

Lab Training at Tsukuba (August)

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It has been 2 months and half since I start my training stay in Japan. Under Prof. Utsumi's supervision, I was given opportunities to experience what it feels like to be an environmental scientist. As a beginner, I was taught to do some sampling on Kasumigaura Lake's sludge as well as its water. At the sampling site, I was with Prof. Utsumi, Toshiaki Eto and Shunichi Ohyama. Toshiaki Eto taught me how to do sludge sampling with a BOD sampler, while Shunichi Ohyama taught me how to appropriately sample water on the surface carefully. The collected samples were meant for phosphorus investigations in laboratory.

In August, I was given a mini project by Prof Utsumi. It was about culturing algae type NIES 1086 by myself, and was to observe the growth pattern over days. Shunichi Ohyama helped me create the MA media. Ayako Kanazawa demonstrated for me the ways to culture the mentioned algae into the media made previously. Apparently, I needed to be very cautious in handling the algae as well as the required tools so that I would not contaminate the algae with dusts or even with other tiny microorganisms especially from the air. Analysis sample was made into the plankton counter for microscope observation. I had to manually count the visible cells by my own eyes. It was almost like "to count the stars in the sky during the night". It was indeed challenging but it was worth it.



LEFT: Water sampling activity done by myself at Kasumigaura Lake, 30th July 2014

RIGHT: Sludge sampling demonstration done by Toshiaki Eto at Kasumigaura Lake, 30th July 2014



LEFT: Counting algae cells by using Olympus BX50 microscope performed by myself in Aquatic Plant Laboratory, 12th August 2014

RIGHT: Cultured algae type NIES 1086 in MA media stored in light incubator, in Aquatic Plant Laboratory, 12th August 2014