

Noorshartika binti Jusoh

First of all, before I came to Japan, I feel really excited and nervous at the same time. Excited to be out of my country, since this is the first time I'm out of Malaysia and also I feel nervous and worry how to adapt with different culture, weather and language.

The aim or the main target of my visit to Japan are to extract sugars from hemicellulose of oil palm fruit press fiber by subcritical water extraction and also to do analysis here. But because of limitation of time, at least I could do preliminary experiment in Japan: do the pretreatment, check the pH, TOC, polyphenol and polysaccharides.

Lastly, I hope at the end of my visit to Japan, I could gain valuable knowledge and experience. I also hope that before I come back to Malaysia I could visits interesting places in Japan in order to learn about Japanese culture and uniqueness.

Farah Syafiqah binti Ismail

Assalamualaikum,

Konnichiwa,

Watashi wa Farah desu. Currently, I am a Master Student at Malaysia Japan International Institute of Technology, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. On December 2014, I was given an opportunity from my supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hirofumi Hara to involve in an exchange program. The program known as Sakura Exchange Program in Science was organised by University of Tsukuba.

The purposes of this exchange program are to give an opportunity to Malaysian Students to:

1. learn Japanese education style
2. learn Japanese culture
3. have several experiences doing laboratory work in University of Tsukuba

When it comes to feelings and emotions, I would rather say "exciting" and "nervous"; the feelings are mixed honestly. Even though this is my second time travelling oversea, I still feel relatively nervous. The first time was in New Zealand (undergraduate student) where English is an official language. I know that Japan's official language is Japanese and I do not know how to speak Japanese. However, difficulty in language does not change my feeling towards Japan and University of Tsukuba. I learn within a week several simple words in Japanese. I have overcome my nervous feeling and it is time to get ready for Japan.

I hope I can really enjoy my study in University of Tsukuba, make new Japanese and international friends, and learn several Japanese cultures. I do hope that I can bring several good things from Japan to Malaysia.

Last but not least, thank you very much to the University of Tsukuba and people who involve as an organising committee of Sakura Exchange Program in Science. Your kindness towards Malaysian Students is highly appreciated.

Origato Gozaimasu

Nurul Syazwani binti Sajari

Konnichiwa. Watashi wa Wani desu. Firstly, I feel very happy and grateful for this kind of opportunity to get the experience doing laboratory work in Tsukuba University, Japan. I feel nervous but excited at the same time to go to Japan which is supported by Tsukuba University as this is my first time to go to Japan. I hope I can learn as much as possible during our stay in Japan. I also hope that I can learn the Japanese culture and follow good example from Japanese citizen particularly. I am eager to start

getting exposed to Japanese working environment especially in laboratory and learn their technology especially subcritical water treatment machine. I also hope that I can observe and experience daily life of Japanese citizen during our stay in Japan.

Siti Norayuni Mohd Zulkefle

I am very honored to be able to visit Japan at this time of year. Even though the weather is quite cold, I enjoyed it very much. First of all, I would like to thank you University of Tsukuba for giving me this opportunity to study and gain some new experiences and knowledge from Utsumi and Shimizu sensei. I believed they are very knowledgeable in this field. I also would like to thank our sponsor, Japan Science and Technology Agency.

At Tsukuba University, I am planning to do DNA Extraction for my samples that I brought from Malaysia and learn how to do PCR and run gel electrophoresis. I also want to learn new techniques used by Japanese students when doing their lab works cause somehow this could make me to improve myself and lab performance.

Besides that, I wish to visit some interesting places in Japan, as I have heard before, Japan is so full of beautiful places and cultures.

This exchange program widened my perspectives in terms of academics, especially as master student. I am privileged to learn in one of the most prestigious life and environmental sciences departments in Japan- the Life and Environmental Sciences Department of Tsukuba University.

Culture was amongst one of the many that attracted my hearts to Tsukuba and Tokyo. The people's politeness was definitely admirable, our Japanese hosts and friends were more than glad to show us hospitality, even though language was, in the beginning, an obstacle to communication.

Noraiza binti Suhaimi

Hi, my name is Noraiza Suhaimi, student of Malaysia-Japan International Institute Technology, faculty of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I am a postgraduate student - in Master of Research, under Metabolic Engineering Molecular Biology (Memo-Bio) ikohza. On 18 February 2015 to 10 March 2015, we will be going to University of Tsukuba, under Sakura Exchange Program in Science. I am very excited to go to Japan as this is the first time I will be visiting Japan. I am also very happy to get this opportunity to see University of Tsukuba and meet the students. Hopefully, during this 3 weeks program, I will learn a lot of things such as Japanese culture, some Japanese language, and to see the beauty of Japan. As I am doing a research on microalgae, I would like to learn some knowledge from the lecturers and students that are doing research on the same field. It would be great learning some new skills and knowledge that I did not know. Last but not least, thank you very much for this once in a lifetime opportunity and I am looking forward to visit Japan, particularly University of Tsukuba. Thank you.

Nurul Ashyikin binti Yahya

I am Nurul Ashyikin Yahya, one of the student from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (UTM MJIT) that have been selected to join the collaborating

research program supported by Japan Science and Technology Agency under Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science). It is my great pleasure to be involved in this collaborating research program with University of Tsukuba. I am so excited to know that I am going to Japan. I am so looking forward to visit Japan especially University of Tsukuba and meet new faces. I will take this opportunity to learn more about Japanese cultures and technology, as well as gaining more experiences staying in Japan.

Marshila binti Kaha

Hi, I am Marshila Kaha, student from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia-Japan International Institute) under SAKURA Exchange Program in Science from 18 February to 10 March 2015. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincerely gratitude to University of Tsukuba and Japan Science and Technology Agency for inviting me as one of the candidate for this program. I am extremely excited and happy to visit University of Tsukuba and having collaborating research program there because University of Tsukuba is one of the top 10 universities in Japan. Besides, it is my pleasure to learn some of the Japanese cultures and language. On top of that, this is my first time going abroad, and I am a bit nervous to stay at people's country but I hope 3 weeks is enough for me to gain a lot of knowledge from University of Tsukuba members, enjoying Japanese cultures and bring a big smile to Malaysia!

Analhuda binti Abdullah Tahir

Ohayo gozaimasu. I am Analhuda bt Abdullah Tahir, a PhD student of Metabolic Engineering and Molecular Biology (MemoBio) ikohza, MJIIT, UTM. I'm so happy and excited when my supervisors, Hara sensei and Iwamoto sensei have chosen me to join a Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science) for three weeks starting on 17th February 2015 until 10th March 2015 at the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba. I haven't been to Japan before and I heard a lot of people said that Japan is very beautiful, nice, clean and safe country to visit. Japanese people are famous with their politeness, friendly and considerate and this makes me feel more excited to see and experience their culture. I can't wait to explore the transportation in Japan since Japan's advanced transportation networks are very popular with its accurate time, quick, convenient, and comfortable. Japan has four seasons and during our visit is winter time. Since the weather in Malaysia is annually hot, I can't wait to experience the winter time in Japan and I am luckier if it is snowing during our stay in Tsukuba. Tsukuba University is one of the top universities in the world. Chances to visit and participate in this SAKURA exchange program in Tsukuba University make me feel very lucky and happy. I am looking forward to share and experience the Japanese culture in Tsukuba University so that I can apply it in Malaysia especially in our MemoBio ikohza, MJIIT, UTM. Lastly, I would like to express my sincerely gratitude to University of Tsukuba and Japan Science and Technology Agency for supporting this SAKURA exchange program.

Nuurul Nadrah binti Mohd Said

I'm Nadrah, post-graduate student from MJIIT (Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology), UTM Kuala Lumpur. I will join SAKURA Exchange Program in Science and stay at Tsukuba University from 17th Feb until 10 Mar 2015.

Actually this is my first trip abroad. So I'm so grateful when I got the chance to explore other world. Besides, Japan is always a country in my travel wish list. Before this, I heard a lot of positive things about Japanese people & their culture. So I want to learn that value from them. I'm really excited to go to Japan, see their civilization & bring back all the positive culture to my home town.

However, 2014 was a sad, tragic year for Malaysian. As Air Asia QZ8501 became the 3rd air incident after missing plane MH370 and shot down MH17. To be frank, I'm really nervous and a bit hesitate.

After I read some information about Tsukuba University and their environment, I gain my confidence back and happily waiting for the journey. More than that, Tsukuba University has a lot of expert (Lecturer & Senpai) that will surely help me on my research project.

Lastly, I really hope that I can get along with Japanese way of life, their people culture, passion on research & development as well as their beautiful civilization.

Yuvaneswaran Krishnan

Visiting Japan always has been a dream for me and now the dream has become true. I would like to thank to all the Professors behind this student exchange program as well as the Japan Science and Technology Agency for sponsoring us. In terms of research, I planned to learn some basic essential experimental techniques which are related to my project such as PCR, DNA extraction, culture of anaerobic bacteria, nutrient analysis such as nitrogen and phosphorus and etc. I have learned almost all and still learning more. Besides that, I wish to explore Tsukuba, Tokyo and some other interesting places like Kawaguchiko in order to witness the fascinating beauty of Japan in various aspects such as culture, tradition, nature, food, entertainment and of course the kind and humble people. So far I have visited Tokyo Tower, Sky Tree, Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building, Shinjuku, Shibuya, National Museum, Ueno Park, Asakusa, Samuda River and still counting more for Disney Resort, Odaiba, Mount Fuji and etc. I have fallen in love with Japan and its people as well as University of Tsukuba and its alumni. Thanks again for all the beautiful souls for making our stay such a memorable one.