

Joint Supervision Programme

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Second month in University of Tsukuba (Huynh Minh Nhat, Sept – Nov. 2015)

October 2015 – this is my second month of 3-month exchange program in University of Tsukuba. Compared with the first month with many new things to get familiar with, I am much more getting used to the study environment, Japanese culture and people here. In the beginning, my main aim is to continue my taxonomic study of algae by using microscope and to learn molecular techniques, such as DNA sequencing, to identify different algal species. In the first month, I worked mostly in Nakayama sensei's lab, practicing diatom cleansing and mounting. In this month, I have started my experiment on algal identification using molecular techniques, including DNA extraction from fresh and preserved samples, PCR amplification and purification, gel electrophoresis, cloning and DNA sequencing. With help of Suzuki sensei and my lab mates, I have done half way of my experiment. Although there were some unwanted results, I will try more experiments next month.

In addition to lab works, I also enjoyed other activities in terms of both study and entertainment. We have weekly seminars on every Monday for all members in our lab to present their project progress or paper review so that we can share our knowledge and experience, and have good advice from sensei and other members to make our project better. Work hard – play hard, that is what I learn from Japanese students here in UT. Indeed, obtaining knowledge only is not enough for me, I want to know more about Japanese history, culture, food and people through parties that we joined together, or travelling trip around Tokyo in the weekends. They all together make me feel that this exchange in UT is really meaningful to me. Thanks to University of Tsukuba, sensei and friends.



PHOTOS

LEFT: Shiraiwa sensei's lab together with Suzuki sensei (my supervisor). This is where we do our experiments.

RIGHT: Senso-ji temple – an ancient Buddhist temple located in Asakusa, Tokyo, Japan