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分野は違っても、根は同じ

矢野根 智広（2020年度生物圏科学専攻修士課程修了 株式会社ホクビー）

私は理学部生物科学科の卒研から修士課程修了までの3年間、指導教員だった越川滋行先生のもとで、ショウジョウバエ胸部にある模様形成メカニズムと進化について研究させていただきました。幼少期から昆虫の多様な形態に惹かれていたことが、この研究に取り組んだ動機でしたが、待ち受けていたのは地道な実験の連続でした。ハエ胸部の薄切切片標本をひたすら作成したり、胸部の模様型に表皮を切り出してRNAを抽出したりと、不器用で集中力のない私にとっては辛いものでした。ですが人は順応するもので、日々繰り返すごとに作業精度は向上し、修論を書く頃には難なくこなせていました。実験を始めた当初、その細かさに渋る私に越川先生がかけてくださった「人は何でもできるようになるから」という言葉と、この実験をやり抜いた経験、そして大きな成果は出せなかったものの、おそらく世界初の観察記録になり、新たな発見もできたという事実が今の私の自信になっています。改めて研究を支えてくださった越川先生、並びに当時のラボメンバーの皆さんに感謝申し上げます。

修士課程修了以降は食肉加工メーカーでハンバーグやインジェクションビーフと呼ばれる加工肉の商品開発を行っています。学生時代の研究とは全く異なる仕事をしているように思えますが、「むし」から「うし」に1文字変わっただけと言っても良いくらいに、研究・開発の根幹は結局同じところに有ると日々実感しています。基礎的な科学の素養や研究の進め方、論理的な思考などはもちろんのこと、地道な作業と細かい発見の積み重ねが発見・発明に繋がっています。私は弊社開発チーム内で社歴が最も短く、唯一の非畜産・食品系学部出身という立場なのですが、環境科学院で過ごした3年間に身に着けた力や経験のおかげで、十分に通用できていると自負しています。

私もそうだったように、進路に迷う学生の皆様の中には「学業・研究があまり就職に結びつかない」と悩んでいる人も少なくないのではないのでしょうか。ですが環境科学院での学び・経験は、その後の人生でも何らかの形で必ず生きてきます。在学中は今取り組んでいることに自信をもって向き合ってほしいと思います。



ハンバーグ試作の様子

Nurchahyo Iman Prakoso, Lecturer at Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII), Indonesia

Studying at Hokkaido University, My Dream Became True

My name is Nurchahyo Iman Prakoso, a lecturer from the Chemistry Department, at Universitas Islam Indonesia. I graduated from the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Hokkaido University, Japan in September 2022, with the support of three scholarships like the Hokkaido University Presidents Fellowship, DX Fellowship, and Fellowship from Universitas Islam Indonesia. These fellowships supported my life and my research during my Ph.D. period from October 2019 to September 2022 (3 years). Continuing my studies at the Ph.D. level has been my dream since high school. My first impression of Hokkaido University was when I took part in the PARE program when I was a masters student. Through this event I was able to study at Hokkaido University and from here I aspired to return to continue my doctoral education at this university. Apart from this, what made me interested is Hokkaido University is the campus of the Nobel laureate in organic chemistry, Professor Akira Suzuki, who received the Nobel Prize Laureate award in 2010. This indicates that the field I study is quite developed at this university.

Behind my enthusiasm and happiness, because I succeeded in continuing my studies in Japan, there was a feeling of sadness due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak that hit the world. All travel, learning, and research activities are limited and my family cannot accompany me due to this pandemic. Trust me, it was not easy. However, I was lucky to meet my very kind and helpful Ph. D supervisor, Associate Professor Taiki Umezawa who always supported me when I was in difficult situations, and also many very kind labmates in his laboratory. My supervisor, Associate Professor Taiki Umezawa was an inspiring and student-friendly professor. Without his kind supervision and cooperation, I couldn't complete my research within 3 years. Under his supervision also, I studied the nucleophilic addition reaction in the labile Weinreb Amide compound and also the total synthesis of a natural compound that has anti-tumor potential. During my Ph. D., I attended several conferences in Japan and other countries (online), which helped me to have a better understanding of my research, and broaden my knowledge. I also achieved the "Best Poster Award" in 2021 at the 21st Tetrahedron Symposium by Elsevier.

Living in Hokkaido, especially in Sapporo City, has made a good impression on me. For example, the beauty of nature (the phenomenon of snow, cherry ("sakura") blossom in spring, and autumn color of leaves) and the clean city, orderly, and friendly Japanese people have provided an extraordinary experience and become a lesson for me. Many interesting places in Hokkaido are so beautiful and memorable that they make us want to return. As a Hokkaido University alumnus, I feel proud and fortunate to have the opportunity to develop myself during my Ph.D. program there. The knowledge and experiences I gained helped me to find success in my future career as always shown in Dr. Clark's phrase "Boys, be ambitious". Although it has been nearly 2 years since my graduation, I feel that I still have a strong connection with Hokkaido University, especially with my supervisor and lab mates. We carried out some collaborations and hope I can come back again in the future.



With fellow students from the Assoc Prof. Taiki Umezawa Laboratory



Playing Snowboard with Indonesian friend



The Sapporo Snow Festival



Ginkgo Trees in Hokkaido University



With my family



Doctoral Commencement



With my supervisor, Associate Professor Taiki Umezawa

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