

Dr. Md. Mostafizar Rahman, Bangladesh



Currently, I am working at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University as an Associate Professor under the Department of Agricultural Engineering. In October 2014, I was selected as a MEXT Scholar through the University Recommendation. The Graduate School of Agriculture in Hokkaido University was offered a Special English Program for MS and PhD from the foreign students. Under this program, I got a chance for doing research on agricultural robotics in the laboratory of Vehicle Robotics for three and half years.

Applying for MEXT

When I was an under graduate student at Bangladesh Agricultural University, I knew most of our teachers have finished their post-graduation from Japan under this MEXT. I also knew from some of them this scholarship is very popular and prestigious with other scholarships available in the world. Even, their recommendation was that people in our country should go in Japan once in a life for seeing their kindness and culture. From this perception, I was a dream on that time to visit this country through MEXT scholarship. Meanwhile, I finished my graduation and joined to the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in 2010 as a Lecturer. After then, I tried to looking a scholarship from Japan. During this time, I was getting some offer from the professor of different universities in japan but unfortunately the research field was not exactly matching with mine. I was waiting for a long time for the best. In December 2013, I got a chance from an emirate's professor and great scientist for working on agricultural robotics that was a dream research in my student life. I agreed with the professor and sent all documents for MEXT through the university recommendation.

Experience about entrance exam

First six month, I was research student. During this time, I knew from the professor that I have to attend an entrance exam for enrolling to PhD. Professor said to me details about that entrance exam. And I was trying to take preparation for this entrance exam seriously. But, surprisingly may be 20 days before the entrance exam professor informed me that you have no entrance exam and the graduate faculty gave you a certificate for entrance exam. I was shortly surprised and asked to professor why. Just professor replied me that Rahman (Professor calling name), you are lucky guy and congratulation.

Life as a MEXT scholarship student in Japan

I was departed for Japan from my country on 08 October 2014 when my son was just 20 days old. It was very hard for mine to leave my beloved family in Bangladesh. But when I reached at Sapporo, a kind supporter helped me a lot for everything which needs for living in Japan. Within few hours I met with professor and my lab members. At evening I backed to the dormitory where I was booked a room. I met with our dearest Bengali brothers who was living in that dormitory. They helped me a lot and took dinner with together. When I met with professor after next couple of days, professor said me that you are research student now. So you have no research yet but you should attend our lab seminar that will be held at every Friday, and consequently you will try to enjoy our Japanese culture. Therefore, I was no research pressure during the research student period. That why I was try to enjoy my life with my lab students and Bengali brothers. Every weekend I was roaming the beauty of Sapporo city (specially the snow falling) with my friends and brothers. Indeed, first time I was no experience with snow. When I saw snow, I was just said Allah is great and the nature in the world is so strange and beautiful.

However, my research student period was finished and I enrolled to the PhD program on the 1st march 2015. I tried to follow up some research journals and started my research. Besides that, at weekend and other holidays I went different beautiful places in Sapporo city as well as Hokkaido with some Japanese organizations and dearest Bengali brothers. Particularly, I was spent wonderful time before the end of my PhD because that time my beloved family was with mine. I visited at Oakanai city with them and some brothers, and this tour was very interesting. Honestly, I would like to say that my life was so smooth and trouble free only for the kindness of Japanese people.







Japanese language class

I was taken Japanese language course for short communication with Japanese people. I liked more the Japanese communication class because this class contents were more interesting such as uttering, speaking and presentation. When we were trying to speak Japanese with each other in the class room, the utter pronounce by different country peoples was different which was interesting to hear for all.

Graduation and life after MEXT

Finally on 22 March 2018, the dream became true for me. I was successfully graduated in the field of Environmental Resources (Specifically Vehicle Robotics) at the Graduate School of Agriculture from Hokkaido University. After then I was waiting to back my mother land. As I was assistant professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology before going to Japan, I joined again to that university. After a month I promoted to associate professor. Recently, I joined at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University. Now, I am enjoying my time with my work, and with my beloved family, dear friends, brothers and colleagues. Indeed, as a MEXT scholar not only I achieved a degree but also I got some words in my lives that are discipline, enthusiastic, patient, positive thinking and confidence.

For future applicants

Honestly speaking, the MEXT program is very good for all.....