

環境科学同窓会通信 第 20 号

Environmental Science Alumni Association Newsletter Vol. 20

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## 大学院時代を振り返って

坂上 誠（2003 年度物質環境科学専攻修士課程修了 ハイアールアジア R&D 株式会社）

私は、2003 年に物質環境科学専攻の修士課程を、電子科学研究所の中村研究室で有機電子材料の物性の研究をして修了しました。修了後、研究生活からは離れて、知的財産とビジネスの世界に身を置いて仕事をしておりますが、大学院時代とその後の仕事がどのように繋がっているのか、述べたいと思います。

大学院修了直後は、主に電機メーカーに対して外国特許出願の権利化をサポートする業務に携わりました。外国特許出願業務を行う上で必要なことは、幅広い技術分野を英語で理解する能力です。この技術分野を英語で理解する基礎的能力は、大学院時代に英語の論文を読むことで鍛えられたと思います。夜遅く、誰もいない電子科学研究所の図書館で、面白そうな英語の論文を探したことは良い思い出です。

2005 年からは JETRO（日本貿易振興機構）で中国の模倣品対策の業務に従事し、2017 年からは住宅設備メーカーで主に中国を中心とするアジアの知的財産に関する業務に従事しました。修士課程では夜型の生活を送っており、修士課程の 2 年目に、終電で帰宅をした夜 2 時から語学学校 NOVA のお茶の間留学で、大阪にいる NOVA の中国語の先生と ISDN 回線を通じて中国語の勉強をする生活を開始し、中国語を一生懸命勉強したことが、その後、中国の仕事をする機会に繋がりました。また、2 年目の夏休みに、北京大学に 3 週間の短期語学留学に行くことを研究室で許可してくれたことについては、感謝しています。

社会人となり、データ分析をすることが多々ありますが、僅かな異常の数値が見つかった場合に、その原因を調べることがあります。大学院時代に指導教官（長谷川達生先生、現：東大教授）が、低温から常温まで電子物性の数値をグラフ化して僅かな変曲点があった際に、僅かな異常であるが無視するのではなく、その変曲点について考察することを指導されたことを強く記憶しています。大学院時代の指導教官のデータの数値に対する姿勢が、その後の人生のデータ分析に役立っていると思うことがあります。

2010 年から、車載用リチウムイオン電池の特許の仕事に携わりました。2019 年にノーベル化学賞を受賞したことから分かるようにリチウムイオン電池の仕事は、クリーンな地球環境に貢献をするものです。また、2014 年から 2017 年まで、アラブ首長国連邦のドバイにて、総合商社の経営企画の業務に従事する機会がありました。中東の水不足を解消するために、総合商社は海水淡水化事業に進出しており、中東にて、物質（化学製品）と地球環境の繋がりについて意識をする機会がありました。現在、ESG 経営が叫ばれており、企

業には地球環境を重視する姿勢が求められています。学生時代には気づきませんでしたが、今では、物質と環境との関わりについて研究をする物質環境科学専攻（現在：環境物質科学専攻）という専攻名につき、先見性を感じ、その専攻名の修士課程を修了したことにつき誇りに思っております。

最後に。写真のように、ドバイを去る前に、パームを見下ろしながら、スカイダイビングをしました。人生においては、一步踏み出す勇気を持って、挑戦していくことは大切かと思っております。



## How being ambitious helped me in my Japan life

Serene Ezra Corpus Bondad

(Post-doctoral researcher, French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE), Bordeaux, France)

“Boys, be ambitious”

This was the famous line of Dr. William Clark, one of the key figures towards the establishment of Sapporo Agricultural College, which later became Hokkaido University (Hokudai). The quote of Dr. Clark eventually became the university's slogan. Every Hokudai student knows about this slogan, as it would be introduced to them from the moment they step into campus, just like how I experienced it. At first, I was amused at Hokudai's slogan. From where I am from, being ambitious can be seen as a negative quality. We were always taught to be humble, too humble that most of the people would end up settling for less than what they deserve.

As time goes by, I noticed how I have embodied the university's slogan in my life. I did become ambitious. Being a student in one of Japan's premiere universities was an honor, and I do not want to waste this opportunity by being a mediocre student. I studied hard, and I worked long hours in the laboratory to accomplish my research. Having taken chemistry in my undergraduate, learning cellular biology and environmental science for my graduate studies helped me gain more knowledge. It was challenging, but being ambitious and having the support of my professors helped me successfully gain new ground and establish my presence in the field of cellular toxicology.

It was my first time living long-term in a foreign country. Far away from my family, and friends, in a new culture, with a totally different language and climate as my home country. The experience was both exciting and scary. Living in a new country is not for everyone. It requires courage and even, ambition. Without ambition, I would not have the drive to learn a new language and immerse myself in the Japanese culture. Without ambition, I would not be able to explore, make Japan my second home, and feel less of a foreigner.

In my last two years of PhD studies, the COVID-19 pandemic spread all over the world and put a huge challenge in my studies. Restrictions have hindered me to go to university and do lab work. In addition, I have increasingly felt home sick since I couldn't go to my home country and see my family. The pandemic has put a strong burden on my physical and mental health. However, with the encouragement of my professors, I was able to believe in myself that I can finish my PhD thesis. It took a lot of ambition to work in a pandemic and meet deadlines to be able to graduate on time. But with the help and encouragement of professors, colleagues, staff, and friends, I was able to earn my diploma.

I have stayed in Japan for a total of five years. In those years, I learned to live and do things by myself, made new friends from all over the world, explored new places, learn to speak Japanese, eat good food, and experience new things... all of this while I earn my masters and doctorate degree in Hokkaido University. I can say that I am a different person to who I was before I studied in Hokudai. The ambition has helped me become more confident in myself and my abilities. Now, I will begin my working life in Europe equipped with the skills and work ethics that I learned in Hokudai and in Japan. I will forever be grateful for Hokkaido University for the opportunity to experience five wonderful years of living and studying in Japan.



Karaoke time with my labmates



Enjoying Sapporo Snow Festival in Odori Park, a few minute walk from Hokkaido University



Witnessed the Tokyo 2020 Olympics marathon event which passed by Hokkaido University



My graduation photo with diplomas from my Masters and Doctoral Studies, both obtained in Hokkaido University



Spending time with Filipino students who are also students of Hokkaido University



## A New Indonesia Research Institution

Tika Dewi Atikah

(Graduated from Division of Biosphere Science in 2014)

Research Center for Ecology and Ethnobiology

Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)

(Please also see Volume 2, March 11, 2018, of this Newsletter)

Greeting from Indonesia, I am Tika. After graduating in March 2014, I immediately returned to my country and returned to my previous work as a researcher at the Research Center for Biology, Indonesian Institute of Sciences. I continued my research on demographic, the species population at lowland forest area, and the biodiversity management in Indonesia and

continue collecting data until it was stopped due to Covid-19 pandemic. Since the government announced that Covid-19 in Indonesia is getting more under control on May 17th, 2022, the field data collection has just begun again. In the last two years, we have been busy on preparing internal reorganization. Finally, on May 5th, 2021, President Joko Widodo signed Presidential Regulation No. 33 of 2021, which effectively established the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) as the only national research agency. The regulation decreed that all Indonesian national research bodies such as the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Assessment and Application of Technology Agency (BPPT), Indonesian National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN), and National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN) merged into BRIN. Thus, all research and development researchers under the ministry had to move into BRIN.

As a research institution, BRIN has the task for carrying out research, developments, assessments, applications, and integrated inventions and innovations following the mandate of Presidential Decree No. 74 of 2019. There are 12 research organizations, namely the Research Organization for Aeronautics and Space, Research Organization for Nuclear Energy, Research Organization for Energy and Manufacture, Research Organization for Earth Science and Maritim, Research Organization for Life Science and Environment, Research Organization for Electronics and Informatics, Research Organization for Social Science and Humanities, Research Organization for Archeology, Language, and Literature, Research Organization for Health, Research Organization for Agriculture and Food, Research Organization for Governance, Economy, and Community Welfare.

Currently, I join the Research Center for Ecology and Ethnobiology which one of the 8 research centers under the Research Organization for Life Science and Environment. Research Center for Ecology and Ethnobiology has a vision as a center for science-based policy towards sustainable research and innovation on biodiversity, ecosystems, and its management as a mandate at BRIN regulation No 9 2022 article 4. To achieve the goal, Research Center for Ecology and Ethnobiology determine 4 strategic focus targets, i.e., developing human resources capacity building; focusing on research programs which oriented to solve on the ecology and ethnobiology issues to find the best solutions; Strengthening Scientific Integrity and increasing the competitiveness and strategic role of organizations at national and global levels. Our research activities take advantage of collecting data from the field and evidence-finding. The scope of this research



Fig.1. Me at the edge of heath forest in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

center is ecosystem services, species ecology, integrated landscape ecology, molecular ecology, biodiversity management, climate change studies and ethnobiology. Now, there are 17 research groups in this research center, these are: Climate Change and Ecosystem Management; Ecosystem Characterization and Valuation; Ecological-Modelling; Ethnobotany; Ethnoecology; Landscape Functions and Dynamics; Integrated Watershed Management under a Changing Climate; Peatland Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation; Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration & Conservation; Population Management & Monitoring; Invasive Aliens Species Management; Management of Anthropogenic Landscape Biodiversity; Population Management of Traded Plant Species; Ecological Restoration and Essential Ecosystem Management; Social Economy of Forest Community; Wildlife Utilization Management, Wildlife Management & Threatened Species.



Me and my current office



My field research at the lowland dry forest area in West Nusa Tenggara

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