

NEWSLETTER

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GSEP 5th batch graduates!

A day of mixed feelings of fulfillment and a touch of sadness: the 5th batch of GSEP students celebrated their graduation on March 26th.

Battseren Erdenebat spoke on behalf of GSEP and said, "I'm extremely grateful to share this moment with you all. It was quite challenging for us, including the pandemic, but it is our joint effort that we overcome those challenges and experiencing this milestone



today. Looking back, there are many memorable moments, experiences and achievements, and none of this would have been possible without the support of our professors,

friends and family."

As if overcoming the rainy weather on the day, the faces of graduates shone brightly. Congratulations and best wishes for your next adventure!

Off-Campus Project AY2023

GSEP Off-Campus project is an annual end-of-year event designed to provide students with a unique opportunity to explore Japan's diverse engineering fields through hands-on site visits. From February 27th to 29th, students and faculty travelled to various sites in the North Kanto region including Matsumoto Soy Sauce Factory, Tomioka Silk Mill, Ashio Copper Mine, Kusaki Dam, Kanayama Castle Ruins and Subaru Visitor Center.

The project AY2023 turned out to be a journey to trace the history of Japanese industry, experience its lights and shadows, and reflect on the way forward. The first day focused on Japan's industrial history since the Edo era, while the second day examined the impact of the industrial development and the resulting rise in the environmental awareness. The final day was spent enjoying a picnic lunch at the castle ruins before observing the 21st century



Group photo at Kanayama Castle Ruins

car manufacturing process. In the evenings, reflection sessions were held to share and summarize the lessons learnt.

Ireen Tasnim Progga Islam, a 3rd year student, reflected: "Equally important was the chance to chat with faculty members in a relaxed setting, going beyond the usual student-teacher roles. Conversations about life at Tokyo Tech and open feedback sessions added a personal touch to the academic environment, showing the collaborative spirit of our community".

My GSEP Adventure: Where Big Ideas Meet Awkward Reality

Hoang Quang Duc

Hi, I'm Duc, a second-year student from Vietnam in Tokyo Tech's Global Scientist and Engineer Program. We study Transdisciplinary Science and Engineering (TSE). If you're asking, "What in the world is 'Transdisciplinary'?", you're not alone. Long story short, we try to solve real-world problems by looking beyond traditional subjects.

TSE constantly throws you curveballs: new subjects, a wild range of experts, and the nagging feeling that you know next to nothing. But that's what makes it exciting! This "learn it all" approach is what inspired me to join Japan's Venture Academy (JVA). My team – Ryuichi (Keio University), Addo and Justina (Waseda University), and myself – worked tirelessly for three months to develop TechScout. I pitched the project at the Code Chrysalis expo in Motoazabu on December 12th, 2023. I was grateful for the support of my Tokyo Tech friends – Jinnie, Pukao, Mikael, Ayoob, and Set – along with other students from TSE who attended the event.

TechScout helps students find internships. We've partnered with some great companies and might even team up with the Waseda Times in the future! JVA was the perfect place to test out my GSEP skills in the real world.



Duc with TechScout team members

Sure, I have big ideas, but after talking to potential customers, you quickly realize your perfect solution might not be so perfect after all. GSEP taught me to consider economic factors and think like the people using the product, not just the person making it.

...And teamwork? Let's just say GSEP teaches you to see things from all angles, which definitely came in useful working with a super-driven, diverse team. Teamwork takes compromise, communication, and occasionally convincing your teammates that 'revolutionary' neon logos aren't always the answer. Those early meetings definitely had some growing pains! You can read more about my JVA journey (and those wild design meetings) on my blog: <https://bokunotabi.com/a-lesson-learned-from-startup-prepare-to-be-unprepared>



"TechScout Logo" designed by Phraewa and Kanta, fellow GSEP and TSE students

Serenade of the Winter Night Phraewa Saengaroon

On December 24th of 2023, the Tokyo Tech Orchestra held its annual 169th winter concert at the Minato Mirai Hall. I was able to perform as a violinist for the concert and was delighted that over 2000 people came to watch. The pieces that were played include Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4, The Nutcracker Suite as well as Peer Gynt by Grieg; a perfect combination for a Christmas Eve night right?

I have been playing the violin since I was 3 years old and have participated in overseas music competitions as a soloist professionally. Joining the Tokyo Tech Orchestra was the first experience for me to play in a big group. Playing in an orchestra compared to a soloist is very different. With over 40 musicians, the harmony and blendings of the sounds of each instrument are crucial to deliver a satisfying performance. Thus, everyone must be as one when serenading a piece. After graduating high school, I didn't have a lot of chances to perform

in such a big venue for a long time. The anxiety right before the recital, the passionate melodies that I wanted to deliver to the audience, and the sense of satisfaction when the last note of the piece was played brought back nostalgia and reminded me of the days when I pursued violin professionally.

Of all the pieces played my favorite was the Nutcracker Suite and Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4. The Nutcracker Suite, a historical heritage composed by my all-time favorite composer, Tchaikovsky, where we can see the magnificent ballet and the majestic sounds of the orchestra. Though we did not have ballerinas on stage, the wonderful and playful melodies magically echoed throughout the hall. In one part of the suite, there was a section where there was a harp solo. The sound of the harp was so enchanted I could feel the stage floor vibrating and I was so intoxicated by its melody that my heart melted.

Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4 was a classical piece composed dedicated to Tchaikovsky's friend, Nadezhda von Meck who was an influential figure in the arts during that period. One word that can describe the meaning of this piece is the word "fate". Tchaikovsky stated "the fatal power which prevents one from attaining the goal of happiness ... There is nothing to be done but to submit to it and lament in vain" and that "all life is an unbroken alternation of hard reality with swiftly passing dreams and visions of happiness ...". The symphony lasted about 50 minutes and was the most physically straining piece of all within the schedule. Due to the fact that I have small hands and short fingers, playing the Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4 was one example of the challenges I faced. The piece itself first of



Tokyo Tech Orchestra String Section

all requires an intermediate understanding of the feelings the composer wants to convey. However, the most difficult of all for me was that most of the movement consisted of extremely high notes that my little hands could barely reach on time. During the movement, my wrists were up to the neck of my violin, my elbows bent, and I needed to stay in that awkward position for quite a while. I glanced at my bandmates with their big hands and long fingers easily reaching the notes and was filled with jealousy! In a way, those kinds of challenges make playing the violin fun for me.

Overall, having the chance to perform the violin again was a delightful experience and I was very satisfied with the performance I've given. Seeing many GSEP members coming to watch was also very heartwarming. I hope that in the future I can improve and deliver a much more astonishing performance in the world of classical music!



Fellow GSEP Members Group Photo

Class Notes

2024(5th Batch)

Buraksakiet Nattha will work remotely for a Japanese start-up company from her home country, Thailand.

Mangkaja Nipun will work for a major Japanese e-commerce company in Japan.

Kietkajornrit Auksarapak continues her masters at Takada Laboratory, TSE, Tokyo Tech.

Altan-Ochir Anuul will work for a major Japanese e-commerce company in Japan.

Chan Yu Nin continues her masters at Abe Laboratory, TSE, Tokyo Tech.

Battseren Erdenebat continues his masters at Nohara Laboratory, TSE, Tokyo Tech.

Lu Yilun continues his masters at Murayama Laboratory, TSE, Tokyo Tech.