



STUDENT LIFE IN JAPAN

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I would like to start with my special appreciation to the JSCE Concrete Committee members for allowing me to share my experiences of living and studying in Japan in the upcoming newsletter.

From the time I came to know the actual meaning of the word “RESEARCH”, I was dreaming to continue my higher studies from a foreign university to enrich my gathered knowledge with innovative research methodologies from world-class faculties. From my undergraduate studies, I was keenly aware of the urgency of structural issues, especially for a country like Bangladesh and the lack of proper technologies as well as paucity of local experts in the field of structural engineering made me seek to pursue knowledge in similar fields so that I can contribute in crucial situations in the future. My vision and goal came true in October 2017 when I joined in the Laboratory of Engineering for Maintenance System, Hokkaido University as an awardee of the MEXT Program.

When I stepped down to Japan, I was a little nervous and worried about the language barrier. But I was surprised by the politeness and helpful attitude of Japanese students, staff, teachers and all other people towards newcomer foreign students to settle in all aspects. Truly, it was beyond my expectation. I was also impressed with the excellent graduate program, prominent research facilities, scope and encouragement for research and academic environment in the Hokkaido University. Observing all these facilities, I can then imagine why this university is so renowned around the globe. I would not hesitate to say that the Hokkaido University has the finest faculty and the most developed research facilities in the World of Civil Engineering, and more specifically, in the field of Structural Engineering, my primary domain of interest. I believe pioneering research conducted by the distinguished faculties provides me an excellent base to become a leading engineer in my field of specialization.

The fundamental and in-depth knowledge in the subject matter of my interest further increased where I taught by world-class faculties with theoretical courses during the first year of my master's study and in the practical aspects with innovative research methodologies on my intended field of interest during the second year of my study. I am happy to say, successfully, I have completed my thesis “Interface Issues between Concrete and PCM: Numerical Modeling and its Enhancement”. That research includes very urgent subjects and substances concerning repairing/strengthening of RC structures which mainly highlights the improvement of the processes and procedures used in the PCM retrofitting of RC structures (particularly bond behavior at the concrete-PCM interface), in order to achieve the great potential in practical design implications. I believe the collection of all my academic, as well as professional research experiences, has enabled me to find a vision, having the crux idea of easing the application of Structural Engineering.

Studying in foreign countries gives a person a supreme opportunity to live, work and explores different culture as well as becoming sovereign and taking dependability. In this perspective, Japan is one of the best countries for foreigner students. Also, the highest number of Nobel Prize winners (within any Asian country) in Japan is always one of the most important reasons for students to continue their higher study in Japan. Besides a wide range of scholarships with some directed towards specific nationalities, women, minorities, or those with high-level Japanese proficiency have made easy for the foreigners to study in Japan. In addition, Japan is one of the world's safest countries with very advanced healthcare systems which are reflected in their high life expectancy. In the recent survey, around half of the major Japanese companies

expressed a desire to hire foreigners graduating from Japanese institutions which attract the foreigner students to study in Japan.

In the end, I would like to say that I am really enjoying my research work in Japan. In addition, my experience in Japan has made me a more creative and efficient person than previous. I feel ready to go further deeper into my field of study, thus I would like to continue my further research work in Japan.

Some memories:



International Symposium



Exchange program with a group of students from Zhejiang University, China



Concrete casting in the structural laboratory



Graduation ceremony organized by Bangladesh Community in Sapporo, Japan