

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 —

March, 2023

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Title of Content:

G.ecbo Program activities / Dispatch track record	1-2
G.ecbo Alumni Active in Japan and Around the World	3-5
Internship questionnaire, Activity Report for AY2023	6
AY2023 Internship reports	7-10
Introduction of research assistants	11
List of students sent abroad, steering committee structure	12



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



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

About G.ecbo Program activities

—Global Explorers to Cross Borders—

Under the slogan of "With Corona, With Conscious Mind," the G.ecbo Global Internship Program re-started in AY2023. In addition to the current host institutions, in AY2022 two universities in the Philippines, and four universities and one institution in Sri Lanka were added to the list of destinations accepting G.ecbo interns.

As a result, all of this year's interns were dispatched to universities, and the internships were either focusing on research or will link up to research. These internships promoting research have long been one of the pillars of the G.ecbo program and provide important motivation for graduate student applicants.

At the same time, internships in non-university organizations, such as international organizations, international non-government organizations (INGOs), the third sector, consulting firms, venture companies, volunteer groups, etc., are also important to study how to respond to the needs of diverse locations and to elicit solutions in a multidisciplinary manner. This year, there were no internships in the corporate training type because there were not many applicants for corporate groups and there were not any candidates who successfully passed the selection process. Discussions need to take place about future internships with institutions where students have not been dispatched to for some time, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The coronavirus is now considered worldwide to be a kind of cold and in May 2023, Japanese authorities downgraded COVID-19 to a category 5 infectious disease.



MAHARJAN, Keshav Lall

Chairperson, G.ecbo Program Executive Committee
Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University
Director, International Economic Development Program
Professor, Joint International Master's Programme in Sustainable Development
Professor, Social Innovation Science, Graduate School of Innovation and Practice for Society

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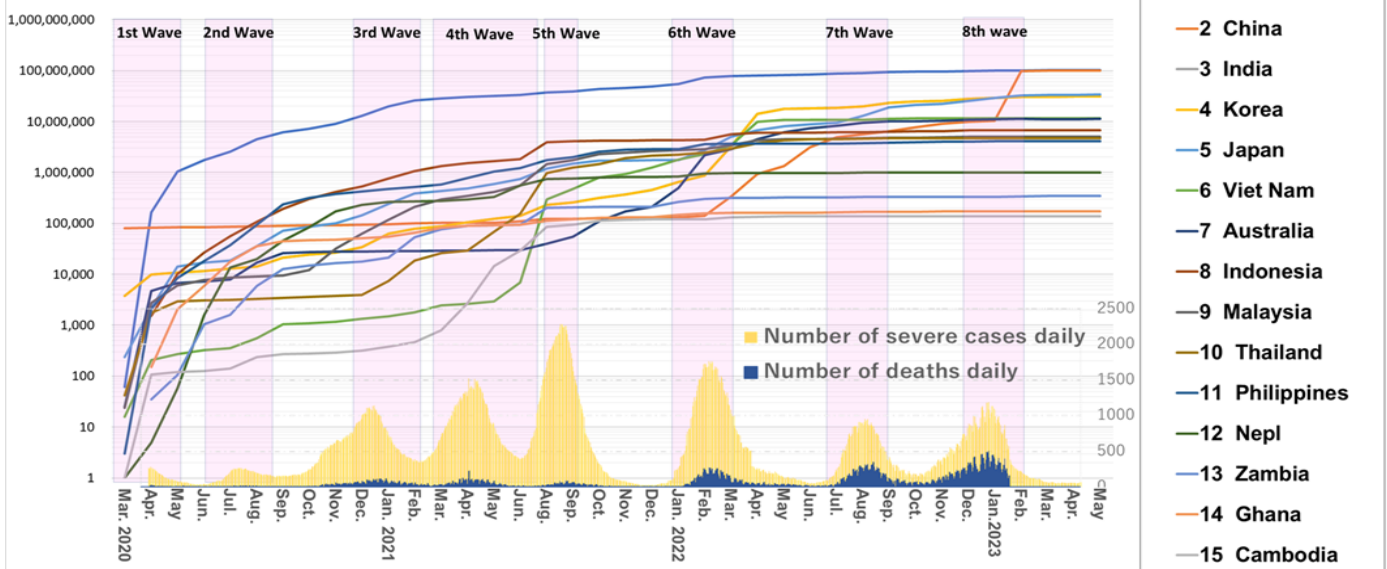
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Occasionally, mutant strains appear, and even if there is a regional or seasonal epidemic, the number of deaths that can be attributed to the coronavirus has been considerably reduced although that number is not zero. (See the graph on the next page. Statistics show no significant increase or decrease in the number of infected people in each country from 2023 onward.) In light of this, as isolation in communities and various behavioral restrictions are removed, corporate training internships may become more important.

In this sense, one of the issues to be addressed in the future will be to develop connections with organizations other than universities, such as international organizations. Another important feature of this program, and one that is considered to be highly effective educationally in fostering internationalism in students, may be the operation and continuation of the briefing and debriefing of interns. We look forward to cooperation from various quarters with these matters.

From AY2024, the G.ecbo Program has moved within the Hiroshima University organization, from the Education Office to the International Office. Like the way a pendulum swings, it may be natural that in a sense that this program, which has both educational and international aspects, changes where it belongs in the organization, depending on the times. In this day and age when Hiroshima University is pursuing internationalization with the aim of becoming a member of the group of the world's top universities as a research university (RU) that promotes research of international standard, it is probably fitting that within the organization of the university, this program is included in the International Office. The G.ecbo Program will most likely develop even further from the combined effect of other international activities that are consolidated in the International Office. We ask for continued support and cooperation. Internationalization with conscious mind.

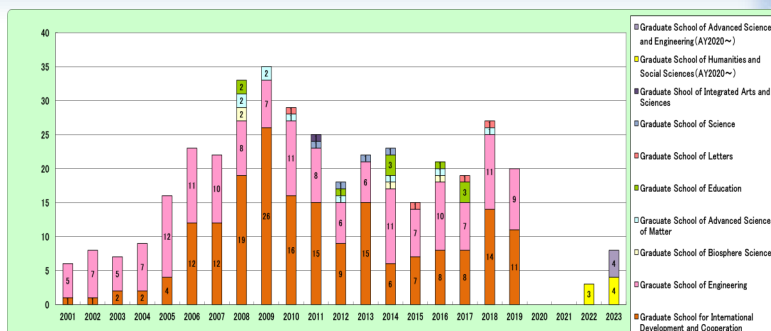
Graph of confirmed cases of COVID-19 by relevant countries (As of May, 2023)



*Cumulative number of confirmed cases: Data for each day until August 2020 and for the first week after September 2020, extracted from the WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard.

*Number of severe cases and deaths in Japan: Extracted from Open Data of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Dispatch track record



The G.ecbo program has a history of 18 years, since it was expanded to a university-wide program in 2007. Including the program's predecessors of ECBO (Engineers to Cross Borders Program, limited to Graduate School of Engineering), and i-ECBO (Explorers of International Cooperation Studies to Cross Borders, limited to International Development and Cooperation Students), the program has dispatched a total of 389 students to all around the world.

G.ecbo Alumni Active in Japan and Around the World

HIGUCHI Youhei

Interned at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in AY2010, Timor-Leste
Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation

◆Latest news and about your current work

More than 10 years have gone by since I graduated from IDEC (Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation). Since 2019, I have been the executive director of a non-profit organization (NPO) in Okinawa called the Okinawa Peace Cooperation Center. We provide a space for university students from overseas and Okinawa to think about peace together, and we also conduct projects such as online international exchanges.



With friends I made locally during my G.ecbo internship

◆Looking back from your internship to the present, if you had to sum it up briefly, how would you describe it?

The time passed by very quickly.

◆In what situations or times was your experience at the G.ecbo Program useful to you?

Through the G.ecbo program, I experienced a two-month internship at the UNDP office in East Timor when I was a student. I think I learned the difficulties and joys of working abroad and became more broad-minded regarding differences in customs.

In my daily work, I have many opportunities to interact with people from overseas, and I enjoy working with them, and am able to accommodate any differences in customs.

I was kind of in awe of the United Nations before my internship, but once I actually entered the organization, I realized that it is basically a big company with ordinary people. I am no longer intimidated by the idea of working for the United Nations, and in my current job I am able to interact with a wide variety of UN staff in a very informal manner.

◆From your G.ecbo experience, what do you feel has remained and taken root, and what do you feel you are developing further?

There are so many things, but I think the most important is a desire to improve myself. During my internship, I had the opportunity to work with interns from France and Brazil, and I was overwhelmed by their fluency in the language and how quickly they did their work. At the time, my self-esteem was low and I lost confidence, but I have been able to keep trying hard because I don't want to feel that way again.



Explaining things to university students at an event with a local friend.



Taking university students on study tours to Palau



At a hotel I stayed in during my internship

— Advice for your juniors

My internship was 30% fun and 70% tough-going, but that experience may be the reason I am able to persevere in the face of adversity.

It was two months full of first-time experiences, but with the support of many people, I got through it. This is a chance for you to gain experience abroad, and I encourage you to take on this challenge. I wish you the best of luck!

G.ecbo Alumni Active in Japan and Around the World

ITADANI Satoshi

Interned at United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in AY2011, Timor-Leste
Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation

◆Latest news and about your current work

After completing from graduate school, I joined a development consulting company, Pacific Consultants Co., Ltd. When I first joined the company, I was assigned to the sales department of the Chubu branch of the company, where I mainly conducted sales activities related to civil engineering infrastructure. In my fifth year with the company, I was transferred to the international division, where I concurrently served in the planning department in charge of the management division and the sales department, and was involved in a wide range of international business.

In my tenth year with the consulting company, I wanted to further my career so I changed jobs and began working at M&A Research Institute. I mainly provide a series of consulting services to small and medium-sized companies leading up to the conclusion of M&A contracts. In my private life, I am the father of three children and I am struggling to balance my work and looking after my children. I have taken a total of 16 months childcare leave.



Visiting a junior high school in Bosnia/ Herzegovina which experienced the Bosnian War until 1995.
(On the JICA internship in January 2012).



Giving a final report on the UNICEF internship in East Timor (2011).



When I took childcare leave (2022)



Exchange of views on climate change and energy policies (2015)

◆Looking back from your internship to the present, if you had to sum it up briefly, how would you describe it?

My life is very fulfilling. I feel that I have actively had a variety of experiences, both successes and failures. I don't think I have necessarily taken any shortcuts or royal roads, but my diverse experiences have led me to where I am today, both at work and in my personal life, and I feel that I am spending my days in a fulfilling way.

◆In what situations or times was your experience at the G.ecbo Program useful to you?

My experience in the G.ecbo program was the main reason why I chose development consulting as my first job. When I visited East Timor through G.ecbo, I had the opportunity to talk to a Japanese person who was involved in developing social infrastructure. I became interested in the work of development consultants when I heard that the industry plays an important role in raising the standard of living of local residents by improving infrastructure and developing the region, and also when I saw how that Japanese person was working so actively. Being able to get a glimpse of the actual situation on the ground, I think you can reconfirm what you want to do, what you can do, and what you should do. My experience of getting an insight to the working attitudes and approaches of the staff working at the local sites has been useful when dealing with foreign staff after I started working at my job.

◆From your G.ecbo experience, what do you feel has remained and taken root, and what do you feel you are developing further?

I entered graduate school with a desire to contribute to sustainable community development and international cooperation, and through my experience in the G.ecbo program, this desire has become even stronger. I also feel that my attitude to actively participate and gain various experiences when interesting opportunities arise, has become stronger because of my G.ecbo experience. For example, in the first semester of my first year of graduate school, I spent two months in East Timor on a UNICEF internship through G.ecbo, and in the second semester I spent two months in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on a JICA internship. I hope to continue to actively develop my career and contribute to sustainable regional development and international cooperation.

—Advice for your juniors

G.ecbo offers an opportunity to gain valuable experience in the real world. My experiences broadened my horizons, and the fact that they remain strongly in my memory is proof of that. As a point for improvement of the internship, I feel that the experience could have been more fulfilling if I had stayed longer (coordinating as necessary with the job hunting season) and had done more advance preparation, such as interviewing people who had already been overseas on the program, and clarifying the objectives. I hope that those who are interested in visiting overseas sites for internships will actively use G.ecbo. (In my opinion there is no other choice than to just do it.)

G.ecbo Alumni Active in Japan and Around the World

ERA Yuzaburo

Interned at Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) in AY2016, Nepal
Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation

◆Latest news and about your current work

I work as a sales engineer for a semiconductor-related manufacturer. I conduct sales activities and maintenance of our products mainly in Europe and the United States, and I go on extended business trips of less than two months to the U.S. and Europe about three times a year. During those trips, I am able to make use of my ability to manage somehow at critical moments and also my English language skills that I developed during my experience in the G.ecbo program. So I am often grateful for having taken part in G.ecbo.



On a business trip to Australia

◆Looking back from your internship to the present, if you had to sum it up briefly, how would you describe it?

Persistent efforts. For example, when I entered the graduate school, I couldn't speak English very well and had a hard time of it, but recently, I feel that I am finally able to converse somewhat with native speakers of English. I think it takes a long time to pick up a language such as English and persistent efforts are needed to achieve a degree of fluency. So that's why I chose the phrase 'persistent efforts' as this will lead to acquiring proficiency in English.

◆In what situations or times was your experience at the G.ecbo Program useful to you?

Always feeling that I had a special experience. When you go out in the world, you meet a lot of people who are more amazing than you, but many have never had experiences like those possible through the G.ecbo program. I lived in Nepal for nearly two months deep in the mountains. I have never met anyone who went that far to collect data for their master's thesis. That experience has given me self-confidence. Whenever something unpleasant or challenging happens, I can think, "Oh well, it's easier than the research I was doing that time." For example, if I meet someone who speaks English much better than me and is smarter than I am, I can keep calm and think to myself, "Well, I had the courage to accomplish that research."

◆From your G.ecbo experience, what do you feel has remained and taken root, and what do you feel you are developing further?

As I mentioned earlier, the experience of gathering research data in Nepal for two months has stayed with me. I think that experience is unique, and even if I take on various challenges in the future, I can feel positive and think, there will never be a tougher experience than that time. Collecting research data through the G.ecbo program might not be much fun, but it will give you confidence in yourself later on.

During my 2016 internship at Jyamire, Nepal



Deep in the mountains of Nepal on the G.ecbo program, being welcomed with a shower of red powder

On a business trip to Sydney, Australia



On a business trip to Norway



— Advice for your juniors

I think preparation is the key to success in the G.ecbo program. You will get better results if you discuss your preparation in detail with your supervisor. Try your best!!



INTERNSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

G.ecbo program conducts a post-internship evaluation questionnaire for intern students, students' supervisors, and institutions receiving G.ecbo interns. Below are the students' opinions on the benefits that they have gained from their participation in the program, and on the changes and growth they have experienced since returning home.

What was the main decisive factor in applying for the G.ecbo program?

- ◀ As well as experiencing life in developing countries, being able to participate in internships there
- ◀ Because I wanted to experience doing an internship in a foreign country
- ◀ Full subsidies for travel to the internship location
- ◀ The opportunity to actually do research in the field
- ◀ Internships in a particular field of interest and training at institutions only accessible through university partnerships

What were your expectations about participating in the program?

- ◀ I thought that I may be able to grow a lot through my participation.
- ◀ By staying overseas for a long period of time, I would be able to understand more about my actual capabilities.
- ◀ Improvement in my English language skills and experiences not possible in Japan
- ◀ Be able to give better presentations
- ◀ Learn the necessary skills for carrying out a project in a foreign country
- ◀ Sharing information on international travel techniques and the support before, during, and after the trip

What were the merits and demerits of participating in the program?

- ◀ I think that the biggest merit was the opportunity to have many people see my travel plans. Also, of course, the financial support allowed me to fully concentrate on my research abroad. There were no demerits.
- ◀ I think that the merits are that I could have experiences that I couldn't have in Japan, and that experiencing the actual situation in the field gave me an opportunity to think about what I should do.
- ◀ The merits were that I was able to have experiences that I couldn't have in my ordinary life, and I was able to feel my own personal growth.
- ◀ One demerit is that it was cause for worry by those concerned (especially parents).
- ◀ Making friends in foreign countries.
- ◀ The opportunity to explore new areas of study.
- ◀ Through the pre-training, I was able to actively communicate in English even though I was still not very used to it.
- ◀ I felt that there was a great deal to be gained from the pre-training although the tasks were quite difficult and it was burdensome.
- ◀ I learned a lot about the international community.

Activity Report for AY2023

April 3	Began inviting applications for students to be dispatched in AY2023.
April 7	An explanatory meeting about program application was held.
April 18	Applications closed for the G.ecbo internship and the follow-up internship.
May 8, 10, 12	Screening interviews were held for AY2023 intern candidates.
May 18	Internships screening, notification of results.
May 24	Training guidance given for giving presentations in English.
June - August	The English presentation seminar was held. (3 times)
September 1	Interns were dispatched to their various locations overseas and commenced their internships.
September 27	A meeting was held of the G.ecbo Program Steering Committee.
December 15	Students dispatched during the summer break returned to Japan for debriefing and English presentation training for students being dispatched in the winter break were held.
February 21	English presentation training held for students beindispatched in the winter break.
March 25	A meeting was held of the G.ecbo Program Steering Committee.

AY2023 Internship reports

YAMAKAMI Hiroki

Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering

Host	Centre for Quantum Dynamics, Griffith University (Australia)
Period	September 20– November 25, 2023
Objectives	To evaluate the spectral shaping and performance of pulsed lasers for single-photon generation using spatial light modulators, to improve experimental techniques, and to deepen our knowledge of quantum optics and the fundamental experiments.



–About the dispatch destination and life there

There were about 10 members in the research group but no Japanese members in the entire facility. The researchers from various countries engaged in lively discussions. Every Wednesday at midday, all of us went and had lunch at a restaurant in the university and after lunch, we always enjoyed having a chat as we drank our coffee. That's when I felt a cultural difference with laboratories in Japan.

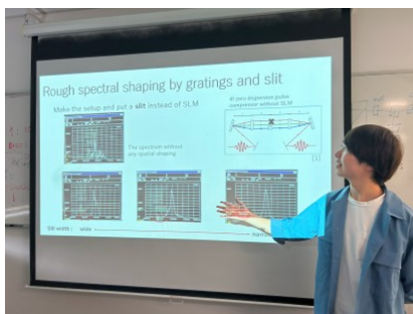
My dormitory roommates were students from five different Asian countries, and the research institute had researchers from all over the world, including Italy, India, Mexico, and Colombia. When several of us were having conversations together, each spoke with their own native accent and no one ever commented on anything about my pronunciation or grammar. Japanese English is often called Samurai English, but I realized that is more of an identity, and that it is important to try to speak it confidently and not worry about trying to sound like a native English speaker.

–About the research content

At the lab I was dispatched to, there was a rule that we had to work on research for eight hours on weekdays from 9:00 to 17:00. While commuting by bus for 30 minutes every day, I devoted myself to discussions with members of the laboratory and experiments. The lab I was dispatched to was about to start a big project and my research theme was about the initial technical part of this. It started with the delivery in cardboard boxes of a spatial light modulator, which was necessary for the experiment.

I did have some experience in handling optical instruments, but it was my first time to use a spatial light modulator. It is a very precise and high-performance piece of experimental equipment and I found it a bit difficult to set up and to understand its principle of operation. In addition, I had to write a program code to control the experimental equipment, and although I had no experience in this area, I managed to complete the program with the help and advice of the other group members. Finally, we were able to achieve our objective and set up the experiment for spectral shaping and evaluate the modulator's performance as a wavelength filter to produce a beam at the targeted wavelength.

During the training, I had to handle certain experimental equipment for the first time, learn programming that I had no experience with, and rearrange the experimental setup many times for preliminary experiments. There were many difficulties, but I was able to achieve my goal after consulting frequently with the group members. I feel I was able to spend a very fulfilling time at the lab. A few days before I was due to return to Japan, I had the opportunity to give a presentation to the members of the lab about the details and results of my research, at the group meeting that was held every Wednesday. After my presentation, two members whom I was especially friendly with, prepared some surprise slides recounting their memories of my internship. I was able to meet some truly wonderful people.



–What I gained the most from this internship

I think the most important thing was my experience of somehow accomplishing a task that I was tackling for the first time in an unfamiliar environment within a set period of time. Before going on the internship, I was worried about communicating in English, my daily life, and interacting with other people, and I had no idea about how I would spend my time there. Although I started from that kind of situation, I always kept my major goal in mind: to produce solid research results within the limited period of two months. Because of that, I was able to overcome barriers such as the necessary English proficiency and getting used to life over there. At the same time, I was able to learn to use experimental equipment and how to do programming for the first time, with the help of those around me. In the end, I think I would give my experience a perfect score because I was able to achieve my research goal and my time aside from work was also fulfilling.



AY2023 Internship reports

–How do you want to make the most of your internship experience in the future?

Through this internship experience, I was able to acquire a new strength, the capability to accomplish tasks without losing sight of the goal, even in new and unfamiliar situations. I am convinced that this will give me great confidence and help me when I challenge something new in my life in the future. Furthermore, living in a foreign country for the first time has strengthened my desire to experience that again, and to be active globally. I think this will probably influence my future choices in life.

–Advice for future intern

Although the G.ecbo program is one of the study abroad programs at Hiroshima University, it is important to be aware that it is entirely up to you whether or not your training will be fulfilling, as almost everything is left to the students, including living arrangements, communication with the destination country, and decisions on the content of the training. When you go to your destination, you are bound to encounter difficulties and hardships. At such times, rather than worrying about them, I believe that if you remain optimistic that you will be able to manage them, you will be able to overcome them.

Nissa Aulia Belistiana Utami

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Host	Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (Indonesia)
Period	September 1–November 15, 2023
Objectives	Investigating how lesson study is put into practice in Indonesia

–About the dispatch destination

Indonesia is a diversity country with a slogan “Bhineka Tunggal Ika” means even though we are different (languages, ethnicities, cultures, or religions) but we are still the same, Indonesian.

–About the research content

I had my internship under the Centre for Excellence of Lesson and Learning Studies (CELLS). The main job was attending the “Gerakan Buka Kelas” (Open Lesson) and observing the lesson. I went to many schools in Bandung, and Cimahi. UPI and Hiroshima University have collaborated about Lesson Study for long time.

–What I gained the most from this internship

Before the internship, I was having hard time to observe the classes. I had to observe the students too for my research. But now, During the internship, I observed many classes with different teaching style, learning material, and students’ characteristics. Having such experiences and meeting other observers widen my perspectives. I can glean insights from diverse perspectives. This is what I learned from the internship.

–Advice for future intern

The pre-internship presentation was really a good move because the intern needed to find out the information about the country, host institution etc, in advance. So that we could imagine how would it be living in other country for the internship. Besides that, G.ecbo staff helped me a lot in doing the preparation in Hiroshima University by responding every questions I had in a very quick. Also, they informed the detail information, so I didn’t need to worry.

Here is some advice based on my experiences:

- Make sure everything before coming to the host institution/country.
- Having good communication is necessary.



AY2023 Internship reports

KAWAHARA Nonoka

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Host	Cambodian Mekong University (Cambodia)
Period	October 10—November 11, 2023
Objectives	Practice and verification of Japanese language instruction using ICT-based Japanese pronunciation learning materials, and revision and development of independent learning materials.



—About the dispatch destination and life there

In Cambodia, I held classes on Japanese language and culture for one hour three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On weekdays, I spent my time preparing for classes and taking classes at the university, and on weekends, I visited the Killing Fields and Angkor Wat to deepen my knowledge of history and culture while preparing for classes. Cambodia has a strong café culture, and there were many good and inexpensive places to buy a drink in the vicinity of the university. In October, it was very hot and humid during the day, and I often went to a nearby tapioca shop where I could buy a glass of tapioca tea for about a dollar. The owner didn't understand English, but he was very kind to me and served me for free the day before I left to go back to Japan.

Cambodia also has a strong culture of valuing family very highly. I could feel how people had love for their families when talking with students from the University of Mekong, and I thought it was wonderful.



—About the research content

Because I was dispatched as a Japanese language teacher, my main activities consisted of teaching Japanese language and culture. The focus was more on Japanese culture, and I taught about any Japanese expressions that emerged in the course, and also conducted a survey on pronunciation practice using ICT as part of my research. All the students were very interested in Japanese language and culture, and I was glad to see them participating enthusiastically in class.

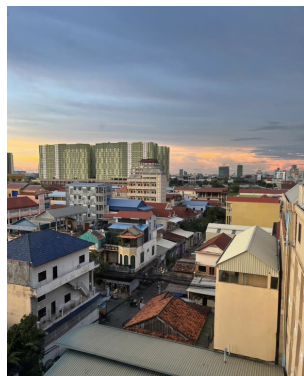


The music class left the deepest impression on me. Although not really related to Japanese language instruction, it was the first music class for the students, as there are no music classes in the Cambodian school education system. Since Mekong University has a magnificent grand piano, we took the opportunity to practice Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star on the piano. Although the students struggled a bit, I will never forget the smiles on their faces, as if a flower had bloomed, when they were able to perform the entire piece without making any mistakes.

—What I gained the most from this internship

Connections with people. It was the first time for me to go abroad alone, for an extended period of time, and to a non-English speaking country. It was a big challenge for me, but I was truly blessed by good connections with people. The people that I met were all working hard towards the future and had values that I didn't have so it was a learning experience for me. I came down with tonsillitis once and many people worried about how I could make a quick recovery and helped me. When I was about to return to Japan, I was given presents of a stole and bracelet as tokens of friendship.

At the time, I was just preparing for job hunting and tended to be impatient and have a narrow view of things. So I feel that the Cambodian people taught me important values as a human being. I hope to visit Cambodia in five years' time to meet up again with the people I met during my time there.



—How do you want to make the most of your internship experience in the future?

First of all, I would like to actually apply the results and learnings from my Japanese language instruction and research during this internship to my research. In particular, I would like to improve the ICT materials for Japanese pronunciation practice, as there are many issues still remaining. I would also like to make use of the insights I have gained in the Japanese language support for foreign students in Higashihiroshima City, where I belong to a volunteer group. I would like to challenge myself to study abroad again, as it was a very good experience for me to travel abroad for purposes other than sightseeing.

—Advice for future intern

I was able to experience many things through my G.ecbo internship. The practical nature of the program made it a very valuable experience for me. The experience of traveling to a foreign country is really valuable and will broaden your horizons. If you are still undecided about whether to go or not, please give it a try!

AY2023 Internship reports

Dwi N.

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Host	Ifugao State University (CCJE) (Philippines)
Period	January 15—February 14, 2024
Objectives	Research on tax crimes in the Philippines and how they are dealt with, and comparison with Indonesia



Mabuhay...!!!

I work as a law enforcement officer in Indonesia. For this reason, I researched tax crimes in several countries during my doctoral studies at Hiroshima University, Japan. I want to contribute my thoughts to creating a better policy to deal with overgrowing tax crimes.

That morning, January 15, 2024, I woke up early in my apartment. After praying at dawn, I rushed to Saijo Station to go to Hiroshima Airport. After 14 hours of flight, I arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila. The journey to Ifugao is still very far away; it takes about eight to ten hours by car to the north of Luzon Island. Ifugao is in a mountainous area of Luzon. The journey was tense because you had to go through a winding, uphill road, with gaping ravines beside it.

My internship program started with a courtesy visit to the President of IFSU, Dr. Eva Marie, and continued with a tour around the IFSU campus. Apart from the main campus, IFSU has five branch campuses spread across the Ifugao region.

Dr. Warren Tayaban (Associate Professor) from the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE), Ifugao State University was my host supervisor. His knowledge of criminology and the legal system in the Philippines was very comprehensive. We always go together and discuss my research themes with other faculty members of CCJE. From these discussions, I understand that tax crimes are rarely discussed in lectures, perhaps never, so Dr. Warren and I planned to visit several places to obtain the necessary information and data. We visited and collected data through interviews and written interviews at the Revenue District Office, Ifugao tax office in Lagawe City, the Ifugao Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Banaue City, the clerk of the RTC and the BIR national office in Manila.

There was something that made me very happy when I was in Manila. I met several BIR employees who were Muslims. They invited me to go to the nearest mosque to perform Friday Prayer. They also showed me where to find halal food in Manila. They all come from the Muslim-majority Mindanao region. I am delighted because I can finally pray in a mosque, even though the mosque is very simple and in the middle of a slum and densely populated area. This moment is awe-inspiring to me.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to intern at Ifugao State University, even though several things are challenging for me. I hope my research in the Philippines can provide additional material for writing dissertations and scientific publications to help me complete my doctoral program at Hiroshima University. I also want to maintain the communication and network formed in the Philippines to support my duties after completing my studies. That is all my experience from the beautiful and green city of Ifugao, even though it is far away in the countryside.

For Hiroshima University students who wish to take part in an internship, I advise them always to be prepared for unexpected things.

One word from me is that experience is more important than knowledge; you can learn knowledge, but for experience, you have to do it by yourself.

Salamat...!!





Introduction of AY2024's Research Assistants

The G.ecbo Program offers presentation training to improve the English communication and presentation skills of students who are dispatched overseas three times before their departure and once after they return to Japan.



ISHARA MADHUNIKA OPATHA (D3)

Greetings, I am Ishara Madhunika Opatha, currently pursuing my PhD at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Hiroshima University, originally hailing from the enchanting island of Sri Lanka. It is with great honour and gratitude that I have had the privilege to serve as a research assistant twice within the esteemed G.ecbo program, commencing in 2023 and persisting to the present day. My journey with G.ecbo has been profoundly enriching, providing me with invaluable opportunities to develop my professional competencies, engage in cross-cultural research, and collaborate with diverse teams.



The G.ecbo program, standing for the Global Explorers to Cross Borders, stands as a beacon of innovation and collaboration aimed at fostering cross-cultural understanding to address pressing global challenges. Through a diverse range of meticulously curated research projects, internships, and academic exchanges, the program unites scholars and students from various backgrounds, encouraging them to explore innovative solutions to complex societal issues on a global scale.

As a research assistant, entrusted with guiding students in preparing for global internships, conducting meticulous pre- and post-presentation evaluations, and facilitating essential meetings and activities, including collaboration with esteemed international institutions to enhance communication and foster collaboration among participants.

I firmly believe that the G.ecbo program offers students boundless opportunities to immerse themselves in diverse cultural landscapes and expand their horizons with invaluable global research experience. In closing, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all for the forthcoming initiatives of the G.ecbo program. I remain steadfastly committed to empowering students to wholeheartedly embrace global experiences and make meaningful contributions to impactful initiatives. Additionally, I eagerly look forward to collaborating with new interns in 2024.

Here's to a journey filled with learning, growth, and profound experiences!

NISSA AULIA BELISTIANA UTAMI (D2)

Hi! I am Nissa Aulia Belistiana Utami, a doctoral student in Hiroshima University, majoring International Education Development Program, at Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. I am originally from Indonesia. I participated in the G.ecbo program as an intern in 2023, and this year, I have the opportunity to be a Research Assistant.



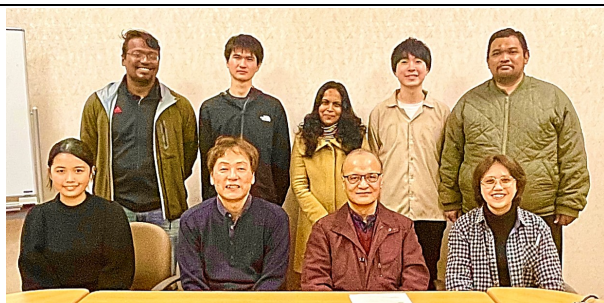
I' m interested in learning, not only from the books but also from the experience life offers. I love exploring and seeking out new experiences to broaden my horizons. I have a motto "Do it now or never" as I believe it is better to regret the things I' ve done than to regret missed opportunities.

Let' s get to know me!

G.ecbo program offers me the opportunity to learn from other interns' experiences in living abroad. I am eagerly looking forward to meeting new interns!

In AY2024, six students were dispatched overseas for internships.

Affiliation / Name	Host Institution	Program
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences / Nissa Aulia Belistiana Utami	Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (Indonesia)	G.ecbo Follow-up
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences / Nonoka Kawahara	Cambodian Mekong University (Cambodia)	G.ecbo
Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering / Hiroki Yamakami	Centre for Quantum Dynamics, Griffith University (Australia)	G.ecbo
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences / Dwi N.	Ifugao State University (Philippine)	G.ecbo
Graduate School of Advanced Science and Engineering / Ryuya Fukuda	Centre for Quantum Dynamics, Griffith University (Australia)	G.ecbo
Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences / Mandal Tapan Kumar	University of Kelaniya (Sri Lanka)	G.ecbo



Pre-Internship Presentation

For more information on overseas internship opportunities with the G.ecbo Program for AY2024, Please visit our website.

G.ecbo Program Steering Committee AY2023 ~ Thank you for your cooperation ~

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	Assistant Prof. Seon Kyung Choi	Global Career Design Center



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