

NEWSLETTER

Vol.2 | Sep 2023

A journey of self-discovery in Visionary Project

"I gained insights into the importance of embracing new cultures and unexpected life events, while recognizing their positive aspects. Additionally, I learned the significance of spreading love within society whenever the opportunity arises", remarked Jinna, a first year GSEP student, after Mr. Raymond Wong's lecture on social innovation and philanthropy (pictured above right).

Tokyo Tech Visionary Project is a compulsory liberal arts course for all incoming students. It is a course that encourages students' self-discovery and aims to motivate students to set their individual goals.

In the course, students attend



group work around *entakun*



Mr. Raymond Wong lecturing to GSEP students

a series of weekly sessions - a guest lecture that sets a theme for the week, and a group work session to share ideas on the weekly theme.

This year's course began shortly after admission from April 10th to May 29th, with five special guest speakers from different fields taking the stage to share their perspectives and experiences with the students.

In the following group work sessions, students gathered around *entakun*, a round cardboard table, to facilitate brainstorming and discussion by jotting down their thoughts and insights.

The whole experience through the course provided them with a valuable opportunity to ask themselves for fundamental

questions: what do I want from life? How can I maximize my potential to contribute to a better society?

At the end of the course, each student shaped their thoughts into a final presentation and shared their hopes and aspirations for the next four years of university life with their new batchmates.



Best Presentation Awardee

TISA Spring Welcome Party!

While GSEP is a relatively small group program, Tokyo Tech itself is home to around 1,800 international students from over 70 countries. A variety of intercultural events are organized by various clubs and groups including TISA (Tokyo Tech International Student Association), which is one of the main bodies actively involved in connecting all international students and enhancing the multicultural experience at Tokyo Tech.

As the main event of the season, TISA held its Spring Welcome Party on May 18th, which brought together around 170 students and faculty members from over 40 countries to Taki Plaza on Ookayama campus for a day of socializing, bingo games and a variety of food.



Participants with President Kazuya Masu

Several GSEP students played key roles in the TISA party event team, working hard as MCs, receptionists, or game managers to ensure that everyone had an enjoyable time. Kaka and Ayoob, second-year GSEP students and TISA event team members, said:

“ Our involvement with TISA has allowed us to pursue our personal goals of promoting inclusivity, socialization, and personal growth. Through our efforts, we hope to inspire others to embrace diversity and create opportunities for meaningful interactions within their own communities”.



TISA 2023 Spring Party Event Team

GSEP students appointed as Student Ambassadors

For the academic year 2023, three GSEP students have been newly appointed as Tokyo Tech Student Ambassadors. As representatives of Tokyo Tech, they share their experiences of academic and social life at Tokyo Tech with prospective international students through the Ambassadors' Blog (<https://discover.titech.ac.jp>).

Along with the newly appointed students, there are currently a total of five GSEP students working as Ambassadors for international exchange and outreach activities.



Tokyo Tech Student Ambassadors

Tokyo Tech Open Campus

On August 10th, Tokyo Tech held its Open Campus on site for the first time in four years. Prospective students explored Ookayama Campus to attend information sessions, seminars and mock lectures held by various schools and departments.

As part of the interactive sessions with current students, Phu, a third-year GSEP student, and other TSE students gave a presentation on a student-initiated project entitled “Fire Problems in Chiang Mai Sugarcane Fields”, which attracted the interest of the participants.



Phu at the presentation (second left)

Defying gravity in “Birdman Rally”

The Japan International Birdman Rally is a human-powered aircraft competition held every year at Lake Biwa, Japan’s largest freshwater lake.



Tournament venue

Participants use gliders or human-powered aircraft and compete based on the distance covered before landing (usually crashing). The rally is nationally broadcast on TV and is one of the most popular summer programs.

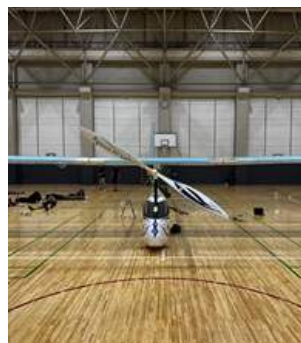
Various university clubs participate, trying to showcase their knowledge and expertise, with Tokyo Tech being represented by Meister. Ayoob, a second-year GSEP student and a member of Meister, tells us an inspiring story of this summer:

“Meister is divided into 6 divisions: wing, p-frame, propeller, pilot, driving parts, electric control, and the fairing division. In the 2022-2023 season, 32 of us worked tirelessly, starting all the way back in August last year.

I am in the fairing division, where we focus on designing and building the plane’s main body. We often stay back overnight at campus to work and assist other divisions, particularly the girder rolls for the frame.



Girder rolls at 1 am



Assembly at gymnasium

This year’s competition was particularly emotional. Meister has historically been a powerhouse, but the past few years has been quite low by those standards. Last year capped it off, when our plane crashed at around 50 metres. It wasn’t entirely our fault, but it was time, time for a revival. That’s when the Meister revival plan was born and now, on the 29th of July, everything was to be put to

test, the team’s determination and hard work, will it pay off?

On the day of the competition, we ourselves were struggling quite a bit. The sun started taking a toll on the plane’s body and we had to put on a silver reflector sheet urgently. While we were doing so, the system controlling the yaw and pitch started malfunctioning. We split into two teams, one working on the repair and one on the covers. We pulled through though and finally our turn had come. We got the plane up the ramp and onto the pier. Everyone was watching. We were on national television right now. It was our time.

All our hopes were pinned on our pilot. Once the set up was done, three of us pushed the plane and here we go, will it fly, will it go long on, we all had these questions and all we could do was hope and watch. And fly it does!

We all came in unity here and cheered on as we watched the pilot give it his all as he flew. The first years who had just joined our team watched from the shore and they cheered even more passionately than we did. I felt happy seeing that, passionate and brighter future ahead. With each ascend or descend, our facial expressions changed so much. The feeling that the thing we built was flying high up there felt unreal.

It flew for 3,851.83 metres before it crashed into the water. We were second placed at the moment, albeit by the end we got 4th position, which is great in the long-term revival. We members were both happy and dejected at the same time, it is an indescribable feeling. We had risen from the lowest of the lows of last year, but we were still nowhere near we once were. The last time we placed first, the plane had flown for 20 kilometres! This meant that it was only up from here! Everything is set in motion for the years to come”.



The 2022-2023 Meister Team

Alumni's Voices



Jomphol Lamoonkit '21

Where are you now?

I am currently a graduate student in the Ocean and Resources Engineering department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, specializing in Oceanographic Engineering where we focus on how we can integrate the advancement in technology to better explore and study the ocean.

My research group is focusing on developing in-situ Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC) autonomous sensors. I am designing an in-situ autonomous sensor system using modified ISFET sensors to measure total alkalinity and pH to monitor carbon sedimentary flux between the sediment porewater and overlying water in seagrass areas to gain a better understanding of the role of seagrass in the carbon cycle.

Currently, I am enrolled in an MSc program, but I am determined to continue my studies at the PhD and post-doctoral levels. I am determined to pursue a career as a researcher focusing on oceanographic instrumentation and ocean-based carbon dioxide removal initiatives (marineCDR). I aspire to live at the edge between the known and the unknown. My ultimate goal is to push the frontier in Oceanography through advancements in Oceanographic Engineering.



Scientific diver qualification course

How do you describe the benefits of the program?

GSEP program provides me with the building blocks for a career in STEM not only the basic skills such as PDE, ODE, and Linear Algebra but GSEP has also prepared its student to be in a multidisciplinary environment. I had been exposed to a wide spectrum of sciences and engineering disciplines due to the nature of GSEP that aims to prepare its students to tackle emerging complex problems. I reckon that I am capable of seeing a bigger, interdisciplinary picture. And I also noticed that I am able to talk, think, and discuss in a profound depth with people from different engineering and science majors.

During the senior year, we could join a research group that resonates with our interests. I joined Nakamura laboratory where we focused on ocean bio-geochemical numerical modeling which paved my way into the world of Oceanography and Ocean Engineering.

On top of these, the GSEP program has provided me with lifelong connections. As a relatively-small program, it brings fellow students and faculty closer together. I have made many lifelong friends through this program. The GSEP faculty members are very kind and supportive, and they have been providing me with tremendous support not only during my time as an undergraduate student but also after I graduated from GSEP as well.



Graduation Ceremony at Tokyo Tech

Class Notes

2021 (2nd Batch)

Pama Pascal Bernardino Novenario is enrolled in Master's program in Aerospace Engineering at Tohoku University, Japan.

2023 (4th Batch)

Puttaranun Boonchit is enrolled in Computer Science Department of UCLA, U.S.