

Nagoya University Civil and Environmental Engineering International Programs Closing Ceremony, 2026 Fall

BENIGA Kristelle Cañas

Master Student, Graduate School of Environmental Studies

To all professors, fellow graduates, families, and friends gathered here today, good afternoon.

I am not really confident in public speaking so pls forgive me if ever I'll sound like I'm about to cry. But I'm very honored to be given this task to speak today.



Two years ago, I came here at Nagoya University with simple goals: graduate on time and go home with something useful. But what we've gained here goes beyond the transcript.

We learned how to ask better questions, practiced the humility to say I don't know, and found the courage to go figure it out.

Being here in the university is already a privilege in itself but I believe one of the biggest privileges we had are the people —professors and mentors who helped shape our potential and had the patience to revise our messy first drafts; classmates, labmates, and friends whom we've shared conversations with, meals, memories; and experiences that taught us something about ourselves. Connections and even small interactions that made this place become our home away from home.

Through the NUGELP and Forefront programs, we were placed in rooms where we did not always speak the same language or shared the same assumptions. We came from different cultures, disciplines, thus different perspectives. But these differences made us listen better and understand each other better.

As simple as that sounds, understanding is the first step towards addressing complex environmental and development challenges begin. We learned that solving these challenges is built through conversations, collaboration, and shared experiences

beyond cultural and language differences.

So I'd like to thank the professors and academic staff for making these experiences and opportunities possible for us, especially for us international students. We're grateful For the patience and continued guidance throughout our studies.

And to all the graduates here today, congratulations for making it this far.

We might go on different paths now, but I hope we carry with us the things that these programs taught us and to remain open to perspectives different from own.

And before I finally wrap up my speech, I'd just like to share this Japanese word that I came across yesterday that I think perfectly describes what many of us might be feeling today: It's "nagorioshii". It's that bittersweet feeling of something coming to an end. It's a bit sad to leave, but at the same time, we're looking forward to the exciting things ahead of us.

I hope we savor this moment to appreciate what we've accomplished. I also think this is the perfect time to say to ourselves, "otskurasema deshita".

Again, congratulations everyone. Good luck to everyone's future endeavors, and good luck to all ongoing students here today as well. Thank you very much.

JOSHI Gaurav

Master Student, Graduate School of Engineering

Good evening, distinguished professors, faculty and staff members, and my fellow graduates.

I am Gaurav Joshi from India, a master's student in the Graduate School of Engineering and a member of the Repair and Reinforcement Engineering Research Group.

It is a great honor to stand here today as one of the student representatives.

Looking around this room today, I think all of us can remember the time when we first arrived at Nagoya University.

We came from different countries, different academic backgrounds, and different cultures. For many of us, studying in Japan also meant adapting to a new language, a new environment, and a different way of life.

At the same time, each of us had our own academic journey.

There were successful experiments, difficult research problems, presentations, deadlines, revisions, and probably many moments when things did not go exactly as we expected.

But those experiences are also what brought us to this day.

During our time here, we learned much more than what can be written in a thesis or measured by academic results.

We learned how to work with people from different backgrounds, how to exchange ideas, how to adapt when things do not go as planned, and how important it is to keep moving forward.

One of the most meaningful parts of studying at Nagoya University has been the opportunity to meet people from different countries and to realize how much we can learn from one another to make this world a better place. I believe many of us will take these friendships and connections with us long after we leave the university.

Today is also an opportunity to thank the people who made this journey possible.

We are deeply grateful to our professors and supervisors, who guided us through our research and encouraged us whenever we faced difficulties.

We would also like to thank the CEEIPO staff and everyone involved in the NUGELP and Forefront Programs for creating opportunities for us to learn, communicate, and experience things beyond our individual research fields.

And of course, we should not forget our families, friends, laboratory members, and everyone who supported us throughout these years, often from very far away.



After today, our paths will be different.

Some of us will continue our research, some will begin new careers, and some will return to our home countries.

But wherever we go, I hope that we will remember our time at Nagoya University not only for the degree we earned, but also for the people we met, the challenges we overcame, and the experiences that helped us grow.

To all my fellow graduates, congratulations on reaching this important moment.

I wish each of you success and happiness in the journey ahead.

Thank you very much.

ありがとうございました。

ABEYGUNAWARDANA Navoda Tharunduni

Doctoral Student, Graduate School of
Engineering

Good afternoon, distinguished faculty members,
fellow graduates, family members, and friends.

I am Navoda Abeygunawardana from Sri Lanka,
currently a member of the Concrete Laboratory.

First, I would like to extend my heartfelt
congratulations to everyone graduating with
me today. Also, it's a great honor for me to
speak here as a representative of the doctoral students.

We are grateful to Nagoya University for giving us the opportunity to pursue our
postgraduate studies. It has provided us with an environment where we could
challenge ourselves, learn, and grow as researchers.

As a member of the Forefront Program, I would also like to take this opportunity to
thank the International Programs Office staff on behalf of all the students. Your
continuous support has played an important role in our academic journey and helped
us develop as future global leaders.

Pursuing a Ph.D. is not an easy journey. It requires the stamina of a marathon runner
and the strategic thinking of a chess player. We sincerely thank our supervisors and co-
supervisors for their guidance, knowledge, and support, which helped us overcome
these challenges and achieve this goal.

We also thank our family members who stood by us throughout this journey. Thank
you for being with us during difficult times and for always giving us your love and
encouragement. Without your support, this achievement would not have been possible.

To my fellow graduates, today marks the end of one chapter, but also the beginning of
another. We are now moving in different directions, to different countries, companies,
and fields. We will uphold integrity, challenge ourselves, and enjoy our work as we carry
the legacy of Nagoya University with us.

Once again, congratulations to all my fellow graduates.

Finally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Nagoya University, our
professors, our families, and everyone who believed in and supported us.

I wish everyone a successful future.

Thank you very much.

