

My name is Artur Sagradyan and I'm a 3rd year Doctoral course student in Structural Materials Engineering Laboratory in Department of Civil and Earth Resources Engineering of Kyoto University. I'm from Russia, and I came to Japan in April of 2013 under MEXT Research Student Program. Before coming to Japan I worked in the civil engineering company, and my main field of work was inspection of concrete and steel structures and quality control of construction works.

I had interest in Japan since my teenage years, mainly, because I liked Japanese anime and computer games. Also, Japan is famous as a very technologically developed country, and it is especially true about Civil Engineering. Japan has a very complicated terrain and natural disasters are frequent there, however, Japanese Civil Engineers successfully maintain a vast amount of Civil Infrastructure and keep building new impressive objects, such as high-speed train lines etc. So, for me as a Civil Engineer, Japan was the best destinations to study abroad.

Studying in Kyoto University was a great experience for me, both as a specialist and a person in a whole.

Firstly, I had a very interesting research project. It was related with developing a novel method of non-destructive testing for detection of corrosion of prestressing steel in post-tensioned concrete structures; the studied method was based on magnetic flux leakage phenomenon. Inspection of deteriorated concrete structures is a topical issue in many countries around the world, and I'm glad that I had a chance to study this topic. During my research, I carried out numerical simulation of magnetic properties of prestressing steel subjected to corrosion-induced loss of cross-section, as well as experimental studies of influence of corrosion-induced loss of cross-section of prestressing steel on its magnetic properties. Also, I had a chance to take part in the field experiments with large-scale specimens. As the results, the developed method showed good results and demonstrated capability do detect loss of cross-section of prestressing steel with the planned accuracy. Moreover, I had a chance to join other research projects related with non-destructive testing and inspection together with Laboratory on Innovative Techniques for Infrastructures of Kyoto University. During my studies, I could learn a lot about methods of non-destructive testing, properties of concrete structures and deterioration mechanisms, data analysis and other related fields. Also, it gave me experience of working on the research projects both independently and in a team, which consisted of both Japanese researchers and researchers from other countries.

Also, in Kyoto University I learned a lot about Japan and Japanese culture, made many Japanese friends and improved Japanese language. I took part in events and projects organized for international students, joined one of the university's clubs and took some part-

time jobs. I believe that it helped me to improve my understanding of Japanese society and people. Moreover, Kyoto university has many international students, and studying there also gave me a chance to make friends from many countries.

Studying in Kyoto university was a very special period in my life, and I'm grateful for my professors, staff members, lab mates and my friends, who made this time very pleasant and enjoyable.

I liked studying in Japan very much, and that's why I decided to continue my carrier as Civil Engineer in this country. I was lucky to be accepted by one of the leading Japanese Civil Engineering companies, and I'm really looking forward to taking part in Civil Engineering projects in Japan in the future.