

Alumni Newsletter

Special Graduate Program in Civil Engineering & Infrastructure Management Program
YOKOHAMA National University, JAPAN

Launch of the Newsletter -Voices of Alumni-

September 1, 2024

Dear all,

I am Kimitoshi Hayano, IMP Director and FSO in the Civil Engineering Department at Yokohama National University for 2024. As part of our newsletter project, we are pleased to announce that we will start sharing the voices of our alumni.



For the first issue of the newsletter, we asked Dr. Usman Akmal (MEXT Special Graduate Program alumnus, Pakistan) and Mr. Odoch Odrua Morris (JJ/WBGSP IMP alumnus, Uganda) to report on their recent activities and memories. I would like to thank them for their kind participation. I would also like to thank the administrative staff in the Civil-FSO/IMP Office for their cooperation in organizing this project.

We hope this initiative will provide a good opportunity for alumni and current students to get to know each other better.

Sincerely yours,

Kimitoshi Hayano
Professor, Civil Engineering Department, Yokohama National University

IN THIS ISSUE

Launch of the Newsletter

by Prof. Kimitoshi Hayano
P.1

Voices of SGP Alumni

by Dr. Usman Akmal
PP. 1-2

Voices of IMP Alumni

by Mr. Odoch Odrua Morris
PP. 3-4

What's New

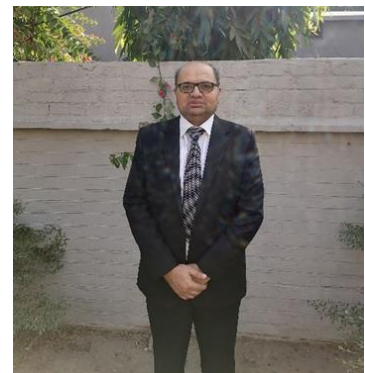
P. 4

Voices of SGP Alumni

Dr. Usman Akmal

-Associate Professor
Department of Civil Engineering
University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore,
Pakistan

-A graduate of the Special Graduate Program
under the MEXT scholarship (2009-2012)



I had the incredible opportunity to join the Doctoral course in the Graduate School of Environment and Information Sciences at Yokohama National University (YNU), Japan in the fall 2009. My journey at YNU was made possible through the prestigious MEXT Scholarship program for universities in Japan. After three years of rigorous academic and research endeavors, I proudly completed my doctoral studies in September 2012. Today, I serve as an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan.

The university's vibrant multicultural environment, with students from all over the world, provided a unique and diverse learning atmosphere. The exposure to the latest research tools and technologies significantly enhanced my academic and professional skills. The research seminars held in our laboratory were particularly instrumental in honing my oral and presentation abilities, skills that I now pass on to my students in Lahore.

The honesty and helpful nature of the Japanese community left a lasting impression on me. Living in the international students' hostel at Gumyoji was an experience filled with warmth and cooperation. My lab members and fellow students were incredibly supportive and caring, creating a nurturing environment that was conducive to my academic success.



During my final year, I faced several challenges, but I was fortunate to have the unwavering support of my supervisor, Professor Akira Hosoda. His guidance and encouragement were crucial in helping me overcome those difficult times. I attribute much of my professional success to his mentorship and support. The profound impact he had on my academic journey continues to inspire me in my current role as a mentor and educator.

During a Ph.D student at YNU.

Beyond the academic, I had the pleasure of exploring some of Japan's most beautiful and historic cities. Visits to Kamakura, Kyoto, Tokyo, Nagasaki, Hiroshima, and Yamaguchi were unforgettable. The autumn season in Kamakura, with its stunning yellow and orange leaves, remains one of my fondest memories. I highly recommend this breathtaking experience to all international students.

Japanese cuisine also left a delightful mark on me. I developed a particular fondness for sushi and udon noodles, both of which I often reminisce about. Despite it being nearly 11 years since I returned from Japan, I still miss the country, my Japanese friends, and my professors deeply.

I continue to stay in touch with my supervisor and lab colleagues, and I am eager to explore opportunities for collaboration in research and academia. I look forward to the day I can visit Japan again, reconnect with old friends, and relive the wonderful memories we created together.



Last year, Dr. Usman Akmal warmly arranged and coordinated our faculty members' visit to the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan.

Mr. Odoch Odrua Morris

-A Resident project engineer/Bridge Structural Engineer
Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA)

-A graduate of the Infrastructure Management Program
under the JJ/WB Graduate Scholarship Program (2019
-2021)



**Voices
of
IMP
Alumni**

I am a professional civil Engineer working with the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), a government agency responsible for maintaining, managing, and developing the National Road network. At UNRA, I work as a Resident project engineer/Bridge Structural Engineer. I am currently the Resident project engineer for the Kampala Flyover Construction and Road Upgrading Project located in the central business district of the capital city of Uganda.

Studying at Yokohama National University and more so, in the civil engineering department was a bunch of blessings to my professional career in the real field of engineering practice. What I learned at YNU offered me numerous benefits that later directly translated to enhanced capabilities and effectiveness in my field of practice. These capabilities and effectiveness are always demonstrated at my workplace through advanced technical skills, specialized knowledge, and managerial skills.

The cutting-edge technologies in simulations and modeling software such as DuCOM/COM3 and JMAX were game changers to my professional undertakings, and these lessons learned exposed me to several structural analysis software.

What I learned in Thermodynamics of Concrete, International Project Management, Urban Transportation Planning and Policies, Theory of Regional Planning, Theory of Infrastructure Durability Design, Theory of Infrastructure Safety Design, and Public Administration and Management are my daily



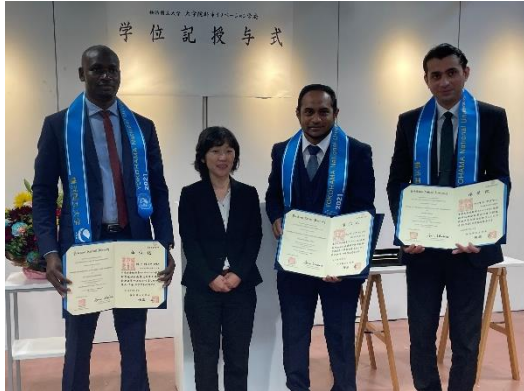
Near the Civil Engineering Building, YNU.

strengths in operating my assignments and directly related to my field activities. Aside from those, my research was directly linked to my area of practice, and the knowledge I gained enhances my ability to tackle complex engineering challenges using advanced analytic and critical thinking skills at my workplace.

Aside from what I learned from class, understanding and adopting Japanese ethical standards and professional responsibilities practiced in YNU, especially in the Civil Engineering Department has been crucial for maintaining integrity and trust in my workplace.

Infrastructure Management Program

Dear lovely people worldwide, Yokohama National University is a profound and outstanding academic institution with a stunning institutional culture and a home of people with excellent individual and community cultures whose contributions to academic performance and professional guidance, team building, and social support are indispensable for the student's academic performance, happiness and the mental health. The Department of Civil Engineering has a well-furnished academic learning infrastructure, academic professionals, and lovely warm-hearted administrative personnel. Please become a student of YNU or send your children and relatives to study at YNU to experience the cool breeze of the university.



At the Graduation Ceremony with his academic advisor Prof. Chikako FUJIYAMA and IMP friends.

There were many difficulties due to the COVID-19 restrictions at that time, but our faculty members were glad to celebrate their completion of the program.

What's New

The completion ceremony of Japanese Language Classes for the Year 2024 was held on August 2, 2024.

The Department of Civil Engineering has offered these classes for more than 20 years and currently opens them as "International Infrastructure Studio in Basic Japanese" and "International Infrastructure Practice in Basic Japanese".

After awarding certificates for their completion, 13 students gave wonderful speeches in Japanese including their research topics.

A reception was also held after the ceremony, and everyone had a good time at the end of the spring semester.



Civil-FSO/IMP Office

<https://www.urban.ynu.ac.jp/all-english-program/index.html>
 +85-45-339-3604
 Civil Engineering Building, YOKOHAMA National University
 79-5 Tokiwadai, Hodogaya-ku,
 Yokohama 240-8501, JAPAN

Follow us on FB!

Civil-FSO



IMP

