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eVISION

Graduate School of Engineering
Hokkaido University, N13-W8, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8628,
JAPAN



English Engineering
Education Program

SEPT.–OCT. 2016



English Engineering
Education Program



VISION

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Announcement

From The Editor

We want our magazine to be a fun and interesting mean of communication between students, staff and alumni, and hope that we can exchange different experiences as part of the e³ community. For this, we would like to invite you to participate in our next issue by submitting a short article about the topic of your choice.

Following are some suggestions, but any new idea is welcome:

Experiences :

(share your experience in Japan, in Hokkaido University, tell us about your research, work experience, seminars, etc.)

Food :

(tell us about your favorite Japanese food, share recipes from your country, tell us about special food only found during festivals, etc.)

Social activities :

(what are your hobbies? Tell us what kind of activities you like to engage in, give us an insight in your favorite activities in Japan, etc.)

Travel :

(share pictures and experiences you've had while visiting Hokkaido or Japan, recommend places from your country, etc.)

Leisure :

(share jokes, fun facts, crosswords, etc.)

Finally, show your talent with the camera by submitting your favorite picture to be published in our magazine. No writing is required, just a title and the date and place of shooting.

Guidelines:

Note: (Please try to keep your article about one A4 page long, and include pictures where possible (if they are not your own, please provide the source).

The deadline to include your article in the June eVISION edition is May 30, but those sent afterwards will be saved for our next issue.

Please submit by e-mail to evision2015@gmail.com.



FROM THE EDITORS

Thanks to e³ for offering a platform like e-vision to share the experience and views of students. We really enjoyed our editorial tasks and learnt a lot from our colleagues since 2014. All of them are admirable presenters of their views, they spent much time to shape the e-vision magazine and we acknowledge extended support for us as well as e-vision all the times. As we are the editors of e-vision, the e-vision team barely needed the assistance or any kind of help etc. The whole work has been done earlier and being done at present by ourselves (e³ students) and as we mentioned earlier, we enjoyed a lot being a part of this team. It may be mentioned here that this will be the last issue for the present Editorial Team and finally, thanks, every student, members and staff for keeping patience all the time with us and for your instrumental suggestions to select a topic of interest and encouragement to write on our own. Lastly, we wish your career and personal life to be a pleasure of success, prosperity and forever happiness! May you be happy forever! All the best!

To Next Generation

Natalya Shmakova
Coordinator
English Engineering Education Program

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to September Graduates! Just in a few days at the commencement ceremony 29 students will be conferred their well-deserved Master's and Phd degrees.

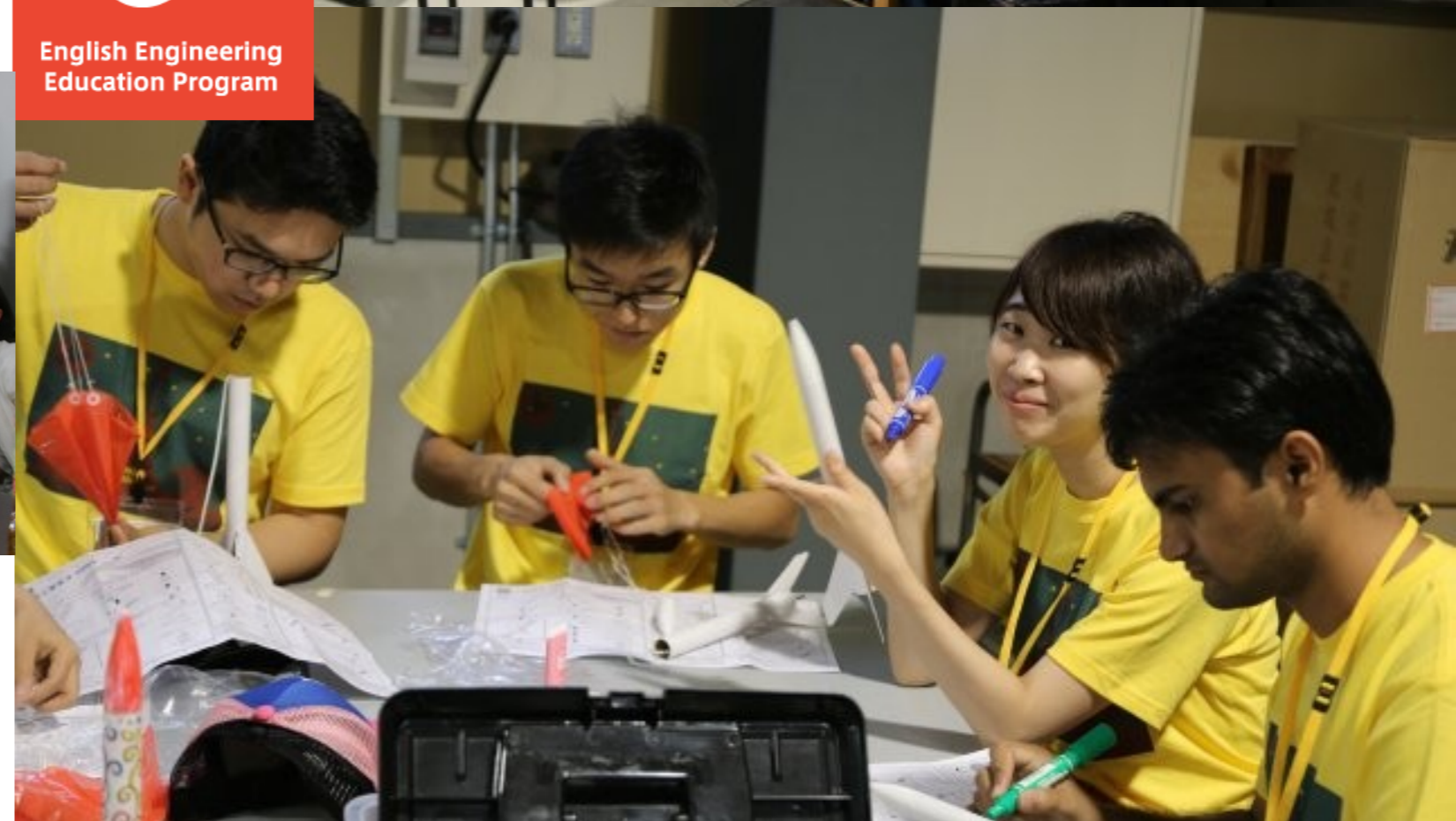
To 25 of them we are saying goodbye, but four of Master's course graduates are staying with e3 for Phd program. Soon we are welcoming 45 students from 23 countries who are joining Master's and PhD programs under e3, two of whom are transferring from Japanese course.

It's a pleasure to witness e3 expanding in different directions - reaching new laboratories within Graduate School of Engineering and our alumni flying over to all corners of the world to fulfill their dreams, creating new bridges to Japan and Hokkaido University.

I hope that besides obtaining cutting edge knowledge and professional skills, building professional network our graduates will carry back home expanded worldviews, lifelong

friendships and unforgettable memories!

I would like to thanks e-VISION team, whose two members Chief Editor Sajal and Associate Editor Maria are graduating this September and thank for their efforts to bring e-vision back to life.



“The Cauvery: A source of drinking water, irrigation and now a party-political godsend”

As this will be the last editorial issue of our team, I come up with an accountable, interesting as well as hot topic of international interest. Many of the students from developed nations may find this mind-numbing and vague since this is not a common issue they make out. But for developing countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Guatemala etc. the sharing of river water among the territories is being a big problem for decades. As we are burgeoning engineers of the decade a thought provoking solutions from our side is essential for the national and international disputes of any kind. I take this as an opportunity to put my views on the century-long river water sharing dispute of my country.



Srikrishnan Siva Subramanian

Ph.D. Student
Laboratory of Analytical Geomechanics,
Graduate School of Engineering,
Hokkaido University

The sharing of waters of the Cauvery River is a serious conflict for about a century between the **Indian** states of **Karnataka** and **Tamil Nadu**. The dawn of this conflict evolved from two agreements made in 1892 and 1924 between the erstwhile Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu) and Princely State of Mysore (Now Karnataka). The 802 kilometres Cauvery River has 44,000 km² basin area in Tamil Nadu and 32,000 km² basin area in Karnataka. Karnataka resists that it does not receive its due share of water from the river. It claims that the agreements were skewed heavily in favour of Tamil Nadu and has demanded a renegotiated settlement based on "equitable sharing of the waters". Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, implores that it has already developed almost 3,000,000 acres (12,000 km²) of land and as a result has come to depend very heavily on the existing pattern of usage. Any change in this pattern, it says, will adversely affect the livelihood of millions of farmers in the state. Being an agriculture country, India depends on the wellness of cultivation for the productivity and due to the major climatic changes occurred in this century, the monsoon discrepancies influences the water availability in a major way.



Sketch showing the basin area of river Cauvery; Picture copy-right (@Maps of India)

As I belong to the state Tamil Nadu, I could mention the following points.

As the Tamil Nadu government claims, the entire agriculture on the Cauvery of Tamil Nadu relies upon the river water.

But it is the mistake of the state government that they did not make any effort for the storage or alternative sources of irrigation during periods of drought.

Since the independence of India at 1947, the Tamil Nadu state government has not done any efficient work for the alternative arrangements from their side but kept on demanding the required water from Karnataka there and then there was a requirement.

As many of my friends belong to the state Karnataka, I asked about their views as mentioned below.

Karnataka government had given the required amount of water whenever there was sufficient storage.

During the time of extreme drought, our government urges its neighbour to share the water with a revised scale based on the present availability of water.

On an engineering point of view, the following statement could be cited as a solution.

The solution to the Cauvery water dispute depends on inherent in a sector where "engineering and technology aspects dominate management and decision-making approaches". The fixation with absolute volumes or quantities of waters based on the drainage area is illogical and provisions for water allocation mechanisms in the event of extreme climate variations is crucial to the success of a water sharing agreement.

Belonging to a developing country, our people face many issues in daily life. This water dispute is one such thing that hinders everyone's mind right now. As people in India are settled in a linguistic manner, the passion i.e. my language, my society and my state etc. indulges the mind and on an extreme scale, it ends in violence against one another. I could deliberately mention a point here that my opinion about my neighbouring countries i.e. **Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal** had changed a lot after I came to Japan and met with fellow country people and now I understand the flaws made by my government as well. **You will well know about your country once you see it from another!** This experience gained from my friends of other nationalities made me to think with the sense of pragmatism and to analyse the political contexts clearly. I request all our e³ students to come up with some topics of social interest to discuss through **e-vision**. National or international politics are always a topic of disinterest for engineers but the key solution for large scale problems where technology is credible should come from the engineers of the present generation.

Further discussions on the topic are happily greeted (srikrishnansharma@gmail.com). Many thanks for your patience in reading this!

Internship in Japanese Company



Being foreign students

in Hokkaido University, we have many wonderful experiences as part of our academic work or leisure, but only few chances to know how the environment is in a Japanese company. Fortunately, I was able to have this experience, albeit for a very short time. For privacy reasons, I cannot disclose the name of the company, but I can share a bit of my impressions during these two weeks of internship.

The internship was held in the Hokkaido Branch of a company with over 100 years history. In this office in Sapporo, they handle business with many different companies and government offices, and I was able to visit some of them, to learn about their activities, sale products, and services. Additional to these visits, I did a market research on a topic of interest for the company, and at the end of the internship period I did a short presentation.

I can now count these two weeks as one of my best experiences in Japan. The most scary but also interesting part is that there were no other foreigners around, and so I had to rely on my *low* Japanese skills to communicate; fortunately, a few of the office workers were able to speak English and they were very kind to help me, and also very keen to practice the language themselves.

It seems more Japanese companies are trying to expand into a global company, and for this they need to learn other languages and receive feedback from foreigners. They asked me many questions about my impressions of Japan, and also about my country: the touristic spots, culture, schedule, working habits, and so on. We even had a few sessions to learn Spanish!

I also saw firsthand the commitment each worker has to the company, putting extra hours to finish the work, and in general doing every activity the best way they could; and of course the reciprocity from their bosses to create an environment of team work and sincerity. These are good lessons that we can apply into our daily lives and future work back in our countries.

My recommendation to current and future students in Hokudai is, first, to learn Japanese as this will give you many opportunities to enjoy life in this wonderful country; and second, to seize every chance of doing something new and different, as these experiences will stay with you forever.

Sajal Chowdhury



I came to Japan for my research study (M.Eng.) in October 2014 after my M.Arch from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology. I fully remembered my first day in Japan. The day was so beautiful and full of moments. I could not ignore the green and yellow mixed gorgeous outside, although I was so tired after a long journey from Bangladesh to Hokkaido. I was so happy to see my supporter helpful and kind smile always on his face and was very grateful to e³ for arranging this kind of perfect management for me. From the very first day of my life here in Sapporo, I always found the smiley face of all staffs who are working at e³ for us whole day long. I would like to convey my thanks and gratefulness to e³ who gave me this great opportunity to study here and to become a member of prestigious Hokkaido University and special thanks goes to Natalya Shmakova (Coordinator e³) with all the members of e³ for their kind supports and cooperation in every time. My supervisor Yasuhiro HAMADA, Professor, Laboratory of Environmental Ergonomics, Division of Human Environmental Systems (HES), Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University, Japan, first and foremost, I am grateful to him for giving me this wonderful opportunity to work on this topic. I am obliged to him for his continued guidance, support and tireless faith throughout the research as supervisor without which my research work would never have met a completion. I am ought to thank Prof. Hamada who accepted me in his lab and supervised me kindly, positively and patiently. Within this two years, I have learnt a lot from him about research techniques in different ways in where cultivate good qualities in learning and researching. It is very pleasure to me that he gave me much more opportunity to research in the laboratory of my own interest and so that, we have already published one of our international journal paper (Energy & Buildings) and waiting for others. I would like to convey my special thanks to all the members of 'Laboratory of Environmental Ergonomics', Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University, Japan, specially Daichi Saito, Yuji Shibata, Hiroki Sato, Yuuki Ohmae, Namioka Yu, Zhu Chu, Takurou Yamada, Mr. Akihiro Fukuzawa, and Miki Yanagimachi who have provided assistance in numerous ways and beside me in every difficulties. I am really proud of them and will miss you lot. This program gave me the great opportunity to stay with my family, wife Dr. Srabanti Karmakar during my study period and never felt alone and always consider my difficulties. After graduating this 26 September 2016, really and badly, miss you e³ community. Take care always and remember me forever.



Asano Oiwa

Tell about yourself (your education + career+ etc.)

Nice to meet you, everyone! My name is Asano Oiwa. I'm working at e3 office from this April. Please let me introduce myself.

I'm from Noboribetsu, Hokkaido where is famous for very good quality onsen (hot springs)! I recommend you to come visit Noboribetsu onsen once in your life in Hokkaido.

After the graduation from high school in my home town, I proceeded to Otaru University of Commerce and met a good teacher of English there. In his class, speaking Japanese was prohibited and I learned English for communication for the first time. I realized that even though I had studied English for about 15 years, I cannot communicate in English well at all. Until then, English classes were just for exams, we only studied vocabularies and grammar, and rarely spoke in English in the classes. A lot of Japanese students know many difficult vocabularies that are not used in daily life, and also can understand difficult sentences, however they cannot speak English well due to Japanese education system.

The teacher recommended me to study abroad in Australia for a month. I really enjoyed the life in new country with new people, and decided to apply for exchange program to New Zealand. The life in New Zealand is unforgettable and precious memory of my life.

After the graduation from university, I was thinking that I want to experience many kinds of jobs. I started to work as a programmer at first because I wanted to try entirely new thing. After that, I enrolled into school of hair and make-up, and have worked at wedding photo studio and cosmetic shops for 3 years. I really love beauty and cosmetics since I was a child, so that kind of job was so enjoyable for me.

Some think it's good to continue same job for a long time, but I'm really happy that I could experience a lot of jobs that I have wanted to try, and could get skills and meet many kinds of people through work!

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Why are you interested in this job?

Since I got warm support from International Office of my university to go studying abroad, supporting international students was one of the jobs I wanted to experience someday. I like university. I can feel freedom here. Students are studying what they want to study, drinking when they want to drink, trying new things without concerns, and dreaming about their future. I feel I can get energy from them! Besides, I knew Hokkaido University as really beautiful place. I enjoy the way to office every day. That I can improve my English through working was also really attractive for me.

What are the main objectives of the role?

I help applicants of e3 program with application procedure. (Collecting necessary application documents, VISA procedure, arrangement of dormitory and air ticket etc.)

I also support enrolled e3 students in order that they can enjoy their school life without concerns. I'm glad if you come talk to me when you have any concerns or questions. e3 also hold many events such as welcome party, BBQ, sports day, etc. I'm now helping for field trip to Akabira and Furano in late August.

What was the last book you read? Movie you saw? Sporting event you attended?

Sporting event: It is not exactly a sporting event, but I joined outdoor music festival "JOIN ALIVE" in Iwamizawa at the middle of July. This event is held for 2 days and more than 70 musicians and 36,000 people join. You can enjoy music lives under the sun all day! You can enjoy the event as you want, for example, there is comfortable lawn in front of main stage, so you can take a nap with good music when you are drunk and tired. Food is one of the attraction as well. There are a lot of shops of delicious local foods of Hokkaido. You can also camp there during the night if you want. I recommend you to join this event once in your life in Hokkaido!



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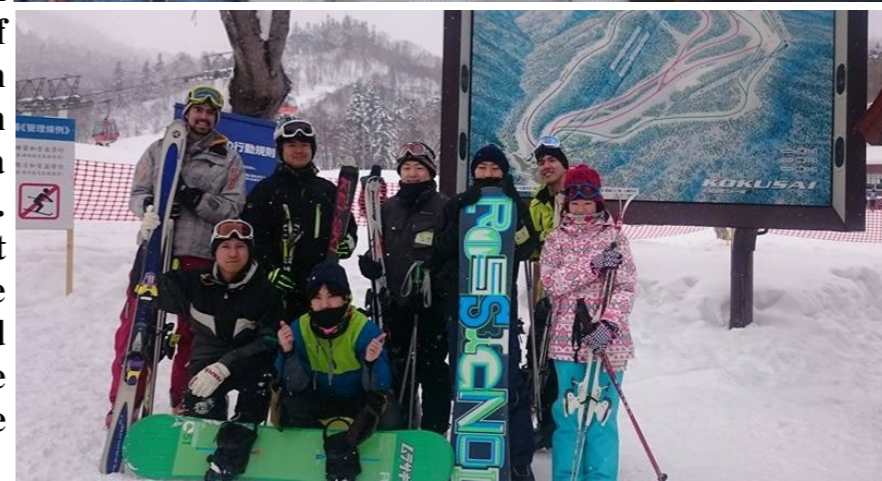


I'm a master student in Environmental Systems at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico and I arrived to Japan on January 2016 in order to perform a research internship of 6 months. Although I was exchange student at Georgia Southern University in the U.S.A. during my Bachelor studies, and already had the opportunity to be immersed in other culture, Japan gave me a different perspective of life.

My experience in Hokkaido University as a research intern has been no more than a pleasant surprise. To start off, the idea I had about Japanese people is that they tend to be very competitive (specially with foreigners) and more oriented to work individually. Gladly, I couldn't be more wrong. When I arrived to the Sanitation Engineering laboratory and was introduced to Dr. Naoyuki Funamizu, I was pleased by his warmth welcome and moreover, students from the lab were kind and really took their time to explain to me the rules of the lab (specially Kaneko-san, Wakana-chan, Megumi-chan and Fujioka chan), they took me to the cafeteria and taught me how to order chuu, shou and dai size of raizu, and they even prepared a welcome party for me at a Japanese style restaurant. Funny enough, they explained to me how to ski even though it was my reckless decision to try it being my first time to see snow ever! From this small but significant details, I knew I arrived to the right place.



In what concerns the laboratory work - I couldn't be more satisfied. The fact that students work independently and are allowed to use all the equipment is something to reckon with because it has given me more confidence in what I do.



Another important thing that I discovered whilst traveling around the country is the unique Japanese culture – people are very proud of where they come from no matter how globalized are the countries nowadays. It is a very interesting contrast to see the high-technology areas such as Shibuya and Shinjuku in Tokyo, and then move to the Todai-ji and KiyomizuDera in Nara and Kyoto, respectively, to enjoy old temples and shrines. Being able to find the deepest of traditions dating back thousands of years has given me the opportunity to learn about this country more than ever. This is part of what makes it such a fascinating country to visit.



Overall, these six months in Japan have been one of the most fruitful experiences in my life, not only for what I've learnt, but also for the wonderful people and beautiful places I've seen. Even though I do not speak the language, I do believe there is no translation for friendship. These memories will stay in my heart forever.





Mari Sasaki

INTERVIEW

Tell about yourself (your education + career+ etc.)

My name is Mari Sasaki and I've started working in International Affairs Office of Engineering since April 2016. Before I came to this office, I was used to work in the commercial photography and movie studio as a lighting staff to assist photographers in Tokyo. During my life in Tokyo, I started having a desire to go back and work in Sapporo where I grew up, in addition, I also started having a desire to work in Hokkaido University where has many attractive professors, students, and faculties in this very beautiful campus. Eventually I made my dream come true. My hobby is camping, snowboarding, and going to concerts.

Why are you interested in this job?

I'm believing in that if professors and students could get their research forward, it also means it's getting close the solutions which we "human beings" still don't have answers about. The reason why I'm interested in this job is that, if I would be able to assist professors and students in any ways and if they feel comfortable enough with the support, they might be able to proceed their research further more and it might solve problems we have in this world. And I like it.

What are the main objectives of the role?

So far, I had been working on mainly about procedures for the students who are wishing to get scholarships. And there are many different kinds of jobs our office is in charge of. Through our job as a team, I'm wishing to make our office more and more to be the place for professors and students where makes you feel stopping by somehow. (Maybe it's because they feel comfortable with our office, or maybe it's because they feel our team is reliable, maybe sometimes it's because they feel like to chat with us...)

What can you do for e3 family that someone else can't do?

I'm sorry to say but I still haven't figured out what I can do for e3 to contribute, which others can't do.

What do you find most attractive/least attractive here?

I believe having friends from different countries might be able to teach you something you've never thought. Being in e3 will give you chances to come to know many friends from different countries. I find it the most attractive aspects of e3.

What was the last book you read? Movie you saw? Sporting event you attended?

Book: Out on a Limb By Shirley Maclaine

Movie: Still Alice

Sport event: sports meeting of Engineering

What is the toughest part of a job for you?

To find the answers for the questions which I've never faced.

Are you creative? How much creative for e3?

I'm sorry to say but I still haven't found out the creative ability of myself for contributing to e3.

In your current or last position, what are or were your most significant achievements?

In these 4 months, I went through some procedures about different kinds of scholarship to recommend you as great students, and these days I'm getting some of the results. I was so glad when I figured out all the students passed the screening about some scholarships. Of course that is not my achievement at all, but it's the achievement of students' efforts for their research and study, and that could make themselves to get scholarship. But still it is very happy for me to be related to this job.

What changes have you made in working with others to become more effective at work?

I'm trying to go out with my coworkers to have diner together as much as possible if there are chances. Chatting with colleagues about our job, sometimes about colleagues' hobbies and so on (about anything is fine), can make our relationship better and I believe that strengthen our ability as a team to achieve something.





Plot:

It's a warm story of work and love. Yoon, a freelance graphic designer, spends days and night editing photos for magazines and advertisements. Although having a good reputation in his field, the fear of being replaced in the fierce competition pushed him working every day and everywhere, even at the funeral of a friend's father. His life was full of deadlines. But one day, after several sleepless nights, an annoying skin rash appearing on his neck totally messed up his busy schedule.

Imm, a young doctor, works in public hospital. She tried her best, hoping to treat this crazy working man. She suggested him to take medicine, quit his favorite food, spend his limited time to exercise and the most important—sleep early. Obviously, it's impossible for this man.

Yoon appreciated Imm for her friendly advice and concerning. He didn't want to make her disappointed, but still could not put the work beside when facing the deadlines fulfilling his calendar. Struggling between overwhelming work and gradually weaker body, this superman finally fell down after more than 10 day's work without sleep. On the brink of death, he suddenly understood what is the most important for him, not work, but the people whom he loves and who love him.

Recommendation reason:

This movie has no exciting story, but a little bit romantic, a little bit bitter, touching the heart. Many people like Yoon, live under high pressure, work very hard, sometimes ignore that there is something else more meaningful in the life, maybe health, maybe family, maybe the girl you



FILM by Yan MA



HEART ATTACK

Country: Thailand
Release time: 2015



Tahereh's Column



TIME IS FLYING

Time is flying and I'm close to my future plan as a PhD student. Living abroad, in Japan, broadened my point of view to life a lot. I touched this country and this society closely and I could realize its different aspects such as social, educational, and technological ones. I believe Japan is the country of quality and Japanese people are so nice, polite and respectable even though it doesn't mean that there's no sign of problems here. Actually there's no "perfect" in the world and totally based on my personality and my thoughts I can say I love Japan and I would like to live here more if I can pass my private and work life. Meeting various famous companies in my field here was a great honor for me and I could realize the huge difference between developed and developing countries. I learned a lot here and yet I am eager to learn more and that's why I'm trying my best to manage my business life, achieving more knowledge and more power in order to make progress in my life and if I could have the honor, promote the quality of life for the others who are waiting for my help. Wish I could succeed. Thanks God and thanks mom.

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Hello every one.

I'm **Kanae**

KOBAYASHI from

Sapporo.

I have lived in Sapporo for 23 years. All my life is in Sapporo. I think Sapporo is very beautiful place and comfortable place to live. My favorite place is MoerenumaPark. It was designed by Isamu NOGUCHI. In the end of summer, we can enjoy a grand display of fireworks with music. I recommend you to go there. Now, I'm a 2nd year of master course and belong to Water Quality Control Engineering laboratory.

I just participate in e³ course from this April. Why I joined in e³ course is that I want to study abroad in future and take myself to world where I have never seen. In addition, I want to introduce my research topic to not only Japan but also to the world. However, now I don't have any confidence to live alone overseas. Actually, there are many international students in my laboratory, but I can't communicate with them well. Therefore, I study in e³ course to improve my English skills and communication skills.

Three weeks have already passed since I joined e³. At first, it is difficult to understand the contents of class. I can't catch many new technical vocabularies and what teacher said.

I need more preparation in e³ class than in Japanese class. For example, if I learn in Japanese, I can understand text book at one time, but when I study in English, I have to read text book many times to catch the contents. However now I enjoy e³ class because I used to English class and conversation with international students. e³ course increased my motivation to study abroad. I want to enjoy my e³ life. Thank you.

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Sristi Das Gupta



MY RESEARCH

Takuro Yamada

In the laboratory that I belong (Laboratory of Environmental Ergonomics), it has also carried out research on energy in addition to the human body physiological response. This time, I'd like to introduce some of its researches.

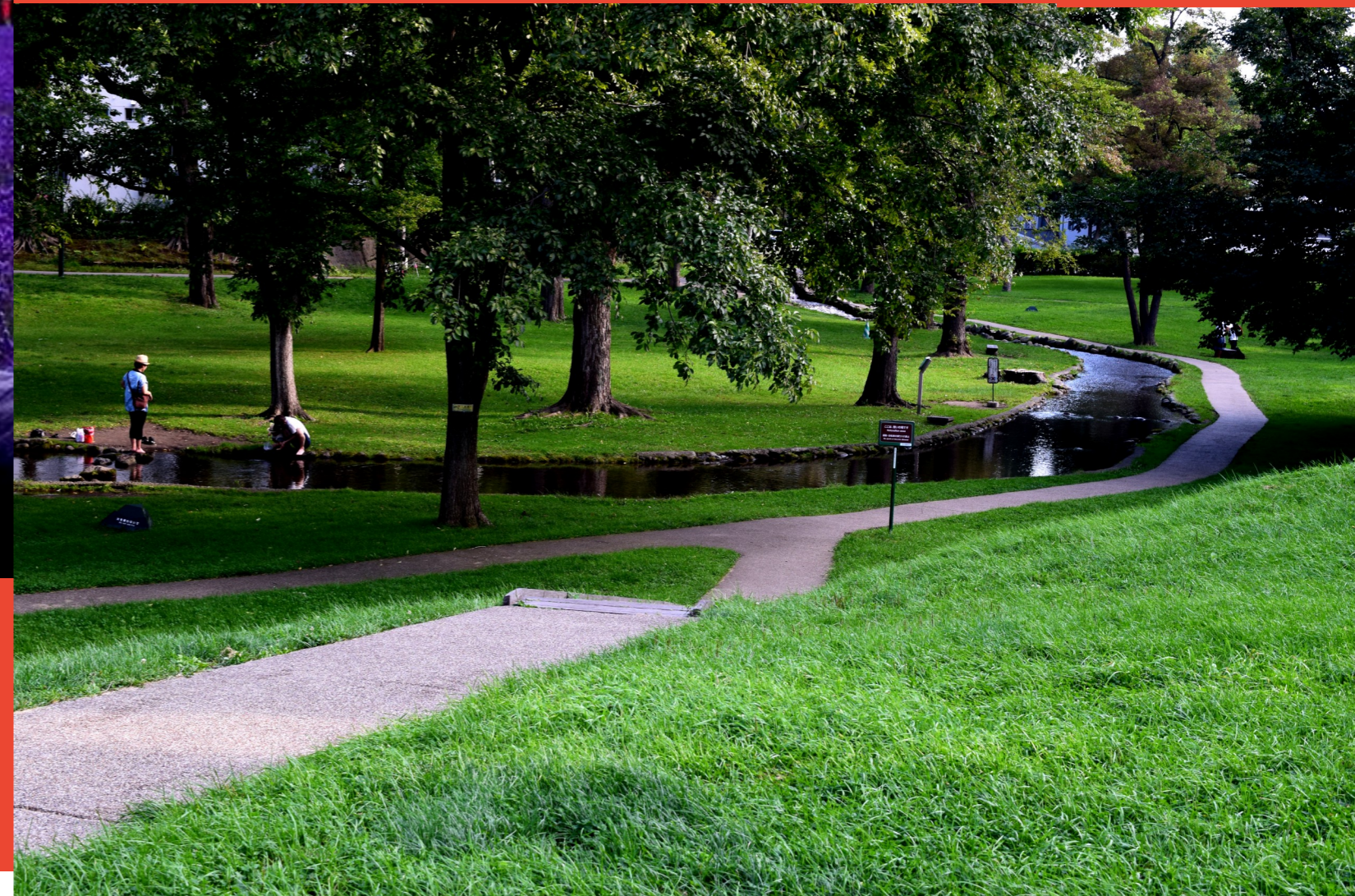
Do you know the cogeneration system (CGS)? It performs electric power generation by burning gas, and is the machine to effectively use the exhaust heat out at the same time. In terms of image, it is a machine that power generation functions and boiler functions are combined. Thereby, it is possible to produce energy efficiently; it helps in the prevention of global warming.

I have studied things for the home, even in the CGS at Hokkaido University. When you introduce household CGS into the home, you can use the electricity generated by it and the exhaust heat for a bath and a heater. It is said that it can save electric approximately 40% per one year.

The gas charges will increase to use the gas for fuel, but you will profit because electricity charges decrease further. A price of household CGS is gradually falling now in comparison with the past; however, it is necessary to think carefully when you purchase it because it is very expensive.

Such household CGS introduced to a variety of home actually, I analyze the energy savings and utility costs reduction amount at that time.

It cannot be said that household CGS spreads too much now. But in the near future, I think the household CGS may be seen all over the world because of an energy conservation performance of it. Its use in combination with, such as solar power and electric cars are also expected. For the global environment (and your household economy), why not consider purchasing the household CGS?





Hokkaido is considered Japan's last frontier which includes towering mountain ranges, pristine lakes, volcanoes, vast forests. Open pastures, and hot springs (onsen). Over 500 alpine flowers bloom with variety of colors in the mid-summer. Hokkaido offers beautiful nature and flowers fields which are best explored during the summer. . My write up remains incomplete if I forgot to mention about Lavender, which has been cultivated in Hokkaido for more than half a century. The purpose of lavender has been shifted from agricultural product to tourist attraction.

During the summer period, I visited several places, among them I liked the Tomita Farm most located in Furano offering Japan's oldest Lavender fields, view of flower beds such as "Irodori field" where flowers are planted in rows of different colors including white, red, purple and pink.

Lavender flavored ice-cream is very famous among the tourist. This is the perfect place to pick up souvenirs such as lavender fragrance soothing soaps, candles and eye pillows. Nowadays, Furano's Lavender field attracts large numbers of visitors to the region every summer, when the plants are in full bloom.

At the end I can say that of all the summer time in my life, this was my best summer ever, and collected many memories for a lifetime. The sweet moments of my summer holidays were somewhere deep in my mind and these unforgettable memories make me wait eagerly for the next summer time.

At the end I can say that of all the summer time in my life, this was my best summer ever, and collected many memories for a lifetime.

Summer in Hokkaido

Rimana Islam Papry

Which season is better in Hokkaido- Summer or winter? For me it's summer definitely. After a long tiring snowy winter, summer comes with a joy, fresh and different shades of color which makes the Hokkaido more charming and beautiful. As per my opinion, summer is the best season to visit Hokkaido. The prefecture has the mildest climate in summer. It's not as hot and humid during the day and become cools down in the evening, make the night more enjoyable. Average temperatures in the summer range from 20-25⁰C. The weather is very good compared to the extreme humidity of Japan's main island, which is perfect for afternoon hang out with friends or driving down the road with the window open as you enjoy the fresh breeze. It is important to note that, UV light can be quite strong, so precaution must be taken into account.



Since my study is still on-going, the university will not issue me a ranking certificate, what should I do?

•You can indicate what you believe is your ranking in the application form. If you are selected, an official certificate will be required for submission to MEXT. Proper explanation will be needed if there is a discrepancy between what you indicate in the application form and what is shown in the official certificate.

My university does not issue any ranking certificate, what should I do?

•You should submit an official certificate showing the number of students in the graduation class and the highest mark obtained by student(s) in that class.

I have taken the TOEFL test but the result will not be out in time for submission together with my application before the deadline.

•You can email the TOEFL score to the e3 office later.

I have a Master's degree /doing Master's studies now and reapplying for Master's program at e3, do I have to provide certificates transcripts for my Master's in this case?

•Yes, please provide us your diploma/expected graduation certificate and latest transcript even if you are applying for second Master's degree. Your grades at Master's will also be taken into account.

Is there a format for the research proposal?

•Since summer 2015 research proposal format for MEXT e3 scholarship was introduced. It is compulsory for those applying for MEXT scholarship through e3 program. Regarding the self-supporting applicants and applicants with their own scholarship, they may follow MEXT format or submit a proposal in a free form. The proposal is required to know the applicant's research interest and to make sure that the applicant knows the research scope of the laboratory he plans to enroll in. At the same time if professors in the lab the applicant applies find that what the applicant wants to do fits with the scope of another lab, they will recommend that the application be forwarded to that particular lab. If you apply for admission to the master's program, a 1-2 page abstract is fine. However if you apply for admission to the doctoral program, your proposal should be concrete and at the same time demonstrate your ability and potential in conducting research.

The website said that applicants need not contact professors in advance but some of my friends who were selected did contact in advance.

•Japanese professors are very busy and as a result most prefer to review all the applications at the same time. Doing so enable them to compare qualifications and choose the most promising applicant.

How is the application processed?

•After the application deadline, applications are sent to laboratory that applicant indicates as their first choice. If first choice professors are not interested in accepting, the applications are sent to the second choice laboratories. Professors interested in accept the applicants will conduct skype interview, then submit his recommendation to the admission committee. If you tick "I agree to be considered for acceptance by different supervisor/laboratory." Your application may be forwarded to another laboratory in case it was rejected by first two. By ticking this box you slightly increase your chances to find right research match.



What criteria are used in the selection by the admission committee?

•Various items are taken into account. They include academic achievements through grades and publications, research potentials through research proposal (especially for Ph.D. applicants), recommendation from referees, recommendation from accepting professors.

I'm a bachelor student and not yet published any paper, am I eligible to apply?

•Having a published paper may be an advantage as it shows your research ability, but it's not a mandatory requirement so you are well eligible to apply and have all chances to be selected. Please attach an abstract of your bachelor thesis or research project to the application.

Grading system and standard differ from university to university, applicants who graduated from universities with strict grading may be disadvantaged.

•We keep a statistical data that provide us a reliable reference on academic performance of graduates of different universities. For example, students with a GPA of 3.1 from A university are better than students with a GPA of 3.9 from B university.

I understand that after the final selection, the university has to submit a list of nominated candidates and their scholarship application to MEXT for approval.

•Correct. This step can be regarded as for formality sake. It is also meant for MEXT to make sure that the same candidate is not nominated by another Japanese university.

I'm also applying for MEXT scholarship at other university. What happens if I was nominated by more than one university?

•Please specify in the application form which other universities you are applying. In case you were selected in few universities, you will be asked to decline all other offers by the specified by the office date. In case you kept offers in few universities and your data was sent to MEXT, your application will be disqualified entirely.

I also want to apply for MEXT scholarship through the embassy in my country. Is this possible?

•Application deadlines, selection schedule and possible admission dates are different for this scholarships. If you have applied to embassy (during spring) you will know if you were selected before the application deadline for MEXT e3 (in November). Please make sure to inform our office on your embassy application result. In case you were double nominated and your data was sent to MEXT, your application will be disqualified entirely.

When does MEXT send its confirmation to the universities?

•In early July.

I'm not only applying to e3 and after selection to e3 may receive confirmed offer from other university. When is the last day an applicant can decline e3 offer?

We will inform nominated applicants about the dates before they should make a final decision. We expect you to make a careful choice. If the applicant chooses to go to other university and declines our offer after the university submits the nomination list to MEXT, e3 will lose the scholarship. As a result e3 will be more careful in checking whether the applicants come from the universities it had encountered regrettable experiences and who provided the reference letters.

If you didn't find an answer here, please contact our office eprogram@eng.hokudai.ac.jp



