

# Hiroshima University Global Internship Program *NEWSLETTER*

**Global Internship Program (G.ecbo Program)**  
**—Discover what you will be 10 years from now!**  
**Internship Program where you will encounter the world —**

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## *Continuing and Developing the G.ecbo Program*



**Dr. MAHARJAN, Keshav Lall**

Chairperson, G.ecbo Program  
Executive Committee  
Graduate School for  
International Development and  
Cooperation

One year has passed since I took over the post of Executive Committee Chairperson for the G.ecbo Program. We have ended the year successfully due to the cooperation I received from various people connected with the program, and I

wish to express my gratitude. From AY2020 the graduate schools of Hiroshima University will undergo restructuring and four new graduate schools will start up. I wish to take this opportunity to go through the main features, the track record and the challenges of the program which has been implemented across the university for graduate school students, as well as explain the challenges for continuing the program under the new graduate school structure. The G.ecbo Program is an educational program that focuses on internships mainly overseas. This is an interdisciplinary program where students from Master's or Doctoral programs are sent to foreign countries, including developing countries, for a period of 1-3 months to undertake an overseas internship based on a plan drawn up pre-departure, focusing on their research theme. It is a practical educational program that also includes preparatory training internship-related lectures and seminars and debriefing. After experiencing the graduate school educational initiative and the Support Program for Improving Graduate School Education, the G.ecbo Program, (the Strategic Center for Global Internship), was set up in AY2010 and has been implementing distinctive interdisciplinary graduate school education while working together with Hiroshima University's graduate courses council.

The G.ecbo Program attaches great importance to English, and students are asked to complete compulsory core subjects such as the Developing Designing Ability course and Voluntary English Course offered by FLARE. The internship plan to be submitted in applications, the screening interviews for selection, various kinds of seminars as well as other briefings and reports are conducted in English. This is all to provide the foundation for fostering international leaders. As Sandwich Education + Follow-up Education: firstly, preparatory training consisting of understanding and preparing for the program is implemented. Along with learning general information relevant to international environments, situations of developing countries, and life in a foreign country, seminars in risk management and security measures are held to prepare interns for life abroad. In this manner, preparation for overseas internship is completed.

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## **What is the Global Internship Program (G.ecbo Program) ?**

Overseas internship is the core part of this educational program with the 'sandwich-style' education and research activities. In this program we aim to produce researchers who deal with a variety of issues in various fields, and practitioners and highly skilled specialists who can take the lead in international issues.

## Continuation and development of G.ecbo program

Secondly, internship is conducted. The intern reports to a corporation or other organization currently involved in actual international cooperation activities, where he or she responsibly performs the assigned tasks or research. The intern may also undertake studies and research in areas that can be improved upon for the benefit of the assigned country. In other words, rather than simply relying on the place where they are assigned to, interns are expected to be proactive in things they can do themselves, and are taught to take part in activities always remembering to contribute. Interns are required to check for safety and act while fully considering risk management. Furthermore, interns should always remember that they represent Hiroshima University and are advised to always act as an ambassador of the university at their place of assignment. Thirdly, in follow-up research interns share with the university what they achieved during their internship. Based on that, detailed methods for improving international cooperation and for upgrading Japanese international cooperative efforts are provided to both the internship country and Hiroshima University. The program now expands opportunities to doctoral students to carry out their follow-up research internship in the field/place where they previously had an internship experience.

The transformations in English ability, aspirations toward interdisciplinary international cooperation, and an increase in the strength of character and growth of the interns who participate in the G.ecbo Program can be seen from their preparatory training and follow-up research, various presentations, reports and so on. This is directly linked to job-hunting activities and career improvements by students who have been interns, as can be observed in the contributions from the students to our newsletters, etc. From all of the above, it is obvious that the G.ecbo Program is recognized internally and externally as playing an important role in nurturing the students of Hiroshima University as international leaders, and in promoting problem-based learning research and interdisciplinary international cooperation.

Therefore, this program will become even more important when the restructuring is implemented from AY2020. To that end, it is vital to maintain the same management system as when the Strategic Center for Global Internship was set up in AY2010.

Furthermore, in order to keep the motivation of the participating students high and to increase a sense of achievement, the creation of classes for preparatory training and follow-up research (desk work) and courses for internships, as well as devising a system for allotting credits is a crucial issue for the continuance and development of this program. As head of the executive committee, I will make my utmost efforts to achieve this. I ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Chair person of G.ecbo  
MAHARJAN, KESHAV LALL

## AY2019 Intern Motivation



TAGUCHI Taishi  
Graduate School for International Development and  
Cooperation  
Interned at : NTC International Co., Ltd.  
(Cote d'Ivoire)  
Period: February 27-March 24 ,2019

I have decided to take up the opportunity of internship to actually experience what happens at the site of a development project overseas, to undertake the duties of a development consultant and to further deepen my understanding of this work.

On this internship I will be taking part in a project in Côte d'Ivoire in West

Africa to support growing rice and through this I hope to become well acquainted with what is happening with the development of farming villages through supporting the growing of rice in the African continent, not only in the Republic of Uganda, which has been the subject of my research. I hope to broaden my vision and make some new discoveries in my research which I had not noticed before. Since my departure was decided, I have strived to learn new expressions and ways of thinking necessary for my life as an intern through the English presentation study course in the preparatory training, to improve my skills and be able to quickly utilize them in my activities as an intern. Upon my return to Japan, a debriefing is scheduled where interns will share the results of their activities. I Keeping in mind that I will report to other interns, I intend to carry out activities with a fruitful outcome. From that perspective, I applied for the internship because I felt I could further expand my own research activities and that it would be very meaningful.



Khondaker Mohammad Robiul Awal  
Graduate School for International Development and  
Cooperation  
Interned at : FORWARD, Nepal  
Period: March 8-30 ,2019

My subject is Cultural and Regional Studies which is related to rural development and rural economics.

Therefore, I want to engage as an intern in an organization that works with sustainable rural livelihood and employment. Forum for Rural Welfare and Agricultural Reform for

Development (FORWARD, Nepal) is this kind of organization.

It is a great chance for me as my interest is poverty elevation and sustainable development in the rural area. I can learn about food and nutrition security, firm forestry, biodiversity conservation from this internship. I also can learn about rural sanitation in Nepal and organizational behavior of government-non government approach. I hope that my internship experience that I want to do will support me in my research field and will be helpful for my government job to sever the rural area of Bangladesh.

# Activities of G.ecbo Alumni

Robb J. Y. Lee / English teacher at public school  
Interned at Brawijaya University (Indonesia) in AY2018

## –Current Situation & Waking Status

After graduating from IDEC, I was fortunate enough to be selected as a foreign language instructor at a unique and innovative public JHS/SHS that has adopted the international curriculum of a world-renowned organization that specializes in international project-based learning and education. This is a first-of-its-kind institution in all of Japan and it is exciting to be working here. It involves a lot of patience, creativity, experimentation and perseverance.



*Fellow IDEC Graduate Student from Rwanda who cooperated with my school on an international exchange discussion and exchange*

## –When & How I utilized My Experiences of Gecbo Program

While struggling through the tedious research process at IDEC, I found a quote that got me through the most difficult times following my amazing G.ecbo internship in Indonesia, and it came from the great African leader, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. He stated that, *"It always seems impossible until it's done."* I thought that finishing my data collection, analysis and eventual write-up of my graduate thesis was going to be absolutely impossible given the amount of time I had remaining before my graduation, however, when I felt lost or frustrated, I always referred to Nelson Mandela's quote. It reminded me that even the most impossible task can and will be accomplished with unwavering courage and effort.

## –What I Feel Rooted & Growing in Myself

Through the friendships that I have made in Japan and in Indonesia, I have been working on trying to create and promote international exchanges with the purpose of cultivating intercultural understanding, cooperation and the development of global competence or skills needed for the younger generation of students here in Japan and hopefully with other countries around Southeast Asia. Also, with the experiences that I have gained at IDEC and through G.ecbo, I hope to inspire the students I work with to take an interest in the research process and to develop a curiosity for learning how to help and serve the local community around them and also for betterment of the world community as well. I will never forget the opportunity and experiences that the G.ecbo program afforded me while at Brawijaya University.

## –Advice for Juniors

Terima Kasih Banyak, and a major thank you to my former advisor for her hard work and advice throughout the G.ecbo internship. It could not have been a success without her leadership and guidance. Also, I would like to owe a debt of gratitude to all the professors and staff at IDEC and who organize the G.ecbo program. Finally, thank you to the professors, staff, students at Brawijaya University, and also to the Senior student advisors in IDEC. Through this program, we made one part of the world closer and a little more peaceful. The only advice for those who will be graduating in the near future, comes from the words of the late Ralph Waldo Emerson, *"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and lead a trail."* As you begin your graduate school journey, or if you are near the end of it, don't be passive and don't take the safe road that everyone has already walked down. Be adventurous, take risks, fail, fail again, fail once more, then find success at the end of that failure. Create a new path towards success that others may follow in your footsteps, and someday they too may create their own path of success.

どうもありがとうございました。



*Regional international education training workshop*



*During my internship at Brawijaya*



## Activities of G.ecbo Alumni

Mahama Tiah Abdul-Kabiru /Technical Advisor, Office of Vice President of Republic of Ghana  
Run-up program in AY2016 , Interned at NORSAAC in Republic of Ghana

### – Current Situation & Waking Status

Currently, I am serving my country, Ghana, in one the highest decision making body for the country- The Economic Management Team (EMT)- as the Technical Economic Advisor to the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana. This role among other things requires carrying out research, following up on resolutions of the EMT, setting up venue for the weekly meetings of the EMT and performing any such analytical and policy related task as may be assigned by the Vice President. The EMT is the socio-economic policy incubator for the country as we work with various ministries, agencies and departments to formulate policy as well as monitor the delivery of these policies under the Chairmanship of the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana.

### – Looking back from the Internship to the Present

It has been a life-changing and impactful experience.

### – Words of back from the Internship to the Present

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work" - Colin Powell

### – When & How I utilized My Experiences of Gecbo Program

Whenever a task that requires research and or analytical skills and experience is assigned to me, I urgency to remember the experience from G.ecbo is high. Aside this, leadership and teamwork are crucial part of my current role as a public servant and I always draw from the lessons at G.ecbo.

### – Advice for Juniors

For those graduating, never graduate unless you have developed a sense of independence and the determination to confront challenges. Because, you will have to take decision that affect a country or a group of people and you will also be entrusted with leadership in one way or another. Independence does not mean not being a team player but it means being able to do a personal level analysis of an issue to take an informed decision. I will further advise those graduating to learn from the experiences of both the classrooms and the field. The blend of theories and the practices will make you become better global citizens contributing to the development of humanity.



*Fieldwork in the West Manpuji district.*

## Activities of G.ecbo Alumni

Rasoanjanahary Tantely Nirina /Satake Corporation Employee

Interned at Florida State University (United States of America) in AY2018

### – Current Situation & Waking Status

I could have the chance to be hired in a Japanese company right after my graduation. Now I am working on International Business Planning, dealing with the administration of the company's overseas business, contributing to international magazine articles' submission. It has been only few months but I have learned so many things, especially about rice processing technology where Satake is one of the main actor worldwide.

### – Looking back from the internship to the present

It was a wonderful experience that I am thankful to, it helped me to grow academically first and as a member of an international network I would have never get without participating to.

### – When & How I utilized My Experiences of Gecbo Program

During the G.ecbo, I could get valuable experience from the beginning of the program, not only during the internship itself. We were trained on how to make a good presentation, to manage time and especially to communicate with other members. Those skills was very useful for my academic research. From my internship, I could know what cultural differences is, and now that I am dealing with international business, I can make use of it when guiding visitors to our factory. Once I was asked to help in guiding international student from Hiroshima University during their visit at Satake Corporation, even being nervous, I was confident with my communication skills in English to perform appropriately.

### – What I Feel Rooted & Growing in Myself

What impacted me the most was the way I had to communicate to ask for help in a totally new challenge I have never faced before. For example, my seniors helped me to get a good accommodation by making me in contact with their host at the time they participated in the internship. Since that, I learned the importance of the community and networks. In my work now, as I am very new in the Japanese business society, I rely on my seniors to help me to cope with this totally new environment.

### – Advice for Juniors

To my juniors, beside academic skills, please graduate with skills that will allow you to face any challenges since you will have to deal with countless of them independently right after you leave the university. It may be in communication, may be in other fields, be a better version of yourself in everything. Learn from, use and rely on community as it is rich in experiences and knowledge to be able to contribute back to it again.



*At Florida State University*

# AY2019 Internship Report

## SUMI Jumpei (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Host	Research Institute for Housing and Human Settlements, Ministry of Public Works (PUSKIM) (Indonesia )
Period	September 11 to November 19, 2019
Objectives	A fact-finding survey on the air quality environment of kampung housing areas in Indonesia



From 2018 I have been carrying out an environmental survey investigation and a questionnaire on health in kampung housing areas in Indonesia as the subject. Kampung refers to densely populated detached housing areas in urban areas that have formed without insufficient infrastructure. The poor sanitary environment of kampung areas has long been regarded as a problem. My goal is to improve the living conditions. Therefore, I took part in an internship with the Indonesian Institute for Human Settlement and Housing, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, PSUKIM, which is connected to the G.ecbo Program. Based on the survey results of 2018, I carried out a further survey investigation and workshops to raise awareness among residents. The results showed that if pollutant levels in relation to health were set for example up to 2.5pm, then of the 38 houses more than 70% exceeded this baseline. In the workshop, an explanation and commentary were given to the people living in kampungs about the housing environment issues based on the results from 2018. After that each person was asked to offer ideas for improvement based on the issues in that individual's daily life, thus deepening each person's understanding of the housing environment. In this way, I was able to obtain sufficient data for my future research. I also felt that my ability to communicate in English with the person in charge who helped improved significantly. I feel sure that my experience will not only help me in my research but also when I become involved in new projects.

## Hanief Ariefman Sani (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Host	Research Institute for Housing and Human Settlements, Ministry of Public Works (PUSKIM) (Indonesia )
Period	September 10 to October 26, 2019
Objectives	Indoor air quality survey and measurement to find the source of IAQ problem, later continued by modification and experiment to improve indoor air quality.



Given the opportunity to be part of G.ecbo Internship was an invaluable learning experience. In this internship I had to work and study about the measurement process of Indoor air quality (IAQ), specifically Gas Chromatography (GC), which will be used in the future measurement of Apartment IAQ. Internship at PUSKIM Bandung is very helpful in expanding my knowledge related to conducting experiments and research in building science. We visited several laboratories for GC measurements and saw how the device works to analyze the chemical content of gas samples. This visit really helped me in understanding how the chemical analysis process. In addition to these activities, the survey activities that I did gave me an opportunity to improve my communication skills and share some knowledge. In the survey activities to request approval for IAQ measurements, I was able to share and explain the preliminary results of our research regarding how IAQ can affect occupant health. In this activity the respondent showed interest and gave us the opportunity to take further measurements in their apartment unit. Even though I did internship in my home country, different province expanded my cultural understanding. Thank you i-ECBO, PUSKIM and ITS for giving me the change for an internship and support me in many ways, it was a great experience.

## Bunheang Peng (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Host	Research Institute for Housing and Human Settlements, Ministry of Public Works (PUSKIM) (Indonesia )
Period	August 19 to September 15, 2019
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To observe and learn new things from real research in PUSKIM</li><li>- To conduct a pilot research and improve my main research</li><li>- Expand knowledge in my research topic</li></ul>



i-ECBO internship program not only offer me research experiences but also social life lessons. I had an opportunity to involve with PUSKIM for their ongoing researches of low energy housing design. Although it is mostly about technical in architecture and engineer, it expended my knowledge more about my research topic (energy saving). More importantly, I received a great opportunity to apply my research as a pilot in UPI primary school (Lab School). By this, I could test out my methodology, students' reaction, problem solving in the real situation. After completed all my activities, I have learnt some important lessons including never expect the real research work as good as what we planned although we did the best to make it. Some adjustments and flexibilities are necessary to make it right away. In addition, some support and assistant are needed because we could not do all tasks alone. Aside from these academic tasks, I could know more deeply about Indonesian culture and costume through my own observation and communicated with their people. At the same time, I also could share my own culture as well as my experience in Japan to them. All in all, I could say that going for internship in abroad is the one of the best practices for international corporation between different nationalities.



# AY2019 Internship Report

## TAMURA Eka (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Host	JICA Bolivia Office (Bolivia)
Period	August 7 to October 2, 2019
Objectives	Strengthening the transmission of information domestically and abroad by examining effective methods through the use and analysis of PR tools, such as Japanese, English and Spanish web-sites, Facebook and PR magazines, of the Bolivia Office



During my internship I worked in the office and also accompanied experts to gather information on-site, where I was able to experience the project activities firsthand. Business in the office that connects people was undertaken with a strong sense of responsibility and purpose so as to draw out the best results for the projects of each business team. The experts at the project sites work together with the local staff and were seen to begin by building a relationship of trust first. JICA projects have a large budget and a deadline by which to complete the project. Despite immense pressure to produce the best results possible, the level of expertise was obvious as compared to volunteers who repeat things in a trial-and-error process. I had not experienced either until then, and it made me realize the importance of thinking logically, as I listened to their opinions and views. Any of my previous volunteering was at a grass-roots level and as I didn't have the opportunity to think deeply about countries or governments, it made me think about the manner of involvement with the organization. Also in research activities, instead of focusing on the problem right in front of us, I realized that it is important to consider other relevant factors and also the background. I feel that kind of thinking ability and perspective is essential for being involved in the field of international cooperation. In my future activities, I will try not to forget this broad perspective which I have learned.

## KAWASAKI Daiki (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Host	Nonprofit organization IMAGINUS (Philippines)
Period	August 13 to September 29, 2019
Objectives	Conducting a survey regarding the work of NPOs and my own research content



During my training I conducted two surveys. Firstly, a survey on the project conducted by the NPO IMAGINUS, where I interned; and secondly, a research survey. Regarding the survey about the NPO's project, I was involved in developing products for a village which was about 5 minutes from the NPO base by motorized tricycle taxi. The project work consisted of holding discussions with the village people to make suggestions about the design of the products that had been chosen for development, and deciding on where to procure the materials needed. Other items included the package design, how to display and outlets to sell the products. The designs, methods of display and outlets to sell the products are regularly reviewed through discussions held in the village and through consensus-building. Next is the research survey. Due to the balance with the NPO work, I completed my own research survey in a short period of time. I carried out the survey by visiting the village and conducting interviews to gather data. Because the timeframe was rather short, I was not able to gather a large amount of data and so the results were not what I had hoped for. However, I analyzed the data that I had collected as best as I could and was able to make some observations. The fieldwork I carried out in this internship helped me to think about the method of questioning for the survey and to discover further challenges for myself. I hope to utilize my experiences in future surveys overseas. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the G.ecbo Program that gave me this opportunity, my supervisors, and the local staff where I conducted my internship.

## Eshun Felix Kwamina Egyir (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Host	Almec VPI Inc. (Philippines)
Period	September 25 to October 21, 2019
Objectives	To acquire the requisite skills and tools for data collection, data analysis, and the relevant mathematical tools for accessing the economic impacts of traffic congestion



During the internship, I had the opportunity to attend high profile meetings, which were related to my research work. I also participated in an ADB organized transportation forum and a Road and Traffic Expo, which was the first of its kind in Manila Philippines. I believe that the outcomes and experience of this internship have helped me gain the skills of how to apply the right tools in transportation planning, data collection, and data analyses, and this will enhance my research work. My sincere gratitude goes to all ALMEC staff, especially my supervisor, Chika San, who coordinated the entire process before I left Japan and during my stay in the Philippines. I would also like to thank Dr Iwata, the CEO of ALMEC, in Manila, Philippines. And finally, my heartfelt gratitude to my Academic Supervisor, Prof A. Fujiwara, who encouraged me and gave me guidance and support throughout the process.

## OKATA Yoshie (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Host	Department of Literature and Language (Zambia), School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zambia
Period	January 20 to March 27, 2020
Objectives	In charge of classes for the short course of Japanese studies, full-time Teacher's Assistant for the regular course. Introducing Japanese culture and the Japanese language during Japan Week



"Dear members, 3 weeks report from Yoshie of Zambia, Last weekend I got a chance to observe Meheba refugee settlement and I shortly visited there. It was the first time to see and hear the real situation on refugee. Many children lost their parents in front of themselves and escape to Meheba where the north broader area of Zambia. I can't still find the word to express my thoughts but the moment was really considerable for me to know the current real situation and seeing those who work for support them, I was really impressed. For my internship, I'm still continually working for the curriculum making to realize the Japanese course as one of the major of University and teaching Japanese in class. This week 3-7 Feb was held the 5 day extensive class and I worked as TA. The Final day, we had cultural experience time and I demonstrated Japanese tea ceremony and introduced its spirit "一期一会" and also origami workshop. Keep going,"

– From 3rd Weekly Report on February 9th, 2020

## KAKUJYO Ryusei (Graduate School for International Cooperation )

Destination	Nonprofit organization IMAGINUS (Philippines)
Period	February 10 to March 6, 2020
Objectives	Café project (profit-and-loss accounting, marketing, project management) Dumaguete transportation survey, business practice experience in management



"Dear all, Good morning. I arrived at the IMAGINUS office located in Zamboanguita, Philippines on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Here I can find nice beach sound, starry sky and biology. My internship has been started since 10<sup>th</sup> and it will end on 6<sup>th</sup> March, thus my stay here is 4 weeks. We are trying to open a café which has two functions as (1) a hub where local people gather and socialize and (2) a financial resource for local NGO namely B.L.U.E. I am currently tackling a cashflow calculation and strategy of the café. The café open day will be tentatively on 28<sup>th</sup> February however, our progress is not ideal so far. Hence, time management and task allocation are highly required. I am learning how I can manage the project with coworkers who have different perspective, perception and attitude. Aside from the café project, I am observing the traffic in Zamboanguita. Tricycles, vehicles with three wheels and a roof, are common for travel. There is no traffic light so that a technic to go across a road is needed to survive here. " – From 1st Weekly Report on February 19th, 2020

## Phyu Phyu Zaw (Graduate School for International Cooperation )※Run-up program

Host	University of California, San Diego (United States of America)
Period	January 12 to March 8, 2020
Objectives	To participate in the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction( MBSR) program and Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC) 5-day Intensive program



"Dear all, Good afternoon! I safely arrived in San Diego on 10th January. The room I rented for my two-month stay here is in the University City, San Diego. It is not very far from the Center of Mindfulness \_ the place where both of my training courses are to be held for the coming eight weeks. On 11th January, I went around the city for observation. In addition, I have already bought a SIM-card to get a phone number in the States. The Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program Week 1 started this afternoon on 12th January. There are two instructors for this program. First, the instructors informed us about what we needed to expect from the program, the outlines of the upcoming eight weeks, and the attitudinal foundations necessary for the mindfulness practice. We also had to practice sitting meditation, body scanning, mindful eating, and yoga during the very first class. Both didactic and experiential learning was introduced in the class. After that, there were group discussions among the instructors and the participants. It was a very wonderful experience. I hope this training program will be very helpful not only for conducting my own research but also for cultivating my meditative awareness and reducing my emotional reactivity in my daily life." – From 1st Weekly Report on January 14th, 2020



## AY2019 RA Introduction

The G.ecbo Program employs students who have been interns to be research assistants (RAs). RAs support the program by passing on their experiences to students in various graduate courses, by helping with preparatory training and follow-up research, as well as being advisers about internships. The following three people were active as RAs in AY2019.

### TAKEUCHI Yasuka( Graduate School of Letters Doctoral Program Humane Studies )

When majoring in linguistics at Hiroshima University's Graduate School of Letters, during my first year of my master's degree program in 2015, I first participated in the G.ecbo Program, and I learned how to be able to give scholarship back to society. Using that experience as a start, I acquired a qualification in Japanese-language education and in the second year of my doctoral program, I took part in the G.ecbo Program's Follow-Up Education internship. As well as conducting Japanese-language education activities, I also took part in a language survey of Malaysia's Indigenous Kelabit people and language preservation activities. There are still languages in the world that have not yet been documented and languages without sufficient teaching materials for those wishing to learn the language. I intend to do my best to help the speakers of those such languages.



*At my study-abroad location, Yume School, MIGO Overseas Consulting, in Namangan, Uzbekistan. (TAKEUCHI-san is on the right.)*

### CAO LEI (Graduate School of International Cooperation Doctoral Program Education and Culture )

#### 1. Please share with us your thoughts on being a RA for the G.ecbo Program

I started my RA job in the first year of doctoral program. Through the RA job, I could feel that my personal growth has been stepped up no matter in academics and career development. Also I learned valuable spirit and attitude from professors, staffs and students. When conducting RA work, it is obviously necessary to understand professors' suggestions and ideas reasonably, as well as convey to intern students. Therefore, bridging the gap between professors' side and students' side is one of RA's main goals as a coordinator of internship program.

#### 2. What are the benefits of doing an internship overseas?

Participating in an internship not only can make you utilize the academic and skills what you already have, but also can help you open a new horizon by experiencing different culture and diverse groups.

#### 3. What advice do you have for future G.ecbo students?

Before the departure for an internship, having an understanding about your host country and planning your specific schedule is what you should always keep in mind. On the other hand, while conducting research and internship activities, you also need to put yourself in the construction of internship institutions.

#### 4. Please share any comments you may have about the G.ecbo Program

G.ecbo program is a valuable and meaningful program in Hiroshima University that provides students with overseas internship opportunities. I do believe what I have learned and gained from G.ecbo program will be beneficial to my further development.



*With students of the Japanese Business Language Course at the Cambodian Mekong University.*

### Shree Kumar Maharjan

### (Graduate School of International Cooperation Doctoral Program Education and Culture )

#### 1. Please share with us your thoughts on being a RA for the G.ecbo Program

It is a great platform to support the students to improve their research and presentation skills through internship. It also helps students to understand the professional lives and experiences in their research fields. In this process, I have augmented my skills of reviewing the presentations, providing constructive comments and suggestions, taking notes and compiling the reports, organizing the events. Furthermore, it also provided research skills, since the students have diverse research fields such as agriculture, engineering, transportation, policy, education, social sciences etc.

#### 2. What are the benefits of doing an internship overseas?

It is a great opportunity for the students to gain practical and real-life experiences through the internship by witnessing the problems, issues and challenges in the fields and explore possible solutions to improve the situations. It is also an opportunity to connect to the organizations and networks for future professional engagement. Being RA, I have also learned the specific problems, issues and challenges in the specific countries and regions.

#### 3. What advice do you have for future G.ecbo students?

I advised all the students to involve and experience this internship program since it is a great learning experiences to move forward professionally. The lessons learned during this internship would be certainly helpful in the professional life after the gradation from the university. Some of the students have chance to join the host institutions after graduation as well.

#### 4. Please share any comments you may have about the G.ecbo Program

This program needs to develop well-organized framework to effectively analyze and monitor the students' achievements in the internship. It may need to provide some specific sessions to effectively plan the internship prior to student's departure so that they can effectively execute and report back. The weekly reporting system has been practiced but not effective since it is just reporting the activities. I think it can be improved so that students can effectively engage and contribute to the host institutions as well since they also expect some contributions from the students.



*Shree-san wearing a traditional Nepalese hat.*

# From G.ecbo Graduates

## MORIWAKI Takatoshi (Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation )

Oriental Consultants Global Co, Ltd Employee  
Interned at Armec VPI (Philippines) in AY2018

### –Why did you choose this corporation or field of work?

When I was an undergraduate, I majored in civil engineering and in graduate school I belonged to the Transportation Engineering Laboratory. From that time onward I had a hazy notion that I would like to work overseas. About 80% of the students at the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation are exchange students and when I was in the lab, I often heard exchange students saying that their hometowns were experiencing terrible traffic jams and they would like to do something to resolve it. Growing up in Japan, I took many things for granted but the situation is quite different in other countries and I realized how lucky I was to be in Japan. From this experience, I would like developing countries to have things that I would consider normal too and so I hope to contribute to alleviated the traffic problems in urban cities in developing countries. That's why I decided to apply for a job with Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd., so that I can be involved in projects for urban problems in developing countries, from the planning stage through to the design stages.



*Taken after finishing the last presentation at the office in the Philippines.*



*Professor FUJIWARA Akimasa , my supervisor, and Professor Jose Regin Regidor from the University of the Philippines who often gave me advice.*

### –What influence did your internship experience have on your job-hunting?

Although I had been on trips overseas, it was the first time for me to meet Japanese people working outside of Japan and to see where they work. While I was in Manila, I had the opportunity to meet several Japanese people working there and I got the impression that they were full of life and enjoying their work. From that experience, I had been thinking that I would like to work overseas from before participating in this program, and after I experienced being an intern, this desire became even stronger.

### –What are your future goals?

I want to become the kind of professional consultant who listens to what all the people living locally have to say and what they want to do, and then propose a traffic plan that everyone can approve of.

### –What advice can you share with those who are graduating after you?

I'm sure some who are a little worried about joining the G.ecbo Program and are hesitant. It was the same for me until I became an intern but I had absolutely no regrets once I joined. When I was in Manila there were some difficult times but when I look back on it, I realize it was a valuable experience and everything gave me more confidence in myself. While you are a student, there will always be someone to help you if you make some mistake, so if you are interested, please take up the challenge.



# From G.ecbo Graduates

## UEMURA Kenzo (Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation )

Elementary School Teacher (since FY2020)  
Interned at Nonprofit organization IMAGINUS (India)  
in AY2018



### — Why did you choose this corporation or field of work?

From FY2020, I will become an elementary school teacher. I have always loved being with children and I was interested in the field of education. There are various kinds of education but I chose to become a teacher as it will enable me to interact with children closely.

### — What influence did your internship experience have on your job-hunting?

During my internship at IMAGINUS, which gives welfare and educational support to street children, I met a child who had been living on the streets. Because he was able to receive support from IMAGINUS, he is now studying at senior high school. From a meeting like that, I was able to reconfirm the importance of education. I realized the enormous responsibility that comes with working with children. It made me feel an even stronger sense of responsibility in my work as a teacher.

### — What are your future goals?

I'd like to become the kind of teacher who can create classes where I think together with the children. I'd like to be the kind of teacher who helps the individuality of each child develop. Therefore, I need to be gathering information about various things and always be ready to take on new challenges.



*With participants of a study tour at the internship location.*



*Conducting an interview survey about the management of NGOs.*

### — What advice can you share with those who are graduating after you?

I think that with many things, you can only understand it after you actually try it, and living overseas is one of those kinds of things. During internships, you may have trouble with the language, or you may not feel very well sometimes. You may experience hardships like this but once you overcome them, you will gain a lot more self-confidence. Also interns will be able to learn about that country's culture or religion as a matter of course, and that experience will enable you to expand your own sense of values. The content of the G.ecbo Program, which enables students to live overseas and work in their internships, is extremely rich and fulfilling. If you are thinking about joining the program, please go ahead and make the decision to do so.



# G.ecbo Risk Management...!

## ☑ Health care, etc.

La Paz in Bolivia, where I did my internship, has an elevation of 3,400 meters above sea level. This means it is easy to get indigestion due to the high altitude, and local residents usually eat a light meal of tea and crackers for their evening meal. After my arrival, even though I had not yet adapted to the altitude, I kept on eating quite a lot at dinner-time resulting in severe abdominal pain and not being able to eat anything at all. If you feel something different in your everyday health situation, you should play it safe and rest up. In my case it was necessary for me to stop eating and to take a rest.

When you go overseas there are many things awaiting you that you could not have imagined: differences in the culture, way of thinking, totally different climates and environments, and so on. Research and prepare as much as you can, so that you can carry out appropriate risk management and look after your health as you approach your internship.



## ☑ At the airport

When returning to Japan from the Philippines, I had to change from the domestic terminal to the international terminal at Manila airport. Those using Philippine Airlines can take a shuttle bus for free but at first, I couldn't find it so I thought I would take a taxi. When I told the taxi-driver I wanted to go to Terminal No. 1, they were willing to take me but because I didn't have a lot of Philippine peso on me, I asked the taxi driver how much it would cost. They told me it would cost 1,500 pesos. So, I couldn't take the taxi because I didn't have enough peso to pay for it. If I hadn't thought to ask the fare before getting on, I wouldn't have been able to pay for the taxi. There were a lot of security guards at the airport but they didn't seem to know where the shuttle bus left from. If you find yourself in the same situation as me, ask the airport workers in the lobby or at the information desk about where you can get on the free shuttle bus.

## A Message from the G.ecbo Steering Committee toward the Future G.ecbo Students



Professor, Graduate School of Advanced Science Engineering, Department Mechanical Systems Engineering  
Dr. YAMAMOTO Motomichi



I am in charge of the G.ecbo Program in the Graduate School of Engineering. In the G.ecbo Program students can gain precious experience in practical science, something which is not possible in the university or indeed, in Japan. As well as increasing language ability, students who take part in the program set higher goals for their research and studies themselves, and make detailed plans for achieving these goals. It is also important that students conduct themselves as representatives of Hiroshima University. At the same time, students should not adhere to preconceived notions of themselves but try to keep a positive and optimistic outlook. It is important to regard any mistakes made as experiences that enable students to create new and better versions of themselves. Why don't you take up the challenge and apply for this program?

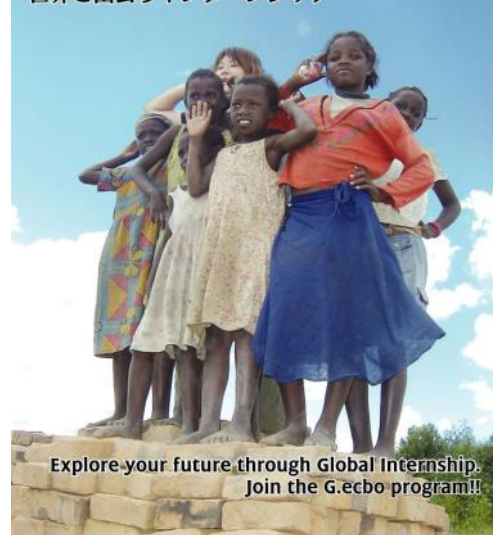
G.ecbo will call for 2020 participation in April!

Go to our website for the list of intern locations and further details.



Hiroshima University Student Plaza Global Career Design Center  
G.ecbo Program Office  
Email: [gecbo@hiroshima-u.ac.jp](mailto:gecbo@hiroshima-u.ac.jp)  
<https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/gecbo>

10年後の自分を探そう  
世界と出会うインターンシップ



Explore your future through Global Internship.  
Join the G.ecbo program!!