

Global Applied Economic Forum 2023



November 6-12

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Embassy of Japan, Hanoi

TEPSCO Vietnam

Foreign Trade University

Vietnam National University

Presenting on Environmental Issues

Moe Oshima



Presenting in Hanoi

We prepared a presentation on 'Future campus life in YNU' from May and carried it out three times in Vietnam. At first, we focused our content on the environmental issues that are currently problematic in Japan and I looked around in campus from a different perspective as before. We then looked at the challenges of this university from three perspectives.

The first is the problem of plastic waste. One member had studied abroad in France, and wondered why breads sold at the co-op are packed in plastic bags. The second is the issue of food loss. One student noticed food uneaten in cafeteria. The third is the air pollution problem. I thought this campus should change because we are a national university. In researching Japan's current measures to address environmental issues, I wondered why no progress has been made since the realization of a hydrogen society, which could be a radical solution, was proposed in 2017. When I went to an internship at a company that deals with energy, I heard that hydrogen energy projects require a huge amount of money and too risky for companies to take on. So, I decided that in the future, the installation of EV stands would work for YNU. I thought promoting EV needs many charging stands and spreading EV is the best way to settle hydrogen energy in daily life.

However, the idea was changed when I visited Vietnam. On November 6th, we arrived at Noi Bai international airport. On our way from the airport to the city center, we caught a traffic jam and saw a large number of cars and motorcycles coming and going, then were overwhelmed by the exhaust fumes. When I mentioned this at Japan embassy, a member of the embassy told us that until now there had been only motorcycles, so there was no more traffic congestion than there is now. This is where I realized that blindly spreading technology just because it has developed has not only good effects, but also harmful effects. On the other hand, when Vietnamese students came to Japan, they were so surprised that Japanese follow the traffic rules. Through this program, I rethink the idea and realized it is need that government regulation and dissemination must go hand in hand.

Impressions of GAEF 2023

Aki Yokoyama



Our time in Hanoi

Our presentation had us be time travelers from the future who know what Yokohama National University will look like in 2073 in terms of sustainability. I was responsible for the part about the problem of plastic waste and how to reduce it. I prepared the presentation by collecting various data, making use of what I felt, saw, and learned studying abroad in France, an EU country with excellent environmental measures. It was not easy to prepare for a long presentation in English, but it was a good experience to present at some universities in Vietnam and to exchange opinions and have small discussions with local students. What's more, this opportunity made us think about sustainability and the environment much more than before.

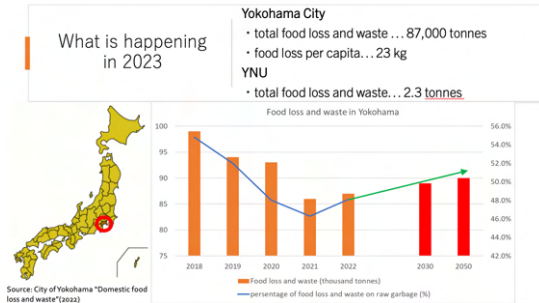
We arrived in early November, which is considered the end of autumn in Hanoi, but it was quite hot and humid. This was my first visit to Vietnam, and I really enjoyed it, partly because I love Vietnamese noodle dishes called as Phở. The students at the universities we visited in Hanoi were all smart and friendly, and most of them were fluent in English, others were fluent in Japanese, which surprised me. That made me feel so happy that everyone welcomed us in all the universities very warmly.

We also had the opportunity to talk with several Vietnamese students who were YNU graduates. We learned a lot from them. On the last day when we were in Vietnam, we visited one world heritage site of Tràng An. Cruising through its breathtaking nature on a small boat made of bamboo is an unforgettable memory.

At the beginning of December, several Vietnamese students we met in Vietnam came to YNU and we had a welcome party and showed them around the campus. I also showed them around Tokyo, where I grew up, and we had various Japanese food together. That was absolutely a fun and irreplaceable time. I keep in touch with them through Instagram. Some of them sent us some messages of concern after the earthquake that hit Japan on New Year's Day, 2024. I am truly happy to become friends with people who I want to see again in the future, not only in Japan or Vietnam, but also somewhere else in the world. Finally, I'd like to say thank you to those who have supported this program. Also, I hope that this program will continue for a long time so that future students of YNU will be able to have such a great experience like I had through this program despite borders, religion, skin color, and more.

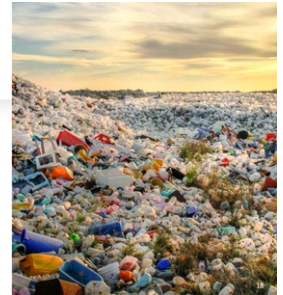
Study Abroad in Vietnam

Shiho Asai



(3) Economic impacts

- Economic impact on countries that rely heavily on tourism as a major source of GDP
- \$1.3 billion economic impact of marine plastics to the tourism, fishing and shipping industries
- More expensive to clean up tomorrow than to prevent plastic pollution today
- In Europe alone, the estimated costs for cleaning shores reach €630 million per year.



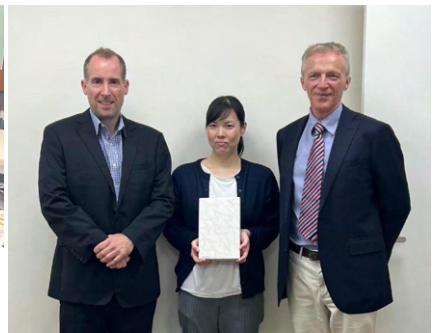
Preparation and practice

We started the preparation for GAEF in spring. We prepared the presentation about the environment problems and future of Yokohama and YNU. We argued about food loss and waste, plastic pollution, and energy problem. It was hard to conclude our opinions and make our presentation easy to understand. Originally, we were going to present only in English, which is intimidating, but actually we presented in both English and easy-Japanese.

On 6th November we arrived at Hanoi. What I surprised the most in my one week stay in Vietnam is that traffic jam in Hanoi was terrible in every time. The situation was exactly the same as what I learned by geography class. According to the students in Vietnam, the number of vehicles is increasing recently. I could learn latest situation of Vietnam, which I may not learned if I didn't join this program. I realized that it is important to keep eyes on global trends and changes to keep my horizon broad. And this experience was most rewarding one for me to broaden my perspective.

After a month later, we hosted Vietnamese students in Japan. I took a class with them, and I guided them around Yokohama and Tokyo. Each students have different interests about Japan. Some of them interested in Japanese Anime culture like Ghibli or Sanrio characters, and other one interested in Japanese traditional culture, shrine, and Kimono. Unfortunately, I couldn't meet their all expectations, but they seem satisfied with their experiences. They told me what they surprised the most in Japan was the air is clean everywhere even in busy city, and quiet in everywhere. They told me that they surprised most of Japanese driver doesn't honk their horn. As I think back what I felt in Hanoi, people in Hanoi honked a horn more frequent than Japan. I realized this after Vietnamese students told me their experiences. Both visiting Vietnam and hosting Vietnamese students gave me rewarding experiences and new perspective.

GALLERY



Reflections on GAEF 2023

Professor Alec McAulay



Face-to-face Dialogues return after 4-year hiatus

When YNU Faculty of Economics GAEF program visited Krakow, Poland in the autumn of 2019, we had no idea that it would be another four years before we could once more take students on one of our short-visit intensive study Dialogues to an overseas campus. In the first year of the pandemic, 2020, our partners in Sydney, Australia collaborated in an online Dialogue. In the next two years, we were able to carry out online Dialogues with universities in Vietnam, thanks to the kindness and hard work of our counterpart Dr. Nguyen Xuan Dong. Therefore, it was only fitting that when we once again ventured overseas post-pandemic, it was to Hanoi to visit Dr. Dong and his students as Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

'Sustainable development' is a hot topic in many disciplines, including economics, and it was enlightening to exchange information between Japan and Vietnam, allowing students to compare and contrast viewpoints on this between a developed and a developing country. Of course, the in-classroom sessions were informative and YNU students had many opportunities on the Hanoi campuses to gain educational input. However, the magic of the Dialogues is that students can gain invaluable experience on the streets of the destination. The traffic problems of Hanoi proved a frequent topic of conversation, both in the classroom and during social sessions between students themselves. By meeting face-to-face, and hearing first-hand the lived experience of their Vietnamese peers, YNU students gained added perspective on the learning that takes place on the YNU campus, and in lectures when overseas.

Academic content was complemented by a visit to the Embassy of Japan, where Ms. Noriko Okamoto kindly led a session on international relations between Japan and Vietnam. We also paid a visit to the offices of TEPSCO in Hanoi, and heard the challenges and opportunities afforded to a Japanese company operating overseas. These real-world experiences offer practical advice for YNU students, and the students took the opportunity to ask lots of questions that supplemented the book learning on economics they have experienced to date.

Post-pandemic, the study abroad programs of universities in Japan are slowly recovering and adapting to the new world we find ourselves in, living with Covid-19 and similar threats. We are grateful to Dr. Dong and everyone in Hanoi involved with GAEF for making our first venture overseas since 2019 a fruitful, stimulating experience for all participants.