

# Nagoya University Civil and Environmental Engineering International Programs Closing Ceremony, 2024 Fall

Dorji Wangchuk

Master Student,  
Graduate School of Engineering

Esteemed faculty, graduating friends of Fall 2024, ladies and gentlemen, I wish you very warm welcome and good afternoon.

Firstly, it's truly an honour to be representing the Graduate School of Engineering for the closing ceremony of NUGLEP and the Forefront program. As I stand here, I represent graduating students of the NUGLEP program who have embarked on the journey of becoming environmental leaders in the world, particularly in Asian and African countries.

Firstly, on behalf of the graduating students and on my own behalf, I would like to take this privilege to offer our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the academic supervisors who have helped us in navigating difficult academic endeavours. Your dedication and continuous mentorship had played a significant role in achieving our academic success. Similarly, on behalf of graduating students, I extend our gratitude to the faculty of NUGLEP and the Forefront program for providing us with insights into current environmental issues and shaping us as future environmental leaders of our own country and for the world at a larger scale. This program has helped us in shaping ourselves as environmental leaders and in understanding emerging technologies required to solve various environmental challenges.



As I reflect on these two years of academic journey, I feel like we have come a long way in our lives because being part of various programs at Nagoya University has helped us to equip with skills and knowledge that would assist in navigating difficult tasks at our workplaces. As we all come from diverse backgrounds and cultures, the diversity has let us understand the world better. It indeed had been a wonderful experience meeting with people from diverse backgrounds because it helped us grow not only academically but also socially. Coming from Bhutan, a tiny landlocked nation sandwiched between two Asian giants, i.e., India and China, it really was a great opportunity for me to learn new things by being in Japan, which has been a pioneer in terms of technology and innovations. I am quite sure that our stay here has made us wiser, tougher, and better prepared for various challenges that come our way.

Now to conclude, let us once again express our gratitude to our academic supervisors, faculty of both NUGLEP and the Forefront program, and not to forget our wonderful families back home for believing in us. As we move forward, let us all take the knowledge and skills that we acquired from this esteemed university and remain committed to creating a brighter tomorrow.

As we stand at the beginning of a new chapter in our lives, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to each of you. May we all move forward into the next phase of our careers with the same dedication and strength that have carried us to this moment. I believe each one of us will reach incredible heights in our chosen path.

Thank you one and all.

## LI Weiyi

Master Student,

Graduate School of Environmental Studies

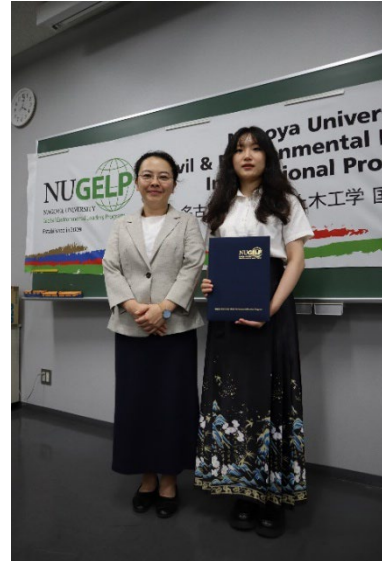
Dear esteemed professors, faculty, and fellow graduates, good afternoon !

I am LI Weiyi from China. At this closing ceremony of the NUGELP and Forefront programs, I am deeply honored to stand before you as a student representative, reflecting on the incredible journey we have shared in the program.

First of all, I want to express our heartfelt thanks to all the academic supervisors who have guided us throughout this journey. Your dedication, expertise, and patience have been the cornerstone of our growth. You have challenged us to think critically, broaden our perspectives, and inspired us to reach for excellence. Special thanks to my supervisor, Iryo sensei. I believe her insightful guidance has equipped me with the knowledge and skills that I will carry forward into my future studies.

On behalf of all the graduates, I also would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the faculty of the international programs. We are immensely grateful for the diverse range of experiences this program has offered us. The lectures on integration have not only enhanced our theoretical knowledge but also make us more aware of the challenges in interdisciplinary collaboration. We were fortunate to participate in the global research internship and intercultural activities. These experiences have allowed us to immerse ourselves in the rich Japanese culture while also sharing our own diverse backgrounds. The friendships forged and the memories created during these moments will be cherished for a lifetime.

When I look back on my two-year journey here in Nagoya University, I remembered how nervous I was when I first came to a foreign country. The challenges of adapting to a new culture, learning a



new language, and navigating a different academic system have fostered my resilience. Without even realizing it, I have grown significantly and come to truly embrace and enjoy life here in Japan. The kindness and support I have received from school, my lab, and friends here have made this journey more rewarding, and I am deeply grateful for it. Each of us undoubtedly carries different stories and feelings about this journey. But to my fellow graduates, I want to extend my best wishes to each of you. May we carry forward the wisdom and experiences garnered here, as we embark on the next phase of our lives.

In closing, I would like to once again express my thanks to Nagoya University, the International Program, the faculty, and the professors. Thank you very much and congratulations !



## Sara Farooq

Doctoral Course Student,

Graduate School of Engineering

Good afternoon, dear faculty members, staff, and my fellow graduates. I am Sara Farooq from Pakistan, a PhD graduate from the laboratory of concrete materials and structures. I have worked under the supervision of Associate Professor Taito Miura and guided by Professor Hikaru Nakamura. It is a privilege to speak today as a representative from the graduate school of engineering. While I feel honoured to speak here at the closing ceremony of international programs, I truly admit that writing this speech was even harder than writing my PhD thesis. I can speak for hours about my experiences but since there is less time, I will make it quick.

Like many of us, when I first arrived here, I had no idea what was ahead. From sleepless nights to new discoveries, we've all grown in the ways we didn't expect. Now finally, the hard work, commitment and endurance of every graduate student has paid off, as today marks the culmination of the journey we started 2-3 years ago. Let's take a moment to celebrate a defining milestone that we have achieved today. Graduates of class of 2024, Congratulations!

As we gather here today surrounded by family, friends, faculty members and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our faculty members, supervisors and mentors. Thank you! Thank you for challenging, trusting us and pushing us to achieve our dreams today. Your guidance, expertise and motivation has equipped us with valuable knowledge and skills.

I would like to appreciate all the staff of Nagoya University for helping and supporting us throughout these years and specially today for organizing this event.

Also, let's acknowledge the unwavering support we received from our friends and family. Thank you for believing in us. We wouldn't be here without your encouragement, patience and support.

I believe that many of us have encountered and overcome challenges related to both academic and personal life. So, I want to specially thank our Japanese colleagues who have helped us to overcome the cultural and language barriers.

If there's one thing these past few years have taught me, it's that success isn't just about hard work, intelligence or talent. It's about being curious to explore more, stay determined and disciplined. Most importantly, it's the courage to step outside of our comfort zones.

As we leave this campus today to embark on a new journey, let's carry the lessons we've learned, the friendships and relationships we've built here together. Let's all continue to move forward with the same enthusiasm that brought us here and make meaningful contributions to our society as proud alumni of Nagoya University. Once again, congratulations to all graduates.

Thank you!