

Nagoya University Civil and Environmental Engineering International Programs Closing Ceremony, 2023 Fall

CHODEN Sonam

Master Student, Graduate School of
Environmental Studies

Esteemed Faculty, graduating students,
ladies and gentlemen, a very good
afternoon.



At the closing ceremony for the NUGELP and Forefront Programme, 2023, I am standing here in front of you all as a student representative who have embarked on a remarkable journey that has brought all of us here to this moment of accomplishment and celebration. It is indeed a great honour and pleasure to represent each and every one of us here today as we gather to celebrate the result of our hard work and commitment.

Firstly, I on behalf of the graduating students would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the academic supervisors who have assisted us in navigating this difficult academic endeavour. Your insight, mentorship and continuous support have been crucial to our development and academic achievement. I on behalf of graduating students would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the faculty of NUGELP and forefront study program for providing us this valuable opportunity to be part of environmental leadership program. This study program has provided us the platform to upgrade ourselves in the field of environment and emerge as environmental leaders.

As I reflect upon this two-year journey here in Nagoya University and in Japan, I am reminded of the diversity that define our group. We all have come from diverse backgrounds, cultures and experiences. This diversity has been significant in our learning journey and has augmented our learnings. It indeed has been a great journey of learning and upgrading ourselves not only in the academic front but also in the day-to-day life activities. Coming from a small country, it was really a great opportunity for me to learn many new things from the developed country like Japan which outdoes in technology and innovations. Our stay here has made us all wiser, stronger and well prepared to drive through the challenges of the world. The academic journey here has equipped us to be leaders and innovators for a better future.

In conclusion, let us not forget the journey that has brought us here, the people who have supported us, and the ability that we now hold in our hands. As we move forward in life, let us carry the knowledge and skills acquired and remain committed to create a better future for all.

Congratulations, my fellow graduates for your achievement. Let us embrace the future with hope, purpose, and a commitment to excellence. I wish everyone all the best and good luck for your future endeavours. Thank you for this opportunity. Thank you.

LIMANTO Darwin

Master Student, Graduate School of Engineering

First of all, I would like to say thank you and it truly is an honour for me to be able to stand here as a student representative of this closing ceremony of Autumn 2023. I would like also to express my sincere thanks to all of the esteemed professors, faculty members, and of course my fellow graduates of Nagoya University for making this momentous day possible.

I would like to guide all of us to look back and recall these past 2-3 years where each of us had different background and goals in which we wanted to pursue our studies at Nagoya University. Me as a student living in Indonesia, I came to Japan to pursue my Master's degree in the hope of learning more about geotechnical engineering as the problems related to geotechnical disasters are very alike between Japan and Indonesia. In addition, there was a particular sense of excitement for me as I was able to push myself beyond my comfort zone by coming to Japan which has such a distinct and unique culture as well as studying in one of the developed countries and one of the prestigious universities in Japan. I'm sure everyone has their own story, whether it is joyful or difficult during their studies. However, looking back on my journey from there until now, I am proud to say that Nagoya University has truly succeeded in providing us with the facilities and resources to move forward and carve out our successful journey. As a student representative, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the academic advisors who have been instrumental to all of us throughout our studies. Special thanks also to my supervisor, Associate Professor Kentaro Nakai. He has supported me a lot, not only in academic fields but also in other things that may seem



small. Yet, those seemingly small things really made up for the amazing experience I had during my studies.

I had also an opportunity to participate in the NUGELP program. Truly over these past 2 years, it has been an amazing journey for me to be able to encounter students from all over the world. I really enjoyed and was amazed to be able to collaborate and discuss with each other to solve global environmental problems despite our different backgrounds. Nevertheless, because of this, each of us was able to expand our perspectives on how to overcome this growing issue.

As such, from this moment on, we will now enter the real world, challenging ourselves as we try to contribute to society. However, let us not be afraid and remain optimistic, I am confident that what we have learned and experienced will definitely be beneficial in the future. Let us all move forward in our own ways, collaborate with each other, and contribute to society as proud graduates of this university, Nagoya University. Once again, thank you very much and congratulations.

Gardiya Mudiyanseelage Chamal Anjana Perera

Doctoral Student, Graduate School of Engineering

Good afternoon, dear professors, and my fellow graduates. I am Chamal Perera from Sri Lanka. I am representing the Land and Infrastructure Design Laboratory, under the guidance of Professors Tomita and Nakamura. First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you. Today marks a monumental milestone in our lives, one that we have worked tirelessly to achieve.

I am deeply grateful to Nagoya University for providing us with the opportunity to participate in these international graduate programs. I belong to the Forefront Studies Program, and here we have many students from the NUGELP program as well. In this moment, I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisor Professor Shinichiro Nakamura, for his guidance throughout my Ph.D. journey, and to Professor Tomita Takashi for his support.

During my time at the Land and Infrastructure Design Lab, I not only gained knowledge but also forged lasting friendships. Our work culture was characterized by its



friendliness, flexibility, and the mutual support we extended to one another. I am certain that many of you can relate to the bonds you've formed over the past few years. I must also extend my gratitude to the staff of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, as well as all the dedicated members of Nagoya University who played vital roles in our academic success.

Our journey began during uncertain times, in the backdrop of a global pandemic. In my case, I arrived in Japan in November 2020, two months later than originally planned. Many of us encountered similar challenges and faced hardships during those initial days. Being away from our families, adjusting to a new culture, and language barriers were significant hurdles. However, what truly matters is that we persevered, overcoming these challenges to achieve our academic goals.

As we stand on the point of a new chapter in our lives, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you. May each of us embark on the next phase of our careers with the same determination and resilience that brought us here today. Remember, challenges are stepping stones to success. I hope each one of you will achieve remarkable heights in your chosen paths.