

COVID-19 measures in Tokyo University of Science

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Our university, Tokyo University of Science, shifted “the new normal” academic year from 1th, May. Almost all classes were shifted to remote classes whichever the professors choose synchronous or non-synchronous type classes. In our department, many professors provided on-demand class, which students can view the classes repeatedly. Experimental courses are also shifted to remote type, which might be the most difficult to manage the class. “Experiments on concrete engineering” class is mainly composed of on-demand classes. However, in order to create the chance of “face-to-face” lecture and communication with friends, this class had a few times of practical exercise for students who want to do (Picture-1). They tackled the concrete mixing with testing fresh properties and small experiments of our laboratory’s research activities. They might feel the excitement of concrete engineering that cannot be sensed by on-demand study only.

As for our laboratory’s research activity, main research topics in our laboratory are based on experimental works. Therefore, students tend to come to the laboratory. To protect the spread of infection obviously, wearing mask is also mandatory. Sometimes, real-time video communication to leader was utilized to ask for instructions to reduce the workers in the experiment. Even so, it is not stressful for doing experimental programs. Lab seminar was also shifted to online mode. Paper review or research progress from students were presented using video communication application. We didn’t have any complaint about this system to manage the seminar. On the contrary, it is more beneficial than before because of everybody’s availability irrespective of a place.

This year was a good chance to reconsider what is the better education for students. In this situation, Evaluation is base on the capability of a student by means of text communication (e.g. report, question by e-mail, and so forth). This trend will continue for the moment. Therefore, we should review the logical thinking and writing skills for students. On the other hand, problems how to excite students’ curiosity in remote classes are still needed to be addressed.



Picture-1 Practical exercise of concrete mixing with testing fresh properties for B2 students who want to do. Countermeasures with the infection like wearing mask is mandatory.