

Lab Training at Tsukuba (July 2014)

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Edziani Nabila bt Saleh (June 16 – July 11, 2014)

Good day, everyone. I'm Edziani Nabila Saleh, third year student of Bachelor Degree in Precision Mechanical at Malaysian-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT). I had been selected for one-month internship at University of Tsukuba, Japan to conduct my lab training with Professor Iwane Suzuki under the Faculty of Life and Environmental Science as a research student.

Basically, I am a mechanical student and for my internship in Tsukuba I learned about algae. Thus, it is a challenge and good opportunity for me to discover the new thing and being flexible as a student. So, this is the main reason why I chose University of Tsukuba, to discover and learn new things. For my scope of study with Professor Iwane Suzuki, I learned the basic techniques of handling microalgae cells during experiments, the ways of preparation of media and glassware, inoculation, culturing, monitoring the cell growth and measure biomass produced. On the other hand, I also had another special project (extraction of oil from algae) with Associate Prof. Dr. Koji Iwamoto.

For the future plan after returning to my university, I will apply what I learned at Tsukuba and implement it in my engineering field. As my final year research topic related to analysis on automotive component made of selected green composites, this is the golden chance to study about the green environment and gain more knowledge on that. Last but not least, I had a great moments staying at Tsukuba and discovered the unique culture of Japan. Sayonara and ありがとうございます!



Short visit from Prof. Masa Goto (left) from MJIT to my lab training on 25th June 2014 while Prof. Iwane Suzuki (right) showed my work's place.



Collecting algae for a special project with Mr. Machida, a master's student (left) and Associate Prof. Dr. Koji Iwamoto (right) in the Milky Way Stream in the campus.

Muhammad Khairullah bin Nor Azmi (June 15 – to complete on September 4, 2014)

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Utsumi, for his agreement in supervising me, also to Prof. Kaida too, for their support and hospitality given for my 3-month stay in Japan. Also, many thanks to Prof. Abdull Rahim, and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), for blessing me with this indirect responsibility; to strengthen the collaboration ties between UTM and University of Tsukuba (UT). Earlier in March 2014, I visited UT for research exposure activities under TSSP Program which was conducted by UT. I decided to choose UT for my internship as a compulsory subject by UTM, because UT is a leading university in Japan, with good facilities for research and development. In addition, UT campus is blessed with green environment, which is ideal for those who seek a great education institute as well as peaceful environment.

In UT, I am staying in Ichinoya Residence. The surroundings, peaceful environment with chirping birds and beautiful green scenery will certainly let loose of one's mind to feel at rest. Air pollution could be described as almost none at all. It is a place which relieves all the tense at work during the day. Crucial facilities such as washing rooms, kitchens and convenience store are all provided which are very reliable.

In UT, my new Japanese friends and I have done many experiments involving real samples, such as Kasumigaura Lake water and Amanogawa River water samples, to investigate various type of compounds which cause pollution, bacteria population, and dissolved oxygen content, with many different methods and instruments. Despite the fact that we usually finish experiments and cleaning works at 8 pm, it is fun as my friends around me are very enthusiastic and assistive. Although communications are quite difficult at times, my friends tried their best to make things clear. It is also a good opportunity for me to enhance my Japanese.



Analyzing dissolved oxygen content of Amanogawa River sample in the Environmental Engineering Laboratory, 8th July.