Newsletter

Japan Society of Civil Engineers
Concrete Committee

No. 73, Jan 2025

STUDENT'S VOICE

Memorable moments in Japan

Kanji writing experience

Construction site visit

Abdyrashym kyzy Aigerim

PhD Student, Hokkaido University

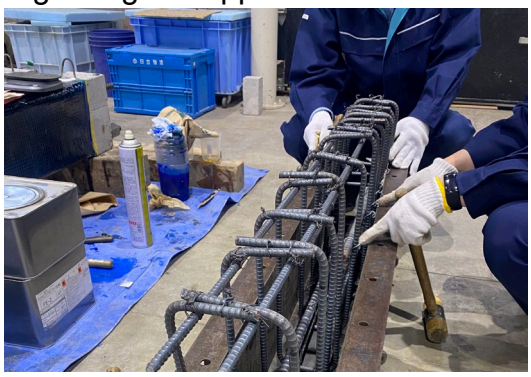
My name is Abdyrashym kyzy Aigerim. I am from Kyrgyzstan, a country in Central Asia known for its breathtaking natural landscapes and rich cultural traditions. I am pursuing my PhD through the Laboratory of Engineering for Maintenance System at the Graduate School of Engineering at Hokkaido University.

I previously worked in the Road Asset Management Division at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in the Kyrgyz Republic. This organization cooperates closely with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), implementing many technical, grant-based, and other projects. Thanks to one such Road Asset Management Division project, I had the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and improve my qualifications in Japan. Studying in Japan has always been one of my greatest aspirations. Japan developed rapidly after World War II and is renowned for its rich culture, disciplined people, dedication to work, and thoughtful approach to life.

In 2020, after passing a competitive selection process, I enrolled in a master's program through the Hydraulics, Coastal, and Environmental Engineering Laboratory at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa. My research focused on runoff forecasting in small river basins based on the delay time between rainfall and runoff. After completing my master's degree, I returned to Kyrgyzstan and resumed my role at the Ministry. I also joined a scientific group studying natural disasters in Kyrgyzstan and shared Japanese practices and

experiences whenever possible. Since our organization works extensively in road and bridge construction and maintenance, I decided to further my academic journey by pursuing a PhD.

In 2024, I was admitted to Hokkaido University, one of Japan's oldest and most prestigious universities. I am currently in my first year, focusing on research regarding the application of SS-NSM to RC dapped-end beams damaged by freezing-thawing cycles. The primary goal of my research is to study how beam strengthening affects their performance. I firmly believe that the results of this work will significantly contribute to bridge maintenance efforts, both in my home country and abroad. Every step of my research immerses me in the fascinating world of engineering, revealing new opportunities for creating more reliable infrastructure.



Experiment preparation

My previous experience studying for a few years in Japan was transformative. It offered me valuable insights into advanced research practices while fostering significant academic and personal growth. Studying in Japan's disciplined and innovative educational environment deepened my technical expertise and gave me a profound appreciation for the country's culture and unique approach to problem-solving.

Conducting an experiment

Now, as a PhD student at Hokkaido University, I am building on this foundation by focusing my research on enhancing infrastructure resilience. I am deeply grateful to be under the supervision of Associate Professor Koji Matsumoto, whose remarkable contributions to engineering are both inspiring and impactful. His dedication to advancing research and his mentorship have been invaluable to my academic growth. Being guided by such an esteemed professor motivates me to strive for excellence and strengthens my commitment to using my knowledge to benefit my home country and the global community.

Beautiful Lake Shikotsu

If you are thinking about taking a similar path, I strongly encourage you to go for it. Studying in Japan is a great way to get a top-quality education while experiencing a unique culture. You wll learn in the laboratory from the people and environment around you. Studying in Japan has broadened my worldview and equipped me with skills that transcend borders. It is a chance to grow, gain new skills, and create unforgettable memories. Do not hesitate—this opportunity could change your life!

Laboratory party