

KWAN NIGEL CHUN LOK, M.Sc.---- SEPTEMBER 2014 ENTRY

Research assistant of Laboratory of Global Animal Science, The University of Tokyo

Native country: Hong Kong/Australia

Discipline: Animal Science

(Graduate in September 2016)

I completed my veterinary degree at The University of Sydney where I developed a specific interest in veterinary public health and epidemiology. Fascinated by the Japanese culture and research environment, I enrolled into the IPADS master course (animal science) where I conducted academic research with Professor Katsuaki Sugiura. Our laboratory aims to promote the One Health concept, i.e. animal, human and environment health are closely inter-related.



Photo with my sensei (Japanese: teacher/professor) Prof. Sugiura outside the Yasuda Auditorium, the prestigious symbol of The University of Tokyo (left) Practical class at the university farm (Institute for Sustainable Agro-ecosystem Services) in Tanashi (right)

Specifically, I conducted rabies risk assessment for my master thesis. Rabies is a deadly disease which kills approximately 59,000 people worldwide a year. Fortunately, Japan is free from rabies for almost 60 years, but there are always risks

of reintroduction of this horrible disease into the country, e.g. through the international importation of pet animals and dog movement through fishing boat, etc. I therefore undertook field investigations at the ports of Hokkaido and interviewed Russian fishermen regarding their behaviour of bringing dogs while sailing. After this, I used risk analysis tool and simulation model to predict the risk of rabies introduction into Japan through the illegal landing of dogs from Russian fishing boats.



Siberian Husky on a Russian fishing boat at Port of Wakkanai, Hokkaido (left) Russian fishermen unloading seafood products such as sea urchins and crabs at Port of Hanasaki, Hokkaido (right)

After graduation, I continue to work as a research assistant under the supervision of Prof. Sugiura and participate in various research related to veterinary public health. Here, I would like to sincerely thank my professor Prof. Sugiura and also the IPADS coordinator Prof. Okada who are a “father figure” and provided me with fruitful experience during my time in Tokyo. In terms of living in Japan, Tokyo is a vivid city where you can enjoy delicious Japanese food and explore various beautiful sceneries. I also took the Japanese class offered free to international students at The University of Tokyo and it was a wonderful experience not only in learning the language but also exploring the fascinating Japanese culture.



Sakura viewing at Roppongi in spring and red-leaf viewing at Mount Takao in autumn with IPADS colleagues



Karaage don (Japanese: fried chicken rice bowl), a well-known Japanese dish (left) Group photo with IPADS colleagues and professors on the graduation day (right)