

NUGELP Domestic Study Tour 2015 in Toyama

On the 26th and 27th of November 2015, the students of the NUGELP program participated to the Domestic Study Tour, which this year was directed to Toyama, on the Japan Sea side.

We firstly explored the JR Toyama station, where we saw the undergoing constructions to elevate the rails and allow a freer circulation in the town. We also had a chance to see the latest bullet train: the *Hokuriku Shinkansen*.



At the *Itai-itai* Museum, we had an in depth view of one of the most terrible and deadly diseases caused by industrial pollution. The so called “ouch-ouch disease”, which causes osteoporosis and consequently frail bones, was caused by the cadmium leakage coming from a nearby zinc mine.



Toyama is on the front line in implementing a strong industrial symbiosis, so that what is waste for a company is a resource for another, and nothing gets wasted. Moreover, this city has been chosen by the central government as a pilot project in the so called “Environmental model city”. Therefore, special care is being taken in order to increase the public transportation, minimizing the usage of private vehicles.



For this reason, in Toyama, bus is not the only public transportation system, but it is supported by a bicycle sharing system and a light rail transit (LRT) system. We had the luck to visit the workshops where the light rail vehicles are maintained, and observe a rare overhaul of the wheels of the trains.



It was a great opportunity to increase our knowledge about sustainability, and to socialize and have fun with our fellow students and professors. See you in the trip of next year.

