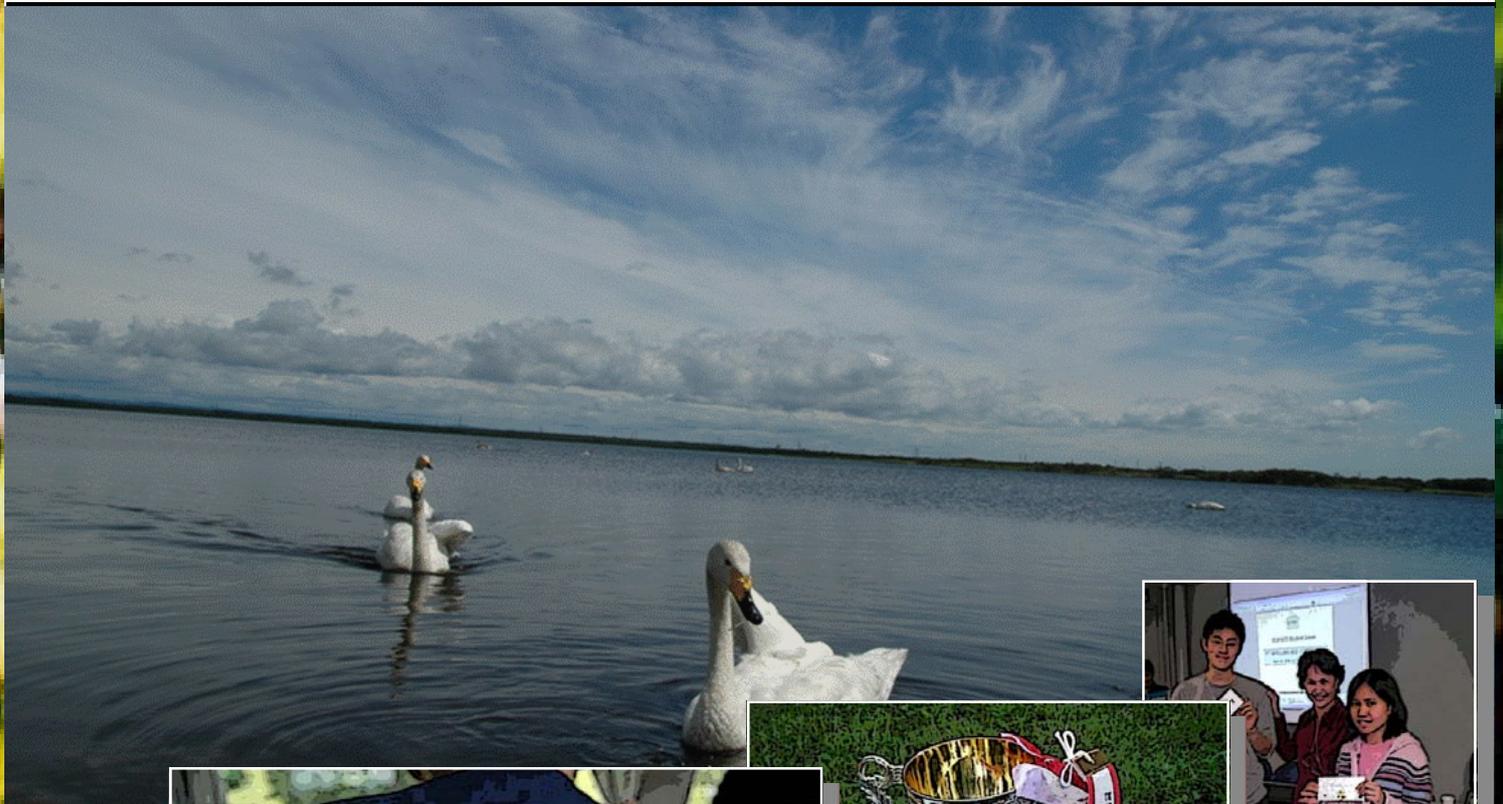


E-Vision

Official Bulletin of the EGPSEE-SU

Vol. 4 No.1

AUTUMN 2006



This issue features ...

“Student poll”

...and a lot more!
EGPSEE-SU activities

Interview
The More You Know...
Research Spotlight

Editor in Chief**Hiroe HARA****Publication Officer****Elakneswaran Yogarajah****Editorial Members****Aileen Parra Huelgas****Arshad Baharudin****Jacqueline Satur****Philip De Guzman****Richard Frank Diaz**

The beautiful yellow leaves of ginkgo trees in the campus have already gone again, and remaining black trunks and branches of the trees are now started to be covered with snow, telling us the coming of the bitterly cold winter of Hokkaido...

Thanks to the every help provided by students, professors and staffs in and out of EGPSEE, this 6th issue of E-Vision has finally delivered to you after a closely 1-year blank.

This 6th issue of E-Vision provides you not only with a brief look at the recent events in and around EGPSEE, but also the interesting, exciting and sometimes thought-provoking articles delivered by family and friends of EGPSEE. In addition to the regular sections such as 'Interview' and 'International Pages', 'Student Poll' is featured. At the same time, the 'Interview' section has Ms. Ueki from the academic affairs office as the interviewee.

We thank all those who gave a helping hand in the course of publishing this issue: Prof. Fujii and the EGPSEE-SU president Richard who kindly provided messages, voluntary writers and photographers who enriched the E-vision a lot with their articles and photos, Ms. Ueki who gave her willing agreement with the interview and all those who supported E-Vision and EGPSEE.

We wish you a all the best in your life!!

The Editorial Board

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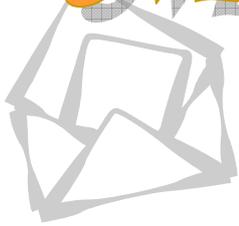
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Table of Contents

 <i>Message</i>	 <i>Interview</i>
. . . 4	"Getting To Know New Faces In EGPSEE" - An interview to Ueki san - . . . 16
 <i>EGPSEE-SU</i>	 <i>Information</i>
"Introducing our EGPSEE-SU Officers 2006-2007" . . . 6	"Fly Away Wheelchairs!" . . . 19
 <i>EGPSEE-SU</i>	 <i>International</i>
"Projects and Activities of EGPSEE-SU" . . . 7	"The Golden Jubilee of Diplomatic Relationship between Nepal and Japan" . . . 20
 <i>Research Spotlight</i>	 <i>Special Feature</i>
"Computational Fluid Dynamics in the Context of Soccer Fever" . . . 10	"Student Poll" . . . 22
 <i>Article</i>	 <i>Food Corner</i>
"Dr. Money & The Boy with No Penis" . . . 12	"How to Cook Tom-Yum-Kung in Sapporo" . . . 24
 <i>The More You Know...</i>	 <i>EGPSEE-SU</i>
"Vernacular Architecture of Nepal" . . . 14	"Intakes 2006" . . . 25

Message



From the EGPSEE Head

Chlorella and MEXT

I am writing this note in early July. It's a season of pollen allergies. I have been trying various supplements and this year I chose Chlorella, a traditional Japanese supplement. It seemed very effective in June and I recommended it to Mrs. Werawan. She tried it and was delighted by the result. So, I told her how to come by it. However, my allergy remained as terrible as usual when the pollen density increased and I finally judged that Chlorella was not effective for my allergy.

By the way, MEXT is going to renew (or abolish) English graduate programs in Japanese universities. I have been busy preparing an application form to MEXT. The name of the new program is "e3" (English Engineering Education program). The new program includes "Mechanical and Intelligent System Engineering" and "Materials Science and Engineering". 11 divisions out of 15 in the Graduate School of Engineering will participate in the new program.

The result will have already been known when this article is published. I'll be happy if it is accepted by MEXT since we can enlarge our program not only in the number of scholarships but also in the fields of study. We of course recognize that there are still many problems to be solved even in the current program. We will continue to make efforts in order to improve the current and the new program.

What if it is not accepted? The English program will disappear once all the students graduated. I will have to apologize to many people: those who established and have been running the English program, those who helped me prepare the application and students and alumni of EGPSEE.

I am now just hoping that the judges won't be suffering from itchy eyes or running nose, since irritated people tend to start fault-finding.

Yoshiaki FUJII
EGPSEE Head (2005-2007)

Message




From the EGPSEE-SU President

Greetings!

It is said that summer in Hokkaido is not a season. It is a festival, a moment to go out and celebrate and take a bath under the warmth of the sun, the green rhapsody of the grasses and trees, and the scents and colors of the flowers. It is the best time to see the beautiful places of Hokkaido for picnics, barbecue parties, campings and other outdoor activities.

This summer semester is a very significant term especially for us, the new SU officers. This semester marked the start of our one year service as elected officials of the EGPSEE-SU. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous batch of SU officers for their hard work and dedication. Rest assured that we will do our very best to continue to uphold the ideals and spirit of a true EGPSEE-SU.

Various activities were organized during this semester. Apart from the traditional yet most looked forward to EGPSEE parties, two seasons of the EGPSEE Spelling Bee were also held. The activity was indeed a success. Spelling Bee offered an opportunity for EGPSEE students to learn English, to take a break from the monotony of laboratory work, and to enjoy each other's company. A T-shirt design contest was also held to choose the best designs for the 2006 EGPSEE shirt. An Educational Field Trip to Muroran-Tomakomai-Noboribetsu areas on August 31 to September 1 was also organized. In this trip, two shirts bearing the winning T-shirt designs were worn by the participants. The annual EGPSEE Elympics also turned out to be successful and fun. Two teams actively participated and enjoyed the four games facilitated by the SU. This year, the Elympic Cup went to the RED Team.

This semester also proved that the sayings "friends come and go" and "as one door closes, another door opens" are true. Mabuchi san, the ever-beloved academic staff who became one of the important pillars of EGPSEE, was transferred to another office. But she was replaced by another charming lady, Ueki san. Three of our family members graduated last March 2006 but they opted to stay to continue for doctoral studies. This September 2006, 14 students also graduated. Some left Japan for good, some stayed. Wherever they may be, I know that within their hearts there is a spot for the cherished and treasured memories worth to keep forever.

In this winter semester, we had welcomed 10 new members in our family. Five Japanese and five foreign students joined EGPSEE. It is good to note that the program is gaining more popularity in the Graduate School of Engineering. With the very good performance and commitment EGPSEE has exhibited for the past five years, it will undoubtedly expand its horizons not only within the borders of the socio-environmental engineering group but to other fields as well. Thanks to our Program Officer, Mrs. Werawan and to all our active and capable senseis. Good luck EGPSEE and soar high!

To one and all, we have so many reasons to be thankful for, especially the countless blessings we have received these past few months. Let us take time to send our thanks heavenward. There are still many things we need to do. MAY THE FORCE BE WITH ALL OF US! More power!

Richard Diaz Alorro
President, EGPSEE-SU (2006-2007)



"Introducing our EGPSEE-SU Officers 2006-2007"

An interview by Yayoi Akahori*

Lab: Mineral Processing and Resources Recycling
Nationality: Filipino
Favorite place in Univ.: The Sunken Garden (In front of Central Library)

Richard Diaz ALORRO (President)

Lab: Water Quality Control Engineering
Nationality: Thai
Favorite place: In front of microscope

May THITHIWAT (Secretary)

Lab: Human Environmental System
Nationality: Japanese
Favorite place:

Takuma SHIOZAWA (PP)



Lab: Water Quality Control Engineering
Nationality: Japanese
Favorite place: The Ginkgo

Hiroe HARA (Vice President)

Raxchaya SHRESTHA (Tresurer)

Lab: Urban Planning
Nationality: Nepali
Favorite place: Pond Behind the Engineering

Yogarajah ELAKNESWARAN (Publication)

Lab: Eco-Material and Resources Engineering
Nationality: Sri Lanka
Favorite place: Pond Behind the Engineering

*Laboratory of 'Resources and Eco-Materials Engineering



“Projects and Activities of EGPSEE-SU”

Let's take a brief look inside our activities!

*Elakneswaran Yogarajah**

EGPSEE-SU has been organizing some memorable events in every semester to have fun and to make our EGPSEE family strong. These events make us know not only about other country's food but their culture and funny games as well. Even though we are busy with studies and other things, we still managed to find time to enjoy these events. EGPSEE-SU had arranged the following events for this summer semester: Mabuchi san's farewell party, spelling bee contest, welcome party for April intake students, Elympics and field trip to Muroran, Tomakomai and Noboribetsu) for this summer semester too.

Mabuchi San's Farewell Party (29 March, 2006)

We sadly missed in our family the pretty and smiling face, Ms Nami Mabuchi. She worked as an officer at the Academic Affairs Division of the Graduate School of Engineering from April 2001 to April 2006. Now we said good bye & best wishes to her but we hope she will join our family again in the future. Messages and kind wishes from Mrs. Werawan and the past and present EGPSEE-SU presidents were given to the celebrity of the day. Finally, Ms Nami Mabuchi shares her experience was part of EGPSEE family with her feelings.



The First Spelling Bee Contest (14 April, 2006)

The CHATROOM has been running with the idea of Mrs Werawan on every Friday from 1600-1800. It gives opportunity to our Japanese students to practice and improve their English through informal English conversations (chat). Once in a month EGPSEE-SU arranges some special activity in the chatroom, SPELLING BEE CONTEST. The chat room and spelling bee contest help us not only to learn new words but also a time-out from our studies. It also creates an environment in which Japanese and foreigners join together and have fun while talking in English. We hope we can have some new activities in the coming chatroom. You can see the first spelling bee contest winners with Mrs. Werawan in the photo.



More photos: http://ws3-er.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/egpsee/chatroom/page_01.htm

Welcome Party (17 April 2006)

More Japanese students are becoming interested in our program. This April also five new faces join to our program with other five from Egypt, Nepal, Korea and Costa Rica. Our EGPSEE family is indeed growing (now 57 students), and new faces from different countries are proliferating. We also welcomed a new officer who took Ms. Nami Mabuchi's place, Ms Ueki. The games for new comers and for all were really fun. We also enjoyed many delicious foods from different countries



More photos: http://ws3-er.eng.hokudai.ac.jp/egpsee/welcome061/album1/page_01.htm

3rd Elympic (29 June 2006)

Even though our annual Elympic was postponed several times due to several reasons, we finally enjoyed it under a fine weather, followed by a BBQ party, on June 29. We were divided into two teams, RED and BLUE for each game. This year we played some interesting games: soccer (our own version of the World Cup); a Filipino game, Maria went to town (for what?); an Indian game, Kabbadi; tug of war, and cheers and yells. It seems that some games need a little bit of fat and strong guys but we did it! This year the ELYMPIC CUP went to the RED team. Who will get it next year? Wait and see. In the BBQ party, we gained more energy than we had lost during the games.



More photos: <http://133.87.123.173/egpsee/elympics/album1/index.htm>

Field Trip (31 August - 1 September 2006)

The 2006 EGPSEE Field Trip was organized by the EGPSEE-SU in coordination with the Laboratory of Mineral Processing and Resources Recycling. Three companies were visited wherein presentations about the companies and plant tours were offered. The companies were the Hokkaido Eco-Recycle Systems, Ltd. and Oji Paper Company in Tomakomai City, and Nippon Steel Corporation-Muroran Works in Muroran City. The 32 field trip participants stayed at the Mahoroba Hotel in Noborubetsu which offered them a refreshing ONSEN with their 31 spas and a feel of nature through a walk at Jigokudani Volcano. The 2 day-activity did not only give the participants an unforgettable and the worthwhile learning experience but an opportunity to enjoy and relax together with EGPSEE family.



More Photos: <http://133.87.123.173/egpsee/fieldtrip06/album1/index.htm>

Notice

Bonen-Kai

EGPSEE-SU will hold another exciting and enjoyable event on Dec 15, 2006. This time, new students who joined the program this October, will coordinate a Bonen-Kai or Year-End Party to provide some nice time to let us enjoy games or performances, delicious foods and talks with friends. As with all the other events, any person who is interested in our activities can join the party as well as family and friends of EGPSEE-SU. We are looking forward to seeing more of you at the party!!

DATE: Dec 15, 2006

Time: 18:00~21:00

Place: Multi-media room (3F)

Party Fee: 1,000 yen (senseis & staff)

500 yen (guests)

Research Spotlight

“Computational Fluid Dynamics in the Context of Soccer Fever”

Research spotlight on our Alumni's research field

Sanjay Giri*

What is Computational Fluid Dynamics?

The application of high performance computers to analyze various physical problems has become popular due to reducing computational cost. Analyzing fundamental problems of fluid dynamics using computers is known as Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD). The most fundamental consideration in CFD is how one treats a continuous fluid in a discretized manner to solve them on a computer using sort of numerical techniques.

The detailed explanation of CFD is beyond the scope of this write up. Rather, an example of CFD application recently made by some 'sporting' engineers using FLUENT, one of the leading CFD software, will be demonstrated herein. It could be of more interest to the readers in the context of World cup soccer that has just been wrapped up.

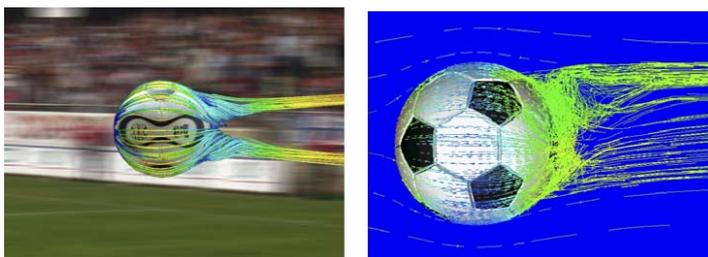
CFD to analyze physics of soccer ball

Interesting research is being conducted by some researchers to analyze physics of the soccer ball. Why is it necessary to analyze physics of soccer ball? We have witnessed in soccer world the occurrence of phenomenal kicks, particularly free kicks with a swing. With an aim to understand this phenomenon, researchers have tried to analyze motion of soccer ball in air using aerodynamic principles. Various computations were performed, like airflow in stadium, airflow through soccer ball, drag produced by soccer ball and so on. Making use of computational fluid dynamics and simulation techniques, it is found possible to unravel some of the underlying mysteries behind 'bending' a soccer ball during kicking. As we witnessed in this World cup also, this technically very difficult 'art' of scoring goals from the dead ball 'free kick' situation has been perfected by such world class soccer players as England's David Beckham, Brazil's Roberto Carlos etc. Inspired to uncover the science behind the 'free kick' and the soccer ball's dynamic flight, engineers conducting the sports engineering research have carried out a fundamental scientific and engineering analysis of this exciting part of the 'beautiful game' making use of a well-known CFD software FLUENT.

Let us briefly describe some of the results depicted in the form of illustration.

Airflow pathline over the soccer ball

For the assessment of speed, trajectory and other significant physical components, computation has been conducted based on fluid dynamics principle to simulate the airflow pathline. Research has revealed that the shape and surface of the soccer ball is significant in terms of its trajectory through the air. Pic.1 provides quantitative information on flow field over soccer ball, where one can observe a region behind the ball having low flow velocity with recirculation. This may lead to the occurrence of turbulence transition that may cause the swinging of the ball.



Pic.1 Airflow pathline over a soccer ball simulated using FLUENT

Drag produced by soccer ball

Based on CFD analysis, it is possible to quantify the drag (resistance to airflow) produced by the soccer ball. It is evident that the drag coefficient depends on the shape and surface structure of soccer ball. In Fig.2 one can see how shape and surface of soccer ball may lead to the significant reduction of drag. If compare the soccer ball used in 2006 World cup with 1969 ball, one can assess how it's become efficient and effectual to shoot the ball in 2006 (since it possesses lower drag). One more thing that can be evaluated from Fig.3 is that the drag is considerably reduced with the growth of Reynolds number to certain extent. However, it becomes almost unvarying for higher values of Reynolds number.

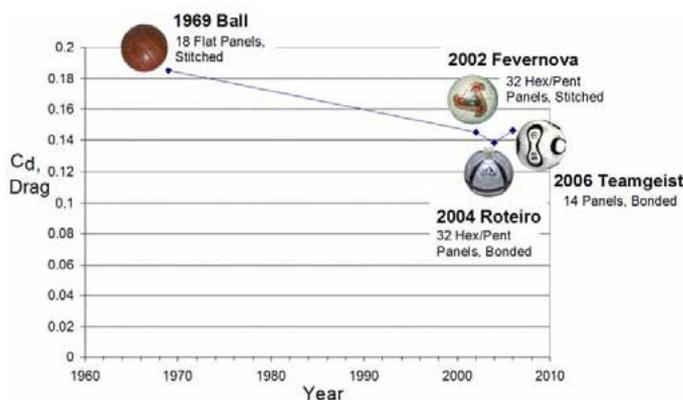


Fig.2 Drag produced by soccer ball

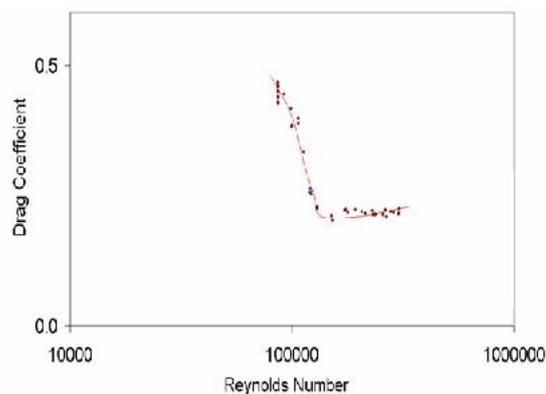


Fig.3 Dependence of drag with Reynolds number for soccer ball

Airflow circulation inside the stadium

Airflow circulation inside the stadium is also subject of interest taking into consideration the comfort as well as play condition inside the stadium. In picture, simulation result of airflow path colored by local velocity inside the FIFA World Cup Stadium in Munich with doors open is depicted. The stadium was designed with the quality of the pitch in mind because of a desire to have uniform airflows going over the turf when the stadium doors are open. These air movements help to ensure that the pitch grass will have optimal growing conditions between matches.

Moreover, it ensures that the stadium experience is the best possible for the crowd and also the architects' visionary design conforms to high safety standards. The virtual flow simulation illustrates the relatively gentle airflow patterns players may experience near the pitch surface in the space above the playing area during a game.

Such sort of scientific approach could be helpful to improve different aspect of this extremely popular game, e.g. design of stadium as well as soccer ball, which will ultimately enhance the overall experience for players and spectators at all levels of the game.



(The research result and pictures are courtesy of FLUENT Inc which is allowed to be reproduced with reference. The CFD software FLUENT is available in Hokkaido University as well)

* PhD JSPS Postdoc Research Fellow Hydraulic Research Laboratory


Article

“Dr. Money & The Boy with No Penis ”

A man's life destroyed by "miracles" of medical science

*May Thithiwat**



In the summer of 1965, healthy twin boys were born to a proud mother Janet Reimer in Winnipeg, Canada. But before they became six months old, the boys developed difficulty in urinating, and doctors recommended to fix the problem. An unorthodox method was employed in which they burned the foreskin. While one of the twins came out of the operation unscathed, David Reimer's penis was destroyed beyond repair. After consulting with Dr. John Money from Johns Hopkins University, they decided to remove his testicles and turn him into a girl. This article examines how David Reimer's life was destroyed by "miracles" of medical science.

On May 4, 2004, David Reimer committed suicide in Winnipeg. Thirty-eight years old, he had been a slaughterhouse worker and an odd-job man. He had also been both a boy and a girl, due to one of the dark incidents in the history of pseudoscientific hubris.

Born Bruce Reimer in 1965, David suffered a botched circumcision when he was six months old. Most of his penis was burned off, and reconstructive surgery was too primitive at that time to restore it. Dr. John Money, a sexologist, persuaded Reimer's parents to have their son completely castrated and raised as a girl.

This was not simply a matter of trying to make the best of a bad situation. Dr. Money had been a leading exponent of the theory that children were born psychosexually neutral and could be assigned to either gender in the first years of their life. Bruce, now named Brenda, was an ideal test case. Along with everything else, he had an identical twin. So, as an object of study, he came bundled with a built-in control.

Dr. Money trumpeted the results in his book (1972), written together with a psychiatrist. By Dr. Money's account, Bruce/Brenda moved easily into his new identity. He soon "was observed to have a clear preference for dresses over slacks and to take pride in her long hair", he wrote in his book. He "was much neater than her brother, and in contrast with him, disliked to get dirty". Though it "needed perhaps more training than usual", he usually urinated sitting down, and when he attempted to stand he was simply "copying her brother". He took to housework and to helping his mother in the kitchen, while his brother "could care less about it". His taste in toys ran to dolls, and despite some "tomboyish traits" he clearly was adapting to the life as a girl.

Dr. Money's meetings with Brenda were a dark comic study of how a scientist could refuse to see the evidence he didn't want to see, and how a subject can gradually learn to respond to his cues. Worse, his efforts to make Brenda conform to his expectation were coercive and abusive. Brenda's refusal to receive vaginal surgeries, since his penis was gone and his doctors had not yet put a vagina in place, was met not with an effort to understand his stance but with a series of attempts to manipulate him into agreeing to the procedures.

In fact, Brenda Reimer resisted being classified as a girl



from the beginning. The first time he wore a dress, he tried to rip it off. He preferred his brother's toys to his own. He got into fights, insisted on peeing standing up, and ran into terrible problems at school, where the other kids quickly recognized him as someone who didn't fit the ordinary sexual categories. By the time when he became 10, he was declaring that he wanted to grow up to marry a woman, not a man.

Finally, when Brenda Reimer learned the truth about himself, at the age of 14, she decided to start living her life as a boy. He had his estrogen creating breasts removed, took testosterone injections, changed his name to David, and eventually had a surgery to create a penis. In 1990, David married. The allegedly successful transformation of a boy baby into a girl was in fact a complete failure.



**Photograph of David Reimer
by Fred Greenslade/Reuters.**

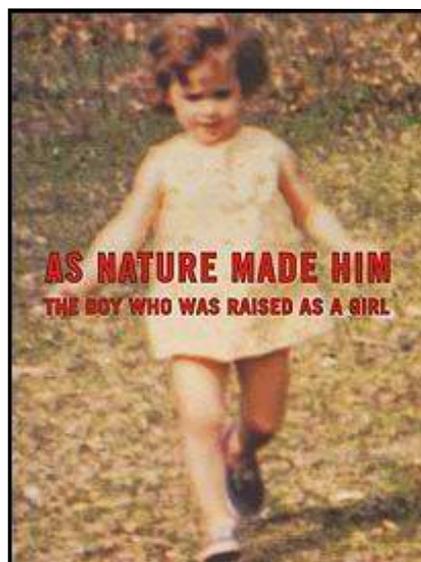
David had never managed to complete his education and had to take semiskilled work. He was made redundant and was unemployed for a year. He sold the movie right of his story, but lost the money when a business man absconded with his investment. Stricken with grief for his brother, his marriage started to fail. His wife asked him for a short separation period, but David took this very badly. He returned to his parents' house for a few days before driving to a supermarket car park and shooting himself in the head. He was 38 years old.

Dr. Money argues that he cannot be held to blame because David did not accept a female gender identity. He said that the family delayed a decision until their son was almost two, just before the gender gate was about to shut. Others, however, argued that he could have admitted that he made a mistake when the case turned out to be not working. But he continued to let people believe that it was successful long after he stopped seeing Brenda and Brenda became David. It is, perhaps above all, a cautionary tale of what may happen when a scientist falls in love with a beautiful theory and ignores the ugly facts.

And David Reimer? I of course don't know what went through his mind when he decided to end his life. He had just lost his job, a big investment had failed, his marriage had split up, and his twin brother had died not long before... all depressing events. But surely the "therapeutic" abuse he had suffered was a factor in his death. It figured conspicuously, after all, in almost everything else that had happened in his life.

Adapted from the book, "As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who was Raised as a Girl" (2000) by John Colapinto and the news, "David Reimer: The Boy Who Lived as a Girl", CBC News, May 10, 2004, retrieved January 20, 2006.

* *Laboratory of Water Quality Control Engineering*



The More You Know...

“Vernacular Architecture of Nepal”

Another key to the sustainable development?

*Raxchaya Shrestha**

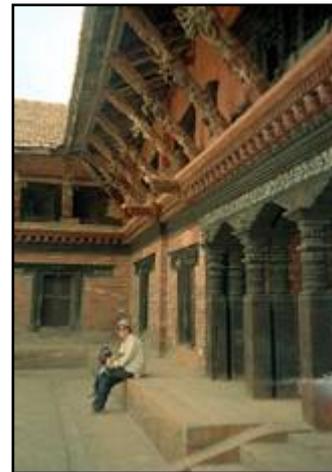
Vernacular architecture is a nonverbal language through which cultures express their shared heritage in the patterns of construction of their shelter. It is a term used in the academic architectural culture to categorize structures built by non-academically trained builders.

To get a brief picture of Nepal, compared to Japan with latitudinal variations, Nepal has altitudinal variations in the climate, which makes her a country of variations: variations in culture, in languages, in landscape and in architecture. When we talk about the vernacular architecture of Nepal, the Kathmandu valley, which dates back 2000 years ago, is widely assumed to be the representative of this type of architecture.

The Kathmandu valley amongst the high hills and beautiful rivers flourished during 1200 B.C. to its highest glory as a key junction of the trade route between China and India. With sufficient accumulation of wealth brought about by the trade and commerce, this era witnessed several architectural wonders. Among the seven world's heritage sites, six of them lie only in Nepal, six of them lie in the Kathmandu valley, of which three are the palace complexes: the durbar squares at Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur which represent the typical Nepalese architecture within the traditional urban context.

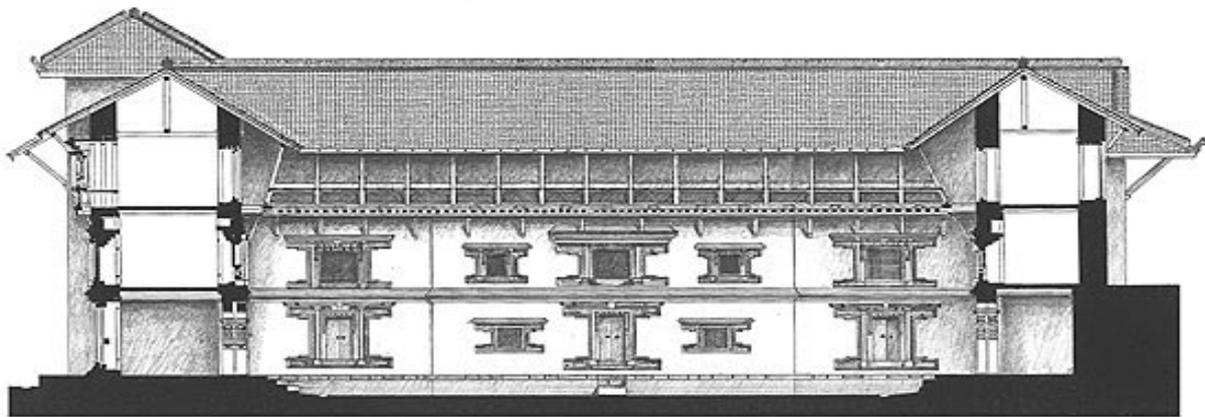


Cityscape of the urban core of Kathmandu

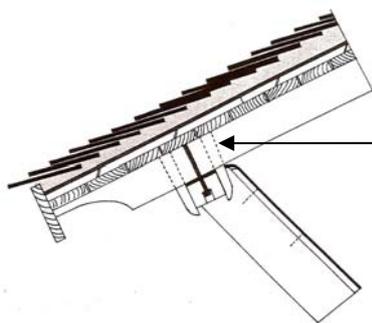


Inner courtyard

Laden with heavily carved doors and windows, the red brick structures are very harmonized in scale. The basic building material is the fire-baked bricks along with the sun-dried bricks located inside the thick bricks and the mud masonry. The tiled roof with a deep projection supported by extensively carved struts is a good protection for the heavy rainfall by monsoon. Timber posts and lintels form the internal structural members. The wedge system tying the wooden members gives flexibility to the structure made of brick masonry in such an earthquake prone area. There are a large variety of bricks and mud mortars depending on the use and the position, ensuring their optimum performance. For example, the one used for sealing gaps in the wall is made of the paste of cotton, resin, colour and some oil mixed with mud.



Typical sectional elevation of the Nepalese courtyard house



Wooden wedge for locking the **strut** and the **overhang of roof**

In Kathmandu, diurnal range of temperature is 28–29 °C in day time and 11–12 °C at night. The thick wall creates a time lag of 8 hrs. This results in a very comfortable temperature inside the building, i.e. warm in winter and cool in summer.

The settlement pattern is a compact settlement, i.e. urban in nature, with row or courtyard houses. Every 7 or 8 houses has one common courtyard and every 20 – 25 houses has a few public open spaces where people could interact for their community life. The same open space which served as a religious site in the morning could be a commercial spot in the daytime and a strolling place in the evening. Such a multi-use of the space was highly integrated into the socio-cultural context of urban cities which we lack in our modern life. This made a city lively throughout the year.

At present, the study of the traditional architecture and the urban form is getting wide attentions because of their sustainability and human friendliness along with their sophisticated adaptation to the environment and user's needs. However, it is clearly visible that those people who had traditional architecture in their hands were not aware of it. Again for a few of them, this jewel is a burden as it is getting old and sluggish and they are trying to escape from it. This is not the case only of Nepal or Kathmandu but in all over the world including Japan. The old cities are suffering from this conflict of the modernism as an effect of globalization, converting all the cityscape into jungle of concrete without variety.

Once seen as obsolete, the vernacular architecture is now the subject of the serious academic study, and is increasingly being considered as a potential component of the sustainable society for its adaptation to the local environment.

* *Laboratory of Urban Design*

Interview



“Getting To Know New Faces In EGPSEE”

Let's know more about Kazumi Ueki

*An interview by Alba Carolina Blanco Chaparro**

You don't have to guess who Kazumi Ueki is if you are a Monbu scholar from EGPSEE since you meet her at least once every month of the year...

Now that I have refreshed your mind, let us try to learn more about her especially since she just started working directly with EGPSEE last April at the “Kyoumu” of the Faculty of Engineering.

It was one of the warmest days of the year and since the weather outside was so humid, we decided to return and use the annex room of the Kyoumu. Ueki san seems a bit curious and nervous about the interview, but gradually she just relaxed and calmly answered the questions...

1) Where are you from?

I am from Hokkaido, close to Sapporo, from Ishikari.

2) How long have you lived in Sapporo?

From last year.

... And before?

I lived for 23 years in Ishikari, so I commuted for seven years to work in a high school and later in a university.

... How long did it take?

It took me almost two hours a day including the bus and the subway round trip.

3) What did you study?

I started studying English literature because I liked communicating with foreigners, but suddenly I found myself assisting at lectures all given in Japanese and studying English only from the texts... so finally I switched to Russian literature where the professor couldn't speak Japanese so I was challenged again to study English and Russian for communication.

... What was your thesis about then?

I developed it in three chapters. In the first one, I described the Russian wooden architecture and furniture, and for the second chapter I introduced the Russian lifestyle. The third chapter illustrated the

Russian spirit through the literature. Pretty wide approach and it was not easy to connect the contents. Besides, it was not easy to write this thesis without being there and I think it could have been better. Unfortunately, although I wanted to visit Russia as a student I couldn't afford it.

Well, it sounds interesting. Anyway, let's go forward with our questions.

4) Are you single?

Currently I am, but I have a boyfriend and we are getting married next year... so there is just one year left to change my mind (and she explodes in laughs!) - It's a joke of course (she adds).

5) So now let me ask you after your beginning in April, how has been the experience at the Jimu and with the foreign students?

Well, actually I knew all your names more than a year ago since I used to work already at the Jimu but in the Accounting Division. Of course the change has been positive since now I can recognize your faces as well.

... How about the communication? How is it going with international students?

At the beginning I felt upset and confused to speak, shy to write or contact you through e-mails but with days, I started feeling more confident. EGPSEE makes me happy. Now I am happy to meet and talk with the international students and enjoy with them. I felt so sorry with the students that have no idea of Japanese, because at the beginning I couldn't speak English at all, and I used to call Ito san for support, but now I think I can communicate by myself. I have to, and I want to.

6) Let me give you 5 options to choose from. If you would have some extra time what would you prefer to do?

- a- Read a good book
- b- Watch a good movie
- c- Exercise
- d- Stay at home
- e- Go out for shopping

I would watch a good movie at home after reading a good book! (and again she starts laughing! But she does actually like to watch movies at home).

7) Did you practice any discipline or belong to any group in the past?

When I was in an elementary school, I used to play volleyball, then in junior high, I practiced Kyudo (archery). In high school, I used to collaborate with the student council, and then in college, I became pretty busy with part-time jobs and studies to do something additional.

... What kind of part-time jobs did you have?

I used to teach English, mathematics and Japanese at a private school. Usually, my students were

between 13 and 18 years old and they were either preparing for the entrance examination or supporting their current studies. Once I also taught a six-year old girl some mathematics and Japanese. Also I used to give private lessons about classical Japanese literature.

...So you might know a lot of kanjis?

No, no, not that much.

8) Please give an advice to the international students about enjoying their time in Hokkaido?

I want you to go to farms in the proper seasons. At the farms of Hokkaido you can pick lots of fruits and vegetables, it is close to us in Hokkaido but is something you cannot experience easily in other parts of Japan. It could be a one-day perfect plan for the weekend.

...What about an advice for the winter time?

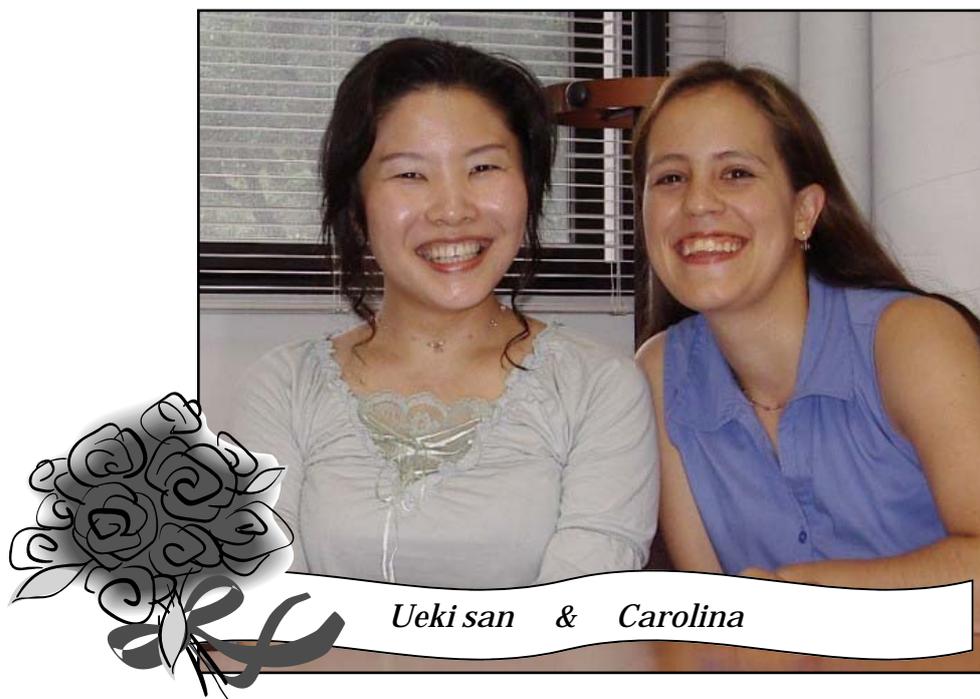
Please be careful! Don't slip and fall down on the icy roads. Accidents are very common even among the Japanese especially those from outside Hokkaido and sometimes they can end up in fractures, so please take care!

9) Would you give some final words for our readers of E-Vision?

I hope in the future all foreign students can act as a bridge between their own countries and Japan. That is why it is also important to make an effort to study and understand Japanese culture and language. Werawan sensei used to tell me to talk in English to international students, and I'm trying, but I hope they can also learn some Japanese.

... In that case why don't we make a deal? Why don't you talk to us in English and we try to answer in Japanese?

Why not?! It will be fun! *(and we finish the interview with a laugh).*



**Laboratory of Urban Design*

Information

“Fly Away Wheelchairs!”

Introduction to an NPO sending wheelchairs to developing countries

*Hiroyuki Nagata**



Nowadays, in developing countries, there are many people who are handicapped because of wars, deficiency diseases and a lack of medical facilities. In those countries, there are those who are totally dependant on welfare and who have difficulty continuing their daily lives. On the other hand, medical appliances such as wheelchairs are not recycled well.

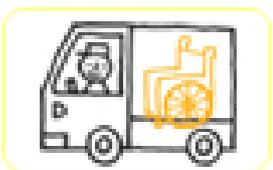
A group called the “Fly Away Wheelchairs” gathers used wheelchairs in Japan, sending them to developing countries and welfare organizations, which lend a hand to the handicapped. Through the wheelchairs, they are also developing exchanges of people, trying to understand the current state of welfare in the world, as well as sharing knowledge on how to move on and solve their problems.

Carrying wheelchairs abroad

How do the “Fly Away Wheelchairs” make wheelchairs fly away to the developing countries and finally to the people who need them? In fact, they ask people who travel abroad to cooperate and carry the wheelchairs. Looking at the smiling faces of the local people surely must be a precious experience for the traveller. Here are the details of the steps:



If you are planning to go abroad, and feel that you want to participate in carrying wheelchairs, please contact the office of the “Fly away Wheelchairs” by telephone, fax, mail, etc.. Informing them approximately a month before your trip will give them enough time for the coordination between you and intended recipients. They will ask you which country you will visit, when you will depart, when you can deliver the wheelchair and so on. They will do their best in arranging the time so that you can meet the person who needs the wheelchair.



You will then be required to adjust the weight of your luggage not to exceed 20kg at the luggage check-in at the airport. The adult-size wheelchair is about 15kg, and the child-size 12kg. They will inform you of the exact weight in advance.



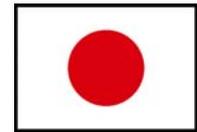
After that, they will send the wheelchair to your house or to the airport before your departure. The wheelchair is not packed, and will be carried or pushed directly by you.



Lasting the end, all that is left for you to do is to visit directly the recipients such as organizations for the disabled, hospitals or NGOs, and deliver the wheelchair.

Reference: <http://business4.plala.or.jp/tondeke/> (Official site of “Fly Away Wheelchairs”)

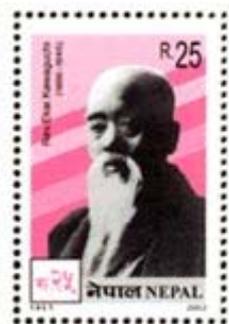
**Laboratory of Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation*



“The Golden Jubilee of Diplomatic Relationship between Nepal and Japan”

History of 50-year Nepal-Japan relations

*Nirajan Shiwakoti**



The year 2006 marks the golden jubilee of the diplomatic relationship between Nepal and Japan. Although the Nepal-Japan friendship began more than 100 years ago when the Buddhist monk from Japan, Ekai Kawaguchi (*Left*, in a Nepali stamp), visited Nepal in 1899, the formal diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal were established on September 1 1956. In July, 1965, Nepal inaugurated her embassy in Tokyo, while Japan opened her embassy in Kathmandu in February 1968. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Japan and Nepal have enjoyed close ties and fostered their goodwill, cooperation and understanding between the people of the two countries.

There are a number of factors contributing to the growth of Nepal-Japan relations. Some of the noticeable factors are the high level exchange of visits, Japanese contribution to the socio-economic development of Nepal, the close cooperation in different international forums and the important link of Buddhist philosophy and faith. The Japanese Imperial Household and the Nepalese Royal Household have traditionally maintained very good relations. There have been a number of exchange visits between the royal and imperial families. Their Majesties King Mahendra and Queen Ratna made their first state visit to Japan in April 1960, while Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko (the present Emperor and Empress) visited Nepal in December of the same year, representing the Emperor and Empress of Japan. In 1967, the late King Birendra, who was then Crown Prince, spent about four months as a special student in Tokyo University. He studied the history, the culture, the traditions and the administrative system of Japan. The Imperial couple of Japan revisited Nepal in 1975 to attend the coronation of King Birendra. Prime Minister Grijija Prasad Koirala, the first elected Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official visit to Japan in November 1998. Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori responded with the first official visit by Japanese Prime Minister in August 2000. This exchange of visits made by the Prime Ministers of both countries was another landmark in the history of cordial relations between the two countries.

Japan has been the top donor country for Nepal for the past several years. Japanese assistance has been of great significance in various fields of socio-economic development of Nepal, including human resources, agriculture, road construction, public health, air traffic service system, hydropower generation, education, scholarships, conservation of different historical sites and the like. Both Nepalese and Japanese people love high mountains. Many Japanese people come to Nepal to climb and conquer the high peaks of the Himalayas. At the same time, the number of Nepali visitors to Japan has increased annually. Contact between the citizens of the two countries has further increased since the launching of the direct flights between Kathmandu and Osaka in October 1994 by the Royal Nepal Airlines. The two countries have also exchanged a number of cultural troupes over the years. Nepal, the birth



place of Lord Buddha, and Japan of Buddhist culture hold great regards for Lord Buddha and his teachings. One of the prominent factors that has attracted Japanese visitors to Nepal is her sacred places, half of which are places of Buddhist pilgrimage. Thanks to the close contact at the grassroots level, there are over a dozen associations related to Japan in Nepal. These associations have been instrumental to the promotion of friendship and cultural interaction.

To help shed light on the Japanese culture, the Embassy of Japan has been organizing cultural programs which include demonstrations of Ikebana (flower arrangement), Chanoyu (Tea ceremony) and the performing arts with traditional music, and exhibitions of Japanese dolls, serigraphy, commercial posters, architecture, to name just a few.

Nepal and Japan have maintained cordial relations in international forums. In 1968, Nepal declared her decision to stand as a candidate for the non permanent seats in the UN Security Council under the quota of seats reserved for the Asian countries. At the same time, Japan also wanted to contest for the same seat. The competition between Nepal and Japan for the same seat had to be avoided of course, so it became imperative for Nepal to make the Japanese government agree not to contest with Nepal for that seat but to support Nepal's candidature. Japan, as a good friend of Nepal, gracefully supported Nepal's candidature and subsequently Nepal was elected with majority votes to the Security Council.



The Nepali people hold the Japanese people in very high esteem. The moral support extended by Japan to the cause of democracy in Nepal is widely appreciated. In fact, the tremendous goodwill towards each other between the peoples of two countries has been the most precious element in the friendship. The Government of Japan and the Japan Foundation have provided an opportunity to a wide range of Nepalese nationals such as teachers of secondary schools, young students, scholars, journalists, government officials, academics, etc. to visit Japan. Through these visits, they can exchange views with their Japanese counterparts, become acquainted with the contemporary Japanese society, culture, economy, politics, etc., allowing them to broaden mutual understanding between the people of both nations. Scholarships have been provided for university students by the Government of Japan since the early 1960s, a few years after the establishment of the diplomatic relations. Since then, hundreds of Nepalese students have been benefiting from these exchanges. Currently, there are over 300 Nepalese students studying in Japan. Also there is an increasing trend for Nepalese researchers to come to Japan for pursuing their research. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science awarded more than a dozen of postdoctoral fellowships to Nepalese scholars in 2005.

A relation between an industrially advanced country like Japan and developing country like Nepal is, therefore, meaningful in more than one sense. The Nepalese people rejoice and recollect that Japan is an economic superpower extending help and cooperation to developing countries like Nepal. We hope that we can further strengthen the ties between the two countries and make a large contribution to Asian solidarity and global community and harmony.

Reference

Embassy of Japan, Kathmandu, Nepal: <http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Nepal –Japan Relations Centenary Memoirs (1899-1999), published by Human Development and Social Welfare Centre and East West Language Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal

**Laboratory of Traffic Control and Safety Engineering*

Special Feature

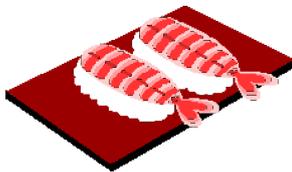
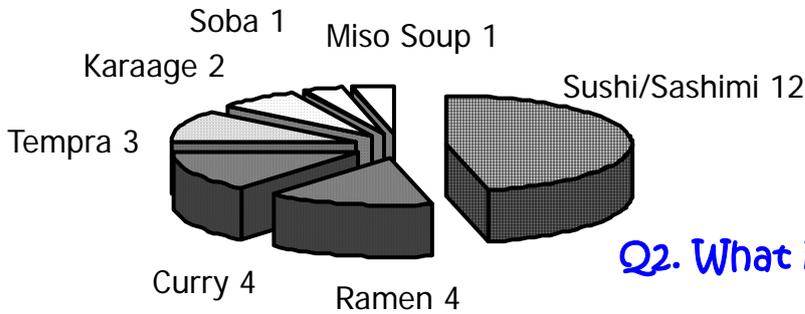
“Student Poll”

Who are the EGPSEE students???

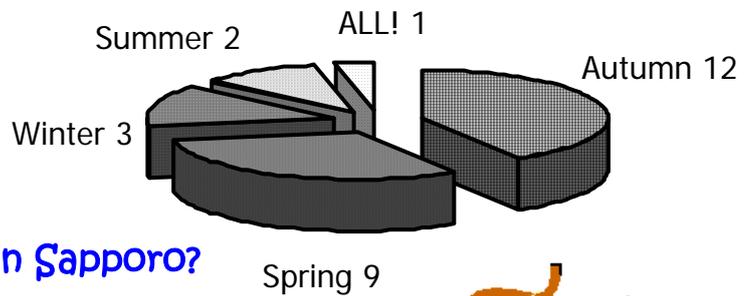
By Jacqueline Satur* & Hiroe HARA**

“Who are the EGPSEE students?” How can we answer this question? Our program includes students from various countries with different languages, cultures, religions, climates, etc. And we are now studying in a wide range of research fields. Obviously, there seems no simple answer to it! Therefore, conducted “Student Poll” to help you (both in and out of EGPSEE E) to have some ideas about what EGPSEE students and program like, and hopefully, you to get more interests in the program.

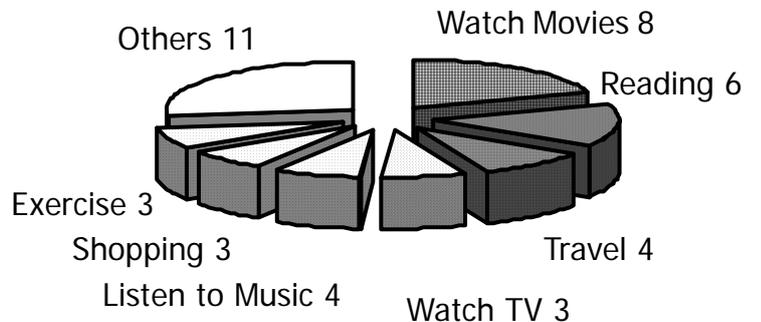
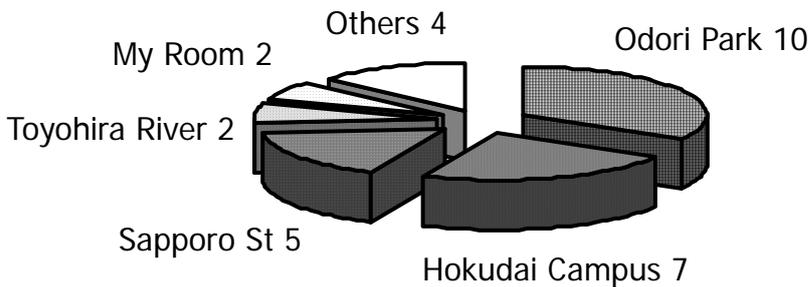
Q1. What is your favorite Japanese foods?



Q2. What is your favorite season in Sapporo?

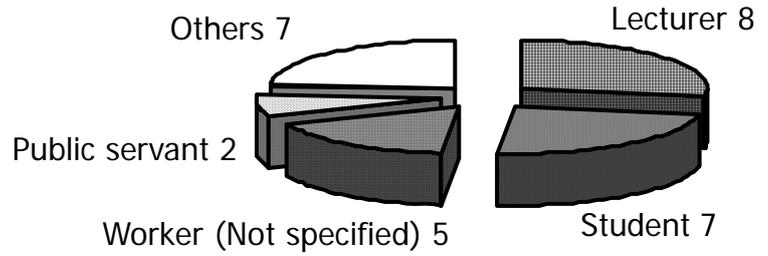
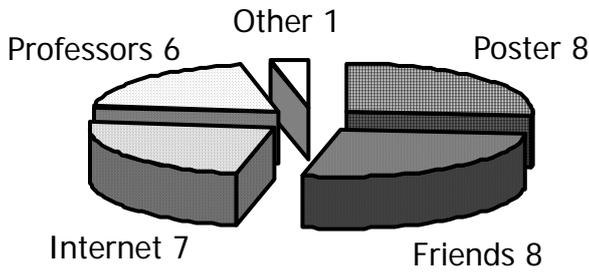


Q3. What is your favorite place in Sapporo?



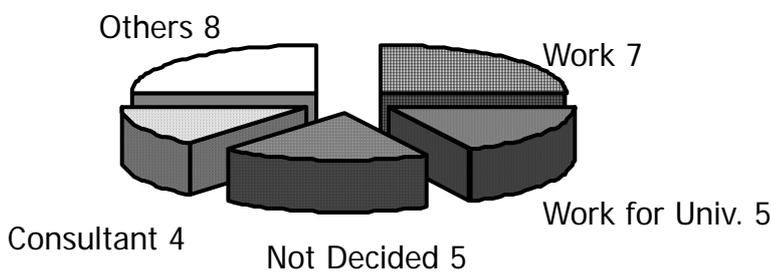
Q4. What do you do as pastime?

Q5. How did you know EGPSEE?



Q6. What were you doing before coming to Hokudai?

Q7. What are you planning to do after graduation?



Q8. How would you describe Mrs. Werauan in ONE word?



- ★ 1 Kind
- ★ 2 Active
- ★ 3 MOM

This poll was conducted in July and August, 2006. 26 international and 3 Japanese students responded to the questionnaires out of 57 students in EGPSEE. We really appreciate to the students' corporation.

** Laboratory of Mineral Processing and Resources Recycling*

*** Laboratory of Water Quality Control Engineering*

“How to Cook Tom-Yum-Kung in Sapporo”

A tip for easy Thai cooking by one of our best cooks

Surakha Wanphen*

Tom-Yum-Kung is the best known of all savory Thai dishes not only inside but also outside the country. Because of its popularity, I have been asked by many friends whether it is possible to cook Tom-Yum-Kung in Sapporo. The answer is “Yes, we just have to simplify the original recipe*.” It would be a too-simple Tom-Yum-Kung but many people who have tried said it had a pleasant taste. Tom-Yum-Kung is the combination of the words Tom-Yum (spicy and sour soup) and Kung (shrimps). Any preferred meat can replace shrimps such as fish (Tom-Yum-Pla), chicken (Tom-Yum-Kai) or pork (Tom-Yum-Moo).

The most important ingredient to have is the “Tom-Yum Paste” (Fig. 1). There are many satisfactory brands which you can easily find in Seibu, Daimaru or in other grocery shops at their Asian ingredients corner. This ready-made paste helps us a lot bring the taste close to the original dish even without the lemongrass and kaffir lime leaves (you also can add them if you have).

Simple Tom-Yum-Kung

(Adapted from "Cooking Thai Food in American Kitchens" by Malulee Pinsuvana)

- 2 tablespoons Tom Yum paste (a spicy Thai paste)
- 8-10 shrimps peeled but tails left
- 4 cups water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce (Nam-pla)
- 2 tablespoons lime or lemon juice
- 4-5 kaffir lime leaves (A small bag of dried leaves is available at Seibu and Daimaru.)
- 1 cup mushrooms (Button or straw is recommended)
- 3–4 crushed chili peppers (More or less, depending on how hot you want it)

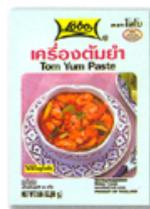


Fig.1 Tom Yum



Fig.2 Tom Yum

- 1) Dissolve Tom Yum paste in water and bring to a boil. Add salt and shrimps. Let the soup boil until the shrimps are done.
- 2) Add fish sauce, sugar, lime leaves, chili peppers and roughly chopped mushrooms. Cook about 2 minutes, then add lime or lemon juice.

Tips: Don't add lemon juice if the soup has not yet boiled. It will make the soup taste bitter. To create a fusion and experience a new style of the dish, you can add noodles like udon, soba or spaghetti.

I believe that the food brings you a precious moment. It's the time we are looking forward to after working hard all day long.

Find out the original recipe in http://www.thaitable.com/Thai/recipes/tom_yum_goong.htm

(image source : www.importfood.com)

*Laboratory of Environmental Ergonomics

“Intake, Spring, 2006”

Master



Country: Japan
 Lab: Resources and Eco-environmental Engineering
 Advisor: Prof. NAWA

Yayoi AKAHORI

Country: Japan
 Lab: Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation
 Advisor: Prof. FUNAMIZU

Shiro AMANO



Country: Japan
 Lab: Hydraulic Research
 Advisor: Prof. SHIMIZU

Keisuke IWATA

Country: Nepal
 Lab: Mineral Processing and Resources Recycling
 Advisor: Prof. TSUNEKAWA

Rani K T JHA



Country: Japan
 Lab: Resources and Eco-environmental Engineering
 Advisor: Prof. NAWA

Daisuke MINATO

Country: Costa Rica
 Lab: Solid Waste Disposal Engineering
 Advisor: Prof. MATSUTO

Jose Alonso MONTERO



Country: Japan
 Lab: Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation
 Advisor: Prof. FUNAMIZU



Hiroyuki NAGATA

Doctor



Country: Egypt
 Lab: Engineering for Maintenance System
 Advisor: Prof. UEDA

Khalid Mohamed Ahmed FARAH

Country: Korea
 Lab: Water Quality Control Engineering
 Advisor: Prof. OKABE



Kyung Mi CHUNG



Country: Egypt
 Lab: Engineering for Maintenance System
 Advisor: Prof. UEDA

Mohamed Hassan ZAKARIA

“Intake, October, 2006”

Master

Country: Indonesia
 Lab: Environmental Ergonomics
 Advisor: Prof. NAGANO



Agung Ruri DIVADASTA



Country: Zimbabwe
 Lab: Rock Engineering
 Advisor: Prof. FUJII

Azania MUFUNDIRWA



Country: Bangladesh
 Lab: Spatial Morphology
 Advisor: Prof. HAYASAKA

Murad Ahmed FARUKH

Country: Colombia
 Lab: Structural Analysis
 Advisor: Prof. MIDORIKAWA

Juan Andres OVIEDO-AMEZQUTA



Country: Pakistan
 Lab: Engineering for Sustainable Sanitation
 Advisor: Prof. FUNAMIZU

Muhammad Masoon PAHORE

Country: Philippines
 Lab: Terrestrial Environmental Engineering
 Advisor: Prof. IGARASHI

Carlito Baltazar TABELIN



Doctor



Country: Nepal
 Lab: Hydraulic Research
 Advisor: Prof. SHIMIZU

Krishana Prasad DULAL

Country: China
 Lab: Engineering for Maintenance System
 Advisor: Prof. UEDA

Da wei ZHANG



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

EGPSEE
STUDENT UNION