

Joint Supervision at Tsukuba University

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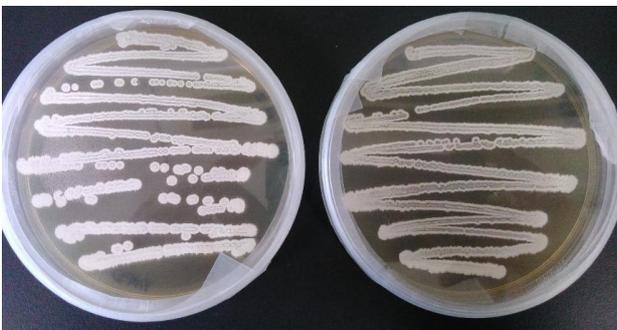
Life as A Student in Tsukuba University (Part 1)

Assalamualaikum, minna-san konnichiwa !

I am Nor Farhana Bte Mohd Barnoh, a Master of Philosophy student of Metabolic Engineering and Molecular Biology Kohza, MJIT. It has been four months since I started my studies in University of Tsukuba with my other 3 friends. I was attached in Aquatic Sciences Engineering Laboratory under Prof. Utsumi's supervision. It is really great to be here because of the environment, the scenery, the food and of course the students itself.

My research entitled 'Identification of Empty Fruit Bunch-Derived Lignocellulose' which focusing on utilization of lignin by *Actinomycetes* species. During the first week, I have to present an introduction of my research to all the lab members. It was really great because all of them showed great interest in my research. In helping me in my research, the lab members received their tasks to teach us about the lab safety and precaution, lab cleaning and rules. One of the PhD student, Mr. Li Qintong taught me and my friends about the extraction of DNA, PCR analysis and gel electrophoresis. They're really helpful and kind-hearted. Sometimes all of us spent our time going out and eat together. It's really fun!

Oh! Before I ended, I strongly admire the approach to reduce the use of electricity and water by the University of Tsukuba. On October 25th and 26th 2014, university announced the 'Day without Electricity and Water'. This was to achieve their target of saving electricity and water usage per year. Because the lab is related to the bacteria, we need to take turn taking care of laboratory equipment, especially refrigerator. In my opinion, it's a good example for us. That's all for this week and till we meet again in my next article!



PHOTOS

LEFT: Pictures of *Actinomycetes* species grew on YMPD agar media.

RIGHT: Outing with lab members (From left: Takahashi, Ohyama, Ezzah Atikah, Atiqqoh and Nurul Syahirah).