

# E<sup>00</sup> VISION



Spring 2008 - The Magazine of the English Engineering Education Program (e<sup>3</sup>)

SPRING  
2008

WHAT'S INSIDE:

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Another interesting subject in e<sup>3</sup>



Spring has come...

Let's welcome and celebrate it...

## To be Editor-in-Chief is Challenging...

By Thithiwat May (Laboratory of Water Quality Control Engineering)

After we launched the brand new *E:Vision* last summer, we received a lot of positive responses from the audiences. We introduced better contents and attractive layout to let all the readers enjoy our in-house magazine. In this issue, we present in-depth information on a new field in e<sup>3</sup> program, Mechanical Engineering. Not only that, we will know how a newcomer coped up during her first week in chilly Sapporo city.

Sapporo is getting warmer nowadays and the trees are becoming green again. It is the season for Cherry Blossoms or Sakura. We usually have them from late April to early May or during the Golden Week. Many Japanese people love and enjoy barbecue under the Sakura trees. I highly recommend you guys to do it while you are still in Japan. However, if you ask me what am I looking forward to in Sapporo, I may say the underground passage from Sapporo Station to Susukino. But it is scheduled to open a couple of years from now.



This issue is my last responsibility as the Editor-in Chief of *E:Vision*. I think I have done a great deal in opening a new window for this magazine. *E:Vision* is growing with us. I believe that the next editor will bring interesting items as we have done before. Lastly, I would like to thank all the authors and our active editorial team for everything. I am so glad to work with you guys. We will always be a *team*.

The e<sup>3</sup> Magazine

**E:Vision Spring 2008**

**Editor-in-chief:** Thithiwat May

**Editorial committee:** Richard Diaz Alorro, Jaja Gaid, Werawan Manakul Ueda, Vannie Joy Tumapon Resabal, Nikol Kochmanova and Jintana Wongta

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## Environmental Business...

By Professor Yoshiaki Fujii (Laboratory of Rock Mechanics)

The G8 Summit will be in Toyako in July and a lot of VIPs will visit Hokkaido by jet airplanes, consuming enormous amounts of fossil fuels. The most important theme seems to be Global Warming. As you know, there is an organization called IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). This organization has groups which consists of the world's smartest researchers in the world. They calculate how much the average temperature and the sea level will rise in the future by using super computers, which consume enormous electricity generated mainly by burning by fossil fuels, in clean fully air-conditioned rooms.

According to their results (AR4, IPCC Fourth Assessment Report), in 100 years, the average temperature will rise between 1.1 and 6.4 °C, and the sea level will rise between 0.18 and 0.59 m only by thermal expansion. In long-term (many centuries) equilibrium, the average temperature will rise between 2.0 and 6.1 degree C. The sea level will rise between 0.4 and 3.7 m again only by thermal expansion. It will never be the same world in many centuries. Global warming is a very serious issue for human being although I wonder if human beings can survive for centuries even without global warming.

To mitigate GHG (greenhouse gases), a lot of technologies are being developed and some of you are working with them. However, comparing the total process, some of the technologies need more petroleum and emit more CO<sub>2</sub>. I hope that e<sup>3</sup> students carefully examine the whole process of your technology and do your research not to help "pseudo-environmental businesses" but really to contribute to human happiness in the world.

## Big Move for e<sup>3</sup>

By Ataur Rahman (Laboratory of Engineer for Maintenance System)

It is my great pleasure to know that the e<sup>3</sup> student organization is going to publish its biannual publication "E:Vision for the spring issue". Though the publication is a continuous effort of our English Program students to ventilate their opinions and experiences in an organized manner, it is the first of its kind after the English Graduate

Program on Socio-Environmental Engineering (EGPSEE) took a new shape and size by re-naming it as e<sup>3</sup>, which stands for English Engineering Education. The commencement of e<sup>3</sup> was officially launched last year in October. Though e<sup>3</sup> has not gone far from its birth and is still on its on going journey, we have experienced a lot of positive changes in this new program. It will take several pages to describe all of them. And it is not the right place to do that. I will just give you a brief overview of those events.

In December 2007 we held an election of our new executive committee to run the student organization for the next academic year. I congratulate everyone for choosing us and for showing your confidence in us. We took the office and held a stunning New Year's party. I hope everyone commits it to memory.

We also arranged a short trip to Asahikawa-a city with eye-catching landscape and natural beauty. Twenty-eight students from e<sup>3</sup>, including some Japanese students, went for the trip.

Excitement does not finish here! We have a lot more dazzling events for you throughout this year. Come, join and enjoy our time together.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the Editor-in-Chief who worked really hard for the last few months just to bring the E:Vision in its printed form and offered in front of us. I wish all the newcomers and those who are already with us a happy and healthy life here in Japan with an excellent achievement in your studies.



# Special

## Interview:



## Getting to know a new e3 family member

By Richard Diaz Alorro

*As I am writing this article, I can't help recalling a song by Jose Mari Chan, a Filipino artist, the lyrics of which goes this way,*



*"We're on the road, we move from place to place, and often times when I'm about to call it home, we'd have to move along, life is a constant change;*

*the friends we know, we meet along the way, too soon the times we shared, form parts of yesterday, 'coz life's a constant change, and nothing stays the same..."*

"Yes", life really is a constant change. Just a couple of days ago, we waved goodbye to some of our most active Japanese friends in e<sup>3</sup>. After finishing their graduate studies in our program, they moved on to another chapter of their lives and embarked on the adventures and challenges of being salary men and women. For us who are left behind, we continue our everyday battles with hopes and expectations of still many great things yet to come.

They say, when a door closes, a window opens. We bid adieu to some of e<sup>3</sup>'s March 2008 graduates, but this spring semester, we will welcome 6 new students coming from different parts of the globe. Among these 6 students, only 1 Japanese student braved to join us in our journey

and be part of our family. In this article, I will introduce him to you. Let us all welcome him to our humble abode.

The Japanese guy I am referring to is no other than KANGO ITO. This free-spirited, funny, cool, and very tall (184 cm) lad was born in Gifu prefecture on September 4, 1984. Kango, whose name, according to him, is synonymous to the word relax or sit back, is a 1<sup>st</sup> year master course student and belongs to the Laboratory of Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation of the Division of Built Environment.

We welcome you Kango to our e<sup>3</sup> family! We hope you will have wonderful and memorable time with us (photos courtesy of Aileen).



**Note: Starting this April 2008, Kango will be our Public Relation officer (formerly held by Kyung Mi)**



**Richard is now doing his Ph.D. in the Laboratory of Mineral Processing and Resources Recycling, Graduate School of Engineering.**

### **Why Hokkaido University?**

- Actually, at first I did not want to go to Hokudai (Hokkaido University). I just came here to take the university examination, but when I saw Susukino, I got fascinated and so I said, "this is it!" I was born and raised in a very rural and very quiet area so I thought that Sapporo would be a very interesting place (soon he will get a drinking degree from Susukino Daigaku!...hehehe).

do 1 day travel, i.e., go to Asahikawa mountainsides (Kurodake or Asahidake). I love mountains. During my free time, sometimes I watch movies; listen to music, read books (novels by Japanese authors).

### **Are you into sports? What is your favorite sports?**

- Yes! I like volleyball. I played volleyball for 4-5 years since my high school days until just recently. I was a member of Hokudai volleyball circle when I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and I used to play 1-2 times a week.

Sudan the most. It is not a rich country, mostly desert, almost nothing to see, almost nothing to eat (1 kind of bread, cigar, and drink), but the people are so kind. I felt very happy when I was in Sudan; a simple place but with great people. I think Japanese people are kind, but the Sudanese are kinder.

### **Why did you choose Laboratory of Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation?**

- I like Aileen so I chose this laboratory (winks...Kango and Aileen are in the same laboratory). Kidding aside, actually I'm interested in water problems. I am doing now a research on treatment of household wastewater.

### **What's your favorite food?**

- Squid. It's my ultimate favorite, in any cooking style. In Gifu, we have this quite exotic food – bee (we call it hachi in Japanese) and grasshopper. It's a sweet and sour delicacy (cooked in soy sauce and sugar). Hachi is very good but expensive (around 2000-3000 yen/serving), maybe because it's rare and difficult to catch.

### **Are you a member of other organizations in Hokudai?**

- Yes! I am a student member of WACCA which is an organization for environmental problems such as water issues. I am also a member of Communication for Science and Technology Education Program (COSTEP) which engages in public information about the impact of science and technology in our lives through conferences, video, radio, and paper media. Recently, I just joined a muscle training circle. I want to enhance my muscles. But as of now, we only have 2 members (kawaiso), so we are inviting others to join. Please join us!

### **Why did you decide to join e<sup>3</sup>?**

- My former laboratory mates, Shiro Amano and Hiroyuki Nagata, influenced me (Shiro and Nagata, if you can read this, you did a very good business deal. Thanks for the sales talk!). I heard a lot of good things from them about e<sup>3</sup>. They said to be with e<sup>3</sup> is fun. Personally, I would like to make friends with foreign students and improve my English because in the future I want to work abroad. I think e<sup>3</sup> will be a good venue for me to speak English.

### **What countries have you visited so far? Which one do you like most and why?**

- Last month, I went to Zimbabwe in Africa. In 2004, I got a one year holiday, so I traveled around the world. For about 6-7 months (August-March), I went to the USA (from Los Angeles to New York by bus in 2 weeks), France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, India, Thailand, China, and then back to Japan via ferryboat to Osaka (Wow! What a holiday!). Among these places, I like

### **Ten years from now (or in the future), what do you imagine yourself to be?**

- Have a very good job and a good family. I want to have 5 children but I think I need to work hard to provide their basic needs (yeah, I agree!... hehe). I just have very simple dream - to spend good, happy and exciting times with my family (Very well said Kango! After all, our ultimate goal in life is to be happy with our loved ones).

### **What is your hobby? During your free time what do you usually do?**

- I love travelling (if possible outside Japan). Sometimes I

# FEATURE:

## What is Mechanical Engineering?

By Hamidreza Jamshidnia

**“Mechanics is the paradise of the mathematical sciences because by means of it one comes to the fruits of mathematics. (Leonardo da Vinci, 1452±1519)”**

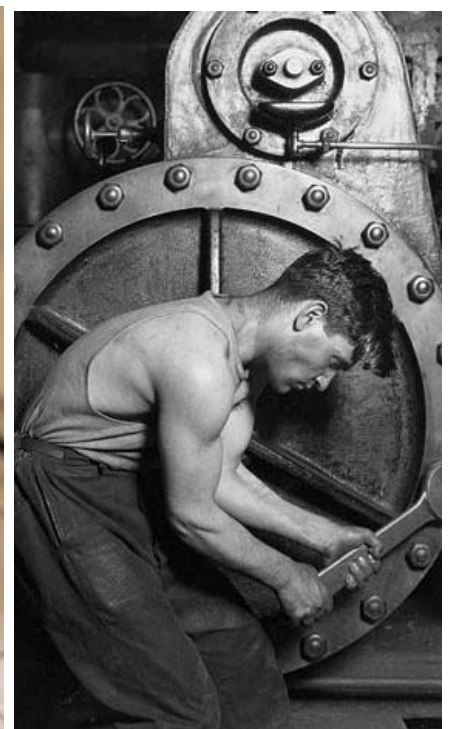
Mechanical Engineering (ME) is an exciting subject. It is an engineering discipline that involves the application of principles of physics for analysis, design, manufacturing, and maintenance of mechanical systems. In the importance of mechanics, it is good to consider the following statement: Mechanics is the paradise of the mathematical sciences because by means of it one comes to the fruits of mathematics. (Leonardo da Vinci, 1452±1519)

In fact, Mechanical Engineering is a creative profession, the broadest and most versatile of the engineering professions. As a mechanical engineer one can help solve some of the world's most challenging and pressing issues - energy and transportation on the ground, in the air and in outer space - just to name a few from a long list. Mechanical engineers typically work in such areas as energy conversion, energy management, fluid dynamics, power production, robotics, bio-engineering, microprocessor control, manufacturing, computer-aided design, machine design, and material science.

In general, mechanical engineering can be divided into the following branches:

1-Solid Mechanics is the branch of mechanics, physics, and mathematics that concerns the behavior of solid matter under external actions (e.g., external forces, temperature changes, applied displacements, etc.). It is part of a broader study known as continuum mechanics.

2-Fluid Mechanics is a physical science dealing with the action of fluids at rest (fluid statics) or in motion (fluid dynamics), and their interaction with flow devices and applications in engineering. Fluids are not necessarily liquids, but can be made up of gases, such as air. Also some materials can be regarded as fluids such as glass. It must be noted that although the christening of the discipline is a relatively recent undertaking, fluid mechanics goes back to the time of archaic Homo sapiens. The art of fluids in motion was born when, quite empirically and without a hint of what either a fluid or mechanics is, the resourceful inhabitants of the planet Earth discovered that a streamlined object travels farther as compared to a blunt one.



My laboratory is called LFC, which stands for Laboratory for Flow Control. In my laboratory, we are investigating the structural characteristic of the flow. The knowledge of which can induce and make our life more comfortable, more convenient and much safer. Also it is believed that if we know how a fluid moves we will be able to predict flows which is of great importance in industrial applications.

Flow fields have a spatio-temporal nature. Conventionally, spatial structure is investigated using time average quantities and time structure was studied at a single spatial point because of underdeveloped measurement techniques. In theoretical studies, the flow field is treated as a spatio-temporal velocity field. The development of numerical simulation made it possible to investigate the flow field in a spatio-temporal manner numerically.

In LFC, two major novel and advanced experimental methods are used to extract the spatio-temporal behavior of flow fields in different applications. The following is a brief explanation of the above said methods.

In my research, I am investigating the flow of water over a baffle (a flat plate normal to the direction of the flow) in a rectangular channel using advanced experimental techniques. The flow pattern due to the presence of this plate at different Reynolds numbers is interesting and complicated although the geometry seems simple. On the other hand, in fluid mechanics there are many areas that are not



**“The Greek mathematician Archimedes (287±212 BC) provided an exact solution to the fluid-at-rest problem and expressions for the buoyant force on various bodies, long before calculus or the modern laws of mechanics were known.”**

**Hamid is now doing his Ph.D. in the Laboratory of Flow Control, Graduate School of Engineering.**

completely understood. Separated flows for instance are of great importance which makes the baffle problem more interesting and valuable to study.

In fact this configuration has some similarities with the flow over backward and forward facing step problem in fluid dynamics which has attracted the attention of many fluid dynamists because of their application and importance. In this configuration many interesting fluid dynamics phenomenon, such as separation and reattachment, recirculation regions, vortex shedding, shear layers and etc. are observed.

On the other hand, flow through a sudden expansion and contraction is

a model system that mimics many applications in chemical, pharmaceutical and biomedical device industries and also heat transfer applications and provides the opportunities for the observation of interesting complex flow behavior as a diagnostic tool.

In general there is also an interest in blockage effect on flows such as the flow of blood through an obstructed arterial passage. Therefore, the baffle can also be regarded as an obstacle which makes it possible to gain some information on the blockage effects. It must be mentioned that separation and reattaching shear flows appear in various engineering systems and therefore their study is of great importance.

## ACTIVITY REPORT:

### New Year's Party

January 25, 2008



The first ever e<sup>3</sup> New Year's Party was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Over 60 people attended this party, including various professors, staff members and non-e<sup>3</sup> students! The program included games such as 'Horses, knights, and cavaliers', 'Musical chairs with a treasure hunt', 'The cup game', and 'Charades'. Dinner included dishes from many different countries (thanks to all our volunteers!).

Myth and ritual are important components of religions practice. I am not going to talk about religions though. I am going to talk about our university, to be precise, the Faculty/Graduate School of Engineering. Passing by the classrooms with doors left ajar, it is not unusual to see students sleeping in the back rows while the instructor is giving his lecture. It was a most startling observation for me when I started working here nine years ago. Gradually I began to understand why students dare to sleep in class and why professors do not seem to mind.

One day, last semester, a group of Japanese students were leaving a classroom at the time they were not supposed to. I asked them what happened and was told that the professor did not show up. Students were chatting and showing no sign of discontent caused by professor's absence. They seemed gratified by their professor's absence (without prior notice) as it offered an opportunity for them to chat.

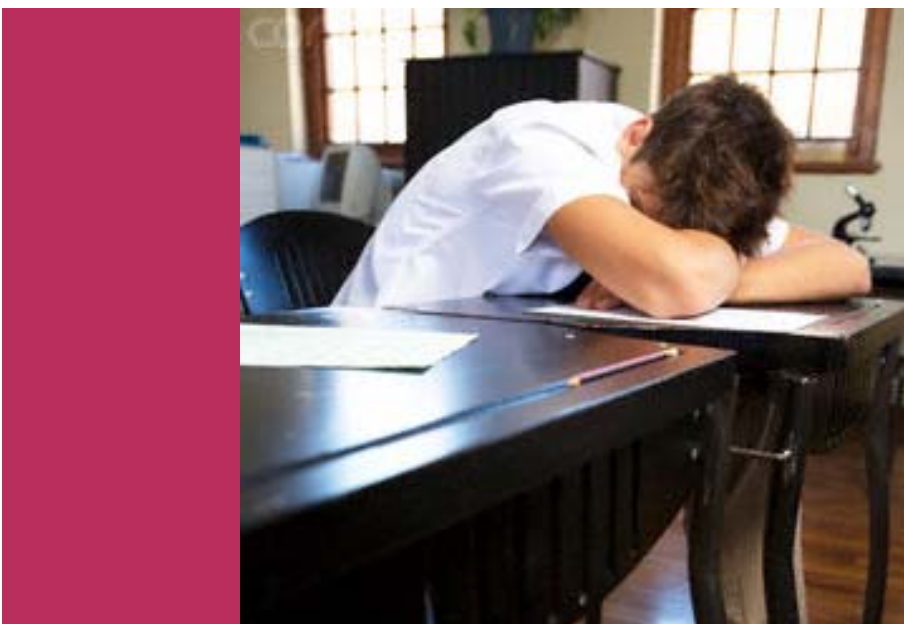
What do Japanese students expect from university? Knowledge? Friends and fun? A passport to employment? Perhaps all of the above but with more (a lot more) so with the latter two. High school students study hard in order to get into a "good" university. The word "good" has nothing to do with how famous the teaching staff is or how interesting the curriculum is. It refers to the high probability of getting a job at a big company after graduation. It won't be surprising if you ask a university student what kind of work he would like to be engaged in after graduation and he won't be able to give you an answer. One graduate student told me that he did not mind the nature

**"For a graduate student to get all 'A's' for all the courses he took is not strange because, according to professors, "We put emphasis on research". Let's look at how undergraduate and master's students' research works are examined."**

of his work, rather the place where he might be assigned to.

Students attend classes because attendance is crucial. For some classes, attendance alone guarantees a passing grade. To some professors, showing up at every lecture or remaining in the laboratory study room late into the night is an indication of how much a student devotes himself to his study. Devotion is more important than the study result since the university's role is to prepare well disciplined team workers ready to be re-trained by employers. Most employers pay little or no attention to what students learn at the university, instead they put emphasis on how well students fit in their organization. When specific knowledge or expertise is required, an employer approaches a professor in that field and asks him to recommend a student who fits the need.

Since tuition is charged per semester, not per credit, students who fail to obtain credits can re-take the course without an extra cost. Failure to earn credits may come from simply dropping (or disappearing from) the course, failure to submit the final report or failing the final exam





and re-exam. Some students re-take the course in their graduating semester knowing that professors are less likely to fail them. Why? Failing a graduating student affects many things negatively. First and foremost, students' failure to graduate is due to university's poor education, according to MEXT. Second, students might already have gotten a job offer or passed an entrance exam for higher study. Third the university risks losing the trust of organizations that makes job offers to students. This is because most Japanese companies hire new employees only once a year in April, it is not possible to immediately fill the vacant posts left by students unable to graduate. As a result employers may refrain from recruiting our students because they cannot be sure whether our students can join them.

For a graduate student to get all 'A's for all the courses he takes is not at all strange because, according to professors, "we put emphasis on research." Let's look at how undergraduate and master's students' research works are examined.

Undergraduate and graduate thesis defense lasts not more than 10 minutes (7+3) and 15 minutes (10+5), respectively. What students have to submit before their thesis defense is a 2-page abstract (for undergraduates) and a 4-page abstract (for master's students). Whether students are required to submit a complete thesis is

up to their supervisors or divisions. Two years ago, it took me one year and repeated reminders to get a complete thesis from a Japanese graduate of the e3 program. Last year out of 5 Japanese graduates, only 2 submitted their theses. We cannot blame them as they simply followed what their Japanese colleagues were doing.

Likewise, we cannot blame professors for being content with the university's role given by the society. What else can they do if the rest of the Japanese universities accept such role? As one professor put it, "If we are strict, no students will choose to study here." Professors then shift their interest from education to research and off-campus academic society committee activities where they can seriously discuss research with experts from their field -- something that is difficult to do on campus where each professor is expert in his own field.

To conduct research required funds but the budget each laboratory gets from the university is not enough. Professors have to get money from somewhere outside the university. They can apply for research grants mostly provided by governmental agencies but the chances depend on how "hot" the research topics are. If the success rate is 10%, professors must submit at least 10 applications to various agencies.

Within the 40 hrs/week timeframe, an active professor is expected to prepare for his lectures for both undergrad and grad courses, deliver his lectures, do the grading, conduct laboratory seminars, supervise students' research work, check students' research papers/theses, review journal papers, write his own papers (vital for achievement recognition), attend committee meetings both on and off campus, work on committee assignments, attend domestic and international meetings/conferences, take care of invited lecturers and visitors, prepare grant/project applications, prepare progress reports for on-going projects, prepare final reports for complete projects, carry out university administrative work, etc. It has always fascinated me to see that Japanese professors have no problem carrying out these tasks.

No one can predict how long this ritual will last. But one thing we have to admit is that everyone performs his/her role perfectly and in unison. Well, this is Japan, a land of perfection and harmony.

Dr. Werawan is our beloved program officer.

## ACTIVITY REPORT:

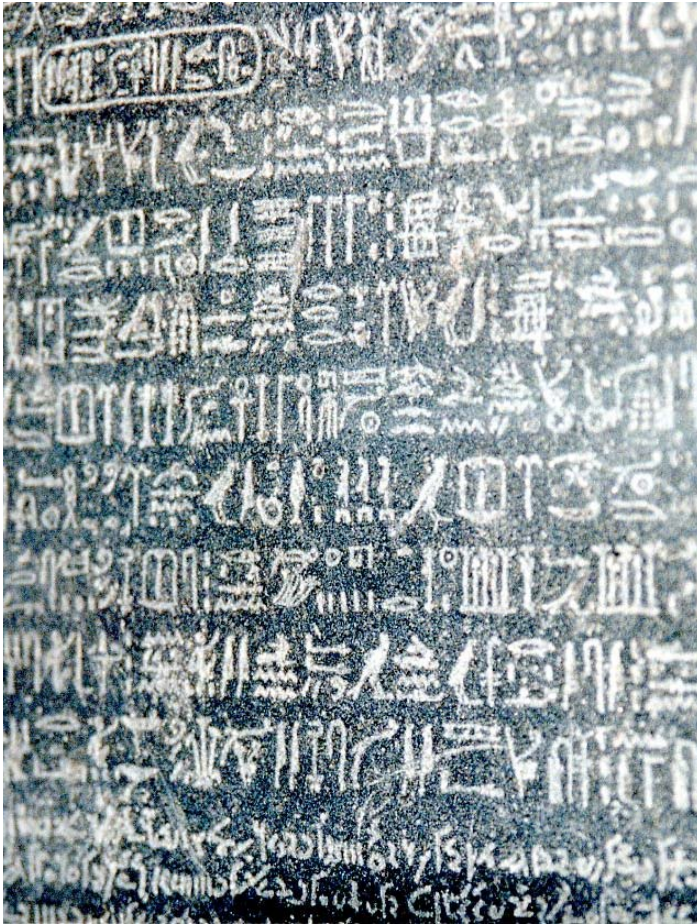


### Graduation Party

March 14, 2008

The Graduation Party was held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Approximately 50 people attended the party, including six of the eight

graduates; Hiroshi Yamamura, the first doctoral student to graduate in 2 years, and the masters' graduates: Yayoi Akahori, Shiro Amano, Keisuke Iwata, Rani Jha, and Hiroyuki Nagata. The graduates were able to put on make-up, made of flour, and work for their degrees in 'Who wants to be a graduate. Following a Thai-based dinner, which included other international dishes as well, the graduates were able to demonstrate their dancing skills. The night ended with the 'Newspaper dance', and the 'Wheelbarrow Race'. Good luck in the future graduates!



“Your health comes first. Spend the time being healthy or else you might find yourself spending more time being sick. Hard work should be balanced with other activities so that you enjoy and give you a break.”



# FEATURE:

## To Be a Successful Graduate Student

By Thithiwat May

Thanks to the PLOS Computational Biology, and its Creative Commons Attribution License which permit unrestricted use and reproduction in this story. Choosing to go to graduate school is a major life decision. Whether you have already made that decision or are still about to, it is now time to consider how to be a successful graduate student.

### 1- Let Passion Be the Driving Force of Your Success

Doing your best work requires that you are passionate about what you are doing. Use the time wisely. The educational system provides a variety of failsafe mechanisms depending on the part of the world where you study. Laboratory rotations and other forms of apprenticeship should not be overlooked, for they are opportunities to test the waters and measure your passion in a given subject area. If you do not feel excited about doing research and the project selected, do not do it; re-evaluate your career decisions.

### 2- Remember, Life Is All about Balance

Take the time to meet your own needs. Graduate school is highly demanding, both mentally and physically. Your health comes first, spend the time being healthy or else you might find yourself spending more time being sick. Hard work should be balanced with other activities that you enjoy and give you a break. These activities can often become important in your future scientific career.

### 3- Remain Focused on Your Hypothesis While Avoiding Being Held Back

When you find yourself lost in the details of your research, take a step back and remind yourself of the big picture. Re-evaluate your hypothesis from time to time to see if it still makes sense, because you may find yourself needing a new one. Always keep this in mind in discussions with your mentor. As you have these discussions, remember you are cheap labor, and, if you are a good student, a source of success to your mentor. Define the scope of your project early with your mentor and agree that this is what you will attempt to complete in order to receive the degree.

### 4- Address Problems Earlier Rather Than Later

If graduate school wasn't quite what you thought it would be, discuss these problems with your mentors. A good mentor is there not just to guide you scientifically, but also in your personal development. Remember, they have been there themselves and have likely seen similar issues with earlier students. Take time off to reflect on your future if this is needed. A good mentor will understand that you come first.

### 5- Share Your Success with the World

When opportunities arise to give seminars and presentations to other groups, take them. Before starting with a mentor, come to an agreement as to when and what meetings you can attend locally and globally. Meetings are

a fun and fruitful venue for exchange. Be sure to venture beyond the comfort zone of familiar faces, because it is important to meet other colleagues in your field. These people may become your future collaborators, friends, advocates, and employers.

#### 6- Build Confidence and a Thick Skin

The best way to build self-confidence for these otherwise defensive moments is to be prepared and to present your work clearly with a confident display of your expansive knowledgebase of the relevant related work. Do not be intimidated by big names who question your work; counter knowledge with knowledge. Another reason to have a thick skin is that the path to success will not be without setbacks—setbacks such as experiments that fail, and experiments that succeed but do not yield a useful result causing you to have wasted significant time.

From Gu J, Bourne PE (2007) Ten Simple Rules for Graduate Students. PLoS Comput Biol 3(11): e229. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.0030229



May is the *E:Vision* Editor-in-Chief, and doing Ph.D. in Laboratory of Water Quality Control Engineering.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE



I got a new iPod again. The fatty Nano !! The new Nano gained some weight and most of all, it plays video at a pretty high resolution. However, many would not bear to watch a complete movie on the Nano because of its 2 inch screen. The iPod is packaged in its normal "clear", cute plastic box- the packaging is that good till its almost seamless. In one word "yes". This MP3 player is not

perfect, but with the addition of video support it's definitely one of the top 5 on the market right now. The third generation iPod Nano is available in a variety of colors and either a 4GB or 8GB memory capacity. If you plan on watching lots of video, I definitely recommend getting the 8GB rather than the 4 GB model.

IPOD NANO

## RECENT ARTICLE:



Vannie is doing her Masters in the Laboratory of Corrosion Engineering.

# OPINION: FIRST TIME

By Vannie J.T. Resabal

Coming from a tropical country like the Philippines, I felt “the chill” as soon as I stepped out of Sapporo Eki. It was about 14°C then and way too cold for me—even though I was already wearing the thickest jacket I could find in my country. My Filipino friends, Aileen, Richard and Bong, welcomed three of us (Einstein, Primo and me), and were teasing us non-stop that 14°C was nothing compared to the -10°C in winter. I wasn’t thinking in degrees anymore, I was thinking ‘survival’. I considered hibernating; but I hadn’t even found an apartment of my own. I considered mega-shopping, but I was clueless about trendy winter clothes in Japan. Alas, I considered not minding the cold at all. They took us to Tsubohashi and while I struggled with the hashi, I contemplated the climate: good for tightening the pores and regulating the oil glands (Wink!).

In the middle of October, my friends and I rushed to go shopping at Sapporo Factory, Sports Depot, JUSCO, UniQlo and Doki Doki (note the order, and how we stayed away from the eki). As I studied how Japanese ladies dressed up, I also learned about the price tides in Japan. In my country, you can get Gap originals at half the price for twice as many. Blue is fashionable all year, and it takes two years before we let go of a style. In Japan, the prices and styles fluctuate with the seasons. I am now also determined to find a pair of jeans that can actually fit the size of my hips! (What do these women eat?)

Fall had just begun but I was desperate for a winter jacket! I have always put comfort above everything else, so I braved the streets wearing my first winter jacket while the rest of Sapporo celebrated Autumn. And what a delight it was to have my first autumn in Japan! In my country, the trees stay green all year and the chickens make noise at precisely 5 in the morning. In Sapporo, the trees can’t decide between turning yellow or red but they’re pretty just the same!

I can’t accurately say when winter actually started but I presume it was on

the day it first snowed (!?) and the crows disappeared for a while (those wretched birds!). I watched in awe from our veranda and fixed my eyes on the snow! All that snow! Snow! Snow! I wanted to cup every flake and put it in the fridge as keepsakes! I phoned Einstein, Primo and Jaja and we did our best to contain our excitement about watching the snow as we walked around the campus. The Yuki Matsuri was even more thrilling! We even had friends all the way from Kyoto come to enjoy the gigantic snow sculptures in Odori.

But don’t get me wrong, winter has its horrors too. One time I was walking home from the hyaku-en shop in Kita 12 (everybody loves hyaku-en shops!) and I slipped! I was crossing the street with my proud winter boots and I slipped! But the embarrassment wasn’t over until I got up and cleared the street with my clutters. I laugh about it now but at that time my eyes were swollen with tears. In my country, we had jeepneys and pedicabs that delivered you block to block, door to door, rain or shine, with porter service, at 15 yen a ride. But here, I was always walking and slipping and watching every step. But slippery roads and early sunsets were nothing compared to winter leisure in Hokkaido. I’ve gone skiing and ice-fishing and.... Well, I’m not very athletic but I love the outdoors and winter is best experienced when you go out.

Now spring has come and a new semester is about to start. I’m still emotionally attached to my winter jacket so I haven’t thought about buying a spring coat yet (hihihihi). You know Hokkaido is best known for its magnificent seasons. And there is nothing more about this country that I can say except that I am charmed—completely charmed by the seasons and the people. I say this as a testament to the wonders of God’s work. It’s a beautiful, beautiful country!

Snow and ski.....  
in Sapporo

# TRAVELOGUE: WHAT'S IN COIMBATORE?

by Aileen Parra Huelgas

For the first time since I came to Japan, I missed the snow festival. I had to attend a conference in India; not the capital of India, which is Delhi, but Coimbatore in the southern part.

To reach the place, we had to take four flights from Sapporo: Sapporo-Kansai-Kuala Lumpur-Chennai-Coimbatore. Before finally landing at Kuala Lumpur, we had one stopover in Singapore. While planning our trip, the thought of going there made me want to finish the conference and return to Japan as soon as possible. Expecting that I would be tired from the trip, I had never thought that a lot of people would ask me "How was India?" upon returning. And when I was asked, my immediate response was, "It was interesting!" That's why May asked me to write something for E:Vision about my travel to India...oooppppssss... can I still say no?

What attracted most of my attention in India was ladies' fashion. I was still in the airport in Chennai waiting for our flight to Coimbatore when I noticed that the ladies were wearing their traditional dress - sari or saree. But I was even more surprised to see that all the ladies in Coimbatore wore a saree, and a few old men were also wearing their own traditional costume. It never occurred to me that in some parts of India men and women still wore the traditional dress. I thought that just like any other country, such as the Philippines, Japan, and Thailand, India too has adopted the western way of dressing up - jeans and shirts, and that you can see the

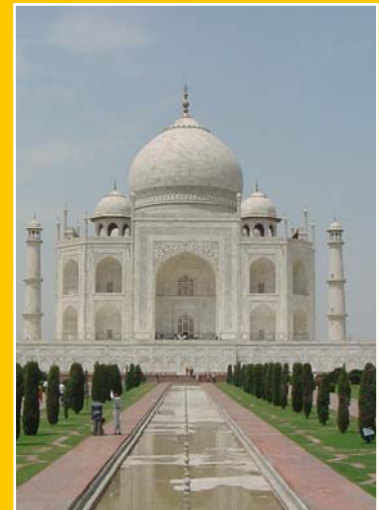
traditional costumes only during special occasions. In one of the conversations with an Indian from Delhi, she further told me that married women wear saree and single women wear salwar (worn by a lady next to me). So dresses like these in India are not costumes reserved only for traditional festivals or ceremonies, but also even for ordinary or casual attire. If in Sapporo, bicycles are everywhere, in Coimbatore motorcycles are like bees in the streets.

Now, who are behind those costumes that I see daily while I was in Coimbatore? In other words, "How about the people?" Well, they are soooo hospitable! Friendly and accommodating to foreigners! They always wear that smile when you ask something that will make you feel more relaxed. And there is this funny gesture that they have, that is, when they say "Yes," they shake their heads as if implying "No," So I was confused a bit at first, but later I found it cute.

One night, I went to some shops with an Indian friend. She bought a saree as a present for her mother who lives in Delhi because Coimbatore is famous for its textile industry. In the shop, you can't see a saleslady! All those who will assist you are guys. Not a single lady, but all those who are buying are ladies of course...

Coimbatore is just part of one southern state in India. India is divided into states and each has its own different culture. I compared it with the US, It has a lot of states but as far as I know, they really don't differ that much from each other! And considering how India is much smaller than US, isn't it interesting to know how different one state is from another? Then I told myself, there's still a lot more to know about this interesting country. Having a chance again in the future, I would like to go back!

## RECENT ARTICLE:



It is in India



Aileen is now doing her PhD. in the Laboratory of Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation.

# DINNER TIME: IN ZIMBABWE

By Masline Makasi

Welcome to the Zimbabwean kitchen! A place that cannot be mistaken for anything else! For the traditional Zimbabwean family, the kitchen is not only a place where food is prepared and served, but it is also a place where the family gets to enjoy quality time, sharing stories and pondering over the day's events. But the modern kitchen is where the lady of the house practises the art of preparing food.

Supper time is the most important meal of the day, as it is when the whole family is back from their various callings. The dinner table usually consists of a mixture of starches, proteins and vitamins all aimed at providing all the nourishment to the family.

The most basic meal in Zimbabwe consists of sadza, meat, stew and leafy vegetables. Sadza is the staple food and is made from maize meal. Sometimes the meal used to make sadza can be varied, ranging from white cornmeal, rapoko, sorghum and yellow cornmeal.

Hence, sadza can be found in various colours, adding diversity to the diet. Preparation of sadza is a very simple process, which is considered mandatory for anyone who is called an adult. The cornmeal is mixed with boiling water using a special type of wooden spoon.

The mixture is then simmered and more corn meal is added gradually until the required thickness is achieved. The thickness is also a very important factor as it has a bearing on how palatable the sadza is. Green leafy vegetables, sometimes boiled or in salad form are available to complement the diet by providing the various vitamins and mineral salts required by the body. Sadza is very delicious when served with beef stew and salad vegetables. Another variation would be grilled beef with tomato and onion soup, which is a favorite among the beer drinking population. The eating of the sadza is one of the most beautiful sights one can ever witness. The sadza is scooped using bare hands, and smoothened into a ball. This sadza ball will then be used to scoop the relish from the plate. Although various forms of cutlery are available for use, sadza is best eaten with the hands. Each individual dishes out from the main platters a healthy portion. Sadza makes up the core of daily menus and for the more important occasions like weddings,

graduation and birthday parties, roast chicken and rice are the norm. So if you like the taste of food with simplicity, but a lot of originality, Zimbabwe is the way to go. See you at the next party where there will be another Zimbabwean dish!

Time to know...

Sadza



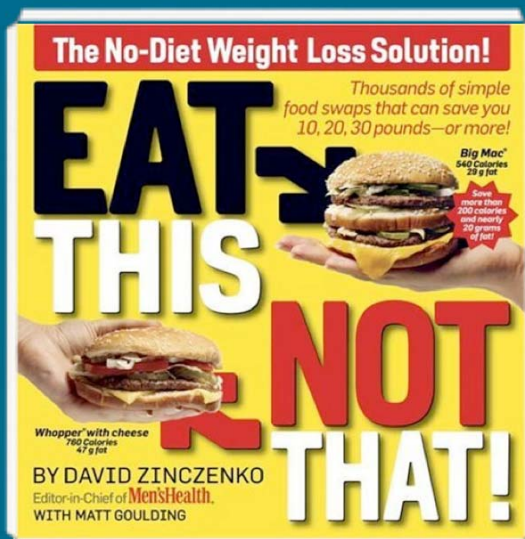
## RECENT ARTICLE:

Masline is now doing her Masters in the Laboratory of Rock

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### Eat This Not That

By David Zinczenko & Matt Goulding



While some are suffering from gaining weight because of Japanese foods, I always have a second choice to make myself look thin and smart....

Why don't you guys try reading this book? It tells you the easiest ways to maintain your perfect body as long as you can....

# ECO CONSTITUTION

(Drafted by Dr. Michael Angelo Promentilla)

....an excerpt from the newly drafted constitution. For the full version, please check the e<sup>3</sup> notice board.



We, the members of the English Engineering Education Program's Student Organization, realizing the need to form an organized group that shall embody our ideals and aspirations toward the fulfillment of the common good; in order to foster cooperation in the advancement of academic excellence, welfare and interests of this organization and of its constituents, to perform effectively and efficiently the tasks which come within the scope of this organization, and to promote loyalty to the objectives and principles of this organization, the e<sup>3</sup> program, as well as this university, do hereby ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

The Organization shall be officially known as the ENGLISH ENGINEERING EDUCATION (e<sup>3</sup>) PROGRAM'S STUDENT ORGANIZATION. It shall also be referred to as 'e<sup>3</sup> (pronounced as e-cube) Student Organization' or 'eco' for short.

## Objectives

**Section 1** The Organization aims to act as a common forum of all members to facilitate exchange of views and promotion of mutual cooperation.

**Section 2** The Organization aims to work for social and educational welfare of its members.

**Section 3** The Organization aims to work for the promotion of academic, cultural and other common interests of all its members.

**Section 4** The Organization aims to act as a mediator between the members and University administration in maintaining mutual cooperation between them.

**Section 5** The Organization aims to keep close links with other organizations and institutions in promoting academic, cultural and other exchanges.

## Membership

**Section 1** Membership shall be of three types: Regular, Affiliate/Associate, and Honorary. The admission shall not be based on race, creed, color, sex, sexual preference, ancestry, national origin, handicap, religion or other discriminatory criteria.

**Section 2** Regular membership shall be given to all students who are officially registered in the e<sup>3</sup> program. The student member shall herein be known as a regular member and upon graduation shall be referred to as an alumnus/alumna member of the Organization.

**Section 3** Affiliate or associate membership shall be open to all physically available alumni members of the e<sup>3</sup> program, as well as, to non-e<sup>3</sup> students and postdoctoral (PD) fellows of the Faculty and Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University, who want to actively participate and be involved in the activities of the Organization.

**Section 4** Honorary membership may be granted to any person who does not qualify as regular or affiliate member, but who has expressed his/her intention in joining the Organization and/or has given valuable contribution to the well-being of the Organization.

**Section 5** Acceptance of honorary members however shall be embodied in a resolution that is approved by a unanimous decision of the Organization.

**Section 6** The Organization may suspend or expel any member who acts against the principles of the Organization and deliberately violates the Constitution and bylaws; and behaves objectionably against the other members. However, opportunity and due process under the provision of this Constitution and bylaws shall be given to such member to clear and/or defend him/herself against any accusations.

## Bylaws

**Section 1** The Organization shall adopt a set of bylaws consistent with the objectives of this Constitution. The adoption of such bylaws is necessary for proper and effective management of this Organization. The bylaws may also have to change and be updated to accommodate new conditions or circumstances of the Organization.

## Effectivity

**Section 1** This Constitution and bylaws shall take effect upon the ratification by at least an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of the Body.

# COMMUNITY UPDATES

By Nikol Kochmanova



## NEW ECO OFFICERS

### Ataur Rahman - President

D1 - Division of Built Environment, Engineering for Maintenance System Laboratory  
Rahman is studying the simulation of composite structures using 3D FEM analysis. He enjoys sleeping in his spare time, and when the opportunity or demand arises, he likes to go sightseeing or shopping.

### Terrance Mohanaraj - Vice President

D1 - Division of Engineering and Policy for Cold Region Environment, Infrastructure Planning and Design Laboratory  
Terrance is studying the effects of road geometry and weather on the number of accidents in rural two lane roads in Hokkaido, through a combination of data mining and multivariate approach. He spends most of his time doing research and rest of time thinking about it or searching the online libraries for related material. He also likes to cook, listen to Indian Music and would like to spend some time not thinking about books!

### Carlito Tabelin - Treasurer

M2 - Division of Field Engineering for Environment, Terrestrial Environment Engineering Laboratory  
Carlito is studying arsenic and lead mobilization. He enjoys Japanese anime and manga. He usually goes to the convenient stores and looks for the weekly shonen jump, the comic book which contains the mangas, and he looks at the pictures, since he can't read the kanji.

### Jintana Wongta - Publication Officer

M1 - Division of Built Environment, Water Quality Control Engineering Laboratory  
Ting (nickname) is studying the cell toxicity using human DNA microarray analysis. She enjoys sleeping when she has free time, but not during parties!!

### Masoom Pahore - Academic Officer

M2 - Division of Built Environment, Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation Laboratory  
Masoom is studying urine separation and recovery of nutrients from human urine. He enjoys spending time alone, and is fond of having female friends.

### Kyung Mi Chung - Public Relations Officer

D2 - Division of Built Environment, Water Quality Control Engineering Laboratory  
Kyung Mi has been MIA (Missing in Action) for the last couple of months due to her research; we wish we knew what it was!!

### Nikol Kochmanová - Secretary

D1 - Division of Solid Waste, Resources and Geoenvironmental Engineering, Soil Mechanics Laboratory  
Nikol is studying the microstructure of clay, namely bentonite. She likes to stay active and do adventure sports, but also loves to watch movies and read.

## NEW COMERS



In the picture from left to right top row: Anbu (SriLanka), David (Colombia), Mamun (Bangladesh), Sadi (Bangladesh), Hamid (Iran), Upaka (Srilanka), Einstine (Philippines).

left to right bottom row: Nikol (Canada), Vannie (Phillippines), Wandee (Thailand), Jintana (Thailand), Jaja (Phillippines)

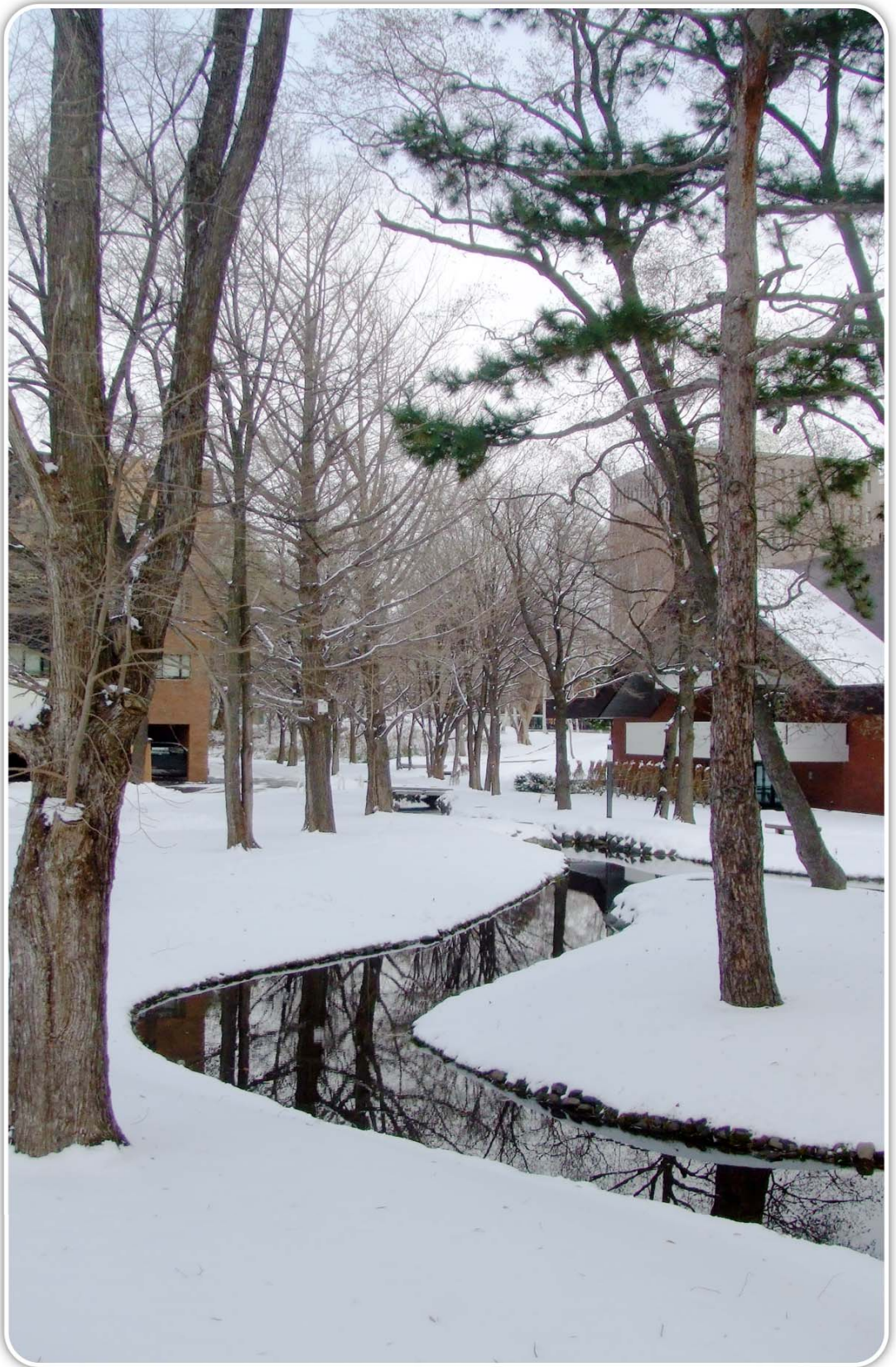


## THE PHOTO CONTEST

Thanks to all the participants! A big prize goes to the winner of this issue's theme, "Snow"

For the next issue, we would like to invite and challenge you again with your camera and macro function... with the theme... 'Flower'





'Snow'

By Michael Promentilla  
Photo Contest Winner

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E-Vision stands for English and the vision of the e<sup>3</sup> students of the Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University, Japan. It is the vision of facing academic challenges in the global context.