

WIE Experience in Japan

Chan Ho Tung, Eric

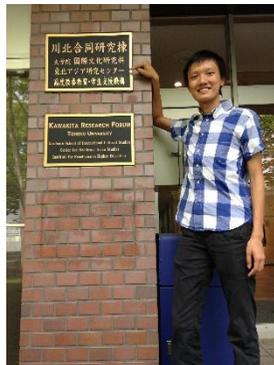
BSc (Hons) Geomatics

Sato Laboratory,
Centre of Northeast Asia Studies,
Tohoku University,
Sendai, Japan



During this summer holiday, I was lucky to get the chance to be a summer intern in Tohoku University through the IAESTE programme. It was a great chance to widen my horizon and experienced the working culture in Japan. The overseas internship experience was very unique and valuable.

Tohoku University is one of the famous universities in Japan, there is a research centre called Centre of Northeast Asia Studies (CNEAS). I was doing the summer training in Sato Laboratory. My supervisor Professor Motoyuki Sato is the in-charge person in this lab. His research area mainly focuses on the applied electromagnetics and subsurface sensing.



During the internship, I was working on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to carry out the geophysics and archeology work. Phoebe and I were doing two experiments which are about frequency spectrum of GPR and pipe surveying separation limit study. After the studies, we need to do a presentation in the laboratory seminar. Every presentation provides a great chance for us to train our presentation skills.



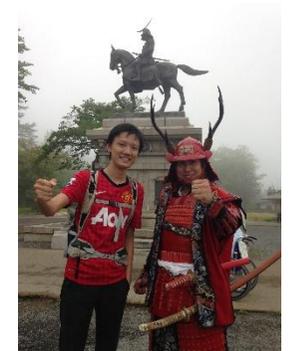
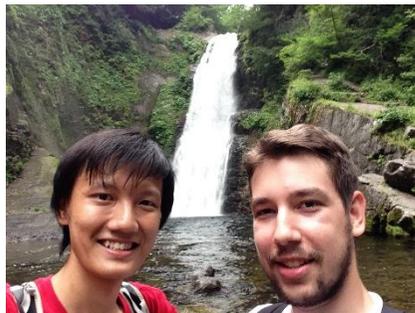
Besides the laboratory work, we had some chances to carry out the fieldwork. One of the GPR survey project was carried out at Gamou beach, Sendai. The purpose of the survey was to assist the police officers searching the missing people and useful materials which buried by the tsunami in 11th March 2011. I had a chance to cooperate with the local police officers. We did the GPR surveying in the beach and that is the first time I tried to operate the special GPR call 'Yakumo'. It was a very big low frequency GPR. After the surveying, we tried to dig the objects. We found some wood and iron piece.



Another memorable experience was going to Fukushima Prefecture restricted area to carry out GPR survey. It was a very valuable chance for me because the public does not have chance to enter the restricted area. We followed the police to enter Namie city and we went to the field carrying out the survey by using GPR and Metal Detector (MD). Finally, we found some house debris and ruined appliances. The fieldwork experience was valuable for me to learn how to use the GPR to find out the underground objects.



Apart from the work, I traveled many places with my new friends during weekends, such as Mt. Zao, Akiu Hot Spring and Matsushima. Phoebe and I also joined the parties organized by our lab mates or IAESTE members. We have experienced the Japanese working culture that the Japanese are working very serious and strict. However, they are very friendly and humor after work, especially in the Izakaya. Each time we went to Izakaya, the atmosphere was hilarious.



After the internship, my skill of using GPR has been improved and I have deeper understanding on frequency spectrum. The training provided me an opportunity to get more familiar on data acquisition and data processing. These kinds of knowledge and experiences can help my study and career development in the future.

All in all, this overseas internship experience was very valuable and unforgettable. I really enjoy the living and working environment in Sendai. The place was very peaceful and relaxing. The people were very polite and helpful. I learnt a lot from Professor Sato and other lab mates.

