip, really, made me born many thoughts in my mind regarding how to improve forest management in my country. Therefore it was sure that this field trip gave me valuable gift for returning to my country.



## Thein Zaw

### My experiments and my impression



After passing the first year of master student, I realized that my daily life style changed as an experimental student exactly. I went to laboratory, made my experiment and participated weekly seminars; all of these were memorable events in my impression when I look back those days. First and foremost, I became as a master student at the Laboratory of Reproductive Physiology and Biotechnology, Kyushu University was a great chance and honor to me. Under supervision of Prof. Masa-aki Hattori, my dream, studying of chicken primordial germ cells (PGCs) came true and smoothly conducted as a requirement for my degree. In my previous report, I wrote, "My very first experience of study in Japan". At the present report, I would like to express about "my experiments and my impression" as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of master student studying in chicken PGCs.

In fact, PGCs are germ line stem cells; we can manage and handle them not only to produce transgenic birds for genetic improvement but also to preserve the foundation stock of poultry.

Since I had discussed about my research and interest with my professor, I had a great chance to study both theoretically and experimentally about “Proliferation and characterization of chicken primordial germ cells for their transplantation into embryo”. The objectives of my study became firstly to investigate proliferation of chicken PGCs in a new culture medium and characterize the cultured PGCS as putative embryonic germ cells; and secondly, to transfer the cultured PGCs into recipient embryos to ascertain that the cultured PGCs can maintain the contribution of their ability to colonize with recipient gonads. For the proliferation of PGCs, I had to culture PGCs in vitro for 7 days. That was the first experiment of my research, and I thought that it looked easy-going procedure. But, it really took over 4 months because of some of my faults and unexpected difficulties in laboratory works. My experience concerned with laboratory works faced me a lot of mistakes when I cultured PGCs including handling equipment. Therefore, I discussed and exchanged knowledge with laboratory members to improve my research and experiment works, and also got recommendations and suggestions from the professors. Immunofluorescence analysis took part as a part of this experiment to characterize cultured PGCs and to count number of cells proliferates. I make immunostaining after 7 days of PGCs culture, and it takes 2 days. The first day is for the first antibody and the next day is for the second antibody receptively. Here, I really unforgettable persons are my tutor Hiroaki Tanaka, and my colleges Gakushi Kito and Manami Miyagawa because all of them were well supported. In our laboratory, immunostaining method is the usual method that most of our laboratory members have to conduct in their research. In fact, immunostaining is cell marking to recognize their surface, their nucleus and their cytoplasm. We have to select specific marker antibody to recognize our target cells. It is not so difficult, but we must keep in mind each of steps in immunostaining. If not, immunostaining will fail.

My second objective is the transplantation of cultured PGCs into recipient embryo. This is a proof of my first objective that my cultured PGCs can maintain their germline transmission activity. I hope in this time, transplantation of cultured PGCs might be utilized for the future avian conservation since PGCs had the ability to transmit genetic information from parent to offspring. In fact, cultured PGCs usually contaminated with the other cells. Most of researchers suggested that cells purification is absolutely essential for the functional analysis of specialized cells type. For this reason, I had to isolate to get pure PGCs prior to germline transmission study, and it also took part one kind of experiment when I move in to my final goal. After getting purified PGCs, I labeled my donor PGCS and then transfer to trace their migration into recipient embryo. I had to weak up early to complete all of these steps within one day. Interestingly, PGCs can migrate within recipient embryos to arrive to their final destination, gonads in the normal embryonic development. Thus, I checked labeled donor PGCs under fluorescence microscope after picking up embryonic gonads. This experiment was not so easy and smoothly as I expected, and made me a great trouble. I memorized that I tried this experiment for many times and it took about 8 months. Injected embryo die, and if live, donor PGC could not detected in the gonads were really tired and disappointed to me. In those days, I paid attention and concentrated my mind upon my current experiment to overcome these troubles in one day. So, even when I sleep at night I dreamed about chicken, egg, fluorescence PGC and gonads. It

was so terrible! At that time, my professor recommended me to do more and more and not to give it up. One day afternoon in the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 2014, I start detected a few number of transferred PGCs in the recipient gonads, and it was so wonderful! I noticed that I can do it now. Start from that day, I fulfilled my skill until to get constant result. Finally, my professor appreciated that “you did great effort”. Here, I would like to give my deep gratitude to Tomoki Soh Sensei for his expert technical assistant since I began my experiment, “Transplantation of PGCs into recipient embryo”. His detailed instructions, continuous guidance and supervision were invaluable, and guaranteed the successful completion of my work.

Overall, as a master candidate, the first part of my job gave me a heavy burden. But, this discomfort was not so long because of my struggle under regular assistant, supporting and encouragement of laboratory members and the helps of kind professors. I noticed the days that I did my experiments will be never forgotten in my life. Therefore, I would like to express my feeling and impression concerning with my laboratory experience and research works in the JDS annual report. I am here; I wish to acknowledge special gratitude to all of laboratory colleagues and professors. Furthermore, I want to give my warm and sincere thanks to all of JICE coordinators for their care during my life in Japan.



## 2013 Entrance

### PHOUTHIVONG Khamsay

#### My Great Experience of Study at Kyushu University

It was a great and pleasant time for a young state official who worked in local region when he was announced that he passed the final stage of JDS selection procedure and was accepted as a JDS fellow at Kyushu University in Japan under JDS program 2013-2015, among many qualified candidates. But what was still being hidden behind of such great feelings, at that time, remained a big concern about how to live and how to learn abroad where you had never been to before. Of course, we all had already been provided with a lot of information about almost



everything that necessarily related to living and studying in a Japanese university and community before leaving for Japan, without any experiences in even travelling to a foreign country still caused me some questions in my own mind, however.

As suggestions by every senior in Laos, any of your concerns would completely disappear when you arrive in Japan. They were incontrovertibly right. What I had really concerned had been completely gone after spending nearly two weeks attending orientations in Osaka and almost a month staying in Vassel Hotel in Fukuoka before moving to Kaikan (one of international student houses of the University) where is prepared for all international students before the fall semester starts, and you can stay here for six months then you have to move and start your own life in your private apartment outside after that. Everything had been ready before we started our study such as dormitory, identity card, bank account, health insurance, school registration and so forth. All of these procedures were carried out by the close support from JICE coordinators, who were very generous and have been taking care of each JDS fellow since the first day we arrived in Japan on August, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 until graduation and returning to home countries.

Without any of concerns, consequently I can spend majority of time to concentrate on my study. Here, I belong to environmental economics laboratory, department of agricultural and resources economics, the faculty of agriculture. For the international master course all subjects are interesting and provide students with skills and knowledge based on experiments in real situations rather than theoretical study only. The minimum required credits are 30 and 12 of which are from module and specialized subjects and the rest are from research study. Not only the subjects provided in the classes are interesting, but special lectures by professors from other universities not only in Japan but from other countries, such as the United State, are also attractive and helpfully enrich understanding in specialized fields. For the sake of having more time for the thesis research, I tried to take and carry out all both module and specialized subjects that related to my thesis research in the first semester. So I have been able to spend all of the time left focus on only my thesis research.

“Efficiency in natural resources utilization for sustainable rural development” was my first research topic that had been basically drafted before coming to Japan. During studying here has made me to realize that only if I have not given a chance to study in Japan, I would have never known that it is impossible to find a good methodology to meet such a too wide research topic. Study system here, especially in the laboratory, has leant me a lot about research skill. I have been taught about how to think, how to observe and how to find a right methodology to analyze problems systematically and logically. Now with the kind support from my professor and friends in the laboratory, my new interesting research topic has been found and drafted effectively.

Beside of studying in classes and attending seminars in the laboratory, international symposiums are also interesting and useful programs. I have been given two opportunities by my professor, Mitsuyasu YABE who is very kind and supportive, to participate in two international symposiums. The first one was held in Miyazaki prefecture and the second one was in Kobe University. There were many professors, researchers and presenters from the field of agriculture, natural resources, environment and rural development from high ranking universities from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China. Even though my friends in the lab and I were allowed to attend as audiences,

it was valuable chance for observation and learning. It was acceptable that attending in each symposium provided me with deeper recognition of the core point in research procedure so I realized how to study and prepare myself for a good research. In addition, these events also appealed me to do myself best and to hopefully participate as a presenter in the next symposium indeed.

In addition, one of the most attractive seminars that qualifies me is a JDS seminar on Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems known as GIAHS. GIAHS, one of important programs of the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has been established to conserve historically important agricultural sites around the world, developing countries in particular, in order to promote sustainable rural development in an appropriate way. I had never known anything about GIAHS before. This program was introduced to us the first time by Professor Mitsuyasu Yabe in the JDS international symposium which was held on December, 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 in the 1<sup>st</sup> building of the faculty of Agriculture and there were two presenters from Vietnam and Myanmar attended. This provided the basic understanding about GIAHS in Japan. My perception of this program was more extensive when I had a chance to attend a special lecture under the theme of Agri-culture Design, held up only for JDS fellows during February, 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014. In this wonderful lecture, it was unbelievable that many unique cultural activities related to agriculture have still been strongly conserved as heritages in Japan. But it is true. After this three-day lecture which was presented by Mr. KAJIHARA Hiroyuki, Curator of Aso Tanibito Ecomuseum, I found that my previous imagination about agriculture in Japan was relatively too limited. Perhaps the main objectives of agriculture in Japan are not only to aim at food security or healthiness purposes, but also for cultural and environmental protection including creating art in agriculture for recreations and serenities. It was such a worthy experience indeed. Another good chance for comprehensive understanding about GIAHS was the JDS international seminar on GIAHS in Aso, Kumamoto prefecture. This time there were many attendants from members of Aso conservation association and three experts from China, Philippines and Japan gave more deeply presentation about GIAH sites and challenges for sustainable conservation in their countries. In this chance, I was very glad to know that the countries from south-east Asia such as Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam have been also encouraged to participate if they are interested in GIAHS program. Of course, we have world historical heritage sites approved by the UNESCO, yet there are not any GIAH sites in Lao PDR. But hopefully there will be some sites that can be approved by this program in the next future because these sites are very important and provide the country with good opportunities for socio-economic development through enhancing capacity of ecotourism in rural area. In my opinion, GIAHS is one of effective sustainable development models that every country can join and be beneficial from it.

Many impressive events and programs that cannot be thoroughly described at this time. At this juncture, I would like to express my thankfulness to JDS program for providing me and Lao students with great opportunities to learn how-known skills for the real sustainable development process at this qualified Kyushu University in Japan.

## Khansawanh SISOPHA

### Life in abroad



Everyone has a dream and hoping. Someone would like to success and someone would like to get a happiness in their life. I have a dream too. Maybe it is different or the same as the others but one of them is studied abroad. Japan is a country that I often be expected on my mind. Since I was young I had known about Japan's culture through comics' books, video game and television. I has been very happy when knew that I was selected to be one of the JDS scholarship fellows to study graduate course in Kyushu University.

After announcement of the candidates who pass a final round to study in Japan by JICE Office in Laos, all of us have prepared for departure in a month and be divided in two flight groups, a group has arrived in Kansai airport and other one was landing on Narita airport. First time when I got off from the airplane I was excited, in my head was full of an imagination of life style in here, it might be the same as a children get out from their home to a big kindergarten which there are variety of toys on the playground.

Time is quite fast as a river flow, almost a year I have been here, but it is still fantastic especially Fukuoka city. This town is wonderful and beautiful in living. I like this place because people are very kind and lovely, the city is clean, convenient, and the communication-transport are easy and puncture time, we could go anywhere around here by railway, subway, taxi, bus, etc., but the most famous for me is a bicycle, it is a useful vehicle of my daily life. I ride it to the university every day, go to market for buying food in the evening and cycling in the weekend, and the important things are not needed a gas, electric or gasoline and also advantage with environment and health.

In addition, Fukuoka is an interested city in the culture, festival, seasonal ceremony such as Hanami (Sakura blossom at Ohorikoen), Hakata Dontaku Port Festival (Local traditional dress parade), Hojoya (give thanks to the rich harvest of autumn at Hakozaki Shrine), etc. However the most popular that might be Dazaifu region which there are two important things in this site that are Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine and Kyushu National Museum. For Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine is known well about the place for praying on entrance season or final examination, the student who needs to be confident will visit and ask to God of literature for get pass the exam. In the others place, Kyushu National Museum is a very famous place of the tourists who would like to feel in a footprint and local culture.

Moreover, I am very impressive with people in here because I feel safe and warm the same as my hometown, someone said that "give and share are the base behavior of

Japanese spirit" for my opinion this word is not make me surprise and no objection that maybe I got the real situation with my experience. At that time when I just was arrival and traveled with the subway by myself in Tenjin station, it did not a good day for me because I lose the way and a route was quite complication but in the bad luck there will be get a good thing, I met a people who could tell the direction even though I could not communicate in native language and they would like to help a stranger in willing and try to explain as much as they could.

In Kyushu University, we have many activities which out of study and research that is sport club, there are a lot of clubs in Hakozaki campus for example soft ball, basketball, volleyball, football, etc., but the most interested for me is badminton. I have friends from South East Asia who is a JDS scholarship the same as me and none but we play together during the week and I think the game does not make us different but it is one of a factor to get more understanding and closer relationship.

For the academic, in the first year we have to study the module subjects which a foundation knowledge to develop a basic skill of our research. Every subject is important and related in the laboratory that we are belong to. I am a member of Irrigation and Water Management Laboratory, and very happy to be one of the student in this Lab because my friends, associate professor and professor are always support, give an advice in my research and tell the way to get an achievement, it is fantastic that I could be in here and learn about new methodology and real experiment in field and Lab.

One more thing to push and encourage me to get a progressive and living in here without any concerning that is JICE Kyushu Office, I would like to thank to support and take care all the time whenever in sickness or happiness, be a business to proceed the document and monitoring JDS student in kindly, set a time schedule for a special field trip, announce and warning the disaster that will be harmful in the life, JICE Kyushu Office's authority are a professional.

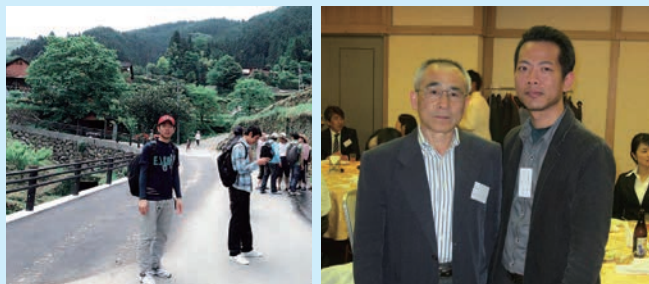
The first year of master course is an amazing period of time to be a college student in Kyushu University, life style in Fukuoka is a valuable experience and I still have more one year to increase my capacity building, learn more culture, get more friendship, forward to the blight future and prepare to the main purpose that is the research thesis, the next second year in Japan I will do the best to gain a wisdom as much as I can.



## Vila LAOKOM

### The daily life and research works in Kyushu University

Studying and visiting in Japan was my dream when I was studying in primary school and I think it is a dream of many



students and people in my country because Japan is one the most wonderful and beautiful country in the world including modern and historical tourist sites across the country. Japan is also the top leading country in technology, science, education and etc. Graduation from Japan is accepted in educational quality standard by various sectors in both private and governmental organizations and including international organization. Thanks to Laos and Japanese government on providing JDS Program (Japan Grant Aid for Human Resources Development scholarship) for young government officials.

### **The daily life**

My first life in Japan started on 23 August 2013 in Osaka with other JDS fellows for orientation which taken for a week. Briefly the various topics and basic information about Japanese society and culture, politic, economy, education and natural disaster were introduced by professional lecturers. More over, the trip to the disaster prevention center in Kyoto was organized where we got a chance to practice and train how to protect ourselves from natural disaster such as earthquake and typhoon. After two week in Osaka we were separated into individual excepted universities for academic study. Boarding the high-speed train (shin kansen) to Kyushu University is first time and great experience for me and for other people to be memorized.

Living in such developed country is almost convenient, surrounded by high transport facility, convenient stores, supper market. It was the great time since I stayed for 6 months in the international house (Kaikan) by sharing room with a Vietnamese student and one from Laos. Some daily works were assigned for example cooking and cleaning. Not only had dinner together but we also shared our culture and discuss for our lesson. The room was equipped with basic facilities, which are necessary for our studying and living life such as washing machine, fridge, and Internet. More over, it is surrounded by nearby store, supper mall and transportation system.

During the winter is a terrible time for me to get up early morning and ride the bicycle for 30 minutes for Japanese class which starts at 8:40 because I do not familiar with the cool weather. Early 2014 I decided to move out from the dormitory and live independently near the university where I can take about 5 minute by walking to Laboratory. Lamen (ラーメン) and shushi (すし) are two Japanese dishes which I really like. However, I like cooking because I can prepare menu and taste as I want. Sometime on the weekend we gather with other lao students to cook traditional food. Football is my favorite sport since I was in Laos so in the evening of Sunday and Saturday I play with Cambodian and Vietnamese students for regularly exercise and it helps me to make more friends and refresh after concentrate to my studying and experiment during weekdays.

Be side of academic study in the University I had the change to attend various activities such as visiting Ajinomoto factory, Aso Mountain, cultivation in terrace paddy field and integrated rice and duck farming. All those trips are very

meaningful for us to be memorized during 2 years studying. Regularly monitoring every three months by Jice coordinators is very helpful occasion to discuss both academic study and daily living life and we can consult with them any time whenever we have any problem.

### **The research work in University**

Kyushu University is the top famous university in Japan, located in Fukuoka prefecture, Kyushu Island. I am really proud to be the member of the laboratory of environmental geochemistry, faculty of agriculture. I think I am very lucky to be consulted and closely assisted by Professor Shin Ichiro WADA who is very nice and kind. I was warmly welcome by teachers and all lab members with warmly welcoming party at the beginning of new term, which is very impressive and memorable. The Japanese students are also very helpful and friendly and they are willing to help me whenever I ask them for help. I still remember how I fell when I first visit the lab to discuss about research topic. Even though five years experience working in water quality analysis but I was worry about doing experiment and working with modern analytical instruments as well as IC (Ion Chromatography), AAS (Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, graphite furnace and X-ray Diffraction machine. It is the most challenge to obtain analytical skills from this research. However, with regularly consultation and guidance from professor and assistance from teachers and laboratory members my research is going smoothly. Now I enjoy on working with analytical machines and lab equipment. I hope all skills on the lab and experiences on doing the research are very useful and will be applied to my work place especially Laboratory of water quality analysis, Department of Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture country in the near future.



### **PHOMVISITH Ouanh**

#### **The Memorial of Laos-JDS**

Laos and Japan have been established diplomatic relations in 1955, since then, the relationship has developed and increasingly by the time. Japan government has supported strongly to Laos's government in human resource and basic infrastructures development to driven the strategic mechanism of Lao national socio-economic development and maintenance through the implementing of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). All the time of relationship development, the important events and emotional exchange of high level leaders of two countries are also occurred consequently such as His



Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Naruhito, and His Excellency Shinzō Abe Prime Minister of Japan were highest honorable guests of Lao people in 2012 and 2013 respectively; and His Excellency Thongsing Thammavong Prime Minister of Laos also had visited officially to Japan in 2012.

The Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) is a subproject of JICA that has been started since 1999, and it is

powerful supporting of current human resource development for young government officials in Laos. I am very lucky and proud which incomparable value and chance in my life after my mother gave me birth, and my dream will be became true when I was announced to be one of final successful candidates for JDS batch 14.

### Experience and Life of Adventure

Japan is a wonderful and amazing place in my dream, and the first country that I want to visit and study in my life. Almost one year for living and study in Japan which I had visited several nice places and joined some interested activities, and found many new and strange events. When I just arrived in Japan, I and many other JDS students stayed at Shin Osaka Washington Hotel, and took sometimes to shopping and transported by subway train, at Shin Osaka station I found many Japanese people were hurry walking and urgently got on when train arrives, sometimes I worried to collide with them but I have never done like that, when got on the train there were many people but very silent place because they were almost busy with their mobile phone and some of them have a good sleepy time during the train travelling, although they were busy with their phone but they have never called or received phone on the train even the bus, I thought this is happing only in Osaka but when I visited to other places I also had found the similar manner of this. Otherwise, the greeting is an important thing of Japanese people between friends, or well-known persons, but sometimes when I want to ask them in public place someone had quiet and escaped, after several months that I have lived and went around of City, and then I have understood gradually about the etiquette of Japanese people such as they have never talked the phone during taking the train or bus, respecting of other ones, queuing is also important despite on rush time; and greeting by bowing is the best culture of Japanese people.

After starting life and study several month I was lucky that I have a chance visit to Aso Mountain which is a very famous site of natural tourism in Japan, during December last year was kindly organized by JDS committee of Kyushu University, I was very happy and enjoy with good atmosphere of Snow Mountain due to I have never touched with the snow before, during this trip I and other JDS student have also taken many memorial and nice views.

At around 2:07 AM of March 14<sup>th</sup> 2014, was during asleep and having a good dream of almost people in Japan, I

felt strangely with unfamiliar voice sounded from my cellphone “Jishin desu!...jishi desu!...jishin desu!” then I suddenly woke up with my eyes were still closed and sleepy emotion, and then my body had shaken following to the building on fifth floor of Kaikan, I didn’t know what to do, I had only prayed and said “Oh my Buddha please protect me from serious problem...”; after few minutes it had stopped, my body was full of sweat look like just standing up from bath room but during that minute the temperature in outside building was 6 °C, then my brain had collected skill and thought out to pick up cellphone and made call to some friends, and felt glad that everyone confirmed safely.

In Kuju where I am studying and doing my experiment now, here is also an exciting place because it’s similar weather and geography to my home town in northern part of Laos which full of green forest mountain and comfortable weather. Every day, I commute to farm take time around 30 minutes by bicycle that provided by Kyushu University, during the way to farm I can observe and admire many exciting views on clear weather day, but sometime is complicated for me that commute in steep road and climb up around 8 km by bicycle such as rainy day, windy day and snowy day. Kujyu Mountain is an interested tourism site beside Aso Mountain in Kyushu Island, in here I am also luckily that I have opportunity to climb up to the top of several Kujyu Mountain group with kindly staffs and Japanese students at farm, on that day we prepared some food to lunch on the top of mountain, in there look like staying in heaven which we can watch through to the farms and large beautiful area of Kujyu plateau.

Come to here, my experience and adventurous life in Japan have not narrated yet, and I still have many exciting events to tell my friends, but I have to keep them for future narration. Almost a year in here, I have a great opportunity and best experience with unique culture and scientific knowledge which incomparable in my life.



### Research and Study

Six months from October 2013 to March 2014, I and all JDS students have to joined intensive class lecture in Hakozaki campus, through that time I was very happy and wonderful to commute by bicycle from Kaikan to campus every day, although quite far, and sometimes have to surface with rainy storm.

It is the time that I will be got out from Kaikan which devoted and friendly to my life during six months, and I have to find a new place which my life will be assigned again, and go to my wonderful destination of the research. The marbled beef is the main focus, and a major goal of current research for beef production in developed countries, especially in Japan. This kind of beef is very famous amongst consumers and highest value

of meat. Therefore, my research scope is very interesting and important with my work and my home country in the future; the topic is *“The effects of maternal nutrition restriction during late gestation on early development and regulation of hormone and metabolism in offspring Japanese black cattle (Wagyu)”* this scientific hypothesis is referred to as “maternal or fetal programming” based on medical research regarding “the developmental origins of health and disease (DOHaD)”. In the scientific field of medicine in human, lifestyle related diseases such as obesity, arteriosclerosis and diabetes are thought to be influenced by the nutritional environment of the mother during the last stage of pregnancy and a baby during the postnatal early growth stage. From the previous research in animals, the fetal programming can be altered the endocrine function, and metabolic regulation such as increased insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, changes in muscle development, and altered adiposity in offspring of rodents, pig, sheep, and other breed of cattle.

Therefore, this experiment is the first or can call “original experiment” in beef wagyu, so I hope that my research will be a part of research and development for beef production improvement in the recent future. For the results of my research please kindly follow in next year.

## Vo Hong Tu

### Amazing experiences gained from international conferences

Firstly, on this occasion, I would like to express my deeply gratitude to my supervisor – Prof. Mitsuyasu YABE because I could not gain the below mentioned achievements without his kind supports.

During the first one year of studying in Laboratory of Environmental Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University under JDS program, I had three incredibly great chances to participate in famous international conferences, which were organized by the collaboration of many famous Japanese and international universities. Honestly, these conferences brought me not only globally emerging specified knowledge about my study field of environmental economics but also the ways how to prepare, perform, answer and deal with unexpected situations for my future possible presentations. After attending these conferences, I changed completely my outdated thoughts and approaches that I used before towards more holistic, systematic and dynamic ways when I consider or solve a certain obstacle of scientific research. In addition, I could realize and understand more clearly the meaning of the sentence *“We are only one small grain of sand in the Sahara Desert”*. From this, I become more motivated to listen carefully and learn more new things to fill in the huge gap of my knowledge. Especially, the conferences opened me some new interdisciplinary paths to better my master thesis of *“Environmental and economic efficiency of ecological engineering based rice production in Vietnam”*. Finally, I could also study many new trending approaches and research aspects or



directions for my future studies, which are strongly necessarily important for the development of my country. In conclusion, I totally believe that what I gained from these conferences will be helpful not only for my potentially future studies but also for the development of my country as well.

### Modern and interactive learning environment

For the first-time of my overseas study, I strongly impressed the learning environment of Kyushu University. The term environment here means organization and conditions. In fact, the lectures were organized interactively and suitably for international students to discuss and share their own experiences from different aspects of various countries. The lectures emphasize much on how to develop independent and individual research skills for each student. For example, the lecturer only introduce about the general concepts of emerging or globally trending research aspects and then students themselves will study more deeply if they are interested in. In addition, I were also admired that various lecturers from different specified aspects together collaboratively give one lecture. By doing this, students can access tremendous treasures of knowledge from various lecturers. Although I found some opposite ways of approaches of lecturers, based on these I can better my critical thinking skills and derive some new research approaches by combining them all. Regarding to the learning conditions in Kyushu University, I can say that I could get what I were looking for to modify and develop my master thesis. I could access freely many highly ranked international journals within the periphery of the university thanks to everywhere Wifi system availability. In conclusion, thanks to appropriately interactive and interdisciplinary organization of the lectures together with sufficient supporting conditions, I could gain much new specified knowledge and develop well my research capacity day by day. I entirely believe after two year of studying in Kyushu University, I could propose, coordinate and cooperate as well as conduct the research by myself.



## Nguyen Thi Ly

### Enjoy life in Japan

Time flies like an arrow! Since the day I came to Japan, it has been a nearly one year passed! Under Japan’s Grand Aide for Human Resource Development Program (JDS program), I have a chance to come, study and enjoy life in Japan. Firstly, from my deep heart, I would like to thank Japanese Government, Vietnamese Government in general for bilateral cooperation in education and Vietnam National University of Agriculture-



my work place, Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) Kyushu office and my supervisor – Professor Teruaki Nanseki in particular for their direct assists in my study in Kyushu University. Secondly, I would like to share my sweet feelings about my social life in Fukuoka and my academic life in Kyushu University.

#### **Social life in Fukuoka**

My wonderful living trip have been started from September, 2013 in Fukuoka. Firstly, I am very impressed to be living in Kyushu University International Student House (Kaikan) in Kashiihama where it takes about 20 minutes to go to Kyushu University at Hakozaki campus by bicycle and I lived in the 5 first months. It is very good, comfortable and convenient and must be difficult without living in here. I have many opportunities to make friend with other international students. In addition to, it is very convenient for living such as various supermarkets, parks, kinds of transport systems around for shopping, travelling and taking outdoor activities like sport, barbecue, etc.

Secondly, Fukuoka is very peaceful and beautiful place with many natural sightseeing for us to enjoy and explore the Japanese culture. During vacation I and my friends have been to some traditional places such as Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine on the New Year occasion and Ume flowers season or “Hanami” on the cherry blossom season at Fukuoka Castle Ruins. Furthermore, on the weekends, we often go to beautiful parks such as Uminonakamichi Koen for seeing many kinds of beautiful flowers like tulip, rose, cosmos, etc. As a matter of fact, the life in Fukuoka is very wonderful and I am very happy to live here.

#### **Academic life in Kyushu University**

As many other international students in the course of the International Development Research, in the first year, I have



studied almost subjects and have been conducting my research. The first thing I realized that Kyushu University is a very good university with good facilities, top good professors in the field of agriculture, etc. that why I can study as good as possible. Furthermore, I have chances to fill up my knowledge about Japanese agriculture with many field trips to factories, farms, etc. Besides, I can study a lot via seminar in my laboratory every week.

In sum up, both social and academic lives are experienced from nearly one year in Japan I can say that it is very awesome! Please come and enjoy it when you have a chance.

### **Mai Thi Ha**

#### **A memorable time in my life**

It’s almost one year since the first day I arrived Fukuoka. Time flies so fast but I have been able to keep many good memories. I started my student life at Kyushu University from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. I was arranged to stay in the dormitory for the first six months, as I needed time to familiar with the new life studying abroad. That is one of the good things about Kyushu University, and you will find many others after coming here.



My major is ruminant nutrition and my laboratory is not located in Fukuoka so my first semester passed through without any lab work. I was really worried about my research while seeing other friends busy with their experiment, but on the other hand I was busy study other needed module subjects and enjoyed studying Japanese and self-study time. My favorite place after attending lecture that time was the library. I can easily find textbook, magazine, journals and comfortably reading there. The Library Internet database is really great; I can access many famous journals with my student ID and the wireless free inside the campus and dormitory.

Smoothly finish my first semester; I stepped to the second semester marked by moving to live near my laboratory – Kuju mountain area – three hours by car from Fukuoka city. When you hear the word “mountain area”, a hard living condition will probably appear in your imagination, and that was my thought too before I moved there. However, after arriving and spend some months staying here, I feel fall in love with this area. Let me tell you the story: The real situation is not as hard as I imagined. I lived in a good apartment, 5km far from my laboratory and 2km from the town center-which has supermarket, bank, bus stop and post-office. My daily travel mean is an electric bike provided by the university, and I really enjoy my driving if it is not a rainy or snowing day. My laboratory located in Kuju plateau, surrounded by the beautiful nature, one side is mountain Kuju, and other side is immense grassland and on the far side is the shadow of Aso and other Mountains. On the way riding my bike from home to laboratory everyday, I feel like I’m living in the area of eco-



tourism. People in my laboratory are so kind to me, especially my teachers – Gotoh sensei and Takahashi sensei. Doing research is never easy, however, under my teacher’s instruction, I feel study is enjoyable most of the time. Further more, my laboratory is equipped well, I can conduct my research with good machines and facilities. There even has an Internet based TV system, so that I can attend the class from Hakozaki Campus without going to Fukuoka.

Beside study, I enjoy my holiday and weekend by party or travelling. There are beautiful parks everywhere in Japan, and my “mountain area” is not exception. I can go to see different kind of flower in different season just by 15 minutes cycling. If I need to feel the bustling of the city and party with my friends, the 1-year bus ticket can help to bring me to Fukuoka with a very reasonable price.

I must say, I’m happy studying in Kyushu University, Japan. Thanks to JDS for bring me this precious chance and thanks to family, teachers, friends and people around for helping me always and making my life interesting everyday.

## Nguyen Cong Thanh

### Feeling of Japan

It has been approximately one year since my first step on Japan, the country are known as Land of the Rising Sun. That is not quite a long time for my study as well as experiences in this land, but it is enough for me or anyone else living here, in my thought, to reveal some part of Japan: country and human beings.

My very first impression is the friendliness of the airport attendant when I landed to Kansai Airport. The officers helped and guided us, me and other JDS students, very carefully with beautiful smiles all the time. We then safely arrived to the hotel with warm welcome from JICE’s staffs, who have been taking care of us ever since. Looking back the old times, I was overwhelming gradually to cope with new living environment because of language barrier. Jokingly, whenever I went to shops and tried to communicate with Japanese, I could understand more how the disabilities, who are blind and deaf, feel. You can hear but can’t understand and vice versa. Luckily, initial time has passed and I have been also quickly accustomed with new life with lots of supports from friends and nice native-people.

I then started exploring Japan with a short trip to Kyoto, an old city, in my concept, with thousands of ancient temple. The beauty of those temples depicts pictures of a previous thousand year life of the former capital. Temples and shrines are the place where Japanese come and pray for their life, wishes which

maintain culture and spirits of Japan. Interestingly, I found it peaceful, and undisturbed in mind. Later on, some art museums were visited in Osaka, where I could follow historical flow and reach to Japanese derivative. At Osaka castle, exhibition illustrates historical stage of Japan, theories, and religious thinker as well. All above things made me understand more about Japanese culture and people.

### Life in Fukuoka



Open your eyes in early morning, I believe that you can feel at ease, for sure. It was the summer in September, when I have just moved to Fukuoka, and the weather was beautiful – the beautiful sunny summer weather that has the most charm in the country which is under Temperate Zone. However, neither the cold or hot weather could not degrade the fresh air. It seems to excite my spirit and refresh myself to start new day effectively.

The first time I arrived Fukuoka, I was thirsty for discovering the third largest island of Japan, named Kyushu Island. I firstly contacted to the former students in Kyushu University and had quick respond. We met and took a brief tour around the university. Generally, shops are various, the prices are “acceptable”, compared with some other big cities and transportation are so convenient. Tasting food is also one of the way to enjoy life. Japanese cuisine is mouthwatering, for examples sushi, natto, udon noodle, ramen. I have tried several kinds of food and found them delicious.

Furthermore, tourist attractions were one of my plan to discover this land. Daizafu temple, Fukuoka Castle, Hakozaki Shrines were wonderful places to visit. After winter has gone, Cherry Blossom viewing was certain can-not-do-activity when you lived in not only Fukuoka but also in Japan as a whole. Cherry Blossom view is probably the most memorable in my life here because of the beautiful nature which I can’t find nowhere. Moreover, I found interesting in the way that the Japanese enjoy life after hardworking days. People come together to parks, public areas to view the flowers, have lunch together, and chat. People are becoming closer and closer.

### Life in Kyushu University

University life is always excited and so Kyushu University is. If someone else has a chance to study in this educational environment, he will easily become an enthusiastic person. Annually, thousands of international students come to study under various programs, both indoor and outdoor. I myself enjoyed a lot of field trips which are held to help students come closer to practices and get more experiences. Furthermore, several events of sports, music or art activities yearly organized

seem to be an effective connected strings, based on which, I could make friends worldwide and exchange cultures.

Moreover, Kyushu is also convenient place with fully supported services for necessary social life's demand. After studying or doing experiments, I am able to quickly have lunch at canteen or green ground with my friends, or probably to play sports as well as to drink coffee at cafeteria. Those all helps me for relaxing after stressful studying time.

Nevertheless, the most interesting impression is that I have revealed here is the delightful academic life. Recalling to the first step on this university, I was impressed by the huge of material resources with thousands of books of distinguishable fields in various languages. CDs and other borrowable equipment are also available for support. At laboratory, I have been helped carefully and enthusiastically by my supervisor, Katsumi Doi, Senior Assistant Professor and other lab-mates which I can do my research smoothly.

## **Tran Viet Phuong**

### **Japan – Apple of my eye**



“Your twenties are a prime time to explore and grow, without all the baggage that comes with settling down and making your mark”. I don't remember where I could read this inspired sentence, but I believe that studying in Japan makes my twentysomething awesome. I have opportunity to explore life in such a way I used to dream about. I could have many new friends in JDS program from different countries with different languages but we had a memorable time together in Osaka before coming to Kyushu University. In academic life, beginning time is always difficult to adapt with new study environment, especially with language barrier. However, this makes me stronger and more mature. Moreover, Kyushu University is such an ideal academic environment for anyone who wants to develop their high education. I can freely access to enormous scientific journal websites to expanding knowledge in my specific field and find ample valued books in the university library. Besides, I have chance to do researches with sufficient facilities in my laboratory. More importantly, being supervised by Professor Mitsuhiro



Furuse – Laboratory of Regulation on Metabolism and Behaviors is a milestone in my research path. He not only instructs me with valued scientific knowledge but trains me to become a confident researcher as well. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Professor for his great support. Also, I want to give my big thank to Assoc. Prof.Dr. Vishwajit Sur Chowdhury who always helps me in my research experiments. In daily life, I want to give my sincere thanks to JICE (Japanese International Cooperation Center) staff for their always thoughtful care and supports. Life in a foreign country becomes easier.

JDS program brought me a golden chance to experience study life in such a wondrous country like Japan. In my point of view, Japan has woven many interesting characteristics thought out the nation that make the country unique. For the beginning, Japanese people impress me by their elegant and accommodating manner. Their smiles with me and their fine care of me attenuate the lonely feeling when living in a foreign country. I can even feel the kindness and open-heartedness of Japanese everywhere I go in Japan. Second, Japanese working spirit strongly influences my studying and doing scientific research in a way that I can achieve valued experiences even though sometime it is really hard. However, it is worth being strongly immersed in pursuing my interested field in such an international academic environment. It is difficult to tell about the insight of Japan life in a passage. In short, the peacefulness of living place, the politeness of people and the beauty of nature inspire me to enjoy every moment of my study life in Japan.

## **PRUM Viseth**

### **JUST COME AND ENJOY IT**

First of all, I would like to express my thankfulness to the government of Cambodia and the government of Japan that allow and provide me a great opportunity to pursue my master degree under Japanese Grand Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Program.

### **My life in Japan**

My first arrival August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 I was excited and warm welcome from JICE coordinators. I spent about 3 weeks in Osaka prefecture to attend the orientation with around 100 international students organized by JICE. The orientation presented about the overview of Japan, how to study, how to live, and how to survive from disaster and made friendship among international students. It is my first time to pay attention with natural disasters training, particularly earthquake and typhoon. I practiced fire attacked fleeing, fire prevention using extinguisher, earthquake prevention



and typhoon prevention at the disaster prevention center in Kyoto prefecture.

After I arrived in Fukuoka city where Kyushu University located; I am very impress once I first see natural landscape of Fukuoka city even Japan is technological country but its keep naturally and everything was designed to take care of its people. JICE coordinator helped to access all living condition and guided me how to use public transportation. With this well orientation I felt warming welcome and I can live easily with new system by no fear of making any mistakes against Japan law. In dormitory, I stayed in share room with my friends, by living with them made me know how to live as a union. So we could help and assist each other and made communication with international students. Moreover, I had a great chance to join overnight home stay with a Japanese family arranged by Hippo family club. It was a very good time to exchange culture and visited Japanese cultural places. Otherwise, I had a chance to try Japanese hot spring; it was my first experience and I felt so fresh after took bath. Another thing, one night in March 2014 I have experienced with real earthquake about 2 minutes but it was not so strong.

Under support from JICE coordinator and friends, I could access to live very close to Hakozaki campus. It is easy to go to university and market by walk or bicycle; it is not far from train stations. There are many public parks around my apartment and I often go there. I observed that Japanese people are kind, helpful, and respect each other. I take my rest time for shopping, playing sport, cooking, cycling around my apartment, fishing, and visit some sightseeing places. Moreover, I can have delicious and safe food. Otherwise, winter season is so fantastic for me to experiences with cold temperature around 0°C and see snow falling down. In addition, Cherry blossom is so beautiful. On the other hand, Japan has very good transportation system. It is so convenience and I usually use subway and JR to visit sightseeing places. Market system is so developed and located in every place. I can enjoy shopping and order from online with many kinds of goods and many options with suitable prices. My challenging in daily life is Japanese language because communication and fill in documents have to do in Japanese language but I get help from my friends and university.

#### **My academic life**

My academic life started since the day of entrance ceremony for fall semester in October 1, 2013. All lectures for master course are conducted in English. I took many subjects and some subjects are very useful for my research such as statistic, agricultural economics and research methodology. Study life always faces with new things and I have to challenge with them.

Self-study is necessary and group study also important to share and learn from each other so I have spent much time in library.

Regular seminar in laboratory is conducted every week. This is a very useful activity to improve our research. Every student has to present his/her research. It is good opportunity to practice and show our research progress. After presentation, questions, comments, suggestions, and recommendations from friends and professors have become high value and good guidance to improve our research. I am assigned to give presentation once per three weeks. I receive Professors' recommendations and lab mates' comments so I can learn from my mistake and improve it. In the seminar, I can ask questions and give comments to other lab mates. I can learn many things such as ideas, methods and techniques. From these activities, I can make research thesis improve day by day. I would like show my gratitude to Professors in my laboratory. They teach and give me very good recommendations and offer opportunities for me to attend domestic and international seminar. In this laboratory, everyone is very kind and helpful each other.

Beside studying and seminar in my lab, I had a chance to visit Fukushima and Tokyo as a part of my research purpose and participated in the international symposium. Furthermore, I have opportunities to join excursion provided by university to visit ASO Mountain, Ajinomoto factory, ASHAMI factory, Japanese Sake, and terrace rice transplanting.

Being a student of Food and Agricultural Policies laboratory of Kyushu University make me feel excited and preferable. I am strongly hope that I can bring good knowledge, practice, and experience from what I have learnt and I am willing to use those thing to help my home country after graduation from this laboratory.

## **KONG SOTHEA**

### **Introduction**

Initially, let me introduce myself. I am Kong Sothea, a JDS fellow in batch 13, from Cambodia and presently, I have been working as an administrative staff at Kampot Provincial Department of Agriculture where is located in the northern part of Cambodia. Nowadays, I am the first year student of master course at Kyushu University and also I am belonging



to the laboratory of agriculture and farm management. Before expressing my impression, I would like to express my felt-heart thanks to JDS program who provided me the best opportunity to absorb auspicious knowledge and study abroad, especially in developed countries like Japan where is my favorite country that I dreamt to pursue my study since I was a student at



junior school. Furthermore, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my supervisor Professor Dr. Teruaki NANSEKI who selected me for laboratory of agriculture and farm management at Kyushu University. It is certainly true that the field that I have been studying is related to my present background even agricultural field. In doing so, let me describe more details about my impression in study activities and social life in Japan. For study in Kyushu University, genuinely, I attended and took many special subjects which I reckon that they were very good and very useful as many lecturers and professors were very professional, high qualified and excellent experienced. Moreover, the point that I never forget is the lecturers are very skillful and specialized in their subjects and also they are very generous, respectful and friendly. After ending the class, I participated in agriculture farm which guided by my supervisor and other lecturers. Therefore, the important thing that I would like to ascertain is the real practices which related to the aforementioned subjects in the class are very crucial and necessary for my present and future research. For instance, I visited Kamo and Kubota farm which belonged to Japanese farmers. It makes me realize that the system of Japanese farm and the knowledge of Japanese farmers are very brilliant as they can manage farm effectively whereas different from farmers in my country, Cambodia. The meaning that I would like to add is that Cambodian farmers and farm systems recently are still poor and also lack of techniques. Thus, they need for help necessarily. As you are aware, I had another visit in rice planting on the beautiful terrace in Ukiha area where rice crops were grown by using plentiful irrigation system and controlled by well-educated and highly professional Japanese farmers. The farmers can produce the quality of agricultural products and also the products will be sold out at local markets which created and supported by Japanese government. Furthermore, all agricultural products are very fresh after harvesting and healthy for food consumers. Besides, I visited Japanese wine production and Ajinomoto companies



which those of them were closely to the given lectures that I had obtained in the class. After field visit, I participated in a conference focused on agriculture which celebrated in Kobe University in March. Obviously, I gain a very good knowledge of new researches conducted by many researchers who came from different countries. Therefore, I think that it is very good system of learning and education that I can exactly enhance and develop my knowledge and capacity due to the receiving of new knowledge from the researchers and real practices not only in the class but also in the field.

On the plus side, for social life, I have joined the culture exchange with Japanese people, for example; I more often join Hippo family that I can show and share my tradition and culture style with them as well as other foreign participants. Furthermore, I am very proactive in learning and sharing experiences mutually with them as it is very good communication and social life activities. Also, what I remember is that learning how to make traditional cakes during traditional ceremony with Hippo family would assist me learning more and more about Japanese culture, custom and tradition. It is very good memories and warm communication as I can build up a good network and share my own social experiences with them. Additionally, I notice that Japanese people are very polite, friendly, honest and respectful, for example; they are very respectful in driving, travelling or speaking. To be a part of social activities, I was selected for a member of Cambodian Student Association in Kyushu (CSAK) which created and represented by Cambodian students in Fukuoka prefecture. Thus, I could work properly in performance of Cambodian traditional dance and culture sharing with Japanese people and other international people. Moreover, I prefer to study and live in Japan profoundly as everything is very safe and hygienic. For instance, food is very nutritious, safe and healthy for consumption. Also, I like the environment in Japan as it is very clean, beautiful and attractive. As I recognize, Japanese people are very careful in maintaining the environment that I would like to learn and follow their pattern and hopefully, I will contribute those manners to people in my country. As a result, I am very satisfied and adorable in study and social life in Japan due to the developed country that I am really appreciate very much not only in high-tech technology but also in respectful people. Last but not least, I do hope that I will devote my time to study hard and try to learn a lot from Japan and also I expect strongly that I will gain a very good success in my study in order to develop and assist my country in the sooner future.

## **TAING Koungveng**

Time keeps moving and it does not wait for us. Based on time limitation, it ensures I am on the half way of my two-years master. In my personal view, for a part of Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) annual report, it is a right time to recall my memories after arrival in Japan and show how the student life in Japan is. Let me remind that Japan is a country I want to study the most. JDS program provide me a great opportunity not only study in school but also in real society. After being selected, I were arranged to depart for Japan in August 2013. Not differ with previous batches, Osaka, a big city in Kansai, is my first stay in Japan. Staying a couple weeks in Osaka, It was not a serious time; overall orientation,



particularly the way to prevent our own self from natural disaster was provided. More than the workshop, we had created a very pleasure time together with friends from various countries and home country by traveling to some nearby cities including Kobe and Kyoto. However, We could not stay together for longer. We were dispatched group by group to assigned university. My turn as well as group to Kyushu University in Fukuoka had come.

I think because of its history, Fukuoka is not a well-known city like Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Tokyo and Kyoto. But for me, it is really a good place in term of population, natural disaster and so on. Just about 3 hours by Shinkansen, I had arrived at Fukuoka with an exciting feeling while I had never experienced with such rapid train before. I felt released when I met my seniors and I got many support from them.

For the first 6 months, same as other new international enrollment student, I was accepted to stay at dormitory. Luckily, I was arranged to stay at a family room with other two friends from the same nation. Of course, it was really convenience for us while we have same culture, speak same language and so on. It is the rule; we have to move to an apartment. With coordination from JICE staff, I found a nice apartment where is very close to the university and convenience store. Living alone is not my challenge, because I get used to such life since I was in my country, Cambodia.

The academic started in early October. I was assigned to be a member of irrigation and water management laboratory. Taking this time, I am very grateful to my professor, Dr. Yoshiyuki SHINOBI and Dr. Tetsuro FUKUDA for his assistance, guidance, and advice for academic as well as daily life. Not only the professor, but also lab mates are kind and helpful.

I have started doing my experiment for my research since June. However, let me return back to the first semester of the year. I did not focus much on research, but on lecture – 12 credits is required at least. Japanese class is not compulsory, but for me, I have been attending this class for daily life and common communication with local people. In linkage with school lecture, many study trips were prepared specially for JDS student; like beer brewery, Sake manufacturing, strawberry farm, rice transplanting etc. Through this trip, I understand more about Japan and I realized how beautiful landscape of Japan is. Japanese people, they of course do just for fun and experiences, but it seem likely that Japanese people as well as famers keep conserving and practicing the traditional way for rice production like rice transplanting even this country have been producing many kind of agricultural machinery.

Beside schoolwork, I sometime take my time to understand Japanese culture, society, food, Japanese people and so on. I used to stay over night at Mrs. Hiroko Yamashita family, called homestay, coordinated by Hippo family. I was warmly welcomed and taken care. I am sure to say Japanese people are kind, endurance and helpful. During the stay, I knew the Japanese custom like bathroom, food etc. Japanese food was served. Most students worry about food when they are out of their home country. For me, I am not hesitated to say I immediately like Japanese food, known as the healthy food like Sushi and Sashimi.

I do not forget to view about road traffic. This country has good road traffic condition. Public transport, bus, train or subway is functioning well through out the country. In addition, drivers properly stop when the pedestrians or cyclists are crossing, or are about to cross. Interestingly, I felt surprised when I was informed about bicycle stealing at the orientation of safe cycling. I could find my wallet at front desk, when I noticed it had been dropped at central library of Kyushu University, but I still could not find my umbrella, stolen at Kaikuza station (笑) .

In general, JDS program provide me a great opportunity to benefit not only knowledge, skill, practice but also culture, society, people and so on. Furthermore, being as a student in Kyushu University of Fukuoka is enjoyable and have no much doubt while I get support and assistance from JICE, friends and my kind professors.

At my final point, I hope I will consume my last one-year to learn and understand more including Japanese ability through course lecture, research work, observation and the involving in real situation in Japan.



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