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THE MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH ENGINEERING EDUCATION PROGRAM



**VISION**  
ENGLISH ENGINEERING EDUCATION  
HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY, JAPAN

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SPRING

**VISION**

# CONTENTS

Contents	Page No.
Editorial	2
Announcement	3
Graduation Ceremony	4
E3 Anniversary	5-6
Activities	7
Film	8
Motivation	9
Column	10
Research Journey	11-12
Internship	13-14
Living the Dream	15-16
Interview	17-19
A Newcomer	20
Initial Motivation	21
Last Year	22
The Lunch	23-24
Travel	25-26
Love HU	27
To be Ambitious	28
E3 SO	29-30
Photoshoots	31-32

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 & Students of e<sup>3</sup>

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# EDITORIAL

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## Sajal Chowdhury

### Editor-in-Chief, eVision

Our new editorial board has spent almost one year and achievements are also not so little. Every year many new students are coming to e<sup>3</sup> program from many different countries who have social cultural dynamism. This magazine always trying to develop the cultural bonding among the students so that they can find themselves on a open platform where they will find the only sign of community and love. We always hope our magazine to be a foundation of social communication and exchange dimensional experiences of the e<sup>3</sup> community. So if you manage your small time just come and join us. So that we can work together for our e<sup>3</sup> community.



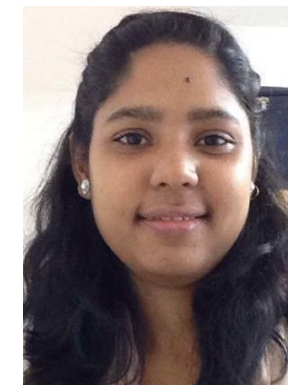
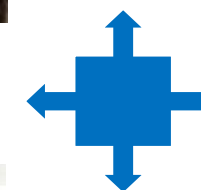
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# Announcement

## from 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 e<sup>3</sup> 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](mailto:evision2015@gmail.com).



# Graduation Ceremony

"Nothing can describe your greatest moment in life. I hope my snapshot can partially represent it even the slightest way"). This photo is taken at the graduation ceremony on 25th September this year (2015) at Hokkaido University. I can feel that it is their greatest moment in life. Although, it may indescribable, yet I hope this picture could represent your greatest memories even only a fraction of your heart.

**Natee Sirisit**

Division of Quantum science and Engineering  
Graduate school of Engineering  
and  
Catalyst Surface Research Division,  
Institute for Catalysis (ICAT)

# e<sup>3</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Seminar

## “Take the lead: Global Challenges and Education”

The occasion of 15th anniversary provided us with a delightful opportunity - to invite e<sup>3</sup> alumni to visit back. Today I can say that e<sup>3</sup> homecoming is becoming a tradition, with first one successfully organized in 2010, when program reached its 10th milestone. In 5 years since the last homecoming e<sup>3</sup> has grown twice bigger and had twice more reasons to celebrate its success. Today 126 students, including 14 Japanese are enrolled in 12 divisions and its 287 alumni are active in Japan and worldwide.

The two-day anniversary seminar “Take the lead: Global Challenges and Education” was held in the Frontier Research in Applied Sciences Building on September 10-11, 2015. Seminar brought together over 90 participants - professors, alumni, current students and staff to discuss “What was achieved in the past 15 years and how should the program develop in order to stay competitive and produce excellent global engineers?” Guest speakers included Dean Prof. Nawa, Vice-president Prof. Uyeda, e<sup>3</sup> Head prof. Fujita, Vice Dean Prof. Kobayashi and Dr. Matsukawa from Chiyoda Corporation.

11 e<sup>3</sup> alumni from Thailand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, China, Venezuela, Bangladesh, Brunei and Cambodia, graduated in various years, shared their career and research experiences. They were addressing challenges engineering education faces in their countries, the role of engineer in a globalizing industry, and important for PhD graduates concern academia- industry transition.

To get an insight on how the program contributes to the development of important skills, program strengths, and problems that have yet to be addressed I have asked alumni and current students to fill in a survey during the August 2015. It provided valuable information to be used by the program office.

One of the important outcomes of the seminar was the list of suggestions concerning curriculum development and career support reinforcement prepared by the group discussion participants. Although some of the suggestions extended the reach of our program, Prof. Fujita, e<sup>3</sup> program head promised that e<sup>3</sup> will closely consider them. Results of survey and discussion were reported to the e<sup>3</sup> Expert Committee and we are already started working on some of the core suggestions – introducing basic science course. Participants have also discussed how e<sup>3</sup> can engage its alumni, they agreed that time to establish e<sup>3</sup> alumni association might have come and voted for Dr. Richard Alloro as president and Dr. Elakneswaran Yogarajah as secretary of the interim committee. I wish them a success in it!



### Alumni guest speakers:

BAHARUDIN, Arshad (Brunei, '09) Imperial College London, MBA, Imperial Mobility consultancy

MAY, Thithiwat (Thailand, '09) Nitto Denko, Japan

ISLAM, G.M. Sadiqul (Bangladesh, '09) Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh

ALORRO, Richard Diaz (Philippines, '10) Curtin University, Australia

OPISO, Einstine Macamay (Philippines, '10) Central Mindanao University, Philippines

THAISIAM, Wandee (Thailand, '10) Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University

YU, Jun (China, '11) Nippon Light Metal, Japan

SENG, Sochan (Cambodia, '12) Cambodia Institute of Technology

CHENG, See Yuan (Malaysia, '12) Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka

AGUILAR, Kira Andreina (Venezuela, '13) Santos Dumont, Ireland

SICAT, Evdon (Philippines, '14) Mitsui Sumitomo Construction, Japan

# 15th e<sup>3</sup> Anniversary

## Natalya Shmakova

Coordinator

English Engineering Education Program (e<sup>3</sup>)  
Graduate School of Engineering  
Hokkaido University  
Sapporo 060-8628, JAPAN



Of course, not all 3 days we spent in the serious discussions. After the first day of the seminar, participants gathered at the Central Cafeteria to celebrate their reunion. A group of students prepared a special program for the alumni with games and jokes. Everyone could also write a letter to one year in future using e<sup>3</sup> anniversary future post. Specially designed e<sup>3</sup> anniversary T-shirts was a surprise present for the participants. Just 5 years ago some of the alumni helped organizing 10th anniversary party for their seniors, but now became guests themselves.

The seminar was concluded by an excursion to Jozankei, Yoichi and Otaru where everybody could finally fully relax and enjoy games, food and beautiful nature of Hokkaido. Now one could see alumni guests, well established in their careers, looking back to their time spent as students immersed in the friendly atmosphere of the e<sup>3</sup> family

During all this days, although I didn't have a chance to meet many of the guest before, it truly felt as we were members of one big family!

I would like to express gratitude to the Dean Prof. Nawa and e<sup>3</sup> program head Prof. Fujita, all e<sup>3</sup> students, professors and staff without whom this event could not be possible.

Many students have volunteered their time as task group members and advisors, and I would like to thank them personally here:

Matteo Porta – secretary, also seminar cameraman

David Cempel – anniversary symbolic design (for e<sup>3</sup> T-shirt and clear files) and camera man

Maria Rivas and Subeg Bijukchhen (special MCs), Chan Poh Cam (DJ), Rahmat Ullah, Mohan Amarashiri (Games), Man Ya (anniversary future mail) – party task group

Safiera Nur Septina, Shuto Kaneko and Wakana Oishi – field trip task group

Also I would like to thank for ideas and advice at the initial stages of the event: Ankit Ravankar, Justin Shresta, Steve Kabore and e<sup>3</sup> alumni: Dr. Katia Andrade, Dr. Adriano Coutinho de Lima, Dr. Elakneswaran Yogarajah



Hello everybody,

I am Mohan from Sri Lanka. This is my 4<sup>th</sup> year in Sapporo and currently I am in my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of PhD in the water quality control engineering lab. My research is focused on norovirus. I am studying how they survive in water environments.

I am happy to share my experiences with e<sup>3</sup> and in Japan with you all. I have attended so many e<sup>3</sup> activities individually, as a member of the Sri Lankan team and as a SO member. E<sup>3</sup> is a very nice place to meet new friends and improve your organizational skills. As you all are aware, e<sup>3</sup> is not only for fun, it also provides so many opportunities towards your career development also. But, to be honest my favorite event is Bonenkai because we can taste so many types of food in the same place. Thanks to e<sup>3</sup>, I have travelled in many areas around Hokkaido. Moreover, I have followed the career guidance series and tried to improve my transferable skills also. But, my recommendation for all of you is to join a task group. Sometimes it is a tough job. But you will learn lot of things and finally feel delighted by seeing the success of your job. By the way, if you need an extra hand in the task group, you can ask me.

See you in future e3 activities.

## Mohan Amarasiri

Water Quality Control Engineering Lab

“My recommendation for all of you is to join a task group.”



# FILM by Yan MA

Film Name: **The Eternal Zero**

Country: Japan

Release Time: 2013

### Plot:

In 2004, a young man named Kentaro Oishi attends the funeral of his grandmother, where he hears for the first the story of his real grandfather, Kyuzo Miyabe, who once was an excellent pilot of zero fighter and died during Second World War. However, it makes Oishi really ashamed that many of his grandfather's old comrades remember Miyabe as a coward. The story changes when Oishi meets a comrade who is dying of cancer. He tells Oishi that Miyabe's 'timid' was due to his promise to his wife to go back alive, his hope for new life after war and the responsibility to protect these young pilots from meaningless sacrifice. His 'timid' affected some young pilots around, giving them the hope to save themselves when being shot down over the ocean. And another comrade solves Oishi's puzzle of why such kind of man, who really treasured life chose to be volunteer for the suicide attack. Before the end of the war, the cruel battles and the death of comrades involved him into deep self-accusation that he still couldn't change the miserable condition. He already recognized the hopelessness of the war, and when all the young pilots were encouraged to do the final attack and die gloriously, he made a 'selfish request', changing the plane with a dear comrade, causing engine trouble in two planes to force them to return. Finally, the two pilots were saved but Miyabe was sacrificed.

### Recommendation reason:

Although it is related to a sensitive background, the story itself is really moving. The reflections on the value of life, the discussion on the significance of being alive are deeply revealed in this full-of-contradiction story. 'The Eternal Zero' won the Best Film, Best Director in the 38th Japanese Film Academy Awards.





# Motivation

Sajal Chowdhury

During my B.Arch and M.Arch, I found interest in environmental topics, which amplified further being an environmental courses and design teacher. In this continuation, I am conducting my Masters of engineering as a MEXT scholar on Human Environmental System (Laboratory of Environmental Ergonomics) from (e<sup>3</sup> program) Hokkaido University, Japan with major stream "Energy and indoor environmental quality with health risk prediction. My objective is to triumph uppermost level of environmental research related with built environment and performance, so that I am able to develop, flourish and relate my knowledge, skill and points to meet up the demands of my future students, society and the whole world. In this regard I want to be more focused on "Human Environmental System and Indoor Environmental Quality" which is the crucial requirement for performance and wellbeing of the occupants in indoor environment. That's why I wish to pursue my research on "Thermal comfort criteria and prediction of health risk". Because in recent years, due to the global warming, etc., heatstroke patients have been increasing rapidly. As a result, hot environment prediction becomes a crucial phenomenon nowadays.

So I have selected "Laboratory of Environmental Ergonomics" because this laboratory works on human thermal comfort standards and energy efficient design tools & techniques to achieve comfort level. The environment of tropics like ours is very much different than other places. On the other hand, we had some comfort study for residences, housing, classrooms etc. But no established research regarding labor extensive factory building's thermal comfort and commercial building. I have already finished some researches regarding this issues and also published International Journal Paper in "Energy & Buildings" on "Thermal Performance of Building Envelope of Ready-Made Garments (RMG) Factories in Dhaka, Bangladesh" and now working on "Indoor Heat Stress Prediction and adaptive thermal comfort criteria for Factory production space" by using thermal chamber. On the other hand, in Bangladesh, I wished to conduct research on thermal comfort, health risk prediction and energy performance and develop lab facilities in the field of Architecture and Built Environment with this knowledge from e<sup>3</sup> program. I strongly believe that all the laboratories of e<sup>3</sup> program have standard equipment facilities to conduct research and world expert supervisors to guide the study. Finally I am very much happy for being a student of e<sup>3</sup> program because of its research dynamism and lab facilities.



## Tahereh's Column

One year passed! With many ups and downs, happiness and sadness, progresses and failures, but the final result is that I'm proud of having this opportunity to be a PhD student of Hokkaido University in the laboratory of solid waste disposal engineering with skillful professors! I'm glad of being accustomed to this new environment with lovely Japanese people, as well as with my nice laboratory friends and of course, being a part of warm and kind international community. This is an honor to pass my first official presentation and finished the Japanese classes (grammar level 4 & kanji level 2). All I could achieve was impossible without this community and waiting for having more opportunities, more communications and for sure, more results for my research which is the main goal here. I'm writing far away here to thank my mum and to warmly appreciate my wonderful supervisor. All I can achieve is because of you, Professor Tojo.

**Tahereh Malmir**  
PhD Candidate at Hokkaido University  
Engineering Faculty, Laboratory of Solid Waste Disposal Engineering  
Hokkaido, Japan



Graduation Nomikai (2014) - Hokkaido University Laboratory of Architectural History and Design

# My Story About Research Journey

**(Safiera N.S.)**

My graduation gradually getting near and before I realize 3 months left before the graduation ceremony.

I was wondering, for the 3 years I spent my time in Hokudai (Hokkaido University), start as Research Student and continue as Masters Student (present), I was bless by wonderful friends and experiences. The wonderful friends and experiences that I will talk about come from my laboratory experiences at Laboratory of Architectural History and Design.

My laboratory has several projects & activity that require students participate on it. My first experience was they had LIXIL competition on 2013-2014. We need to design a place where people can experience nature at Taiki-cho while doing indoor activity with the main leader Furuta, Inoue, and Taichi, while the rest help with model making and design preparation.

***“That was my story. What is your story? I hope you can find wonderful friends and experiences like me in Hokudai!”***



LIXIL Competition (2013-2014)

The next one was Summer School 2014, where the main participants were Master Students, not only from Hokkaido University but also from overseas. It divided into four groups (A-D), where I belong to C groups with Sekine, Yusuke, and Land Ding (National University of Singapore). It was surprising when our group chosen as the winner. The task was to make an improvement project for north side of Hokudai Campus.

Our scopes not only limited to design but also to measure and re-draw a Buddhist Temple in Atsuta and Bachelor Memorial Building (Hokudai Botanical Garden).

The last project and famous one is *Kumitate* (Japanese assembly technique). It was started in June 2013 by Miura Taichi, then continue by Nagasawa Mami and Takahashi Hiroya as leader of the project. The drawings started in 2013 by 5 people (Master Student 1<sup>st</sup> year at that time). The project continues until now where it got an award from Good Design Award 2015. Every year we put Kumitate project on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of engineering building as part of Sado (Japanese tea ceremony) Event.



Kumitate Photoshoot (2015) - Hokkaido University Laboratory of Architectural History and Design Documentation. Photographer: Sakai Koji

Summer School (2014)- Summer School 2014 @Sapporo



## Summer Internship in Hokkaido University

**Racquel Ranchie A. Ting**

I have always dreamed of pursuing studies and research related work in Japan and when I finally got the chance to do so last July I was absolutely overjoyed. It was my fourth time coming to Japan but a first for Hokkaido. Usually my stays were 2 weeks at the most, which did not really give me time to immerse in the culture. At first I was bit worried since it would be my first time living alone in a dorm, and for two months at that.

I'm currently a student at De La Salle University -Manila taking my Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering. When I first came to Sapporo, the first people I talked to in my laboratory, Laboratory of Sustainable Sanitation, would get curious as to why I chose their lab since my research topic was on biodiesel, a much unrelated topic. However I have always been interested in wastewater so it was great that I could work in their laboratory.

As expected from a top university in Japan, their laboratory was superb. They had it all, if not, most of the equipment and reagents they needed in their study. They also had a pilot plant for their studies, something that amazes me. Thanks to my lab mates, especially Uchida-san, and professors, I was able to learn more about waste water treatment and various analytical methods. Though you could say that you can learn most of it through journals, being able to conduct the real thing is much more beneficial. I was able to observe the Japanese's attitude towards work and compare it to Filipino's work attitude.

Of course, it was not all about research work for me. I had a good amount of fun during my two months stay. I remember when I first got to Hokkaido I was worried and excited about being able to make friends. Unlike Filipinos, the Japanese are more reserved and shy, so I was a bit troubled by how quiet they were in the office. I believe a major event for me was the 'Otsukare' party our labmate, Sebastian, held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June. I was so nervous about going since I was not directly invited. I'm so glad I got the courage to go since I believe this is where I got to meet and talk to most of the people in my laboratory. Everyone was so welcoming and I'm so glad that they were the ones to talk to me first since (my friends in Sapporo may not agree with this) I'm quite shy when talking to strangers. I was ecstatic each time I got to know them more and spend time with them.



It was my first time being in another country for so long and my first time celebrating my birthday abroad too. And though I had only been there for a month at that time, it was one of the best birthdays I've ever had. So many people from my laboratory came, which surprised me to be honest.

Even though it was Japan, I was able to become good friends with a number of Filipino and foreign students there. Funny enough, I was even able to make friends with the Japanese from other labs.

Getting the chance to do internship in Hokkaido University is one of the most eventful things that has happened in my life. The campus was huge and beautiful. I could never get tired of the scenery. The food in the cafeteria was also great to be honest. Working in a well-equipped laboratory and being able to bike to and from university was bliss. Being able to go around Sapporo in a bicycle was mundane but honestly it was one of the things I enjoyed most.

My stay in Hokkaido was short and yet I was able to experience so many wonderful things. I was able to go out a lot and have fun with friends. Doing things such as karaoke and nomikai (something we do differently in the Philippines) were some of the highlights. Going on trips outside Sapporo were things I thought I would do with my Filipino friend but somehow I'm glad I was able to do it with the people I met in Sapporo. I was also able to attend festivals such as the Yosakoi festival and the fireworks festival too. Honestly, I will never forget my stay. Sure, someday I may forget how some places looked or how to get to some of the stores I went to, but certainly I will never forget the people I met and the moments we shared. It may have been a short two months but certainly I have gained so many things and experiences that have helped me grow as a person which I will carry with me through my life. I'm not sure if I was able to get it across while I was there, but I'm truly, deeply grateful to all the people that befriended me and supported me during my stay. Hopefully, I can one day go back and finish my Master's in Japan.





# Living the Dream

## Rimana Islam Papry



Moving overseas to a culture that you know almost nothing about is like taking a giant leap into the unknown. Beautiful landscape, diverse culture as well as exciting cities are reasons why I choose Japan as the foreign country to pursue my higher study. This is my first ever experience to live in abroad away from my family and friends.

What was the biggest question in my mind after reached Sapporo? It was most likely how to adapt quickly to the new country and what to expect there. I remember when I first arrived in Sapporo; I amazed how urban and western looking the city was. The streets are wide and open and the buildings are tall and modern. It offers totally different view other than that of my country named Bangladesh. I felt like I was dreaming.

But the most important thing that happened when I moved to Sapporo was culture shock. According to Webster, culture shock is: A condition of anxiety and disorientation that can affect someone suddenly exposed to a new culture. It's important to know that these feelings are pretty typical when adapting. After all, I suddenly realized that my way of life will be very different from what I used to. It creates effects on everything from diet to the clothing I wear or people I talk with or the side of the street I walk on.

Another problem I faced was the language barrier but now pretty much cope with it. I think this problem happens with almost all the new comers from all over the world. Everything is brand new experience for me as well as the other students who wish to pursue his/her degree from the Hokkaido University or any other part of Japan.

Sapporo is the Japan's fifth-largest city, and the prefectural capital of Hokkaidō, designed by European and American architects in the late 19th century. For me, it is a surprisingly dynamic and cosmopolitan urban centre that pulses with energy and natural beauty. Sapporo is shaped by its wide grid of tree-lined streets and ample public parks, which contribute to the city's surprising level of livability. At the very first day of Sapporo after exploring the city, I felt fresh and recovered my energy back over a hot meal; a great proposition given Sapporo's wholly deserved gastronomic reputation.

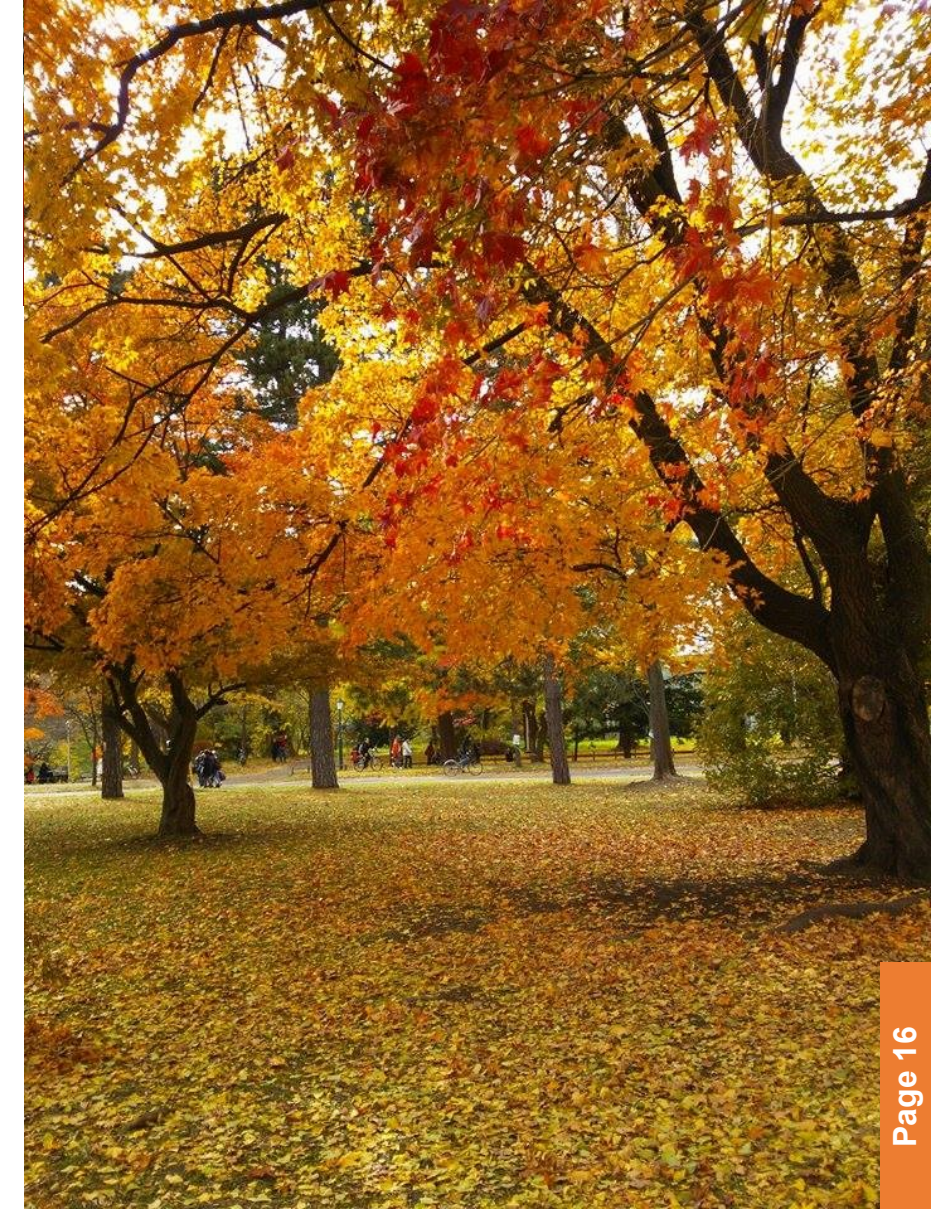
As I come to know that Sapporo is a bustling modern city that can meet all the urban needs before head out to explore. Moreover, the island is winning a reputation as a haven for thrill-seeking travelers wanting to ski and hike in its mountains, explore its magnificent national parks, relax in its hidden onsen (hot springs), and experience its offerings at their own pace. I am planning to enjoy it at my leisure or during the semester vacation.

As the island's main access point and transport hub, Sapporo serves as an excellent base for striking out into the wilds.

Hokkaido University is one of the main educations Centre for the students of Sapporo as well as around the world, has earned a reputation for pioneering research on the cutting edge since 1876 and attracting outstanding staff and students from Japan and around the globe. Today, the university is recognized itself with its advanced research institution, strong links to industry, community and government. It aims to fulfill the dreams of its students' dreams in order to aims to promote excellent human resources to contribute to the community, and expansion in the science and technology.

This university has a beautiful campus. On a regular day this beautiful road is lined with huge ginkgo trees and is a popular tourist attraction, especially in the autumn when the leaves change to reds and yellows. The eye soothing main campus is located in downtown Sapporo, within walking distance to almost everything the beautiful city has to offer. With an additional campus in the coastal city of Hakodate, the university converted as the powerhouse of innovation and research, which is the representative of the modern Japan.

I want to conclude that I feel not only lively when I enjoy the meal or share my views or travel with other students but also peaceful in my soul as admiring the view colorful leaves fall down slightly. Winter is almost knocking at the door with its calm white blanket. Sapporo people are ready to welcome this cold environment with warm heart. And, of course, I am looking forward to eye witness the Sapporo Snow Festival (Yuki Matsuri), a winter carnival highlighted by frozen sculptures of everything from brown bears and tanuki (raccoon dogs) to Godzilla and Doraemon.



# INTERVIEW

## RAVANKAR ANKIT

Laboratory of Robotics and Dynamics (A5-61)

Research Group of Biomechanics and Robotics  
Division of Human Mechanical Systems and Design  
Faculty and Graduate School of Engineering  
Hokkaido University

E-mail to : [ankitravankar@gmail.com](mailto:ankitravankar@gmail.com)



### • Before you came to HU what did you study and where?

I came to Hokkaido University in October 2010 for my Masters degree. Before that, I completed my Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Pune, India. I studied Production and Industrial Engineering for my undergraduate course. The University of Pune is located in the city of Pune, which is 150 km south of Mumbai. It is one of the oldest and well-known universities in India. After graduating I worked for a year in a manufacturing firm as a Design Engineer in a start up company which was founded by my colleague and friend.

### • What made you choose e3 program, HU as a place to study?

I came to know about Hokkaido University when I was in my second year of undergraduate course. My supervisor (Prof. Yukinori Kobayashi) visited Pune city for the Japan Education Fare where different universities from Japan were exhibiting their popular courses. Luckily, at that time I was also taking a beginner course in Japanese language at the University of Pune during my free time and came to know about it. I visited the fare and met Prof. Kobayashi who was very kind to explain me about the e3 course and how I could apply. Another reason for choosing HU, was that my elder brother had studied here for a year and during his stay at HU, he used to send me postcards from his travel in Hokkaido and I was always fascinated by the beauty of Hokkaido and wanted to study there. After finishing my course, I applied to the program and got accepted.

### • What did you think of the course while you were here?

To be honest, I felt the course would be very difficult for me because I had this perception of Japan as a technology giant and HU is one of the top universities in Japan. But this was not the case and I found the course to be interesting and easy. In India, we are used to teachings in universities where subjects are taught from the basics to advanced level in the same course. But here, it was surprising to me because the professors were teaching their own research specialization in the course work. Overall I feel the course was properly designed and well taught. For me, I spent most of my time in my laboratory reading papers, writing codes and experimenting. I had the freedom to choose my own research topic which was my priority. I had the luxury to spend hours thinking about the research and find the solution to it. The e3 community makes it a truly international course.



### • How did your scholarship enhance your experience of the course?

To be honest, I would not have come to Japan if it were not for the MEXT scholarship. I feel very privileged to get this prestigious scholarship to pursue first my masters and then my Ph.D. at HU. Japan is an expensive country and without scholarship I think it's very difficult to survive here as a student. Also, there is a constant pressure on you about the financial burden even if you do part-time job or get financial help from your parents. The scholarship makes your life super easy. You only need to focus on your studies and it covers everything, from tuition to the living expenses. I am very thankful to the government of Japan for providing me with this scholarship.

### • Since completing your course what career opportunities have you taken up?

That's the most challenging question for a young graduate. I had many plans after my graduation and spent weeks considering a suitable option for my career after graduation. My major is Robotics Engineering and I had a wide range of companies that I had selected. I was successful in job interviews of 2 major Japanese companies in automobile and electronics sector. Then there was another option of going into the Academic stream and become a researcher. I finally decided to choose academia as my career choice. I had great support from my family and supervisor who insisted that I choose academia and I am very satisfied with my current job profile.

• What advice do you have for others thinking of studying here?

For current and future students, my advice would be to make the best use of your graduate student life. The first priority should always be your research and everything else is secondary. For most students getting used to a new place is overwhelming experience and one must not lose focus from the research. My personal experience is that setting small goals for yourself helps a lot. And when you reach that goal, give yourself a small treat and set another goal to accomplish. If you continue doing that, everything fits perfectly in the end. It's also important not to indulge yourself completely in your research and take time to socialize outside your laboratory and comfort zone. The e3 student activities are the perfect place to meet people and make new friends. To me e3 SO is very close to my heart as I was an active member during my stay at HU. Also, I served 2 years as the core committee leading the organization. I would strongly advise new students to join the e3 events and if possible take some of the positions. The events not only help you refresh from the sometimes-frustrating research life but also hones your management skills by working as a team and organizing and executing an event. I have met some of the nicest people and made some great friends in these few years.

Also I would advice students not to get demotivated if you fail behind your research or get unsatisfactory results. This is the part and parcel of the graduate study program. It is designed that way to keep you working towards your final goal, polishing and honing your skills day by day. As my supervisor said, "Do not haste, take one step at a time", so must the students should approach the research subject. Treat your research as your prized possession, just like your own child, caring for it, working to make it better every day and eventually everything will be alright.



• What are the best aspects of studying at e3 program, HU?

The e3 course is very nicely designed for the international students. It's one of the very few English based courses designed for international students in Japanese universities. The best aspects of studying as e3 students are many. (1) The School of Engineering has some of the finest faculties in Japan and the research standard is very high. The campus is very beautiful and I think the best in Japan. (2) As the course is completely designed in English, it makes the life of an international student very easy. You can study independently your research topic under the esteemed supervision of your supervisor with full support. (3) You get to study in a truly international environment with students from different countries, culture, religion and diverse backgrounds. This helps to make a long lasting international network even after you graduate. Getting into e3 course is relatively difficult and only the top students from different universities get the chance to study here, so there is a sense of competitiveness that always keeps you on the edge and motivates you to work hard. The environment is very friendly and the staff is very kind and helpful with everything related to your academic life and even personal life. (4) The student organization or the e3 SO is an amazing organization to get together with other students and socialize regularly. It is a well-organized student only association that gives you the very necessary breaks from the monotonous research life by organizing regular events. I think these points make e3 a great choice for international graduate students.

The last advice I would like to give the students is to learn the Japanese language. I know it gets very difficult to juggle between research and language study, but learning the language will make your life much easier. Not only it will help you make local friends, learn and explore the Japanese culture but will help you enormously if you are considering your career in Japan. I wish good luck to all the students at e3 for their future endeavors.

• Where you are working or what are you doing at the moment (in • 2015)?

I am working as an Assistant Professor in Hokkaido University and will continue to work for several more years in this beautiful university.

• Have you had any achievements since you graduated from e3 program, HU that your HU degree has helped you with?

During my stay as a graduate student, I stayed top of my class during my Masters course of which I am very proud. I won the Young Author award by IEEE for one my research paper and recently another research paper that I co-authored got the best paper award from IEEE. I had the wonderful opportunity to do an industrial internship at Panasonic Corporation last year, which was a wonderful experience and another internship at Zhejiang University, China.



# A Newcomer

## Hiroki Sato

Laboratory of Environmental Ergonomics  
Division of Human Environmental Systems, Faculty of  
Engineering, Hokkaido University

In this article, I'll focus on the importance of language based on my experience. Language is a powerful and important tool for us. Through our common language, we can share our culture, discuss our study, and tell each other what we think. We can understand each other. On the other hand, Language has other aspects: We tend to separate those who speak a different language from our group. In other words, there is a psychological barrier to those who speak different languages other than Japanese. (I think that Japanese especially have this kind of tendency.)

Last year, I participated in an overseas internship with my Japanese friend, Naoki, and we stayed in an international dormitory with many students from all over the world. Naoki and I spent a lot of time going around and eating lunch or dinner with them. Not surprisingly, they spoke in English because each of their native languages was not same. From the beginning of the internship, Naoki and I still had difficulty to talk to them in English, which is why we talked to each other in Japanese even when we were in the same group with the international students. However, we noticed that other students who didn't understand Japanese couldn't join our Japanese conversation and we couldn't build a close relationship unless we used our common language. So, we broke the psychological barrier and stopped using Japanese, except when we were alone. As a result, all students including us got along very well.

Next example is related to the international student from Bangladesh whom my Lab accepted last year, Sajal. When he first came to Japan, he (maybe) didn't have the knowledge about Japanese at all. But after a week or so from his arrival in Japan, he gave us Japanese usual greetings such as "Otukaresama" and so on (and his pronunciation is really great!). I believed that the mental distance between him and us got shortened because of the Japanese phrases and he successfully adapted himself to the new environment.

Do you know Shotoku-taishi? He is one of the greatest people in Japanese history and he announced the Seventeen-article constitution. It says that "*Harmony should be valued ... when superiors are in harmony and inferiors are friendly, then they discuss affairs in cooperation, everything will be reasonable spontaneously. Then there is nothing which cannot be accomplished.*" In order to keep *harmony*, it is imperative to communicate with each other in our common language.

Finally, to Japanese students, don't be shy to speak English and put more efforts to tell foreign people what you think. Additionally, we really appreciate e3 program for accepting international students and having many enjoyable events.



# Initial Motivation

Wakana Oishi

**I am Wakana Oishi,** and I am a master student in the laboratory of Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation.

The initial motivation applying to e3 was to improve my English communication skills for research work. I love my research topic and it must be valuable for all over the world in future. Therefore, I wanted to disseminate my work to the world. However, my English was very poor. To overcome the problem, I chose the English course.

The experience gave me the opportunity to challenge and change myself. For example, the most difficult task for me was to make presentation in English. I easily get nervous in front of people even speaking in Japanese, and I'm not good at speaking in English. Therefore, it was really hard for the first year, but I tried to improve, and now I'm getting better. It was tough to challenge myself with something that I was not able to do, but step by step practice made it less stressful bit by bit, and the accumulation of these experiences has given me self-confidence. This would become my asset for future.

The other property is communication with international students with different back grounds, carriers, generations, cultures and motivation to study. I have learned a lot from them (For example, different ways of thinking, closer-relationships between people, cooking and so on). It is very interesting and sometimes friends could lead me to make better decisions.

I learned more in e3 than I expected initially. Actually, it is still difficult for me to discuss about my research in English. So I would like to continue this challenge towards my aim and have fun with friends. I hope foreign students encourage their Japanese friends to have such a great experiences.



# Last Year

Ahmad Ali

Ahmad Ali

## Last

November I was selected as e<sup>3</sup> SO president for one year. We arranged many events, such as the Bonenkai, Snow sculpture Contest, Academic seminars, Welcome, Graduation and Hanami parties, Field trip and many more. During this year, I had many good experiences and I learnt many things like Managerial & Communication skills, Leadership skills and much more. During one year, I made lots of friends from different parts of the world and I learnt about their interesting cultures and traditions. Everyone in e3 family was very nice to me because whenever we asked them for their support, they helped us as task group members or individually. My whole SO committee was also very passionate and motivated in every event we arranged. Without their support and hard work, nothing would have been possible. I wish all the best to the new Committee. And I request all e3 family members to help this new committee in their whole tenure. Thank you and keep rocking.



The BUFFET is available between 11:00 AM to 14:30 PM during weekends. If there is rush then we will have to wait for our turn that's what we were doing in this picture. Since Japanese people will love and prefer the varieties of food from other countries unless until there is some Japanese stuff available, we observed many salads and ice creams of Japanese flavor. All those items were delicious. Coming to the main dish of the restaurant it was delicious PIZZAS. Even though it is all you can eat we hardly can eat 4 or 5 slices of PIZZAS. We were full then. We liked almost all varieties of PIZZAS and PASTAS. Especially the ICE CREAM was very delicious. I recommend this restaurant for first timers to try if you are interested in PIZZAS and PASTA. The price is very reasonable with exciting menus. Will come up with more varieties of special food available around Sapporo next time.

*“There is no sincerer love than the love of food”*  
 - **George Bernard Shaw.**

It is always good to taste different varieties of food. And of course once you are in a foreign country it's an opportunity. With this in mind and after seeing the advertisements kept in front of the shop we (me and my friends) decided to taste the SALVATOR CUOMO restaurant food. I and my friends are from India where we prefer to eat more spicy stuffs like curry etc. Of course India is famous for its wide variety of spices we are also fond of western foods. With the interest to taste western food, we entered the restaurant. Usually on weekends SALVATOR restaurant hosts with a lunch buffet system in which they charge 1680 YEN per person and it's like all you can eat. Obviously due to the low cost and not having much idea about the food to choose we decided to taste all available recipes by opting the BUFFET.

# A lunch at the SALVATOR CUOMO

**Srikrishnan Siva Subramanian**



# Moerenuma Koen

**Maria Fernanda Rivas**

Soil Mechanics Laboratory (M2)  
 Division of Field Engineering for the Environment  
 Graduate School of Engineering  
 Hokkaido University



## History

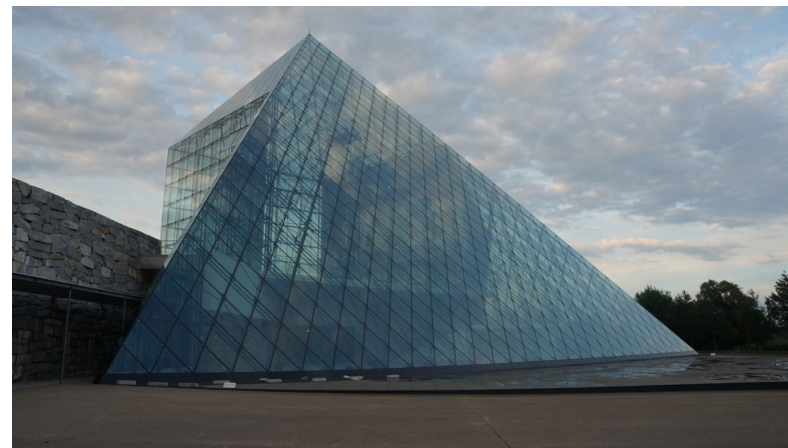
1977	Commencement of Land acquisition of the waste disposal site with the aim of turning it into a park.
1979	Beginning of Moere Landfill with non-combustible waste. (-1990). Beginning of construction and Moere Marsh dredging as part of a river project for comprehensive flood-control measures for the Fushiko River (-1992)
1981	Development of "(former) Moerenuma Park basic design."
1982	Commencement of construction on the park foundations. Establishment of "basic plan for (former) Sapporo Green" The "Circular Greenbelt Concept" is raised.
1988	July, Involvement of Isamu NOGUCHI in the Moerenuma Park construction plan. November, Completion of New Master plan. December, Death of Isamu NOGUCHI at age 84.
1989	Beginning of construction according to Isamu NOGUCHI' s master plan.
1998	Soft opening of Moerenuma Park.
2005	Grand opening of Moerenuma Park.

Located in Higashi-ku, about 10 km from the University campus, Moerenuma Park is a perfect location for those who want to enjoy nature and art without spending too much commuting time. Accessible by car, bicycle and bus, this place can be visited during the winter as well as the summer. What we found more interesting about this place is the fact that it was converted from a waste treatment plant into a work of art, with the creative design of Isamu Noguchi, a Japanese American artist. Following is its interesting history



We were able to enjoy a nice sunny day of cycling and looking at the sunset from the top of the Mount Moere, with an awesome view of Sapporo at our feet. And at night, we witnessed the beautiful show of water and light at the Sea Fountain.

The most iconic facility of the Moerenuma Koen is the glass pyramid Hidamari ("sunny spot" in Japanese), near the East entrance. This building serves as gallery, shop and restaurant.



Definitely this is a place I would recommend for a nice day out surrounded by nature, art and sports. Make sure to check out the park's website for more information [http://moerenumapark.jp/english/!](http://moerenumapark.jp/english/)



# Love "HU"

**Sara Farooq**  
Structural Engineering (M2)  
Graduate School of Engineering  
Hokkaido University

# To be **AMBITIOUS**

**Reem ABUKMEIL**

Graduation : 2015 (M.Eng.)

I reached Japan almost one year ago. At first, I was a little frustrated because of the language barrier. Whenever I went to buy something, it was really difficult to communicate with the staff. I couldn't speak Japanese at all. As days passed, I started to enjoy my stay here; joined the Japanese language classes, made some international friends. I love the Hokudai campus. It's large and it's beautiful. In autumn Hokudai becomes so beautiful, it's the best time around the year. I have made many international friends. Last year I joined e3 as Vice Chairman Public Relations. It was a great experience, being in touch with e3 family and organizing events. Being a member of e3 family enabled me to interact and broaden my vision in an international environment.

I had so many unforgettable experiences during my stay till now; like a wild camping trip with my friends Yan Ma, Maria, Tahereh and Jagriti near Shikotsu lake in May (golden week), eating the seven flavored ice-cream in Otaru during extreme cold weather and rafting in Niseko. There are so many beautiful places for sightseeing in Japan that I still want to visit. Time is passing so quickly, it's already been a year. Before I leave Japan, I have a list of activities to do like traveling to Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima, climbing Mt. Fuji, skiing, paragliding and many other things. Although these days, I am always stuck in my lab.

So Japanese people often ask me 'why Japan'? I chose Japan because of safety. Sapporo in particular is a small, peaceful and quiet city and I love being here. There are many things that you can enjoy only in Japan, and I think I'm going to miss them. I am used to eating Japanese food (onigiri particularly, every day). I love ramen and takoyaki. These days I am struggling with Japanese language. I took some classes in the student center previously but always end up dropping them. It's interesting too, but *teihen* (tough).

I can say that I am satisfied and happy from my decision of coming here. Studying abroad couldn't be more perfect anywhere else. I love Japan, I love Sapporo!



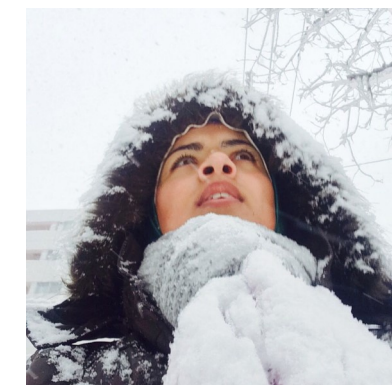
I am Reem ABUKMEIL, a Palestinian lady from Palestine. I finished my master degree in the environmental engineering department at Hokkaido university- Japan. I enrolled the e<sup>3</sup> program from October, 2013 till September, 2015. I am going to talk about my life experience in Sapporo as a student and a foreigner.

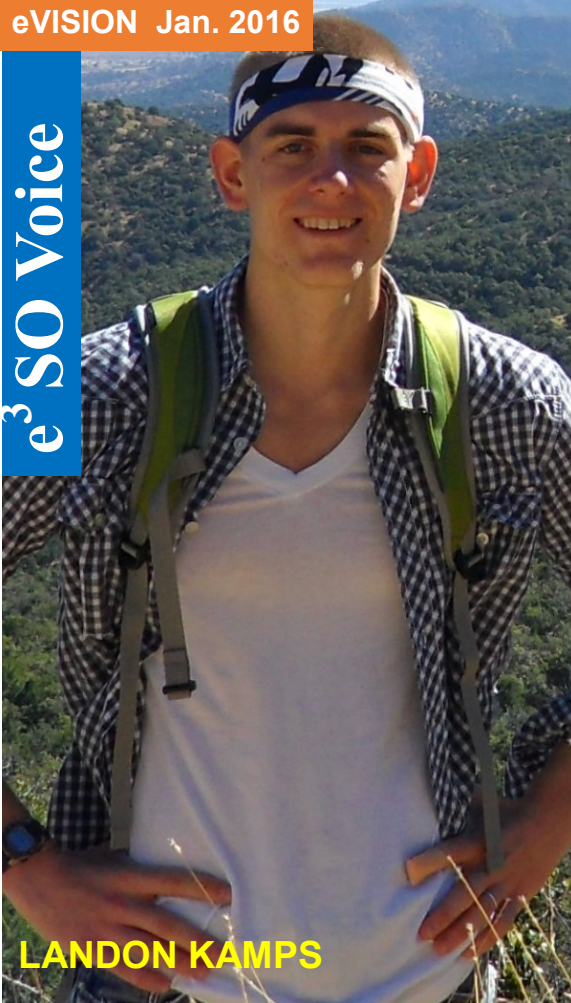
Any beginning has its bitterness and difficulties, however, it is definitely my greatest experience in my whole life. I learned dozens of things, having new culture, meeting new people with different nationalities, exchanging thoughts and ideas, new type of food (especially the amazing sushi) and finally how to do the research. The most interesting part for me was to meet many people with totally different backgrounds. You learn how to accept others despite all the differences that we have. As well as, one day we become one family with sharing our feelings, thoughts, food, enjoyment, laughing, exercising, travelling and many other things. E3 program allow and open for us this opportunity. It was also a great time I spent while I was the financial manager of the e<sup>3</sup> SO, 2013-2014. Organizing events was so much fun; we tried to gather all the e<sup>3</sup> students for having nice moments out of the research stress.

Regarding my research experience, I get an awesome time with a great laboratory of environmental engineering on sustainable sanitation. My professors and lab mates were so cooperated (even out of e3 circle). I learned the meaning of re-search which means trying and trying many times (that's why it is re-search not search only). Research will grow your personality and will open for you many opportunities all over the world. I was lucky to participate in two worldwide experiences in Poland and Mongolia. At the end, I can say I had unforgettable moments in Hokudai. I will miss all of this and especially my friends. I hope we will meet again in the future.

And one more

**(Boys be ambitious and... Girls be more and more ambitious)**





LANDON KAMPS

### Chairman

I'm Landon from the United States. I look forward to spending time together with you and the e3 family in the near future. When I first found out about e3 over two and a half years ago, I knew immediately that I wanted to be a part of the program. I just recently got accepted to the Master's course in Mechanical and Space Engineering following one semester of study as a research student. During my time as a research student, I was lucky enough to join in on most of the e3 activities and meet many people from e3. Each one of those events was very enjoyable, and motivated me to try for the position of SO chair.

E3 students come from countries all around the world and from all walks of life, which is precisely why I believe that, together we have incredible potential. The bonds that we form here will transform our lives, and inspire us to be a new generation of innovators and leaders. Let's explore, learn and grow together during our time at Hokkaido University!



SHOFA RIJALUL HAW

### Vice-Chair (Academic)

Hello e3 student,

My name is Shofa Rijalul Haq, a student from Indonesia. I belong to Laboratory of Groundwater and Mass Transport, Division of Sustainable Resource Engineering. My background study is mining and geological engineering. As a matter of fact, I had been in Hokkaido University as student exchange of long term PARE program for about six months, September 2014 - March 2015. Then I went back to Indonesia to complete my master and came again to Hokkaido University to pursue a PhD degree, which has been starting since October 2015. When registered as student at Hokkaido University, I was automatically a part of e3 (English Engineering Education) families. The activities and events organized by e3 families are always made me fascinated. I feel like home when I am interacting with them, so much fun and happiness. Many times, it decreases my level of depression and stress due to my laboratory work. On November 25, 2015, I was nominated and officially became a Vice-Chair (Academic) of e3 SO (Student Organization). In consequent, I am committed to enhancing the quality of education available at Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University by assisting to campus events and activities which enrich e3 community through organizing lectures, workshops, or seminars.



SHUKI MIURA

### Vice-Chair (Social)

Hello, everyone. My name is Shuki Miura, Master 1<sup>st</sup> student at Laboratory of Engineering for Maintenance System. I was born and raised in Sapporo, so now I'm very delighted that you chose Hokkaido University, my hometown university and happy to study at Hokkaido University with you.

Turning point for me to join such an international activity like e3 is my first stay in foreign country in Thailand. I studied as exchange student one semester at Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology in Thammasat University with many kind students. After that, I have tried to be kind and provide many events to international students as same as Thai students did for us. When I was suggested to nominate e3 SO committee, I thought it may be the chance to expand my challenge, to give opportunities to enjoy their life in Hokkaido. I will do my best to provide many events which make you *experience* Hokkaido and Sapporo. Let's enjoy and have a great time together in Hokudai life!!



NGUYEN THI PHUONG THAO

### Vice-Chair (Finance)

Once upon a time, I dreamed I could fly on the sky to another country. E3 appears and my dream comes true in an unbelievable way. New life in a new country - Japan - opens with many colors and one of those beautiful colors is made up by my new Japanese friends. They are standard for me to try in my forthcoming student life. Japanese students have a good sense. They come early before every seminar to prepare projector, tidy table, and chair, serve tea, and cakes. After seminar, they together tidy the room again to turn it back to original status. No one leaves until when the work finishes. They are very on time. If seminar starts 4:30 many students are already in there since 4:00, or some others come exactly at 4:30 no later even 1 minute. They are very clever. I am really shock when attending their poster seminars. The research result indicates that they have done many experiments. The poster is full of complicated formulas and diagrams. They all deal with very difficult and challenge research topics. I always look at them admiringly and tell with myself how high level Japanese education is. Japanese students are very hard working as well. They can stay overnight at lab to carry out experiment and write report. Every day they leave laboratory at eight or nine P.M even under the bad weather condition. Surprisingly, once they come to the party, they become another person. Someone who has never talked to me before, makes conversation with me. Since then, I recognize that Japanese students are not so cold but very friendly. They drink a lot alcohol without being drunk. And the way they eat noodle is very interesting that I still can't imitate. Sometime, Japanese students are also lazy like student-being. They spend 2 continuous hours to play videogame or read comic. There is a bookshelf of comic in my lab. I am lucky to be a member in my laboratory, I am happy to say ohayo each morning an otsukare every evening to everyone in my lab. I am enjoying my life in Japan.



DAVID CEMPEL

### Public Relation Officer

Hello everybody! My name is David. I'm from Czech Republic (Prague and beer :). I have moved to Sapporo in October 2014. Why did I choose Hokkaido/ Sapporo? First of all I love Japanese kindness, politeness and willingness. Secondly I love snow, skiing and cross-country skiing and the fact that nature is so close even if you're living in a big city.

In past three years I've lived in Korea and Sweden and was enjoying cultural exchange experience and now it's time for Japan! I'm doing PhD in Materials science. I'm enthusiastic about all kinds of sports. I especially love basketball, triathlon, hiking and mountaineering, but any sport is fine for me.

I decided to join SO committee as a Vice-chair for public relations for several reasons. One of them would be that research doesn't give me as much space for creativity as I need. On the other hand PR gives me relative freedom for my creativity, and E cube gives me opportunity to meet many people from all around the world, and getting to know each is the best part of every relationship. So I take this opportunity more like a fun than a job.

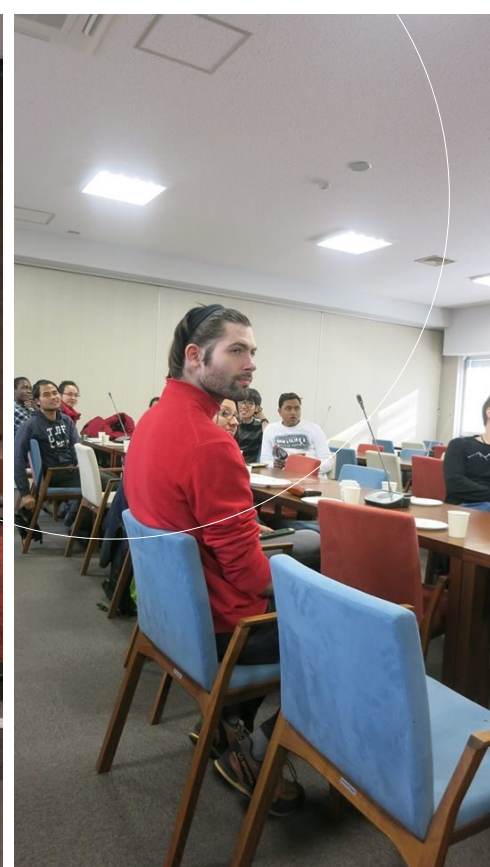
I'm looking forward to meet you all to hear your life stories, therefore don't waste your time and join E cube family!

Have fun



Photoshoot

Photoshoot



**SO**  
**Committee**  
**ELECTION**  
**2015-2016**

