

Nagoya University Civil and Environmental Engineering International Programs Closing Ceremony, 2025 Autumn

Francis Urmenita
Master Student,
Graduate school of Environmental Studies

Good afternoon, everyone!

Esteemed faculty and staff, distinguished guests,
dear family and friends — thank you very much for
being with us today.

And of course, to my fellow graduates —
congratulations on this remarkable achievement!

My name is Francis, from the Philippines, a member
of Tanikawa Laboratory.



I am truly humbled and honored to stand before you today. To be honest, I
never really imagined myself giving a speech like this — public speaking has
never been my strongest skill. But as they say, *“Every accomplishment starts
with the decision to try.”*

Now, I’d like to begin with a few words of gratitude.

First and foremost, on behalf of all the graduating students here, we would
like to thank the International Programs Office for giving us this opportunity,
and for shaping us into becoming the global environmental leaders that we
aspired to be.

Of course, behind every successful student is a mentor who believed in them
first. So, to our dear professors — who have been our pillars of support
throughout our academic journey — thank you very much for believing in us
and teaching us the value of hard work.

To our beloved family and friends back home, even from afar, your love and
support gave us the strength to overcome the challenges of living in a whole
new country. Thank you so much for being our never-ending source of
inspiration.

To all incoming students and to our juniors, we are now passing the baton to
you. Carve your own path, stay consistent, and trust the process. We will be
cheering for you on every step of the way, and we wish you the very best!

And finally, to my fellow graduates — after years of blood, sweat, and tears,
this moment is finally ours to claim. So, let us take this chance to applaud
ourselves for crossing this finish line together.

Today, as we turn the page to a new chapter, we are reminded that success doesn't just magically happen overnight. It comes in small steps — which is sometimes slow and almost invisible. But looking back at everything that we've been through, for every struggle that made us stronger, for every small win that inspired us to keep moving forward, and for every moment we that cherished along the way, today we can proudly say that *"Our journey to success was worth every single step."*

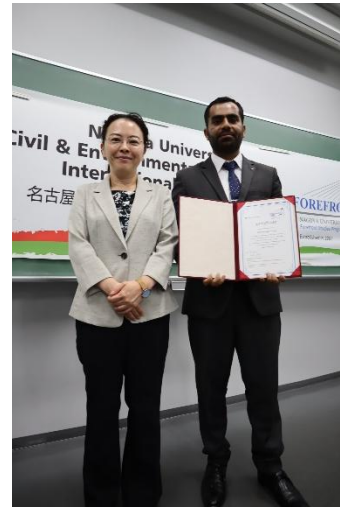
Thank you very much, and once again — congratulations!

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Muhammad Usman

Doctor Student,
Graduate school of Engineering

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



My name is Muhammad Usman, from the Concrete Laboratory, and I am truly honored to represent the doctoral students of the NUGELP and Forefront Studies Program at this Closing Ceremony.

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone here. Reaching this milestone has not been easy. Over the past years, each of us has faced long nights, setbacks, and frustrations in our research. Personally, I know the struggle of sleepless nights very well and I am sure many of you share the same experience. Yet, despite all the hardships, we persevered, and today we celebrate our success together. Let us give ourselves a round of applause.

Looking back, our journey at Nagoya University has been both demanding and inspiring. We arrived with curiosity and ambition, and along the way we gained not only advanced knowledge and rigorous training but also valuable opportunities to grow both as researchers and as individuals. The Forefront Program, in particular, challenged us to think beyond boundaries, to integrate diverse perspectives, and to seek solutions to global challenges.

This journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our professors and mentors, whose guidance shaped our academic paths and inspired us to aim higher. We also owe our deepest gratitude to the staff of CEEIPO and all faculty members who worked tirelessly to make this program a reality.

Education, at its core, empowers us to stand equal, to grow, and to contribute meaningfully to society. This program has not only given us knowledge but also the responsibility to use it wisely.

Today, we are not only celebrating the completion of our studies, but also stepping forward as members of a global community, carrying the responsibility to apply what we have learned for the betterment of society. The friendships and collaborations we have built here will remain one of our greatest assets, connecting us across countries and cultures.

On behalf of all graduating students, I sincerely thank Nagoya University, our professors, our families, and everyone who supported us throughout this journey. Let us carry the spirit of this program into our future endeavors and strive to make meaningful contributions wherever we go.

Thank you very much.

Once again, congratulations to all and see you at the top!