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My study abroad memory in Hokudai

Jin Lee (Associate Researcher, Department of Environmental Impact Assessment, National Institute of Ecology, Republic of Korea)

From October 2012 to March 2017, I had the honor to study in Graduate School of Environmental Sciences of Hokkaido University with Prof. Hiura and Nakamura. About five years of my Ph.D research have greatly benefited me, becoming a valuable life experience. My first impression when I arrived in Japan was that it was very cold, but it was warm-hearted. I knew that Hokkaido was colder than Korea, but this was more than what I expected. However, I still remember, my lab members, Niwa and Ohta san had picked me up at Chitose Airport, carrying banner with “Welcome to Japan, LEE SAN”. Since then, I was touched by warmth of my lab members.

Prof. Hiura and Nakamura were venerable and gentle scientists. They supervised me to accomplish my scientific difficulties and encouraged my scientific thinking. In the TOEF (Tomakomai Experimental Forest) lab, my experimental skills had been greatly enhanced with the help of the members! Thank you so much for keeping me engaged, learning, and having fun. The fantastic memories sometimes emerged in my mind such as large-scale N fertilization experiments, living in forest, heavy snow, news in bear appearance, new-year clearances in TOEF with lab members, parties with BBQ, travel with friends enjoying Japanese cultures (Fig.1,2). Obviously living forest was the first time there. The great scenery of four seasons interested me. Also, when I was isolated as heavy snow, the members of the lab, Asano and Onno san, were always very considerate to me. They were all warm people of TOEF members. I could get on really well with them.

About five years at Hokudai have been such a joyful and rewarding time for me. As Hokudai alumna, I feel proud and fortunate to have the opportunity in developing myself during Ph.D student, the knowledge and experiences I gained helped me to find success in my future career. Even though I left Japan a few years ago, a lot of good memories are still always in my mind. I look forward to visiting my family in Hokudai in the near future.



The third from the left is the author.



The second from the left is the author.

Studied at Hokkaido University: an amazing experience in my life

La Ode Muhammad Yasir Haya

(Head of Marine Science Department, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science,
Halu Oleo University, Indonesia)

I was a Ph.D. student of Course in Global Environmental Management, Division of Environmental Science Development from October 2013 to September 2017. The experience of studying at Hokkaido University, especially at the Graduate School of Environmental Science (GSES), has made a significant change for me as an alumnus. I remember very well when I first arrived in



First time arrived at Hokudai Campus on Oct. 13, 2013.

Sapporo on October 12, 2013. As a research student, it was challenging to continue my studies as a Ph.D. student because I still had many limitations from myself. However, after going through the research



Together with my supervisor (Prof. Fujii) and RIHN researchers at the Sustainability Initiative in the Marginal Seas of South and East Asia (SIMSEA) Regional Symposium in Quezon City, the Philippines, on Sept. 2016.

student period, I adapted to new habits. The culture of hard work, focus on goals, and commitment to targets under the supervision of Associate Professor Masahiko Fujii has shaped the personal character I am today and, of course, was very beneficial for my career development as a lecturer at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Halu Oleo University, Indonesia. I cannot forget one of the memories when my supervisor asked for the first presentation in front of a Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) project team in Kyoto in 2014. I was confused because my research data had not been analyzed yet, so I was overwhelmed during the discussion session.

Fully supported by Prof. Fujii so that I can become a reliable researcher at the Ph.D. level has given me many opportunities to attend international seminars/conferences in several countries, both during my time as a student and currently as an alumni, such as the Republic of South Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Japan, and Germany. Because of these experiences, I am always excited to attend international seminars/conferences to follow the latest issue trends and research developments and share my research results with other researchers in the forum. Of course, the publication of scientific articles in reputable international journals is my target every year.

Living in Hokkaido, especially in Sapporo City, has made a good impression on my family and me. For example, the beauty of nature (the phenomenon of snow, cherry (“sakura”) blossom in spring, and autumn color of leaves) and the clean, orderly, and friendly Japanese people have provided an extraordinary experience and become a lesson for us as a family. Many interesting places in Hokkaido are so beautiful and memorable that they make us want to return.



Together with all students and supervisors in the Division of Environmental Science Development, GSES. I am in the second row, left corner (behind Prof. Fujii)

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