

YUKA MATSUBARA, M.Sc. ---- SEPTEMBER 2012 ENTRY

Technical Advisor, US based IT Company

Native country: Japan

Discipline: Agro Informatics

(Graduate in September 2014)

- Why did you choose to study in IPADS

I always wanted to study in English, but at the same time was keen to learn more about the Japanese agricultural situation. I thought IPADS would be an ideal place to challenge my knowledge in English and to be able to network with my foreign peers in order to understand the differences in farming systems between countries.

- Memories, impressions while you were the student

The most interesting fact for me was that students are able to take courses on various topics, see what is exciting for each of us, and then choose the lab we wish to join for our masters, regardless of what we studied before. It was fascinating to try new tools and understand concepts outside of what I was acquainted with. The professors of the courses covered the basics in the beginning so all participants would be able to digest the topics. Because the students had varying backgrounds, the questions being asked in these lectures were unique and eye-opening.

- What is your present job, and how you are enjoying it

I currently work in a US based IT company as a technical advisor. On a daily basis, I look at data for Asia and seek areas that need to be enhanced. The data analysis skill, logical thinking mindset, and communication tricks with my colleagues in offices overseas are all items I developed through IPADS. I find it rewarding to see how something I come up with from data and feedback reflect on customers in various parts of Asia. The daily interactions I have with my teammates in various parts of the world are also exceptional.

- Your future plan

My future goal is to take part in overseas rural development through IT utilization. In order to do so, I am currently developing the necessary skills to manage projects and teams with non-English or Japanese native members.

- Messages to the juniors and the prospective students

IPADS opens up your opportunities. After a semester of consideration, you can decide on what area of study to proceed in with friendly and knowledgeable professors. They know how to help you spread your network so that you have the support you need. If you are looking for new challenges and insights outside of your boundaries, IPADS would be an ideal study environment!