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Currently I am working as Project Officer (P.O) (Current Charge) at Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI), Under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works of Government of Bangladesh.

At first, I had been selected as a JJ/WBGSP (Joint Japan World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program) on 2013 for two years Master's degree program named "Infrastructure Management Program" in Yokohama National University (YNU).

After completed my Master's degree, I came back to Bangladesh in March 2015 and joined HBRI. The Institute of Urban Innovation of Yokohama National University offered a special English program for the PhD course, and I was blessed to be a successful MEXT scholarship recipient for the PhD program from October 2015 to September 2018.

I took my very first step at Yokohama city in Japan on April 1, 2013. It was spring, and Japanese spring is very popular for cherry blossom (Sakura in Japanese). Beautiful pink, white and purple flowers are seen all over the city.

The day after my arriving I visited my university, Yokohama National University (YNU), which is also famous for many Sakura trees. Japan is not only looks beautiful in spring, the country also dressed beautifully during autumn as well. A student (tutor) was in charge to guide us to make a contract with a cell phone, register for health insurance in the city ward office and so on. She also helped me in applying student card and commuter pass for everyday travel. Just like myself, all international students were guided by some tutors in YNU and therefore international students don't face any trouble to settle down their short life in Japan.



Pic-1: Beautiful Cherry Blossom in Japan



Pic-2: Me & my daughter at Hanami Party



Pic-3: Beautiful Autumn at YNU

MY LAB

We were a total of 15 students selected for the Master's course in the infrastructure management program from all over the world. The professors from a different fields in YNU had selected students according to our research topics. I have also been selected by an Associate professor, Mihiko Matsuyuki for my topic, slum rehabilitation.

My Lab was located on the 5th floor and after a few months of working, I discovered that Mt. Fuji is visible from the window next to my desk. I have enjoyed seeing Mt. Fuji all five years of my study in this Lab.



Pic 4: Mt. Fuji from my Lab Window



Pic 5: My Lab from outside



Pic 6: With my friend from the Philippines

Japanese food

I was afraid to have Japanese food as my regular meal when I saw most of my friends from abroad including Bangladeshi did not accept Japanese food, and were struggling to look for spicy foods. However, I started to enjoy it after few months when my 3-year-old daughter started to go Hoiku-en (nursery school), and found herself loving Japanese food. I especially loved Miso-soup, Ramen, Tempura Soba, Sushi.



Pic 7: Delicious Japanese Food-1



Pic 8: Delicious Japanese Food-2



Pic 9: Delicious Japanese Food-3

Japanese Culture and Humbleness of Japanese People and Sensei (Teacher)

There are many small and big experiences that happened during my stay in Japan. Since I was with my little daughter, I was in need for many guidance and helps from friends. There were two volunteer families helped me to get familiar with Japanese culture and events and sometimes they taught



Pic 10: With Fumie Ogawa Sensei on Atami Trip



Pic 11: My daughter in Japanese Kimono



Pic 12: Me in Japanese Kimono

me the Japanese language for daily use. One volunteer, Ms. Fumie Ogawa treated my daughter and myself as her grand-daughter and daughter. We visited many places with her. We spent quality time when we had delicious Japanese food, watched movies, or visited famous sites with her.

Another kind person Dr. Eiko Kasai Sensei lived near my dormitory. She invited international students to cook their traditional cuisine in her house and we had meals all together. Sometimes she took us to different places for sightseeing. There were many cultural events arranged by our university with our beloved Sensei. Therefore, all students could enjoy their stay in Japan during the study period. As a whole, studying in Japan not only means studying hard but it is also enjoying many activities that refresh our life.



Pic 13: Visiting Imperial Palace at Tokyo with Eiko Sensei



Pic 14: With our beloved Sensei Tatsuhiko Ikeda and Master's class mates at an event arrange by the university and Ikeda Sensei

Graduation Ceremony and After Come Back to Bangladesh

Finally, on September 14, 2018, I successfully graduated from the Institute of Urban Innovation of Yokohama National University. I came back to Bangladesh on September 27, 2018. I joined HBRI again on October 1, 2018, and got promoted from Assistant Architect to Project Officer (Current Charge).



Pic 15: With my beloved supervisor Matsuyuki Sensei and my lab mates



Pic 16: At JICA Course Graduation Day at JICA Yokohama Center



Pic 17: At Master's Graduation day at Yokohama National University (YNU)



Pic 18: With my supervisor and the Chair of the Session at International Conference of Asian Pacific Planning Societies



Pic 19: With Kimitoshi Hayano Sensei, President, Institute of Urban Innovation



Pic 20: With my family on PhD Graduation Ceremony at YNU



Recommendation for Upcoming Students: Any Japanese scholarship is highly prestigious and thoughtful. I have learned so many things during my stay at Japan. These Japanese scholarship programs not only teach education but also teach many kinds of activities that are needed for all mankind to create a better society. Therefore, the blessed candidates who got selected for any course or degree at Japanese University should not miss this great opportunity.