

STUDENT LIFE IN JAPAN

Mahayodha Priyahita

Master's Student

Special Graduate Course on Disaster Mitigation for Asian Students



I am a second-year master's student in the Graduate School of Engineering at Ehime University, where I belong to the Concrete Laboratory under the supervision of Prof. Isao Ujike. I am grateful to the editor for giving me this opportunity to share my experiences of living and studying in Japan.

I come from Indonesia, a beautiful archipelagic country in South-East Asia. Growing up there, I was always fascinated by Japan's cutting-edge technology in the civil engineering field, especially where it related to natural disaster mitigation and the influence of aggressive environmental conditions. It was this fascination that motivated me to study hard and pursue my master's degree in Japan.

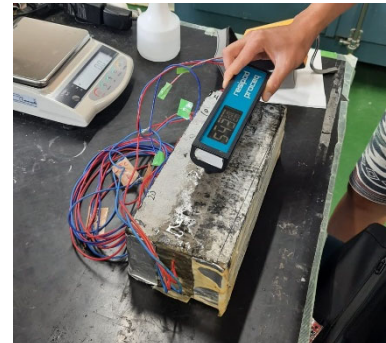
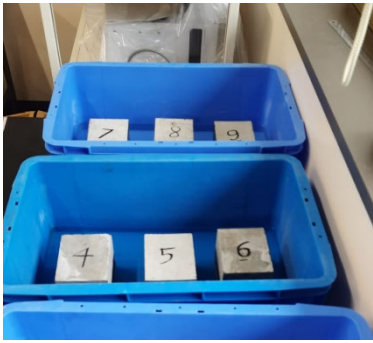
I came to Japan in April 2022, immediately after the Japanese government lifted the Covid entry ban for citizens of my country. It was an exciting time for me, because after such a long wait I was finally able to reach Japan and actually start my life as an international student. I was looking forward to beginning experiment work in the concrete laboratory with the other laboratory members.

In my opinion, Japan is a very welcoming place for international students. The people are very helpful, which I discovered on arrival when I needed to do a lot of administrative procedures regarding residence permission, opening a bank account, getting a smartphone, etc. They also helped me a lot in learning the Japanese language and with overcoming cultural differences, especially those that are not explained in Japanese textbooks. Many of my laboratory members are also interested in Indonesia, so we talk a lot about cultures and the differences between Japan and Indonesia.

I want to express my gratitude to Prof. Ujike who not only gave me the opportunity to study in Japan, but also sparked my interest in concrete technology development. Under his guidance, I am currently pursuing research to evaluate chloride penetration using electrical resistivity measurements on reinforced concrete specimens exposed to a corrosive environment. I believe that development of this technique can be a real game-changer as part of a future infrastructure maintenance system.

I strongly encourage anyone with an interest to study abroad. Not only will it improve your academic knowledge, but also it will help to shape your character and make you a better person who contributes more wherever you are.

1. Research Activity



Dry and wet cycle (left), Air permeability test (middle), Electrical resistivity test (right)

2. International Student Life in Japan



Matsuyama Fukuin Church International Day (Left), Introducing Angklung (Traditional Musical Instrument from Indonesia) (Right)



Japanese Class for International Students (Left), Disaster Mitigation Workshop (Right)