

# E-Vision

*Official Bulletin of the EGPSEE-SU*

INAUGURAL ISSUE

SPRING 2003



Bonenkai Party – 20 December 2002



Yuki Matsuri – 8 February 2003



Welcome Party – 4 October 2002

*In this issue:*



Find out more about  
**Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony...**

*and, the history of  
Republic of Macedonia*



**Interview**

**EGPSEE-SU Activities**

**Food Corner**

**The More You Know...**

**“E” for “Excellent”**

...on **International Page**



### E-Vision Logo

*The E-Vision itself stands for EGPSEE-SU (English Graduate Program in Socio-Environmental Engineering-Student Union) Vision. It is the vision in facing the world in general perspective, most especially the academic challenges. Ellipse was chosen as a symbol of vision. In addition, the colors of daybreak reflected in “E-Vision” and sunset in “Official Bulletin of the EGPSEE-SU” represent a typical day the EGPSEE students spend in campus in order to reach their goal. Finally, concluding the article by our EGPSEE officer, let “E” also stand for “Excellent” that we always strive to be.*

**The Designer**



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**Editorial**

*With the end of the long and chilly winter, beautiful spring is at our doors welcoming us with the blooming of popular and beautiful SAKURA. After about three years since the beginning of the EGPSEE program and around one and half years of the official formation of the EGPSEE Student Union (EGPSEE-SU), we are very happy to present all of you with the very first issue of the EGPSEE bulletin, E-VISION. We hope and wish, you will like it and support its improvement in the issues to come.*

*First of all, we would like to thank all those personalities involved directly or indirectly in the formation of the EGPSEE program, which brought students together from many different parts of the globe including the host country. We have been able to learn a lot in campus and off-campus through friends who are from various backgrounds and those in our respective laboratories.*

*The aim of this bulletin is to increase the interaction and share information amongst us and with Japanese friends. At the same time let others know more about EGPSEE and its activities.*

*Special features of this bulletin are the activities of EGPSEE-SU and list of new graduates, introduction to some special culture of different countries represented by EGPSEE students, technical articles and non-technical articles including stories, poem, travel diary, etc.*

*Lastly we would like to thank all the friends who contributed for this bulletin and request the same in the coming days.*

*With best wishes,  
Editorial Board,  
EGPSEE-SU*

# Message

## From the Dean, Graduate School of Engineering



**O**n the occasion of a release of an inaugural issue of EGPSEE bulletin, I heartily welcome the publication of the first issue of EGPSEE bulletin by the EGPSEE Student Union and look forward to its continuous release and achievements.

Our EGPSEE, which has been drawn up so that foreign students will receive all the necessary knowledge during their study program in English, has been established in April 2000 and enrolled first graduate students in October 2000.

The first graduation ceremony was held in September 2002 with eight students receiving the Master's degree of engineering.

Some of you might have already heard about the basic academic principles of Hokkaido University, i.e. "Frontier Spirit", "Education of the Whole Person", "Cultivation of Internationalism" and "Emphasis on Practical Learning". Dr Mutsuo Nakamura, the President of our university declared that these principles needed to be given a modern-day interpretation and that with the remarkable spread of globalization at the present time, the "Cultivation of Internationalism" was even more important for our university in its mission to train future leaders for the society. However I think that this particular principle has not been accomplished in our university. Thus, I would like to ask you EGPSEE students to act as bridges between your country and Japan, and also to support the improvement of Japanese students' communication ability in our university.

Finally, I wish EGPSEE student union further progress, success in the publication of EGPSEE bulletin, and good health.

Hiroshi SAEKI  
Dean, Graduate School of Engineering  
Hokkaido University

# Message

From the EGPSEE Head



I have written many messages for various publications, however I am especially happy to have an opportunity to write for this first issue of the EGPSEE-SU bulletin.

I still remember the joy and worries we had back in late 1999 when news came that the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology approved our proposal to establish an English program at the Graduate School of Engineering. Joy that our efforts have been rewarded but since the news came rather late, worries whether we would have enough qualified applicants for the 12 scholarships we were allotted. We were also worried how our professors many of whom had never had any experience teaching in English would carry out their lectures, how to keep the program intact considering the fact that students enrolled in different divisions, etc. Since then our professors have become more receptive and involved and students themselves become more organized - so organized that 2 years later they even established a Student Union with a constitution and elected officers.

EGPSEE students are selected from among a large number of applicants. Our students are rigorously evaluated and at the same time they are also asked to evaluate their professors. It is within this framework that EGPSEE moves forward.

I became the 2<sup>nd</sup> head of the program following Prof Yuji Ishiyama and will complete my term at the end of this month (March 2003). On behalf of EGPSEE professors and staff, I would like to compliment the Student Union for its efforts put into this bulletin. I am sure that it will serve as a link between different groups of people - professors, students, staff as well as alumni.

Yoshimasa WATANABE  
EGPSEE Head (2001-2003)

# Message

From EGPSEE-SU President



Greetings!

The year 2002 saw a number of special events and milestones happening in the EGPSEE Student Union, as well as in the EGPSEE program itself.

Foremost of which is the first ever graduation of eight master's students in the English graduate program. After successfully finishing their Masters studies, three of them are now continuing in the doctoral program while the others are doing well in their respective fields.

The previous year was also marked by the admission of the first Japanese student into EGPSEE. This means that the program is not only open to foreign students but to Japanese students as well. The EGPSEE family continues to grow in number and in representation by country. As of now, EGPSEE has already catered to 19 different countries.

Last year, the EGPSEE Student Union (EGPSEE-SU) was officially recognized by the EGPSEE officers. There was also the first election of student union officers whom I wish to congratulate for doing an excellent job in laying down the foundations of this organization and for managing various student activities aimed towards the promotion of student camaraderie and advancement of student welfare.

This year, we will continue to build on this foundation. We will not only be keeping the EGPSEE traditions but will also be organizing new and more meaningful activities that will hopefully involve even those outside the English graduate program. I also would like to commend the efforts of everyone who in one way or another has contributed to the successful completion of this first ever issue of EGPSEE-SU's official bulletin.

Finally, on behalf of the EGPSEE-SU officers, I would like to thank you for electing us and for giving us the chance to serve the EGPSEE students, the English program and this university. In this regard, we humbly ask for your support in all these endeavours and we look forward to working with you... for you.

In the service of the student union, I remain.

Philip de Guzman  
EGPSEE-SU President

**Interview:*****“So far, I am satisfied with the program..”***

*An interview with the first head of the EGPSEE Program, Prof. Yuji Ishiyama, conducted by the Editorial Board members: Sanjay, Bikram, Mintesnot and Surajate.*



**P**rofessor Ishiyama was born and raised in Sapporo, where he lived until he was 25 years old. He stayed at a house near the Sapporo Medical College for those 25 years. He loves Sapporo and Hokkaido. After completing his master course at Hokkaido University in 1967, he went to Tokyo to work for the Ministry of Construction as a structural engineer. In 1971, he was transferred to Building Research Institute (BRI), which belongs to the Ministry of Construction. BRI moved from Tokyo to Tsukuba Science City in 1979 and Prof. Ishiyama stayed at Tsukuba until he came back to Hokkaido University in 1991. While he was in BRI, he had several occasions to have international activities and to visit foreign countries. He became the head of Building Engineering Division of International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE) in BRI from 1978 to 1986. In IISEE about twenty participants mainly from developing countries study seismology or earthquake engineering for 11 months and he worked as a course leader of earthquake engineering, giving lectures or taking them to trips around Japan. He visited Bandung, Indonesia several times in 1980's to organize the International Seminars on Earthquake Engineering at the Directorate of Building Research (now Research Institute for Human Settlement, RIHS), Ministry of Public Works. He stayed in

Ottawa, Canada as a visiting researcher at the Division of Building Research, National Research Council, Canada from 1984 to 1985. He also stayed in Lima, Peru from 1989 to 1991 as a chief advisor of Center for Earthquake Engineering Research and Disaster Mitigation (CISMID), National University of Engineering (UNI), Peru. He came back from Peru in June, 1991 and came to Hokkaido in October, 1991. Since then he has been here in Hokkaido University.

Prof. Ishiyama has two daughters; both are married and live in Honshu (main land). He now lives with his wife only. His elder daughter lives in Joetsu City, Niigata Prefecture and has a daughter (3 year old). The younger one lives in Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture and has a son (3 year old) and a daughter (one year old). So he has three grandchildren and loves all of them. His birthday is March 24, which coincides with that of his elder daughter and grandson (son of his younger daughter). Therefore, March 24 is a very special day for him.

He likes playing golf, but plays less recently because of his busy schedule. There are too many meetings in Tokyo that he should attend. He goes to Tokyo almost every week for a day or two. He wants to have more time to spend with his students.

**EGPSEE-SU:** *How initially the vision was conceived to establish EGPSEE? How did you become the first head of EGPSEE?*

When Hokkaido University was preparing to shift emphasis from undergraduate education to graduate education, the concept of English course had been discussed. And the newly organized research field of Socio-Environmental Engineering decided to start EGPSEE. Then an ad-hoc committee was formed and each research group sent one member to the committee. I was one of the members and became the first head of the committee, probably because I am a senior member among them. (My experience, e.g. staying one year in Canada and two years in Peru, could have been another reason.)

*So far, I am satisfied with the program, but I want to have more scholarships and more students...*

**EGPSEE-SU:** *At what kind of target you had aimed for in organizing this program? Are you satisfied with the outcome that has been obtained so far?*

The English course of Socio-Environmental Engineering is the first attempt among Japanese universities, although some universities already have had similar courses but in narrower research field, e.g. Civil Engineering only. EGPSEE is also the first English program among several research fields in the Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University. In that sense, to start the program was the most important issue, and also to have some MEXT scholarships. Probably EGPSEE is more rigorous than the Japanese program, since most of our students receive scholarships. So far, I am satisfied with the program, but I want to have more scholarships and more students. I also hope

that similar courses will be established in research fields other than the Socio-Environmental Engineering.

**EGPSEE-SU:** *In your understanding what unique features EGPSEE program has? What kind of distinctions, if any, is there between the EGPSEE and the Japanese program?*

As to the numbers of subjects in English, it is only one half of subjects in Japanese. I hope this difference will disappear some time soon.

**EGPSEE-SU:** *In your view what should be the role of the foreign students that would be advantageous to the program and to the Japanese community at*

*large?*

I hope foreign students cause better influence to Japanese students, and Japanese students also give good influence to foreign students. I wish that the Japanese students could improve their English so that better communication and discussion among students be possible.

**EGPSEE-SU:** *What is your personal opinion on the formation of EGPSEE-Student Union and how it could be beneficial not only to students, but to the program as a whole?*

I really appreciate the Student Union for the effort to strengthen the communication among foreign students. I have participated in several parties that you had organized and I enjoyed all of them, and hope to attend all of similar events.

**EGPSEE-SU:** Please give some message or suggestion for EGPSEE student community.

I do hope all of you not only work hard on your research but also enjoy staying here. Try to have more communication with

Japanese students, foreign students, faculty/staff members and also with people outside the university. After your study in Hokkaido University, I hope you will contribute in your country or in international community.

# Take a Break...

## Brainteasers

- I have a big mouth and I am also quite loud! I am NOT a gossip but I do get involved with everyone's dirty business. What am I?
- I have a neck, but no head. I have two arms, but no hands. What am I?
- How do you make one disappear?
- I'm in a window and in a lamp. I am clouded, I am shining. I'm colored and set in white. I say much, but I have no words. What am I?
- Hank is 33 years old today. This is three times as old as his brother Harvey was when Hank was the age that Harvey is today. How old is Harvey?
- Joe was out for a walk when it started to rain. He did not have an umbrella and he wasn't wearing a hat. His clothes were soaked, yet not a single hair on his head got wet. How could this happen?
- Twelve pears hanging high, twelve men passing by. Each took a pear and left eleven hanging there. How can this be?
- What word looks the same upside down and backwards?
- If an electric train is going east at 60 miles an hour and there is a strong westerly wind, which way does the smoke from the train drift?
- What runs around a house but doesn't move?
- Two mothers and two daughters go to a pet store and buy three cats. Each female gets her own cat. How is this possible?

The answers are on page 17

## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF EGPSEE-SU

*By Philip de Guzman  
(Former EGPSEE-SU Secretary)*

Unlike the first set of EGPSEE student officers appointed by the program officer, the second set of officers was elected by the EGPSEE students last May 17, 2002. Its sole objective then was to draft constitution and bylaws which will embody the organization's ideals and objectives and provide framework and operating guidelines for the student organization, which was later officially named "EGPSEE Student Union" (EGPSEE-SU).

Due to the nature of its objective, the members of the Executive Committee were not elected to any particular position but were simply chosen as those who got the most number of votes. Later however, when more projects were proposed, it was deemed necessary to define the roles of each officer, and so the following members of the Executive Committee took their post from June 15, 2002 until February 8, 2003:

<i>President:</i>	Sanjay Giri
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Pipat Termkhajornkit
<i>Secretary:</i>	Philip de Guzman
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Antoni
<i>Auditor:</i>	Sara Dashdorj
<i>PRO:</i>	Prakash Ranjitkar

As mentioned earlier, the Executive Committee proposed many projects, both short and long-terms. A list of the EGPSEE-SU activities and projects are as follows:

1. **Guidance to New Students** (Aug. 30, 2002) – The SU Executive Committee gave tips and supplement guide to the incoming EGPSEE students of October 2002. The said tips was earlier written and compiled by some EGPSEE students but was revised to include some changes and more information.
2. **First EGPSEE Graduation Party** (Sept. 24, 2002) – The EGPSEE family was so excited for the first batch of graduates from the EGPSEE program that it decided to throw a graduation party for



The "sakana boys"



The 1st graduates in EGPSEE shirt

the eight graduates (unfortunately, only six could attend) even before they could get their diplomas on the following day. The graduates (Marjan, Aatur, Surakha, Pipat, Ahmed and Suthipun)

received surprise introductions containing "something funny" to remember them by. And who can forget the "sakana dance" made popular by the tandem of Antoni and Haryadi (also known as the "sakana boys") as a tribute to the graduates who have also jiggled to the popular "sakana" song themselves. Not to be outdone were Mrs Werawan and the sensei's who also took center stage to get a feel of the dance floor. EGPSEE shirts, which were designed and made by the SU officers, were presented to the graduates as a gift.

3. **EGPSEE Welcome Party 2002** (Oct. 4, 2002) – Nine new students joined the program in October 2002 and it was just fitting to have a welcome party for these young and promising individuals. Each of the newcomers was asked a question or was requested to do something after being introduced. A quiz contest followed to see how promising indeed is the latest addition to the EGPSEE family is. After its successful debut, a repeat performance of the sakana dance was given by the “sakana boys,” but this time together with the perpetrators Philip and Diane, who were the ones behind the dance. EGPSEE shirts which were given to the first batch of EGPSEE graduates were also sold out during the program.



The new students under examination

4. **EGPSEE Bonenkai** (Dec. 20, 2002) – As another fruitful year came to a close, it was again time to have the annual EGPSEE Bonenkai Party. There was the international food competition where the attendees had the chance to taste dishes from different countries. The night was also filled with music as three students rendered songs from their respective countries. An international dress festival showcased dresses from four EGPSEE students. There were also several games to keep the festive mood as the EGPSEE and Japanese students together with professors battled it out in the inter-division quiz contest, chopsticks challenge, ice cream eating contest and tongue-twisters. The party was highlighted by the Mr Bonenkai contest where Muralee emerged as the winner and was crowned “Mr. Bonenkai 2002”.



International food competition

5. **EGPSEE-SU Constitution and Bylaws** (Feb. 8, 2003) – This was the very reason why the Executive Committee was first elected. After so much work and numerous revisions, the EGPSEE-SU Constitution and Bylaws was finally passed and approved by the body in the first General Assembly of EGPSEE-SU. After the annual executive report by the outgoing officers, a general election was conducted where the current SU officers were elected.



Chopsticks challenge

6. **EGPSEE Yuki Matsuri** (Feb. 8, 2003) – The term of the outgoing Executive Committee was capped by a day filled with outdoor winter fun. A barbecue party was set in the snow field in front of the Engineering Building and barbecue suddenly seemed to taste even better when you're out there and enjoying the winter. At the same time, there was also a miniature version of the Sapporo Snow Festival. At first, there was some indecision among the snow sculpture neophytes due to lack of experience but when the snow sculpture started to take shape, the amateur sculptors worked together handily in polishing off an EGPSEE monument.



Mr. Bonenkai



EGPSEE sculpture



Winter barbecue

# "E" for "Excellent"

By Mrs. Werawan Manakul  
(Program Officer, EGPSEE)

In 1993, four like-minded professors namely Yuji Ishiyama, Masami Tsunekawa, Tamon Ueda and Yoshimasa Watanabe, got together and embarked upon a long process of having an English program established at the Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University.

While other universities have had their English program established and received a fixed number of scholarships annually for a number of years, Hokkaido University still relied on nominations by individual professors to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology (MEXT) and an unpredictable number of scholarships granted each year. With Japanese students reluctant to pursue a higher degree, conducting in-depth research without graduate students was difficult. These

professors also believed that the Socio-Environmental Engineering Group was ready to transfer its knowledge to international students.

Changes or new ideas always receive mixed reception. This was true when the idea of introducing an English program was floated in the Socio-Environmental Engineering group.

*Changes or new ideas always receive mixed reception...*

However through numerous discussions and meetings a number of professors agreed to offer courses in English in addition to the existing Japanese courses. To enable students to gain as much knowledge as possible within the limited time, courses in different disciplines are grouped together and offered under seven subject groups as shown in the table below. The way courses are grouped and offered here is unique and is not done in any other universities in Japan.

<b><i>Subject Groups in EGPSEE</i></b>	<b><i>Research Groups in ordinary program</i></b>
ERE-1 Hydrosience and Environmental Protection Engineering	Environmental Protection Systems Engineering
	Hydraulic Engineering
ERE-2 Mineral Resources Engineering	Resources Engineering
ERE-3 Solid Waste Resources Engineering	Solid Waste Resources Engineering
SGE-1 Structural Engineering	Structural Engineering
	Architectural Engineering
SGE-2 Geotechnical Engineering	Environmental and Structural Materials Engineering
	Geotechnical Engineering
UEE-1 Urban Engineering and Planning	Urban and Environmental Planning
	Transportation and Traffic Systems Engineering
	Architectural Planning
UEE-2 Air, Water and Environment	Human Environment Engineering
	Environmental and Sanitary Engineering

In the later part of 1999, MEXT approved the establishment of the English Graduate Program in Socio-Environmental Engineering (EGPSEE) with an annual allocation of 12 MEXT scholarships, 6 master and 6 doctoral. And this was when the author entered the scene.

The author, armed with extensive experience working for the Asian Institute of Technology

but zero knowledge about Japanese university system was asked to help start up the program. She was supposed to get 12 excellent students for MEXT scholarship commencing October 2000.

A program homepage was launched and brochures and posters sent out to over 250 universities in Asia and beyond.

EGPSEE was officially inaugurated in October 2000 with nine doctoral and eight master's students enrolled. Two years later these eight students received their M.Eng. degree becoming the first EGPSEE graduates.

Running an English program in a Japanese university with its history stretching back over 126 years is not a dream job. Considering the fact that the university with its traditional way of teaching manages to maintain its name as one of the leading universities in Japan throughout these years. It is fortunate that the program is new and rather independent that it is allowed to come up with its own policy, rules and regulation so long as they fall within a larger frame drawn up by the graduate school or the university.

The program is in its third year, having a total of 37 students from 18 countries making the existence of international students more noticeable. As EGPSEE students sit alongside their Japanese counterparts, it is natural that

Japanese students start asking themselves why these international students are supported by the Japanese government while they have to support themselves, or if they are lucky enough, get a loan from the government that must be paid back after graduation. Why the Japanese government treats its own citizen unfairly in various aspects has always been a big question to the author.

*In a not so distant future the first letter "E" in EGPSEE will be referred to as "Excellent" not "English".*

In the author's opinion, the only way to provide a logical answer and ease the growing negative feeling towards international students is for these

international students to work extra hard and perform exceptionally well academically.

From this standpoint, the author with cooperation from professors and students alike introduced a number of practices that are not followed in the ordinary Japanese program, e.g. registration of courses, reporting of grades in percentage, strict evaluation of student's academic performance, etc. Once EGPSEE is perceived as being "difficult" – to enter, to remain in and to graduate, being supported by a generous scholarship may no longer be an issue.

While trying to distinct itself on one hand, EGPSEE also tries to be part of the community. The obstacle is the lack of a common language. Most of our students are not fluent in Japanese, likewise most of the Japanese students are not fluent in English. We hope to tackle this issue in an open forum tentatively scheduled for May/June at which a simultaneous translation will be provided.

With the efforts being made by all concerned, the author strongly believes that in a not so distant future the first letter "E" in EGPSEE will be referred to as "Excellent" not "English".

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*Editorial note:* 1<sup>st</sup> EGPSEE Open forum: "**How to mutually benefit each other**" will be held at Friday, May 16 2003 from 13:30-16:00 in room B31 moderated by Prof. Y Watanabe and simultaneous translation by Dr. K Nagano and Dr. T Ueda

## International Page



### ETHIOPIAN COFFEE CEREMONY

By Mintesnot Gebeyehu\*



Like that of Japanese tea ceremony, Ethiopia is well known in coffee ceremony. Don't take it as a simple coffee break, it is a gracious traditional event that is performed almost in every housing unit, and surprisingly daily, and in some households twice or three times a day. Let me take you back to History for a while. As most historical literatures agree, coffee was originally 'discovered' in Ethiopia, at a special place called 'Kaffa'. The word 'coffee' came after the name of the place. Then it spread to Arabia, India, Ceylon, Java, Brazil, Columbia and finally to the rest of the world. More genetically diverse strains of coffee Arabica, exist in Ethiopia than anywhere else in the world. Nowadays, exporting coffee is the main economic base of the country.

The coffee ceremony starts with spreading a fresh long stand grass, called '*guzguaz*' on the floor. Then a specially designed wooden plate with small coffee cups is placed on the *guzguaz*. The next step is preparing a charcoal stove and putting an iron plate, called '*biret mitad*' with fresh coffee beans on it. Now the roasting process is started. The coffee beans are roasted till the colour is changed to light brown. Here the coffee maker (usually female) carries the iron pan around for the guests to feel the aroma and to be stimulated. At this moment blessings and wishes are exchanged, especially from elders.

Then the roasted coffee beans are transferred to another apparatus called '*yebuna mukecha*' and grinded manually using an iron or wooden rod called '*zenezena*'. While crushing, water is boiled on the charcoal stove using a black clay coffee pot called '*jebena*'. The coffee powder is mixed with boiled water in the *jebena* and boiled for a few minutes. After that the pot is placed on a special holder called '*matot*', which is made of woven straw, till it settles.

Usually there are 3 rounds of serving the prepared coffee to the guests. The first round is called '*abol*', the second '*tona*' and the third '*bereka*'. Pouring of the coffee in the cups is very artistic and skilful. One person expresses this event as follows:



*"Gracefully pouring a golden stream of coffee in to each little cup from the height of one foot without an interruption requires years of practice"*

The youngest child is ordered to serve the coffee. Immediately before the coffee, snacks like bread, popcorn or roasted barley (called '*yebuns kurs*') is served together. It is a very special part of the ceremony.

Ethiopian people prefer to drink hot coffee, which is proofed by the popular Ethiopian proverb "***Love and coffee taste best when hot***".

From the first round *abol* to *bereka*, participants, usually neighbours, discuss many family and community issues. Though the ceremony is blamed by the modern generation as a time killing, it is really worthy in creating community love and get together. The author remembers, as a fresh memory, the night time coffee ceremony conducted by lovely mother, with the rest of families... chatting and laughing!

\* Laboratory of Traffic Facility Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University

International Page



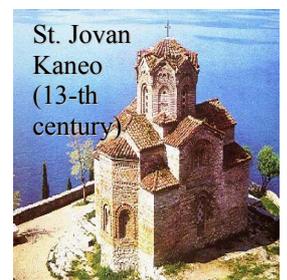
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

By Ana Mitanoska\*



Through the history of hundreds of years, this small beautiful pearl in the Balkan Peninsula was always the desire of the greatest warriors. It is and has always been one very important strategic point in the Southeastern Europe where a lot of interests from the West and the Orient are crossing. But it is reasonable to be everyone's wish if it's that much adorable and delightful. This antique country mentioned in The Bible, is full with pleasant spirit, a harmony between wonderful nature and rich cultural heritage.

The shores of its beautiful lakes and the slopes of its towering mountains reveal monasteries and churches full of frescoes and icons, an outcome of the century's



long development of the indigenous culture of the Macedonians. This culture has given literacy to most of the Slavonic world. It is a culture that provided important impulses for the development of Eastern Christianity. The ethnic Macedonians are Orthodox Christians covering 67% of the population. Even though Macedonia is situated in that part of the Balkans where Islam has been present for centuries, aggressive and militant fundamentalism has bypassed the country. Macedonian language belongs to the South Slavonic branch of the Slavonic languages. Macedonians use the Cyrillic alphabet, which originally comes from this region and is used also by Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian, and even the Mongolian people.

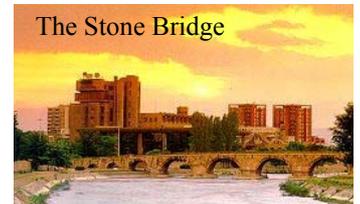
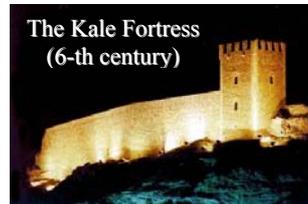
Traditional Clothes



Macedonia is an independent country since 1991. Macedonia has a population of 2,054,800 (little bit more than that of Sapporo) and covers an area of 25,333 sq km (almost equal to one third of the island of Hokkaido). The Republic of Macedonia is characterized by three different climates; changed Mediterranean with the flow of the biggest Macedonian Vardar river, long and dry summers and mild and rainy winters; mountainous climate, found in the high mountainous regions, characterized with long and snowy winters (min. -20° C), and short and cold summers; and mildly continental climate, which is the most characteristic since it covers the biggest area, with relatively cold and humid winters and warm and dry summers (max. 40° C).

There are four national parks and special reserves that protect many endemic species of flora and fauna and other natural rarities.

Everybody is welcome to be our guest and enjoy the Macedonian traditional food, which is a mix of the eastern and western flavors. And one cannot miss the friendly smile of the kind, generous Macedonian hospitality. You are welcome to touch and feel this new, unforgettable experience and if you come once, for sure you will like to come again!



\*Laboratory of Transportation and Traffic Systems Planning, Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University

## Food Corner

### STREET FOOD – THE WAY OF EATING IN BANGKOK

By Nareenoot Damrongchai\*



**What is “street food”?** – “Street food” here means small-enterprise vendors who provide food, drink and snacks in an “open-air” space from mobile, semi-mobile and permanent structures.

**History of street food** – Street food in Thailand has existed for more than 200 years. In former days, it was not called “street food” but referred to as “canal food” because vendors sold food and drink by boat along many canals (and rivers) that were the main transportation network in the country. After the modernization by King Rama

V, almost all those canal food vendors took their boats up-shore and transformed themselves to street food vendors.

**Food available anywhere and anytime** – When Thai people talk about street food, they talk about reasonable and delicious food you can find to eat almost anywhere and anytime. In 1997, there were more than 26,269 vendors in Bangkok. On average over Bangkok’s area, every 200 meters in any direction, you can find a street food shop. This number does not include the convenience stores existing in the city. The reason why people choose street food service is because of its convenience and reasonable price. Besides, Thai people like to be free and not feel controlled so eating at a street food shop can make them feel more relaxed, and more at home because they can do anything they want, even order a vendor to cook food according to their favorite taste – this would hardly be possible at a restaurant or fast food shop!

**“Plastic bag housewife”** – The scene of people holding a small plastic bag with food and drink inside can be seen anywhere in Bangkok. These people include students, office workers, businessmen or even housewives. A housewife who feeds her family by buying some food from a street food vendor and carrying it back home is called a “plastic bag housewife” and their numbers are increasing day by day.

**Future of street food** – Nowadays since the world keeps changing every single minute, street food vendors always try to adapt and keeping themselves up-to-date. One can see Japanese “chikuwa” or German sausages put side by side with Thai traditional pork spit roasting at almost every stall or bicycle-drawn cart. Moreover, recently, famous street food vendors have granted franchises to novices who also want to start this kind of food business. The possibility of street food vanishing from Thai society seems to be far away if it can continue to respond to the Thai peoples` demands.



Tom Yum Kung



Pad Thai



Kao Pad



Green Curry

\* Department of History and Anthropology, Graduate School of Letters, Hokkaido University

**The more you know...****THE ROLE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)  
IN TRANSPORTATION**

By Muraleetharan\*



Complex Transportation Infrastructures

Transportation is an integral part of our daily life. We travel between working places and home, we drive to shop at the supermarket, and we fly across countries to meet people. Goods are transferred from one point to the other parts of the world. All these travelling take place through crowded cities, empty country sides, complex transportation infrastructures such as roads, runways, rails, harbours, docks, bridges, overpasses, etc. The important feature is that all forms of transportation involve geographic information. Therefore to understand the complexities, and to redesign, transportation

planners have increasingly turned to geographic information systems (GIS). GIS helps them view all kinds of information, even create models that forecast the results of a project such as building a new road, adding another bus route, or expanding the capacity of a bridge all before time and money have been committed to it.

A GIS, simply put, is a spatial database. It gives you the power to visualize, explore, query, and analyse data geographically. Geographic locations are stored as sets of mathematical coordinates. Information about the locations is stored in tables that are linked to the locations. Most of the transportation industry professionals use GIS software programs to predict where future transportation services will be required. Public transit agencies use GIS to plan and analyze bus routes, combining route databases with residential and business demographics to find ways to get more riders and to lower costs. Commuter railways, subways, and light rail operators can able to track and monitor each train using GIS, which receives data from a satellite link. Therefore they can provide electronic maps to customers, at stations and over the internet, showing train positions and arrival and departure times so that customers can get accurate information on when the train will arrive.



ArcView 3D Analyst Extension

*In highway engineering*, GIS has been used to design and construct highways, taking into account not only the physical characteristics, but also the environmental conditions. Using ArcView GIS, project managers retrieve pavement condition scores for areas being evaluated and determine where money will be spent. With the funding allocated to make repairs, they determine which highway segments need minimal treatment, and which need either more work or no work at all. The engineers overlay

traffic volume data, congestion data, and transit routes for each segment using GIS. Then they rank the projects and assign a project identification number to each to indicate when the repairing will begin. Moreover, GIS is used to find information about signs and signals (such as its ID number, date of installation, type of standard, type of controller, and manufacturer) that need to be replaced.

Safety engineers use GIS to look for accident locations, cause, date, time of day, and type of vehicle so that they can redesign roads or change the signs and signals in a way that is safer for everyone. Drivers can use GIS to check traffic conditions and to avoid the roads where there are accidents or events causing congestion. In addition to this GIS gives engineers the data-based means to encourage people to reduce their dependence on cars: to stop driving alone and ride in carpools, use public transit, ride bicycles, stagger work shifts, or even work at home. GIS matches car-poolers by where they live and work, by the hours they work, and even by whether they prefer to ride or drive.



The airline industries are using three-dimensional GIS more and more, not only to plan runways and parking lots, but also to view flight paths in three dimensions, and to monitor aircraft noise contours produced by passing planes. With this information, they can plan landing and take off paths that they stay clear of tall buildings and away from residential areas.

GIS is becoming more and more familiar to transportation planners, policy makers, analysts, and researchers as the best way to handle transportation

related problems. Since GIS is playing a larger role in the transportation sectors, most of the transportation departments have a wider variety of instruments and tools for collecting and processing data to keep traffic moving smoothly and safely along the streets. Current estimates show that approximately 10,000 transportation industry professionals use GIS to plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain roadways, railways, aviation, ports, and fleet facilities around the world.

*\*Laboratory of Transportation and Traffic Systems Planning, Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University*

### Answers to the Brainteasers

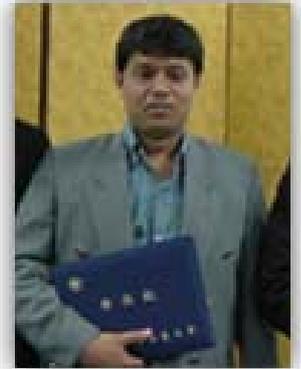
- A vacuum cleaner. (A washing machine would also work.)
- A shirt
- Add a 'g' to make it gone or an 'n' to make it none.
- A thermometer
- 22
- Joe is bald.
- 'Each' was the name of one of the men passing by.
- SWIMS
- Electric trains don't produce smoke.
- A fence
- There is a grandmother, a mother, and a daughter.

# The Graduates

## SEPTEMBER 2002 (1st Graduation)

### Mr. SABER AHMED

**Nationality:** Bangladesh  
**Subject group:** Air, Water and Environment  
**Division:** Urban Engineering and Planning  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:**  
**E-mail:** mshazzadh@yahoo.com  
**Thesis title:** Removal of Arsenic from Drinking Water by Nanofiltration Membrane Equipped with Vibratory Shear Enhanced Process (VSEP)



### Ms. MARJAN FAIZIAN

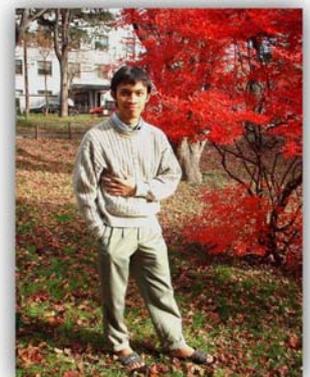


**Nationality:** Iran  
**Subject group:** Structural Engineering  
**Division:** Structural and Geotechnical Engineering  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** No. 72 Nikpoor Alley  
 Shahid Mousari (Forsat) St.  
 Enghelab Ave, Tehran, Iran  
**E-mail:** mfaizian@yahoo.com  
**Thesis title:** Lateral Strength Distribution and Collapsed Story of Buildings

*“I have already started my Ph.D. here in the Institute of Planning and Management in Swiss Federal Institute of Technology from February and also working as a scientific assistant in the same institute. At the mean time, I am writing my research plan to submit to the board of the faculty for acceptance. The subject would be something around “Management of earthquake risks using condition indicators.”*

### Mr. ROFIQ IQBAL

**Nationality:** Indonesia  
**Subject group:** Hydrosience and Environmental Protection Engineering  
**Division:** Environment and Resources Engineering  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** Division of Environment and Resources Eng.  
 Graduate School of Engineering  
 Hokkaido University  
 Sapporo 060-8628, Japan  
**E-mail:** iqbal@eng.hokudai.ac.jp  
**Thesis title:** The Conservation of Sarobetsu Mire: Effect of Damming on Water Quality Restoration



*“What I can say about myself? I’m still here with all of you, guys...  
 And most probably, I will still be here for the next two years...  
 So, anything about myself, come to me, ask me personally...”*

**Mr. JUNG CHANG-HWAN**

**Nationality:** Korea  
**Subject group:** Solid Waste Resources Engineering  
**Division:** Environment and Resources Engineering  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** Division of Environment and Resources Eng.  
 Graduate School of Engineering  
 Hokkaido University  
 Sapporo 060-8628, Japan  
**E-mail:** jung@eng.hokudai.ac.jp  
**Thesis title:** Metal Flows in Thermal Treatment System of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Japan

**Mr. MD ATAUR RAHMAN**

**Nationality:** Bangladesh  
**Subject group:** Structural Engineering  
**Division:** Structural and Geotechnical Engineering  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** Division of Structural and Geotechnical Eng.  
 Graduate School of Engineering  
 Hokkaido University  
 Sapporo 060-8628, Japan  
**E-mail:** ataur107@yahoo.com  
**Thesis title:** Numerical Simulation of Shear Resisting Mechanism and Shear Strength Equation for Box and Open Sandwich Beams



*“Probably I am the last one among those EGPSEE students who returned home from Japan and shared their joy after getting a job or other better opportunities. But all last is not bad- the last man who boarded a crowded bus surely gets down first and have a first breath in fresh air. I have joined Engineering Institute as a lecturer from this month-the profession I liked most.”*

**Mr. PIPAT TERMKHAJORNKIT**

**Nationality:** Thailand  
**Subject group:** Geotechnical Engineering and Materials  
**Division:** Structural and Geotechnical Engineering  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** Division of Structural and Geotechnical Eng.  
 Graduate School of Engineering  
 Hokkaido University  
 Sapporo 060-8628, Japan  
**E-mail:** pipat@kyoku5-sg.eng.hokudai.ac.jp  
**Thesis title:** Role of Fly Ash on the Fluidity of Paste

**Mr. SUTHIPUN THANESUEN**

**Nationality:** Thailand  
**Subject group:** Urban and Environmental Engineering  
**Division:** Urban Engineering and Planning  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** 199 Soi Wat Liab Wongsawang Road  
 Bangsue, Bangkok 10800, Thailand  
**E-mail:** shane199@hotmail.com  
**Thesis title:** A Study on the Alternative Decision-Making Approach to  
 New Schemes of Transportation in Bangkok Metropolitan  
 Area



*"Now I got a job at JMP (Thailand) Co., Ltd. It is a traffic consultant company.  
 My work is not so hard right now, just helping senior there to do some report.  
 I think it will help me to gain some experience."*

**Ms. SURAKHA WANPHEN**

**Nationality:** Thailand  
**Subject group:** Hydrosience and Environmental Protection Engineering  
**Division:** Environment and Resources Engineering  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** 927/429 Settakit Road  
 Mahachai, Muang  
 Samutsakhon 740000, Thailand  
**E-mail:** aey1705@hotmail.com  
**Thesis title:** Runoff model analysis based on Equivalent Frequency  
 Transfer Function

*"Now I am working as Environment Management Trainee at Johnson & Johnson Co., Ltd.  
 The job is quite interesting and I am quite busy every day. I have to inspect the factory  
 about environment and safety to make sure that the facility conforms with ISO14001.  
 Actually I am not Environmental Engineer but I will try my best."*

**MARCH 2003 (2nd Graduation)****Ms. SARANDULAM DASHDORJ**

**Nationality:** Mongolia  
**Subject group:** Geotechnical Engineering and Materials  
**Division:** Structural and Geotechnical Engineering  
**Degree:** Master of Engineering  
**Address:** Division of Structural and Geotechnical Eng.  
 Graduate School of Engineering  
 Hokkaido University  
 Sapporo 060-8628, Japan  
**E-mail:** saraa@eng.hokudai.ac.jp  
**Thesis title:** Cyclic and Static Mechanical Behavior of Lightweight  
 Geomaterial Prepared under Various Conditions



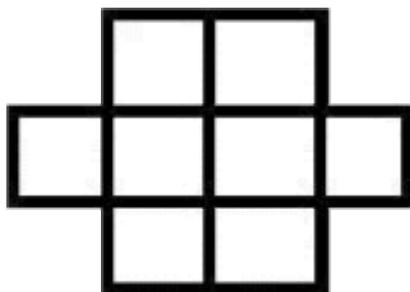
*"Hi friends! I graduated from master course this March and am continuing my study in  
 doctoral course here. I would like to be a good specialist in the field of geotechnical engineering.  
 At the same time I wish to improve my Japanese having a great opportunity to continue my study here.  
 I wish a success to all of you. Gambarimashou!"*

Puzzles

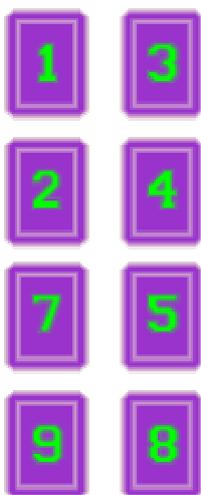
1. Connect the nine dots with **four** (only four) straight lines without ever lifting your pen or pencil from the paper.



2. Place the numbers 1 - 8 in the following grid so that no consecutive numbers touch either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.



3. The challenge is one of arranging.  
Rearrange the cards, moving as few as possible, so that the two columns add up to the same number.



*The answers will be in the next issue*

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