

NEWSLETTER

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University merger for convergence science

Tokyo Tech and Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) will merge to form **Institute of Science Tokyo** ("**Science Tokyo**") on October 1st, 2024. The new institution aims to solve complex societal problems and advance human wellbeing by creating a new science through the convergence of the core disciplines of both institutions.



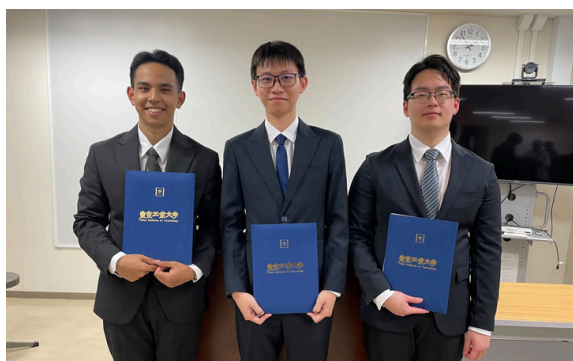
TMDU Yushima Campus (left) and Tokyo Tech Ooyakayma Campus (right)

Various opportunities are planned to facilitate interaction, including a new integrated education program in medicine/dentistry and science/engineering, *Ookayama* Day to bring students together on Ookayama campus for a compulsory liberal arts course, and an expansion of student club activities at both institutions.

Congratulations on early graduation!

On September 20th, three 4th year GSEP students were awarded their diplomas after completing the early graduation requirement for students with excellent academic records and the required number of credits.

Congratulations to Nuea, Ban and Tee and best wishes for your new adventures!



(from left) Nuea, Ban and Tee with diplomas

GSEP Students appointed as Student Ambassadors

Tokyo Tech Student Ambassadors are the institute's representatives who contribute to its international exchange and outreach activities. For the 2024 academic year, five GSEP students have been appointed as Ambassadors. Visit their blog to follow their academic and social life in Tokyo Tech: <https://discover.titech.ac.jp/blog/>



Student Ambassadors 2024

My Internship Journey at Sonnedix Japan

Sitchai Rattanakarm
GSEP 4th year student

Since starting my Engineering Internship at **Sonnedix Japan** in October 2023, I have immersed myself in the renewable energy sector, focusing specifically on solar photovoltaic (PV) plants. This experience has deepened my understanding of the industry and prepared me for my upcoming transition to a full-time role as an Analyst in the Asset Management team in October 2024.

Skills and Knowledge Acquired

Working in renewable energy has been an incredible learning experience. I have gained a strong understanding of how solar PV plants operate and the critical importance of optimizing their efficiency. Along the way, I have honed my skills in analyzing large datasets to track plant performance, using software tools and programming languages to identify trends and address issues. This has significantly enhanced my ability to interpret and act on complex data.

A key part of my role involves tracking and logging plant incidents into a database, using this information for future analysis. This is vital for understanding how incidents impact plant efficiency and profitability for crafting strategies to reduce future losses. Through this work, I have gained valuable insights into risk management and the importance of maintaining high operational standards.



Visiting PV plants

My involvement in civil engineering has expanded my perspective on how engineering principles apply to renewable energy. By understanding the structural needs of solar PV installations and evaluating environmental impacts, I have deepened my appreciation for the intersection of sustainability and innovation.

Beyond technical skills, my internship at Sonnedix Japan has enabled me to develop essential interpersonal skills often overlooked in academic settings. Working within a diverse, multicultural team has highlighted the importance of collaboration. Meetings with both internal teams and external partners regularly have refined my ability to communicate clearly, listen actively, and consider different viewpoints.

Balancing Work, Studies, and Research

Balancing my internship with academic responsibilities has been challenging but incredibly rewarding. Effective time management has been essential during this time. I work 20 hours a week across three days while also dedicating time to my Independent Research Project (IRP), a critical component of my early graduation plan.

To maintain this balance, I follow a structured schedule, designating specific times for work, study, and research. Prioritizing tasks and setting clear goals have kept me productive and on track with both my internship and academic commitments. Open communication with supervisors and professors has been key to managing expectations and ensuring support. The skills I've gained from my internship have complemented my academic studies, providing real-world context to theoretical concepts and enhancing both my professional and academic development.

Conclusion

My internship at Sonnedix Japan has been a transformative experience, equipping me with the skills and knowledge needed for a career in renewable energy. As I transition to a full-time role, the experiences and lessons from this internship will be invaluable in my professional journey. Internships provide a foundation for gaining practical experience, personal growth, and preparing for a successful career.

Alumni Whereabouts

From Jakarta

Rezkita (2020)'s appearance at the alumni meeting in Jakarta came as a pleasant surprise to GSEP Chair Abe-sensei:

"I had the privilege to have joined a Tokyo Tech alumni gathering on August 12, and one of the very first batch students, Rezkita, kindly came to the venue. Together with Farid-sensei, who is also one of the original founding faculty members for GSEP and the main organizer of the alumni gathering, we talked about the days when she had been on campus. It was such a nice reunion and hope we could catch up again in the near future."



(from left) Farid-sensei, Rezkita, and Abe-sensei

From Bangkok

GSEP Lecturers Sun-sensei and Sasipa-sensei took the opportunity to meet with our three Thai alumni during their business trip to Bangkok on July 2nd. **Jom (2021)**, **Mag (2021)** and **Earthy (2022)** joined senseis for dinner in a cosy restaurant to catch up with each other. They shared updates on their career advancements and academic pursuits, including one pursuing a PhD program. They are now applying the knowledge and skills gained during their studies at GSEP in impactful ways. We're proud to stay connected and look forward to celebrating more of their future successes.



(from left) Mag, Earthy, Jom, Sun-sensei and Sasipa-sensei

From Tokyo

We welcomed **Ryza (2021)** back to Tokyo Tech for the GSEP Alumni Talk on June 17th. Currently working as a software engineer at Woven by Toyota, Ryza shared his experiences on how he developed his skills and chose his path. GSEP students, including many first year students, attended the session and actively participated in the Q&A and discussion.



Ryza (middle) with participants

Eba (2024), who is currently studying for his Master's degree at Tokyo Tech, received the Student Leadership Award from the School of Environment and Society, Tokyo Tech on September 4th. The award is given once a year to students who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities. Congratulations, Eba!



Eba (second from right) with Dean Takada (middle)

Class Notes

2021 (2nd Batch)

Siraphop Saisa-ard (Mag) will start working at National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), USA, around the end of this year.

Jomphol La-Moonkit (Jom) is recently graduated MSc in Ocean and Resources Engineering from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, United States.

Ryza Rynazal is currently working at Woven by Toyota, Japan.

2022 (3rd Batch)

Nattwat Vittayakoonsakulchai (Earthy) is currently working in a venture capital firm in Thailand.

2024 (6th Batch)

Sitchai Rattanakarm (Nuea) will start working at Sonnedix Japan.