

NEWSLETTER

Vol.7 | December 2024

Season's Greetings!

As the year draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to extend our warmest seasonal greetings to all friends of GSEP. We wish you a peaceful and happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



On the crisp afternoon on November 14th, GSEP students and faculty gathered for a casual



yet insightful lunch meeting (pictured above). Over shared pizzas, they discussed a range of topics, including the everyday challenges of student life. Some students shared their personal

struggles with renting apartments in Japan, while faculty members encouraged them to stay connected and continue to share their experiences for the benefit of all.

Koudaisai 2024



It was the time to celebrate the most anticipated event of the year! The institution's autumn festival, **Koudaisai**, was held at Ookayama campus on November 3-4. Organized and run by the student body, this annual celebration consistently welcomes around 50,000 visitors. Marking the first major event following the institution's merger

with Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Koudaisai 2024 embraced the theme of "Restart" as its central motif.

The whole campus was alive in a festive mood. A wide range of food stalls, offering everything from crispy french fries to tasty *yakitori*, attracted a crowd of people of all ages. Some laboratories and mock lectures were open to the public, allowing visitors and prospective students alike to experience the academic atmosphere firsthand.

Meanwhile, various student clubs and groups entertained the audience with a variety of performances, ranging from jazz to orchestral to dance. Among the talented performers were Natdanai Sakdapipanich, or Nam-oun,



Nam-oun (top right and bottom left) & Hilmi (bottom right) on stage

second-year GSEP student, and Hilmi Emre Goktas, a first-year GSEP student, who took the stage as members of the Science Tokyo acapella circle. GSEP students and faculty were also in the audience to give them their enthusiastic cheers and applause!

From Tokyo to Denmark: Diversity in Science – A Constant Source of Creativity and Inspiration

Hoang Quang Duc
GSEP 3rd year student

This summer, I had the chance to participate in the International Summer University Program at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). Over two months, I studied, explored, and connected with people from all over the world, experiencing a different academic environment and culture firsthand.



Computational Imaging and Spectroscopy: A Diverse Team Tackling Low Light

One of the courses I took, “Computational Imaging and Spectroscopy,” focused on advanced techniques for imaging and light analysis. In our group project, we worked on low-light image enhancement, an area attracting a lot of attention from both research and industry. Our team included: a Japanese master’s student studying Underwater Multi-robot System also from Tokyo Tech, a Danish bachelor student experienced in computer vision, a Thai master’s student specializing in autonomous systems, and me. Our different academic and cultural backgrounds meant we often had different approaches to solving problems, which led to some lively debates.

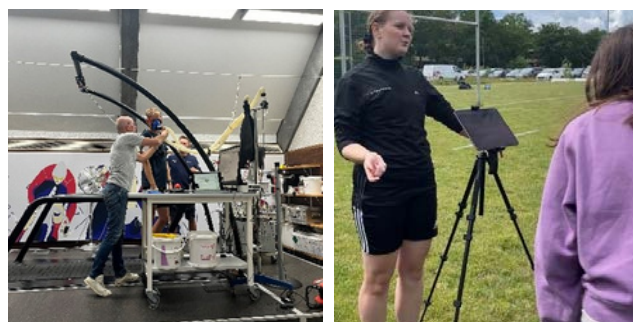
One memorable moment was when we struggled with integrating high-performance computing into our workflow. While one teammate insisted on optimizing every detail, another preferred a quick-and-dirty prototype approach. Eventually, we found a middleground and managed to complete the project successfully. For me, the biggest takeaway was that diversity in science — whether in skills, culture, or perspectives—is an irreplaceable source of creativity and innovation.

Physics of Sports: The Role of Technology in Human Performance

The “Physics of Sports” course introduced me to the intersection of engineering and athletics. I learned how technology is reshaping sports, from aerodynamic designs for bicycles to lighting systems that help athletes adjust to new time zones and reduce jetlag when they participate in international competitions.

A particularly memorable moment was visiting Team Denmark’s training center and talking with engineers behind their cutting-edge tools. One engineer explained how biomechanics and data analysis are used to optimize performance, while another shared insights on how young students can prepare for careers in this growing industry.

These conversations gave me a new perspective on how technology not only enhances performance but also opens doors to new industries and careers. For students interested in this field, staying curious and keeping up with advancements in sports science and engineering is key.



(left) VO2Max Test at Team Denmark Training Center; (right) Trackman Athletes and their Motion Tracking Technology

Reflections and Takeaways

Looking back, my time at DTU wasn’t just about the courses or projects—it was about learning how to work in diverse teams, adapting to new environments, and seeing how global collaboration can drive innovation.

The experience also deepened my interest in integrating engineering with sports analytics, an area I hope to explore further at Science Tokyo. While Denmark’s relaxed yet innovative culture was inspiring, it also made me appreciate the opportunities and resources available in Japan.

To anyone considering exchange study: go for it. It’s an experience that challenges you in the best way possible and shows you just how much there is to learn from the world.

Alumni Spotlight

Janat Taerakul (2023)

Hi everyone! I'm Janat Taerakul, or Ping, from the GSEP 4th batch. Just recently, I crossed the finish line of my very first marathon—the Chiba Aqualine Marathon 2024!

I'm from the GSEP 4th batch, and I graduated in March 2023. After graduation, I started working as a software engineer at a tech company here in Japan. It's been a busy yet rewarding journey. Work taught me many new things, from technical skills to collaborating in a professional environment. But after my first year of working, I felt like I wanted a personal challenge—something to keep me motivated outside of work.

In high school, I enjoyed running casually in the evenings, but I never pursued it seriously. This year, I decided to take it up again and set a big goal: running my first marathon. I chose the Chiba Aqualine Marathon 2024 because it felt like the perfect opportunity to push myself to the limit while enjoying a scenic course.

Even though I had some running experience, I never went beyond 5 kilometers back in the day. Training for an entire 42.195 kilometers was a whole new level. The good thing was that I had months to prepare, and I was lucky to train with Napat and Tae from the GSEP 1st batch. Having



Me crossing the finish line

their company during some training sessions made the preparation much more enjoyable and memorable, and it was great to push each other forward while having fun. We spent weekends increasing our mileage in our long runs. It was tough but rewarding to see small progress week by week.

Finally, race day arrived on November 10th, 2024. I was thrilled to have Napat and Tae from the GSEP 1st batch joining me for the marathon. It was their first marathon, and their company made the event much more enjoyable. It was great to share this incredible milestone with friends. I started strong and felt great up until around the 30-kilometer mark. Then everything changed. My legs were sore, and each step felt heavier than the last. Quitting crossed my mind more times than I'd like to admit. But something helped me push through: Yoasobi's song "舞台上立って" ("On the Stage"). The song reminded me of the months of hard work I had put into this goal. It reminded me why I started. With that mindset, I managed to cross the finish line—completing my very first marathon!

This experience taught me a lot about perseverance and the value of setting long-term goals. This lesson applies not only to running but also to life and work. Now, I'm excited to keep running and aim for even more challenges in the future.



(from left) Bun (not GSEP), Tae (GSEP 1st batch), Ply (not GSEP), Napat (GSEP 1st batch) and me



(from left) Tae (GSEP 1st batch) and me